

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

Twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Santiago (Chile), 3-15 November 2002

Strategic and administrative matters

Cooperation with other organizations

COOPERATION BETWEEN CITES AND THE INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION

The attached document has been submitted by Mexico.

COMMENTS FROM THE SECRETARIAT

- A. This proposal aims to ensure that the existing CITES listings for whale species remain unchanged until the IWC adopts a revised management regime.
- B. The Secretariat does not support this proposal, for the following reasons:
 - a) it is contrary to the procedure for amendment of the Appendices laid down in Article XV of the Convention;
 - b) it negates the criteria for amendment of the Appendices detailed in Resolution Conf. 9.24; and
 - c) Resolution Conf. 11.4 already details the relationship between CITES and the International Whaling Commission.

DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Cooperation between CITES and the International Whaling Commission

WHEREAS it is the purpose of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival;

ACKNOWLEDGING that strict regulation and control of international trade may be an essential safeguard for effective implementation of international, regional or national restrictions on the taking of whales;

RECOGNIZING that not one species protected by CITES has become extinct since the Convention entered into force; but

CONCERNED that many species have further decreased in population size and diversity despite being protected by CITES through Appendix-II listings to a point where this may result in detrimental consequences for their survival, particularly of biologically highly developed species, such as marine mammals;

REALIZING that the International Whaling Commission (IWC) is the competent international regulatory body charged specifically with the management of whale stocks for their effective conservation and management;

RECOGNIZING that all species of whales in the Schedule to the IWC have been included in Appendix I of CITES, with the exception of the West Greenland stock of minke whales which is included in Appendix II;

RECALLING that this inclusion in CITES Appendices was decided pursuant to, and in recognition of, resolutions currently in force adopted by the IWC establishing zero catch limits for commercial whaling;

CONSIDERING that by virtue of both CITES Resolution Conf. 11.4 and the inclusions of whales in the Appendices, CITES requires that Parties not allow any international trade for commercial purposes in at least any whale stocks for which the IWC has set zero catch limits;

REAFFIRMING that international trade as defined in Article I of the Convention includes both trade between countries and taking from the marine environment not under the jurisdiction of any State;

RECALLING decisions of the Conference of the Parties, particularly on illegal trade in whale meat, and the decision taken by the Conference of the Parties at its 11th meeting reconfirming the retention of whale species in Appendix I, and thereby reaffirming as well the prohibition on international trade in whale meat;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

RECOGNIZES that CITES is fundamental in the sustainable conservation of whale species by prohibiting and deterring international trade in whale meat;

REAFFIRMS that the complementary relationship between CITES and the IWC is crucial for the conservation of whale stocks, and encourages the IWC to keep CITES duly informed of its decisions regarding whale stocks;

DECIDES to retain whale species in the Appendices in which they are currently listed, considering the results of the 54th Annual Meeting of the IWC, indicating that: considerable scientific work is in progress to continue to assess the status of whale stocks and populations; that work is ongoing within the IWC to finalize a revised management regime which shall ensure that whale stocks can be adequately protected;

and that a worldwide whaling moratorium with zero catch limits is still in force for species of whales which are managed by the IWC;

AGREES that it is premature to consider transferring any of the species or stocks from their current place in the Appendices;

RECOMMENDS that Parties that have not yet done so adhere to the IWC; and

ENTRUSTS the Secretariat to inform the IWC of this Resolution.