

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. CON. RES. 122

Expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the policy of the United States at the 56th Annual Meeting of the International Whaling Commission.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 9, 2004

Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. DODD, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CHAFEE, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. REED, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BIDEN, AND Mr. LIEBERMAN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the policy of the United States at the 56th Annual Meeting of the International Whaling Commission.

Whereas whales have very low reproductive rates, making many whale populations extremely vulnerable to pressure from commercial whaling;

Whereas whales migrate throughout the world's oceans and international cooperation is required to successfully conserve and protect whale stocks;

Whereas in 1946 a significant number of the nations of the world adopted the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, which established the International

Whaling Commission to provide for the proper conservation of whale stocks;

Whereas in 2003 the Commission established a Conservation Committee, open to all members of the Commission, for the purpose of facilitating efficient and effective coordination and development of conservation recommendations and activities, which are fully consistent with the conservation objectives stated in the 1946 Convention;

Whereas the Commission adopted a moratorium on commercial whaling in 1982 in order to conserve and promote the recovery of whale stocks, many of which had been hunted to near extinction by the commercial whaling industry;

Whereas the Commission has designated the Indian Ocean and the ocean waters around Antarctica, as whale sanctuaries to further enhance the recovery of whale stocks;

Whereas many nations of the world have designated waters under their jurisdiction as whale sanctuaries where commercial whaling is prohibited, and additional regional whale sanctuaries have been proposed by nations that are members of the Commission;

Whereas two member nations currently have reservations to the Commission's moratorium on commercial whaling, and one member nation is currently conducting commercial whaling operations in spite of the moratorium and the protests of other nations;

Whereas the Commission has adopted several resolutions at recent meetings asking member nations to halt commercial whaling activities conducted under reservation to the moratorium and to refrain from issuing special permits for research involving the killing of whales;

Whereas one member nation of the Commission has taken a reservation to the Commission's Southern Ocean Sanctuary and also continues to conduct unnecessary lethal scientific whaling in the Southern Ocean and in the North Pacific Ocean;

Whereas one member nation of the Commission has taken a reservation to the Commission's Southern Ocean Sanctuary and also continues to conduct unnecessary lethal scientific whaling in the Southern Ocean and in the North Pacific Ocean;

Whereas whale meat and blubber is being sold commercially from whales killed pursuant to such unnecessary lethal scientific whaling, further undermining the moratorium on commercial whaling;

Whereas the Commission's Scientific Committee has repeatedly expressed serious concerns about the scientific need for such lethal research and recognizes the importance of demonstrating and expanding the use of non-lethal scientific research methods;

Whereas last year one member nation unsuccessfully sought an exemption allowing commercial whaling of up to 150 minke whales and 150 Bryde's whales, contrary to the moratorium and without review of the scientific committee, and continues to seek avenues to allow lethal takes of whales by vessels from specific communities in a manner that would undermine the moratorium on commercial whaling;

Whereas more than 8500 whales have been killed in lethal scientific whaling programs since the adoption of the commercial whaling moratorium and the lethal take of whales under scientific permits has increased both in

quantity and species, with species now including minke, Bryde's, sei, and sperm whales; and

Whereas engaging in commercial whaling under reservation and lethal scientific whaling undermines the conservation program of the Commission: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that—

3 (1) at the 56th Annual Meeting of the Inter-
4 national Whaling Commission the United States
5 should—

6 (A) remain firmly opposed to commercial
7 whaling;

8 (B) support the purposes and functions of
9 the Conservation Committee, which provides a
10 system for ensuring good governance of the
11 Commission's conservation activities;

12 (C) initiate and support efforts to ensure
13 that all activities conducted under reservations
14 to the Commission's moratorium or sanctuaries
15 are ceased;

16 (D) oppose the unnecessary lethal taking
17 of whales for scientific purposes, seek support
18 for expanding the use of non-lethal research
19 methods, and seek to end the sale of whale
20 meat and blubber from whales killed for unnec-
21 essary lethal scientific research;

1 (E) seek the Commission's support for spe-
2 cific efforts by member nations to end trade in
3 whale meat;

4 (F) support the permanent protection of
5 whale populations through the establishment of
6 whale sanctuaries in which commercial whaling
7 is prohibited; and

8 (G) support efforts to expand data collec-
9 tion on whale populations, monitor and reduce
10 whale bycatch and other incidental impacts, and
11 otherwise expand whale conservation efforts;
12 and

13 (2) the United States should make full use of
14 all appropriate diplomatic mechanisms, relevant
15 international laws and agreements, and other appro-
16 priate mechanisms to implement the goals set forth
17 in paragraph (1).

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