

DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

CITES listing of whale stocks and the IWC

RECOGNIZING that to qualify for inclusion in Appendix I a species must meet biological and trade criteria;

AWARE that the Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) has agreed that a number of whale stocks are abundant and not threatened with extinction¹;

AWARE FURTHER that the CITES Secretary General, the IUCN and TRAFFIC have noted that some whale stocks do not appear to meet the biological criteria for listing on Appendix I of CITES²;

NOTING, however, that proposals to transfer certain abundant whale stocks from Appendix I to Appendix II at the 10th, 11th, and 12th meetings of the Conference of the Parties (Harare, 1997; Nairobi, 2000; Santiago, 2002) were not adopted because the IWC has not yet completed and implemented its Revised Management Scheme (RMS) for the purpose of lifting the commercial whaling moratorium and allowing sustainable and controlled whaling;

NOTING ALSO that the CITES Secretary General has written to the IWC urging the completion and implementation of the RMS³ and that the IUCN in its opening statements to the IWC has also urged the same⁴.

REGRETTING that despite the expressed desire of the Secretary General of CITES not to have the political problems of the IWC imported into CITES,⁵ the political difficulties of the IWC have prevented Conferences of the Parties to CITES to amend the Appendices to the Convention with respect to certain stocks of cetaceans on the basis of the biological criteria contained in Resolution 9.24 (Rev. CoP12);

UNDERSTANDING that proper wildlife conservation and the credibility of actions taken by members of the IWC and the Conference of the Parties to CITES requires as a fundamental principle the consistent application of science-based policy and rule making and that towards that end the Parties have adopted criteria for the listing of species on the CITES Appendices;

THE CONFERENCE OF PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

URGES the IWC to complete and implement its Revised Management Scheme so that proposals for amendment of CITES Appendices related to whale stocks can be based on the CITES criteria and precautionary measures of Resolution Conf. 9.24 (Rev. CoP12), as it is for any other animal or plant species.

¹ See “whale population estimates” IWC website: <http://www.iwcoffice.org/Estimate.htm>

² “The Secretariat, on the basis of the information available to it, and as also found in the IUCN/TRAFFIC analysis of this proposal, believes that the stocks in question (northern hemisphere minke whales) do not meet the biological criteria for inclusion in Appendix I.” http://www.cites.org/eng/cop/prop/sec_rec.shtml page 7.

“The three stocks of minke whales likely to be directly affected by trade...do not appear to meet Criteria A, B, and C for inclusion in Appendix I...” IUCN doc. Ref. CoP 12 Prop.4.

“The stocks under consideration do not appear to meet the biological criteria for inclusion in Appendix I.” Traffic/COP12 http://www.traffic.org/cop12/proposal3_14.html#pro4.

³ July 4, 2000 letter from CITES Secretary General W. Wijnstekers to IWC Chairman M. Canny.

⁴ IWC/54/OS/IUCN and IWC/55/OS/IUCN

⁵ see CITES Secretariat’s COP 11 Provisional Assessments p.4