



18th May 2010

Dear Commissioner

With reference to the IWC Chairs' proposed Schedule Amendment (IWC/62/7) on the Future of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and forthcoming EU co-ordination meeting on this matter on 26th May, please find enclosed a short briefing outlining the under-signed groups' analysis of the Chairs' proposal.

The briefing examines the proposal against the common position to be adopted on behalf of the European Community at meetings of the International Whaling Commission from IWC60 – IWC63 inclusive (Council Decision 7146/09). It finds, conclusively, that the proposal does not adequately meet the criteria set out in the EU common position and therefore we call on all EU IWC members to oppose the Schedule Amendment, should a vote take place at IWC62 in Agadir in June.

We understand that some supporters of IWC62/7 are advocating that it would significantly reduce whaling compared to current/recent levels. This claim is flawed, and we enclose a short briefing which examines the proposed catches compared to actual recent catches, clearly demonstrating that while the Chairs' proposals for 2010-2020 would decrease Japan's catch levels compared to 2000-2009 catches, the proposal actually increases catch levels for Iceland (+71%) and Norway (+5%) compared to average catches over the last ten years.

Given the importance of the EU voting position on this issue and the considerable public interest in the positions of EU nations, we respectfully ask you to inform us of your country's current position on the proposal.

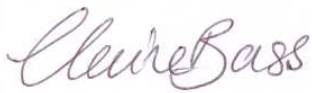
Thank you for your attention to this important matter, we look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

WHALEWATCH
It's Time To Watch Their Welfare

The above named groups form part of 'Whalewatch', a network of around fifty non-governmental organisations opposed to commercial whaling on welfare grounds.

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IWC62/7: legitimizing commercial whaling and no overall improvement on the status quo

Proponents of IWC62/7 state that it would yield a significant improvement on the status quo, but an analysis of the proposed catch limits reveals this not to be the case.

- Firstly, it should be noted that numbers quoted have been misleading. IWC catch data shows that more than 30,000 whales have been killed by Japan, Norway and Iceland since the whaling ban took effect in 1986, but 11,000 of these were taken by Japan and Russia in pelagic operations in the 1985/6 season, before the moratorium was implemented. The total number of whales reported killed by Japan, Norway and Iceland to the IWC from 1987-2009 is 23,572.
- Whilst we remain extremely concerned by the number of whales killed in whaling operations by Japan, Norway and Iceland, concern for the 'exponential' rise in uncontrolled whaling appears to stem from the significant rise in *quotas* since 2005. Figure 1 shows that political posturing to set very high quotas has not been matched by a corresponding increase in catches.

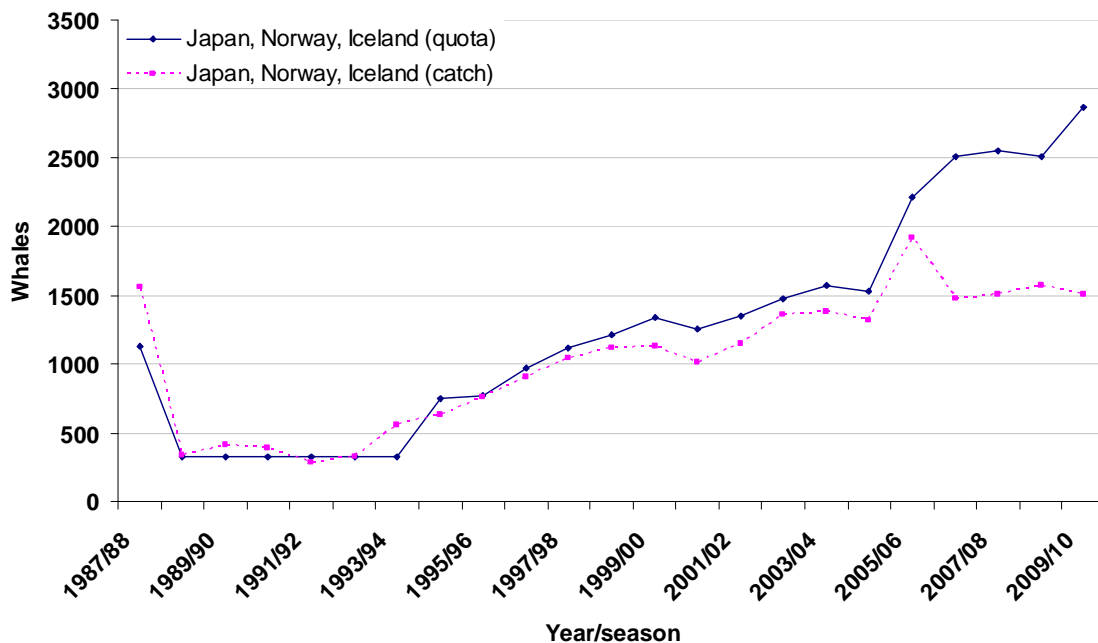


Figure 1: Self-allocated quotas and catches of great whales by Japan, Norway and Iceland 1987-2009.

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- When considering the potential improvement on the status quo of the proposed ten-year package, it is more relevant to consider the last 10 years of actual catches (Figure 2). Over the last ten years (2000-2009) Japan, Norway and Iceland have collectively killed 14,222 whales out of a total maximum self-allocated quota of 19,813. If adopted, the quotas proposed in Table 4 of IWC62/7 would legitimize the slaughter of 12,885 whales over the ten year period 2010-2020, lowering the overall catch by 1,337 in comparison to 2000-2009 catches.
- Critically, Figure 2 and Table 1 illustrate that whilst the quotas proposed in IWC62/7 would bring Japanese catches back to levels of the early-mid 2000's, the quotas proposed for the North Atlantic would have no reducing effect on recent catches by Iceland or Norway. In fact, an annual quota of 600 whales for Norway would actually represent an *increase* compared to its average catch of 569 over the last ten years, and a significant increase on its 2009 catch of 484. Similarly, a proposed annual quota of 160 whales for Iceland would represent a 100% increase on its average annual catch of 79 whales over the last five years.

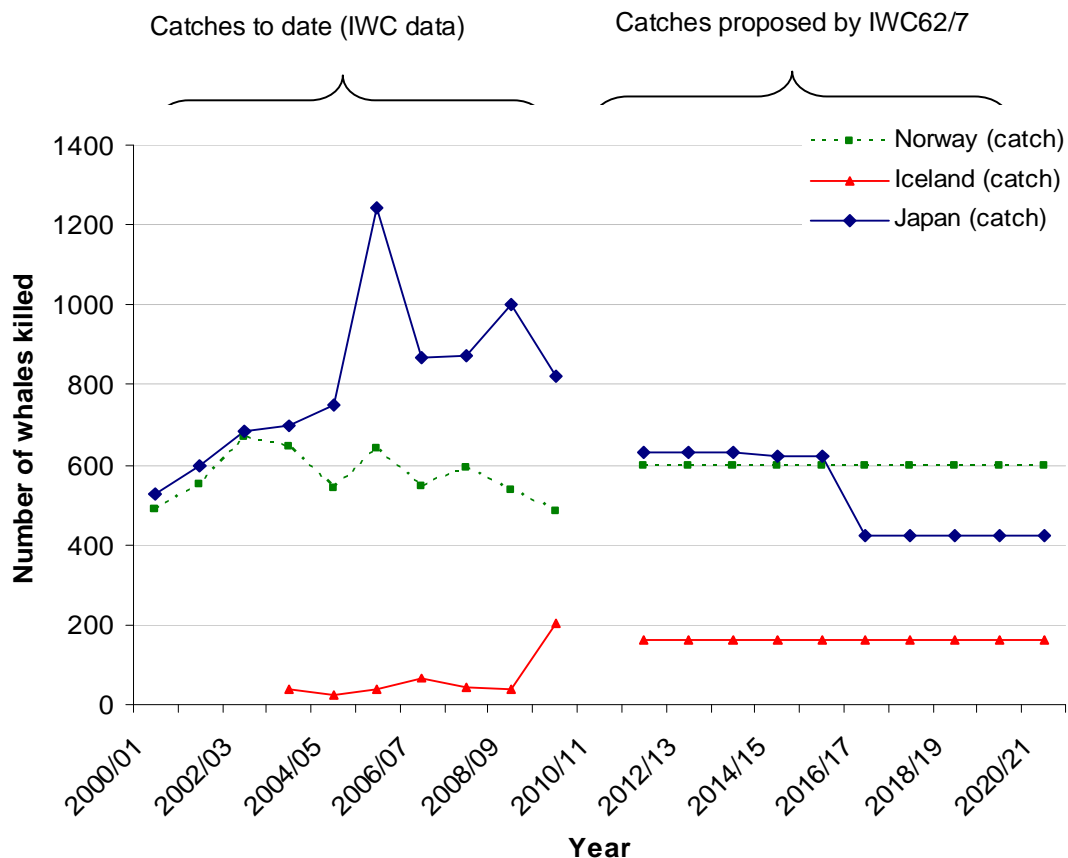


Figure 2: Whaling catches by Japan, Norway and Iceland during the ten year period 2000-2009, and catches proposed in IWC62/7 for the ten year period 2010-2020

Population	Country	Catches/catch Limits				2010 (self allocated quota)
		2010-2020 (Average annual catch in Chairs' Proposal)	Average catch (last 10years)	Average catch (last 5 years)	2009 catch	
Southern Ocean						
Minke	Japan	300	530	619	506	935
Fin	Japan	6	1.5	3	1	50
Humpback	Japan	0	0	0	0	50
North Pacific						
Sei	Japan	50	69	100	100	100
Minke (Coastal and offshore)	Japan	160	153	186	162	220
Bryde's	Japan	12	49	50	50	50
Sperm	Japan	0	4.5	3	1	10
North Atlantic						
Minke	Norway	600	569	559	484	1286
Minke	Iceland	80	33	53	81	200
Fin	Iceland	80	13	26	125	150
Totals		1288	1422	1599	1510	3051
Overall difference (catches vs. Chairs' proposed catches)			-134	-311	-229	-1763
Difference in number of whales caught by country - catches vs. Chairs' proposed catches*						
	Japan	521	-54% (-279)	-83% (-433)	-57% (-299)	-172% (-894)
	Norway	600	+5% (31)	+7% (41)	+20% (116)	-114% (-686)
	Iceland	160	+71% (114)	+51% (81)	-29% (-46)	-119% (-190)

*Negative value equals decrease compared to recent catches, positive value equals increase compared to recent catches

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