

- Over 80% of Americans are opposed to commercial whaling.
- The IWC has no enforcement powers.
- The pro-whaling faction has a simple majority now.
- Japan refuses to give up “scientific whaling” thus ensuring commercial whaling plus “scientific whaling” and aboriginal whaling. More whales will be killed, not less.
- Whale populations have not recovered from centuries of mass slaughter.
- The IWC cannot conserve whale stocks unless the moratorium is maintained and the growing environmental threats to whales are fully quantified and addressed.
- The RMP is only as good as the data put into the model. The IWC Scientific Committee has been unable to agree on current population estimates.
- The RMP<sup>1</sup> has not been proven robust to the growing environmental threats to whale populations.
- By expediting the RMS, the US is ignoring the growing environmental threats that should be addressed.
- We cannot both oppose whaling and set the rules for its resumption.
- The moratorium cannot stand once the RMS is adopted. The whalers will see this as a bad-faith justification for leaving the IWC.
- The three remaining whaling nations have accused the conservation side of deliberately stalling agreement on the RMS and have threatened to leave the IWC if the moratorium is not lifted in the near future; in reality it is the whalers that are refusing to accept expensive regulations that would reduce catches and profits – and they are able to continue whaling without restrictions that an RMS would impose.

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<sup>1</sup> The RMP is a management model developed for baleen whales. It must be emphasized that it could not be applied to toothed whales, such as sperm whales, currently being killed under Japan’s “scientific” whaling program. In theory, the RMP will reduce a targeted whale population to MSY level of 72% of its original numbers. New Zealand has refused to endorse the RMP. If applied to the southern hemisphere minke whales, the present target of Japan’s scientific whaling, the RMP would permit the killing of 100,000 whales or more in order to reduce the population to this level. Although the Antarctic minke whales are presently protected by the Southern Ocean Sanctuary, the Sanctuary may not survive if a new management procedure is agreed and the moratorium lifted. Given the failure of the previous management regimes to prevent the decline in whale populations, serious doubts must remain about implementing yet another. These doubts can only increase as more concessions are made to the whalers in order to get them to accept it.

- The stated US policy of opposition to commercial whaling is in direct conflict with their rush to complete the RMS, with the inevitable result of the lifting of the moratorium.
- If the US truly opposed commercial whaling, they would take meaningful action against Japan, Norway and Iceland. By not doing so, the US is undermining the effectiveness of the IWC.
- If an RMS was agreed, would the US enforce it? They have not enforced the moratorium.
- The US should fulfill its public mandate and enforce the moratorium and stop negotiating its demise.
- The US IWC delegation is making major environmental policy decisions which should have legislative oversight.