

## Whaling meeting ends with mixed results

July 7 2012

---



Representatives from South Korea attend a meeting on the last day of the 64th annual International Whaling Commission meeting in Panama City, Friday, July 6, 2012. The United States says it doesn't support a South Korean plan to restart whale hunting for purportedly scientific purposes. South Korea made public its intention to revive whaling at the annual meeting this week. (AP Photo/Arnulfo Franco)

(AP) — The International Whaling Commission ended its annual meeting on Friday amid dissatisfaction from a variety of members, including Japan, which sought permission for coastal communities to carry out small-scale whaling.

A lack of consensus scuttled a proposal by Monaco to increase protection of [whales](#), and the principality said it would take its case to the United Nations.

Japan threatened to withdraw from the IWC if its proposal continued to

be blocked. Denmark issued a similar warning after commission rejected its request for a whaling quota for indigenous groups in Greenland. The commission voted 34-25 to reject the request for a quota of 1,300 whales over the next six years.

The commission, however, approved the renewal of bowhead whale quotas for indigenous subsistence whaling in Alaska and Russia and for St. Vincent and the Grenadines in the Caribbean. The six-year extension was approved at the IWC's annual meeting in Panama City.

It also voted to hold meetings every two years.



International Whaling Commission chairman Bruno Manini, left, from Switzerland, and secretary Simon Brockington, of the United Kingdom talk during the last day of the 64th annual International Whaling Commission meeting in Panama City, Friday, July 6, 2012. The United States delegation to the meeting says it doesn't support a South Korean plan to restart whale hunting for purportedly scientific purposes. (AP Photo/Arnulfo Franco)

The IWC banned commercial whaling in 1986 due to the threat of extinction for many whale species.

Japan hunts whales for purportedly scientific purposes, which many environmental groups describe as a front for commercial whaling. Nations including the United States and Mexico say research can be carried out on whales accidentally caught in fishing boats' nets.

The Whaling Commission still must consider a proposal by South Korea to resume purportedly scientific whaling, which the U.S. and other countries are expected to oppose when it is formally presented at a meeting of the IWC's scientific commission next year.

"Korea's proposal will be pending and is sure to be fiery," said Cheryl McCormick, executive director of the American Cetacean Society. "All eyes are on Korea right now ... the guise of going hunting for hunting for whales in the name of science is a complete fallacy."



A delegate walks past a poster during a break on the last day of the 64th Annual International Whaling Commission meeting in Panama City, Friday, July 6, 2012. The United States delegation to the commission said it doesn't support a South Korean plan to restart whale hunting for purportedly scientific purposes. (AP Photo/Arnulfo Franco)

Another continuing issue is a proposal by European and Latin American

countries, plus the U.S., to create a whale sanctuary in the South Atlantic. That was also rejected at the Panama meeting.

At last year's meeting, Japan and other pro-whaling nations walked out to protest the proposal for a whale sanctuary in the South Atlantic.

The proposal would put whales off limits to hunters in the Atlantic south of the equator. It has failed to win approval at several previous IWC meetings.

McCormick described the meeting as "a mixed bag for [whales](#)."

"The NGO community would have liked for the sanctuary to be passed, that's unquestionable, but plenty of us are not shedding any tears over the fact that Denmark didn't get an increase on its quota," she said.

Copyright 2012 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

Citation: Whaling meeting ends with mixed results (2012, July 7) retrieved 24 June 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2012-07-whaling-results.html>

<p>This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.</p>
--