

# 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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Outside Perspective

# Where are we now?

- “Japan as loser” paradigm
  - Japan is seriously trying to overturn the moratorium but has failed every year
  - In IWC terms, serious confrontation between pro-whaling countries vs. anti-whaling countries

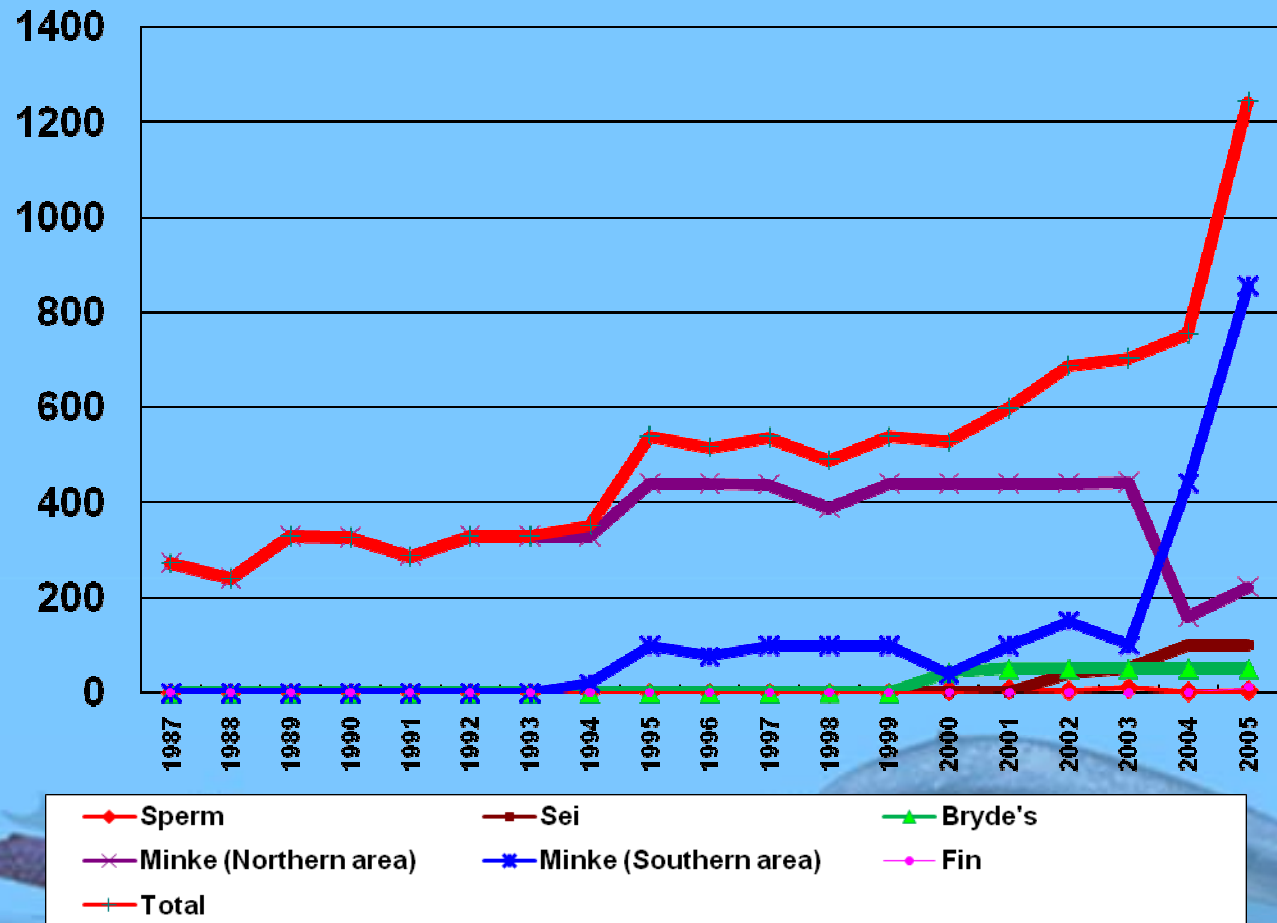
# Paradigm shift is needed to understand the current IWC negotiations



- “Japan as winner” paradigm
  - Japan’s primary objective is NOT to overturn the moratorium BUT to continue “scientific” whaling
    - The Japanese and whaling
      - Japanese eat whale meat very rarely
      - Anti- anti- whaling
    - The Japanese govt never pursued necessary strategies to overturn the moratorium
      - Create negotiable atmosphere; Japan as a country respecting science; negotiate with anti-whaling countries; build fallback-strategy (pull out from IWC)
  - In terms of the IWC, “harmonized and scheduled confrontation”
    - Anti-whaling countries can appeal for their preservation cause by blaming Japan

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

- Uncontrolled “scientific” whaling may threaten endangered whales
  - Fin & Humpback whales



# What can be done?

- Get “scientific” whaling under control of international law
  - No scientific whaling until the IWC’s Scientific Committee OKs
  - Research plan should be planned and authorized by the Scientific Committee
- Only possible way is to diminish Japanese public’s support to “scientific” whaling
  - Some obstacles
    - Anti-whaling NGOs activities offending Japanese
    - Anti-whaling countries attitudes
    - fueling support for “scientific” whaling
- Reintroducing revised Irish proposal

# Conclusions/Recommendations

- Let's shift the paradigm
  - Japan is a winner NOT a loser
  - There is no serious but a harmonized and scheduled confrontation in the IWC
- Get “scientific” whaling under control of the IWC's Scientific Committee
  - Stop activism that could be perceived as Japan bashing
- Reintroduce revised Irish Proposal including the clause for controlling “scientific whaling”