

View of a Japanese Scientist  
— 日本人科学者の見解

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# Chronology 歷史的經過

1970s: 100-yrs of modern whaling depleted 5 large whales, feared remaining 3 species to follow.

1982: IWC decided to cease commercial whaling.

1985: It came into effect, but Japan rejected it.

1987: Japan ended commercial whaling (2,769 whales of 3 species in 1986), started scientific whaling (300 minke/yr), and continued small toothed whale hunt (>30,000/yr).

2007: Japanese government allowed take of 1,415 large whales of 7 species for science, 20,888 small whales of 9 species for fisheries.

## Background 背景 (1)

### Changing views on whales (鯨観の変化)

- ICRW of 1946: Whales are fishery resource, common property, and for long use; Scientific optimism.
- Then: Industry pursued short-term gain and science/scientists failed to manage whales.
- Now: Many view whales as environmental element and object of protection.
- ICRW: Outdated, but no alternative system.

## Background 背景 (2)

### ICRW and Article VIII (捕鯨条約と第8条)

- Aim of ICRW: “*Proper conservation of whales*” stated in the preamble.
- Article VIII: Guarantees “*take for science*”.
- “take for science”: Not for research funds, which is an economic activity.
- Real intent of Article VIII: Does not mean such takes that is likely to risk the aim of the convention, c.f. Japanese scientific whaling.

## Background 背景 (3)

# The Japanese scientific whaling

(今の日本の調査捕鯨)

- In 1984 discussion started to “*survive whaling system till reopening of commercial whaling*”.
- Now, controlled by whaling politics and administration.
- ICR depends on the proceeds, no other choice allowed for it.
- Dubious scientific value (value of objective, probability of achieving the objective).
- Questions on ethics of scientists (kill >1000 wildlife of slow growth for unlimited period).

## Background 背景 (4)

# Japanese response to the project

(調査捕鯨への日本人の見方)

- Most Japanese admit that it uses loophole of ICRW, but hesitate further comments.
- Some say “OK, it is a part of the rule”.
- Fewer say “Unacceptable, because it is against objective of the rule”.
- Japanese appear to be generous in using loophole.

# Proposals and Explanation

## 提案と説明 (1)

### 1. Do we need commercial whaling? No.

- We are happier in rich natural environment.

### 2. Small-cetacean fisheries: Fade out.

- Current management lacks transparency.
- Problem in inspection and statistics (hand harpoon fishery in particular).
- Harm social structure and cultural diversity of whales (drive fishery in particular).
- There is no safe management system for toothed whales.

# Proposal and Explanation

## 提案と説明 (2)

### 3. Japanese scientific whaling: End now.

- It misuses the convention.
- It exposes scientists, government, and whaling industry to corruption.

### 4. ICR scientists: Waited by whale conservation and oceanography.

- Allocate them among existing institutes outside the Fisheries Agency umbrella.
- Open access to information and research opportunity needed.