

# Symposium on the State of Conservation of Whales in the 21st Century

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Whaling Diplomacy: Why has it been so difficult to find an acceptable solution?

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NGO Perspective

# Where are we now?

- ICRW in its current form is unable to protect all whales and regulate whaling
- Whaling nations in strongest position in decades
- Conservation countries resolve is eroding
- Slaughter of whales at unprecedented pre-moratorium levels
- Interest in allowing a resumption of coastal commercial whaling
- Interest in adopting an RMS as way to reduce the numbers and species killed
- Whaling nations show no interest in compromise

# What are the consequences if we remain on the present course?

- Strong likelihood the numbers of whales killed and the species taken will increase
- The IWC becomes increasingly ineffective as it is unable to stem the increase of whaling and enforce its moratorium
- Without a very serious effort and commitment to reverse the current trend, pro-whalers will strip the IWC of its conservation mandate and make it a non-transparent body

# What can be done?

- Currently no other MEAs have comparable jurisdiction
- ICRW's conservation mandate must be preserved and strengthened
- Adopting an unenforceable and ineffective RMS is NOT the answer
- Current RMS drafts do not even reflect best practices
- An RMS can always be circumvented by an objection/reservation
- An RMS cannot stop or regulate special permit whaling
- Acceptance of a limited resumption of commercial whaling, results in commercial whaling along side Article VIII whaling

# Conclusions/Recommendations

- Overwhelming majority of the global community supports whale protection and opposes commercial whaling
- Whaling is inherently cruel and completely unnecessary
- ICRW should be amended, exploited provisions removed and compliance and binding dispute mechanisms added
- The moratorium must remain in place
- All diplomatic efforts should be employed to bring this to fruition