

Chapter 1 : Japan Banned From Antarctic Whaling | IFLScience

Whales and Whaling - 1 - Whaling in Antarctica More on whaling | Whaling in the 21st century From the earliest days of exploration, Antarctica was plundered for its natural resources.

A practice and tradition that with time matured to an industry with devastating effect – it is estimated that during the 19th century, around 50,000 whales were caught and slaughtered for profit each year. It was all banned by the International Whaling Commission in 1966. Nowadays, whaling is done under strict regulations. The whaling station. This station stood on the northeast coast of an island in the southern Atlantic Ocean known as South Georgia Island. It was here that Christian Salvesen Ltd. A whaler in a workshop. But Leith Harbour was not the only thing on this island. The business flourished until 1914. From this period until 1942, the station was partly leased by Japanese marine companies. Years later, a population of reindeer was introduced to the island of South Georgia for the second time. However, an avalanche in 1966 swept clean the whole reindeer population. General view of the harbor. Leith Harbour from afar. The Royal Navy was responsible for training the whalers; at Leith Harbour and Grytviken, two four-inch guns were installed at strategic locations, and whalers were given training on how to use these guns. And a merchant ship was repurposed and armed to patrol the Antarctic as well as the South Georgian waters. The batteries used during the war hold their ground to this very day. Part of the abandoned station alternative view. No more than fifty Argentinians stormed the whaling station of Leith Harbour disguised as scrap metal traders. And this is when the conflict began. Part of the abandoned station. The lost whaling station at the end of the world. This is the reason why this station is off public access. The danger of falling building, chimneys, and oil tanks is so great that the island off-limits to the public and a special permit is required to enter the island.

Chapter 2 : History of the Grytviken Whaling Station Near Antarctica - SPIEGEL ONLINE

The Antarctic minke whale or southern minke whale (Balaenoptera bonaerensis) is a species of minke whale within the suborder of baleen whales. It is the second smallest rorqual after the common minke whale and the third smallest baleen whale.

Support Aeon Donate now Where the North Sea and the Atlantic Ocean merge, a small Scottish archipelago sits barren and bald, hundreds of clumped islands of grey and green rock. Shetland is a hour ferry ride from the granite port city of Aberdeen, and its population of about 23, stretches across one larger island and a few smaller ones that dot its shores. Even in the dead of summer, it is a cold and reclusive place. The most consistent weather is wind, which howls day and night. While the Shetland economy benefits from North Sea oil and gas exploration and commercial fisheries, a certain old-fashioned atmosphere reigns. Recently, I received a piece of mail from a Shetlander whose return address is only their last name and the town they live in. It is a remarkable place to learn about the edge of the world. In the midth century, young men from Shetland would come of age and travel to Edinburgh. There, they would stand in lines that snaked around city blocks. In a building on George Street, on the third floor, an employee of the now-defunct Christian Salvesen company would be holed away, scribbling names on a ledger. The company, then the largest whaling firm in Britain, began staffing their whaling operations in Antarctica once a year, in the early fall. In his house in Lerwick, Norman Jamieson proclaimed: Shetlanders are some of the only living people who participated in Antarctic whaling. Whaling in the Southern Ocean followed the devastation of whale stocks in the North Sea around Britain, Iceland and Norway in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It began with subsistence whaling, in the 18th and 19th centuries, and then developed into large-scale Arctic and Greenland hunts in the midth century. Salvesen began whaling in Shetland at Olna in 1856, when the company established a whaling station. Leith Harbour, South Georgia, Heading into the 21st century, though, the utility of a whale slowly became obsolete. Fibre technologies meant plastic and nylon replaced whale bones in clothing. Advances in chemistry and electricity meant that, by the 1920s, homes were no longer lit by whale-oil lamps. By the early 20th century, northern waters became unproductive, stretched to their limits by overfishing. In 1906, facing down the prospect of war along with low whale-catch numbers, the British Colonial Office established a whaling base on an island in the sub-Antarctic archipelago called South Georgia, about 1,300 km east of Cape Horn off Chile. In resource extraction from the sea, so tied to seasonal cycles, the end had always been apparent, a prophecy visible in ledger books. But Salvesen still went south. Margarine, made primarily with whale oil, replaced butter in larders across Europe, and whale-meat extract was a primary ingredient in stocks such as Bovril. Lubricants derived from whale oil were also in high demand for use in explosives and machinery repair. Even animals relied on the whale's meat and bone meal were eventually used in stock feed and fertilisers. More than half of all whales officially harvested in Antarctica were hunted in the years following the Second World War. All whalers landed on South Georgia, a crescent moon-shaped chunk of land four times as long as it is wide, sliced down the middle by a mountain range that slopes towards the shoreline. These submerged summits mean that undersea currents create a rich feeding ground for the crustaceans on which whales feed. From Leith Harbour, whalers hunted rorqual whales such as blue, humpback and sperm whales. At the height of Antarctic whaling, Leith Harbour boasted a bakery, a hospital and a movie theatre. Britain and Norway dominated the global whaling industry, and they were able to staff their operations with experienced men. The industry ended at a time of intense industrial power that facilitated over-harvesting. The mass adoption of factory ships in the 1930s changed everything about whaling and, in some cases, hastened the end of the industry itself. The SS Saragossa factory ship, later scuttled after a fire in the South Shetland Isles. Factory ships usurped the need to carry whales to shore for harvest, and worked in tandem with catcher boats, which were fast and could chase down whales and harpoon them for factory ships to later collect. Factory ships had onboard chemistry labs, to ensure that the whale oil being reduced onsite was of a higher quality. Men would scale whale carcasses using ropes, like ice climbers with pickaxes. A whale had to be shot, flensed and off the deck of a ship within five hours. Flensed whale blubber was fed through a hole into the steamers below, where it was melted into oil and

inspected for quality and purity. The rest of the whale was then methodically chopped up. Muscle and bone was mulched into meat meal, and packed into barrels to be sent home. Very little of a whale was left behind. Soon, the overfishing that depleted whales near the coasts would drastically reduce the populations of blue and sperm whales in the waters surrounding Antarctica. By the 1960s, many whaling officials conceded that Antarctic whaling was operating on borrowed time. By 1966, the British abandoned whaling in Antarctica entirely, because the combination of overfishing and regulation via the International Whaling Commission had made it unprofitable. In the summer of 1966, I interviewed Clark and 10 other Shetland whalers for my postgraduate dissertation. Their lives shared some distinct patterns. Almost all had learned of Antarctic whaling from their families, who in many instances had anchored themselves first to North Sea whaling with Salvesen. Almost all of them had headed to Edinburgh at 16 to get their first job, starting as mess boys on whaling ships, then working their way up. But there was never any need to enforce this rule. Men would volunteer to over-winter in droves for the extra cash, spending their time repairing machinery, cleaning and maintaining buildings. In extreme cases, some men would go close to three years without coming home at all, stacking contracts back-to-back. Clark remembers catching what he believes was the largest blue whale ever caught, in 1954. Shetland whalers who worked on catcher boats or factory ships lived between the antipodes, commuters to the edge of the world. They knew that there was an end to the abundance of the sea. Older hands had seen the days of huge catches – 100-ton blue whales hauled up in the back of factory ships, butchered onboard and gone in a day. Then, the catches grew skimpy. Numbers shrank too, and demand also ebbed. While the Second World War had prolonged need, in reality the demand for whale oil was in decline. In 1966, the last floating European whale factory sold to firms in Japan. The end of the industry did not come from the appearance of an animal rights movement but rather the speed of harvest and inefficiencies of running a business between the Southern Ocean and the Shetlands. By the end of the industry, catcher boats were competing with each other, racing against each other to shoot whales. In his memoir, he writes: Salvesen set up a financial trust for Shetland men, knowing that the company had made fortunes on their backs. Men had spent their entire working lives on the ships owned by Salvesen, or at least servicing them. And yet there was no official warning of the end: Soon after, Salvesen contracted a lawyer in Shetland to distribute money allotted for now-unemployed whalers. The trust money was meant to facilitate more of the same type of work – buying fishing or lobster boats, for instance, or a tractor for croft land, or a few sheep to herd. They presumed the Shetland men would continue making a living from the sea. Those men gather as part of the Salvesen Ex-Whalers Club, both on the mainland of Scotland and on Shetland itself, bonded through a job and isolation in ways similar to military men. Lyndsie Bourgon is a writer, oral historian, and National Geographic Explorer. Her writing has appeared in *The Atlantic*, the *Guardian*, and *Smithsonian*, among others. She lives in British Columbia.

Chapter 3 : Leith Harbour: a bleak, abandoned Antarctic whaling station - Abandoned Spaces

Japan maintains that annual whaling is sustainable and necessary for scientific study and management of whale stocks, though the Antarctic minke whale populations have declined since the beginning of the JARPA program and those whales killed have shown increasing signs of stress.

Photographs allegedly showing Japanese whaling operations in the Southern Ocean emerged this week. This interpretation focuses on Article VIII of the convention, which allows a country to issue its own permits to kill whales for research. The same issues are raised each summer when Japanese whaling fleets head south. But the apparently obvious questions have complex answers. Therefore, the court deemed that Japanese whaling was a commercial operation, something that had been banned under the Whaling Convention since 1966. And this is correct. Should Australia take Japan back to court? Is the whaling fleet operating in Australian waters? The waters below 60 degrees south fall under the Antarctic Treaty, to which Australia and Japan are both parties. The treaty was a peaceful territorial compromise between countries like Australia that claim parts of the Antarctic continent, and other countries like Japan that do not recognise those claims. Australia claims about 5. As such, it views the waters off the Australian Antarctic Territory as the high seas, which are governed by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. In almost all cases, only Australian citizens are bound by Australian law in Antarctica. If there are any issues of jurisdiction under the provisions of the treaty, countries must resolve them peacefully, or refer them to the ICJ. Even though the Federal Court recognised this, it held that this was not a reason to withhold judgment. Therefore, the restraining orders and injunction on further whaling are still outstanding and will likely remain so. Should we send Australian ships to confront the whalers? The Australian and Japanese governments are under an obligation to prevent Antarctica becoming a place of discord. Any confrontation on the high seas would be seen as an incredibly aggressive and potentially illegal act. It did not intervene physically with the whaling fleet, likely due to its potential illegality, aggressiveness, concern for the safety of lives at sea, and environmental reasons. Japan is transparent about its catches and reports all its activities including the number of whales it kills to the Whaling Commission as part of its self-issued scientific whaling permit. Countries that are members of the commission therefore have access to all the information on Japanese activities. Australia appears to have exhausted most legal options. Professor Tim Stephens noted, however, that the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea could be a forum where Japan is challenged over its activities. Obligations under the Law of the Sea Convention include mandatory dispute resolution, the protection and preservation of the marine environment, and duties to cooperate. Several alternative courses of action have been suggested and new resolutions at the Whaling Commission have yet to be implemented. However, the decision to stop Japanese whaling is, in reality, likely to come only from the Japanese people themselves.

Chapter 4 : Types of Whale - Whale Species

Countries opposed to Japan's whaling program have passed non-binding resolutions through the IWC to stop the whaling, while Japan claims the whale stocks for some species in the Antarctic Ocean are sufficient to continue its whaling program.

Comment Here at the bottom of the world, there is a movie theater, a church, a museum and a cemetery. All the cozy homes have been buried and destroyed by snow and ice. All the people that used to live here have moved away or died long ago. A landscape once filled by men and their families is now inhabited by at most a few penguins, seals and tourists. And what was a remote stronghold of industrial whaling roughly a century ago is now nothing more than a city of ice, snow and rubble. This is Grytviken, the whaling station on the British island of South Georgia, lying in the South Atlantic roughly 2,100 kilometers (1,300 miles) east of the bottom tip of Argentina. For 58 years, Grytviken was in continuous operation. It survived two world wars and a global economic crisis, greeted expeditions to Antarctica that had gotten stuck in pack ice and processed an enormous number of whales into oil and meat. In more than half a century, it handled 53,000 slaughtered whales, producing 1,000 metric tons of whale oil and 1,000 metric tons of whale meat. Then Grytviken became the icy ghost town that it is today. This fate was shared by many other whaling stations in the Antarctic. As the whaling industry boomed at the beginning of the 20th century, dozens of companies set up whaling operations here. When it became clear that whaling could fetch hefty profits, six permanent whaling stations were set up on South Georgia alone. Grytviken was the first one to launch operations -- and the last to close up shop. Despite the initial difficulties, Larsen had a solid plan. The company was a Norwegian-Argentine joint venture funded by a handful of rich investors from Buenos Aires, as well as one from Hamburg. The prevailing view at the time was that whaling around the South Pole promised little. At an international conference held in London in August 1906, the Royal Geographical Society RGS had publicized the findings of a number of costly expeditions to the Antarctic region to explore whaling opportunities there, including one made by Larsen himself. While on several expeditions to Antarctica, he had seen with his own eyes large groups of whales swim right past him. By Christmas Eve, the men had produced the first barrel of whale oil.

Rise of the Killing Machines The whales were hunted down on the open seas, shot with harpoons, dragged to port and heaved onto shore at the stations. They were particularly prized for their blubber, the white layer of fat beneath the skin. At the time, the glycerin derived from this blubber was the main element used in cosmetic products like soaps and lotions, but it also formed the basis of fuels for oil lamps and boilers. Larsen had never had luck finding reliable investors for his enterprise back home in Norway. They followed him to the Antarctic and began whaling. As time went on, the competing whaling stations continued to boost their capacities. At times, they even had to lend each other empty barrels when stations had more fat than containers to store it in. Between 1906 and 1910, the station at Grytviken produced more than 27,000 barrels of oil, after having filled only about 12,000 the previous year. These years in the first decade of the 20th century were also a golden era for those who invested in such operations: Within a single year, their dividends rose a mighty 15 percent, to reach 10 percent of the value of the company. Whale Oil for Cosmetics, Lamps and Bombs Even after Europe slid into war in 1914, things continued to go comparatively well for the whale hunters in the Antarctic. The supply of coal needed to fire the blubber-melting boilers admittedly got tighter. But the general shortage of resources simultaneously drove the price of whale oil up. Indeed, at times Grytviken could fetch up to 90 British pounds for a metric ton of whale oil -- more than they had ever earned before. The whale fat also found use in the war effort, with blubber-produced nitroglycerin being used in explosive artillery shells and bombs. Butchering the whales at the stations was hard work done by hand. After being harpooned and towed to port, the whales were winched up a ramp and onto shore to die. Using sharp blades, two men made incisions on both sides of the whale along its entire length. From these, the white blubber would then pour out to the left and right. In the end, the men would strip the skin of the whale and separate the blubber from the meat. Lured by high oil prices, some 19 companies set up whaling operations in the Antarctic at the beginning of World War I. Many of them wanted to speed up the killing process by going out on the high sea to hunt without a permit or dedicated processing

stations. In doing so, they also cut into the business of land-based competitors, such as the Grytviken station. A total of 40, whales were killed, about 32, of which were killed by unlicensed hunters on the open sea. By way of comparison, when Grytviken heralded in the era of industrial whaling in the Antarctic in , whalers killed only whales in the initial year. The companies agreed to voluntary quotas for the next season, but the limits came too late for many species. By the mids, the humpback whale was virtually extinct in the Antarctic. At the same time, overproduction drove the price of whale oil to a record low. One station after another on South Georgia went under. By the time World War II broke out, only two were still active: Grytviken and Leith Harbour, whose cold warehouse also stored tons of whale oil produced in Grytviken. Grytviken stayed afloat only because it still had financial reserves left from the golden years to temporarily cushion its losses. It was also the only company that went out hunting for the duration of World War II -- not least because many whalers were drafted into the navy. In , for example, Grytviken was being served by six harpoon boats that had been in service for more than 20 years. One last attempt at modernization in came too late. In that year, CAP was bought by a group of Japanese businessmen. But within three years, they had also given up on the company and dissolved it. He had died in -- on board a ship in Antarctica, out to explore new fishing areas. This article originally appeared in German on einestages.

Chapter 5 : Antarctic minke whale - Wikipedia

And many scientists find it particularly disturbing when whaling (or fishing) is conducted in the Ross Sea, which is one of the last truly functional marine ecosystems in the world. Orcas, like the minkes, escaped the horrors of commercial whaling. Their numbers in the Antarctic are thought to be about 70,

Range[edit] Antarctic minke whales occur throughout much of the Southern Hemisphere. In the spring October–November, they occur widely throughout the pack ice zone to near the edge of the fast ice, where they have been observed between belts of pack ice and in leads and polynyas – often in heavy ice cover. Over twenty individuals marked with these Discovery tags showed large-scale movements around the Antarctic continent, each moving more than 30 degrees of longitude – two, in fact, had moved over degrees of longitude. Both were marked and recovered in January. The Report of the Scientific Committee acknowledged that this estimate is subject to some degree of negative bias because some minke whales would have been outside the surveyable ice edge boundaries. Both become physically mature at about 18 years of age. After a gestation period of about 10 months, a single calf of 2. After a lactation period of about six months, the calf is weaned at a length of 4. The calving interval is estimated to be about Peak calving is from May to June, while peak conception is from August to September. Females may live up to 43 years of age. Rare and incidental items include calanoid copepods, the pelagic amphipod *Themisto gaudichaudii*, Antarctic sidestripes *Pleuragramma antarcticum*, the crocodile icefish *Cryodraco antarcticus*, nototheniids, and myctophids. The few that did have food in their stomachs had all preyed on euphausiids, mainly *Thysanoessa gregaria* and *E. Individuals* were often found with orange-brown to yellowish patches of the diatom *Cocconeis ceticola* on their bodies – Of a sample of whales caught by a Japanese expedition along the ice edge, one-fifth was infested with cyamids those from one whale were identified as *Cyamus balaenopterae*. Several hundred of these whale lice can be found on a single whale, with an average of 55 per individual – most are found at the end of the ventral grooves and around the umbilicus. The copepod *Pennella* was found on only one whale. Cestodes were commonly found in the intestines one example was identified as *Tetrabothrius affinis*. The average group size in the Antarctic was about 2. Off South Africa, immature animals predominate from April to May, while mature whales mainly males dominate from June onwards – in August and September mature males often accompany cow-calf pairs. Over a quarter of the females off South Africa were found to be lactating, whereas lactating females are very rare in the Antarctic – though a cow-calf pair was observed in the austral winter August in the Lazarev Sea. Mature males dominate in middle latitudes, while mature females predominate in the higher latitudes of the pack ice zone – from two-thirds to three-quarters of the whales in the Ross Sea consist of pregnant females. After making a series of shorter dives during which they will surface anywhere from two to fifteen times, they will make a longer dive of up fourteen minutes. Each sweep has a duration of 0. They are repeated about every 1. Their source remained a mystery for decades until attributed to the Antarctic minke whale in a paper published in – though it had been suggested to originate from this species as early as the mids. Whaling The barque Antarctic, sent by whaling pioneer Svend Foyn and led by Henrik Johan Bull, managed to harpoon at least three minke whales in the Antarctic between December and January Two were saved, both being used for fresh meat one had only yielded two barrels of blubber. The chemist Christopher Ash, who had served on the British factory ship *Balaena* during this time, stated that they were small enough to be lifted by their tails using a ton spring balance and weighed entire. Though the Soviets had caught several hundred in the s, it was not until that a significant catch was made, with over 3, being taken nearly all by a single Japanese expedition. Despite these precautions, the quota was exceeded by – later quotas would be as high as 8, The quota and catch soon increased to and In its first two years, in what Japan called its "feasibility study", Antarctic minkes, as well as 10 fin whales, were to be taken each season –'06 and – The quota was reached in the first season, but due to a fire, only Antarctic minkes were caught in the second. In , because of constant harassment from environmental groups, they failed to reach the quota again, with a catch of only whales. Beginning in , larger numbers of minke whales were caught off Natal, South Africa, mainly to supplement the dwindling supply of larger species, particularly the

sei whale. A total of 1, whales nearly all Antarctic minke, but a few dwarf minke as well were caught off the province between and , with a peak of in . Gunners refused to take minke early in the day, because sharks devoured any minke carcasses that were flagged, forcing the catchers to tow them during the chasing of other whales and thus slowing them down. They also could not use asdic , as it frightened them and lead to protracted chases. The season lasted from February to September, with a peak in the last month of the season. Over 14, were caught between and , with a peak of 1, in . The season lasted from June to December, with a peak in either September or October. The former have been reported off Peru and Brazil, and the latter off South Australia. All involved calves or juveniles. However, the IUCN states that the population size is "clearly in the hundreds of thousands". It is listed on Appendix II [96] as it has an unfavourable conservation status or would benefit significantly from international co-operation organised by tailored agreements.

Chapter 6 : NPR Choice page

Japanese whalers have killed more than 50 minke whales in an Antarctic marine protection area this year, WWF has revealed. The disclosure comes on the opening day of the International Whaling.

In the nineteenth century, whale hunters would take handheld weapons to sea in a small boat and, when they caught a whale, they would bring it back to shore to convert it into products like oil, margarine, soap and corsets. This changed early in the twentieth century, though, with technological advances including harpoons and what the whaling industry called a factory ship. These large factory ships are so named because they are essentially factories at sea – they allowed whalers to process their catches on a ship and thus the whalers did not have to make a return trip to land each time they caught a whale. After a few decades of this increased productivity, though, the whalers realized that they were harming the global whale population by killing more whales than were being born. As time passed, though, the killing of whales drew strong criticism from individuals and nonprofit organizations like Greenpeace. Today, due to this anti-whaling sentiment, as well as dramatic decreases in demand for products made from whales, there are only a few countries that continue to hunt whales. Japan, Norway, Iceland, the Faroe Islands and some smaller nations combine to kill approximately whales each year. In the s, ICRW members, including Japan, agreed to a ban on commercial whaling essentially, killing whales and selling the products to generate revenue. However, the members also agreed to allow what they called scientific whaling to continue. As the name suggests, this is the killing of whales for the purpose of advancing scientific knowledge. Shortly after the ban on commercial whaling went into effect, Japan began a program of what it labeled scientific whaling in the Southern Ocean surrounding Antarctica. However, the ruling left open the opportunity for Japan to redesign its program and resume whaling in the future. Japan has already stated it will do so, beginning in the whaling season. While the case at the ICJ was proceeding, a Japanese whaling company sued Sea Shepherd, the environmental protection non-profit organization that is shown in the popular television series *Whale Wars*. Sea Shepherd sends its own ships to the Southern Ocean with the intent of interfering with the Japanese whalers. Thus, despite major lawsuits, the future of whaling remains highly uncertain. No longer does a small group of people take a small vessel to sea with limited weaponry in pursuit of a single whale. As these technologies and processes became increasingly popular in the early- to mid-th century, the killing rate increased to the point where it was larger than the natural reproduction rate of the whales, forcing whaling nations to recognize the need to regulate the industry. Greenpeace began its famous anti-whaling campaign in and introduced millions of people around the world to the whaling industry. Though the campaign was successful according to many measures, the existence of whaling continued. Almost any conversation today regarding whaling will include some discussion of Australia, a country well-known for its pro-conservation ethos, and Japan, the country that kills hundreds of whales each year in the Southern Ocean under its JARPA II program. To aid its work, IFAW convened a series of panels of international law experts between and to develop legal arguments that could be used against Japanese whalers in the Southern Ocean. When the panels completed their work, IFAW shared the conclusions with the Australian public, media, and political officials. Notwithstanding anything contained in this Convention, any Contracting Government may grant to any of its nationals a special permit authorizing that national to kill, take, and treat whales for purposes of scientific research subject to such restrictions as the Contracting Government thinks fit, and the killing, taking, and treating of whales in accordance with the provisions of this Article shall be exempt from the operation of this Convention. Each Contracting Government shall report at once to the Commission all such authorizations which it has granted. Each Contracting Government may at any time revoke any such special permit which it has granted. That is, because Japan is legally prohibited from killing whales for commercial purposes, Japan is using scientific whaling as a guise under which it can kill Southern Ocean whales, then sell the meat and support the national whaling industry. Thus, the special permits granted by Japan for the killing of whales in the Southern Ocean are not for purposes of scientific research. Further, the ruling does not affect smaller hunts that Japan carries out in the Pacific Ocean. To do so, it often uses direct action tactics to confront what it considers to be illegal

activities on the high seas. According to the Institute, Sea Shepherd rammed Japanese vessels, launched bottles full of butyric acid on to Japanese ships, deployed prop foulers in the water to stop forward momentum of Japanese whaling vessels, and navigated its own vessels in such a way as to endanger Japanese ships. The Institute sought to prevent Sea Shepherd from performing any of these actions in the future. The appeals court also issued an order that Sea Shepherd vessels not come within yards of an Institute vessel operating in the open sea. In response, Sea Shepherd has effectively transferred operational control from the United States to Australia, theoretically allowing it to continue in its role as opposition to Japan and the Institute of Cetacean Research. Thus, even after significant court cases have been resolved, the global whaling situation is as unsettled as ever. When the Southern Ocean whaling season begins, it will likely not be much different than those of previous years, barring significant changes brought about by further legal action, intergovernmental political negotiations, or major changes in Japanese policy.

Chapter 7 : Murky waters: why is Japan still whaling in the Southern Ocean?

Japanese whaling vessels returned to port on Saturday after catching more than of the mammals in the Antarctic Ocean without facing any protests by anti-whaling groups, officials said.

In a damning ruling the Court found: However, its large scale, industrial whaling is a relatively new phenomenon, starting after World War II when animal protein was in short supply. Japan continues to kill whales and sell the meat from its hunts, despite the ban moratorium on commercial whaling. To do this it exploits a loophole in the founding treaty of the International Whaling Commission IWC , which allows whaling for scientific research. It also hunts in an IWC-designated sanctuary in Antarctica, under an objection it lodged to that decision in . It is therefore now bound by the ban on commercial whaling. Japan, for example, killed whales for scientific research between and . However, the ICJ has now thrown this understanding into doubt, saying that Scientific permit whaling has to be very narrowly defined to not be caught by the moratorium provisions. However, this still makes it a monumental loophole that the IWC cannot close without amending the treaty. Use of the scientific whaling loophole clearly defies the spirit of moratorium and the will of the IWC, and the Commission has adopted over 40 resolutions denying the validity and necessity of scientific whaling programmes and calling on Japan and other nations to stop taking whales in this way. However, these resolutions are non-binding and the whaling nations have ignored them. Japan started Scientific Whaling in as soon as its objection was fully withdrawn, but it restricted its operations. Japan, however, did not stop its Antarctic hunts and lodged an objection to the sanctuary, exempting it from the effect of the ban. In , it increased the North Pacific minke quota to and added 50 sei whales. This increased again the following year to minke and sei whales. JARPA II proposed to kill up to Antarctic minke whales more than double the previous number , 50 humpback whales and 50 fin whales a year for 16 years. This is a clear conflict of interest since the ICR sells the meat from the hunts and benefits financially from increases in the programme. For years, Japan has falsely claimed that these towns have a longstanding history of, and dependence on, hunting minke whales in Small Type Whaling STW operations in their coastal waters “ a type of whaling characterized by the use of small boats under 50 tons , hunting small whales on day trips. In , Japan changed its legislation to allow the commercial sale of whales caught incidentally; entangled in fishing nets designed to catch coastal fish. According to IWC population estimates, this high rate of bycatch poses a significant threat to the survivability of the J-stock; if these trends continue, the population could face extinction within a few decades. A subsidised industry The Japanese Government issues research whaling permits to the Institute of Cetacean Research ICR which, in turn, contracts a single whaling company, Kyodo Senpaku, to provide the vessels and crew. The ICR releases the products from the hunts twice a year to Kyodo Senpaku to sell at a price fixed by the ICR and Ministry of Fisheries to wholesalers, processors and local authorities. The primary purpose of the sale is to cover the costs of whaling and research, and although recent market conditions are taken into account, in recent years ICR has set prices rather high relative to demand. Wholesalers and retailers, however, are subject to market forces and their prices reflect current market conditions. Wholesalers and retailers may be willing to support losses in the short run, in order to maintain their rights to purchase and sell whaling by-products in future years, but in the long run these losses are not sustainable. Furthermore actual sales have been less than planned sales in recent years. Even though the ICR sets prices high relative to demand, they are not high enough to cover all costs. There are three main sources of subsidy: In , WDC, in conjunction with WWF commissioned a study of the economics-of-whaling Working to gain a majority of votes in the IWC In order to get what it wants at the IWC, in recent years, Japan has been actively recruiting a number of developing countries with no genuine interest in whaling to join the IWC and vote in its favour, against the ban on commercial whaling. Officials in Japan and some target countries acknowledge publicly and privately that Japan uses development aid as an incentive to join the IWC and vote in its favour. The membership of the IWC has continued to grow, and as of September there are 88 members, divided between those in favour of whaling and those against. Overturning the moratorium will take a three quarters majority vote of the IWC. The pro-whaling nations do not have that power, but the risk remains that a

deal will be brokered to exchange the moratorium for some concessions by Japan on its scientific whaling and to rescue the IWC from a hostile takeover. WDC has opposed all of the deals proposed in recent years. As long as the right to conduct Scientific Whaling remains in the treaty, there is no incentive for Japan to comply, nor is there a mechanism to force it to. And, most importantly, both history and current practice show that whaling can never be sustainable, controllable or humane. In addition, Japan has also been working on new applications for whale products.

Chapter 8 : Australia v. Japan: ICJ Halts Antarctic Whaling | ASIL

Brief Summary of Whaling in the Antarctic Tom Krepitch () Modern whaling is much different than it was in the time of Herman Melville's Moby theinnatdunvilla.com the nineteenth century, whale hunters would take handheld weapons to sea in a small boat and, when they caught a whale, they would bring it back to shore to convert it into products like oil, margarine, soap and corsets.

Without the means to engage in active whaling, consumption at that time primarily stemmed from stranded whales. Wada Chubei Yorimoto established a fishery by organizing the group hunting system in Whalers would spot whales from stations along the shore and launch boats to catch them with harpoons and lances. There harpooners would approach in four boats of their own. The nets made escape more difficult and, in its struggle to escape, the whale got tired sooner. Primarily right whales , humpback whales , gray , and fin whales were hunted. Once ashore, the whale was quickly flensed and divided into its separate parts for various warehouses and further processing. Although the primary use for whales was meat, the entire whale was used in a variety of products including lamp oil, soaps, fertilizer, folding fans baleen , and more. This method of whaling required a significant financial investment from rich individuals to compensate for the sizable labor force. However, whaling remained entwined with ritual and unlike their contemporary European counterparts the early Japanese coastal whalers considered whales a valuable resource and did not over-exploit local stocks. These practices are intended to encourage emotionally healthy or spiritual relationships with whales, and are connected with Japanese religious beliefs. The incident effectively marked the end of traditional Japanese whaling practice. Another boost was provided by the capture of a Russian whaling fleet and subsequent transfer to Toyo GyoGyo Co. Oka later became the first president of the Japan Whaling and Fishing Association, established in The whaling grounds round Korea and Japan offer unlimited possibilities, and should stocks of whales, contrary to expectations, fail in those areas, we have the Sea of Okhotsk and the Bering Sea to the north and we are aware of the great treasure houses to the south. The day will come when we shall hear one morning that whales have been caught in the Arctic and in the evening that whales are being hunted in the Antarctic. In the conflict turned violent in Same Village, Aomori Prefecture. Ocean pollution from the whaling stations, including large quantities of oil and blood runoff, angered the local fishermen and threatened their own fishing grounds. In protest the fishermen burned a Toyo Hogeï facility down. The people of the Same region also did not consume whales and considered them sacred. This eventually led to the Geneva Convention for the Regulation of Whaling which was presented in but did not enter into force until and was completely ignored by Japan and Germany. For further information about status of whale species largely affected by Japanese whaling, see Wildlife of China. Antarctica[edit] There are 17 different whale species in the Antarctic and many species of whales migrate south to take advantage of food. This is the reason why most of whaling ships come to the Antarctica every year for hunting. As whale catches diminished in coastal waters, Japan looked to Antarctica. Refrigerator ships were sent along to freeze and transport the meat back to Japan. By capitalizing on both the meat and oil of whales, the Japanese industry continued to out-compete other whaling nations. In the years building up to World War II, the Germans purchased whale oil from Japan and both nations used it in preparation for war. Regarding voluntary acceptance of restrictions: This is the more important in that Japan, who has not yet acceded to the Convention is largely increasing her whaling fleet in the Antarctic The Protocol to the International Agreement for the Regulation of Whaling, signed in , established additional restrictions on whaling. Whaling there was halted in March when the islands were taken by US forces. By November the whaling stations received permission to reopen; however, most whaling ships had been commandeered by the Imperial Japanese Navy, and by the end of the war the factory ships and most of the whale catchers had been sunk. Whale catchers once again took blue whales, fins, humpbacks and sperm whales in the Antarctic and elsewhere. Coonan expressed disapproval of McCracken in his reports of violated regulations and waste dumped over the side when the fleet began killing whales faster than they could be processed. McCracken even briefly joined in whaling with the Japanese crew of a whale catcher and detailed the trip in his book, Four Months on a Jap Whaler. In whale meat made up over 50

percent of the meat consumed in Japan. The market significantly increased through commercial sale and public distribution. In , the School Lunch Act also included whale meat in compulsory education elementary and middle school to improve the nutrition of Japanese children. Japan joined the IWC in . Notwithstanding anything contained in this Convention any Contracting Government may grant to any of its nationals a special permit authorizing that national to kill, take and treat whales for purposes of scientific research subject to such restrictions as to number and subject to such other conditions as the Contracting Government thinks fit, and the killing, taking, and treating of whales in accordance with the provisions of this Article shall be exempt from the operation of this Convention. Each Contracting Government shall report at once to the Commission all such authorizations which it has granted. Each Contracting Government may at any time revoke any such special permit which it has granted. Any whales taken under these special permits shall so far as practicable be processed and the proceeds shall be dealt with in accordance with directions issued by the Government by which the permit was granted. For example, a large private whaling fleet was owned through a variety of holding companies and flags of convenience by shipping magnate Aristotle Onassis and gained notoriety for ignoring all limits of size and species. Behr who also owned the whaling ship, Sierra. The Tonna is famous for its demise. In with full holds the Tonna landed another 50 ton fin whale. As the whale was being winched aboard for processing the ship listed over, took on water and quickly sank. In July , the Sierra was severely damaged after being rammed by activist Paul Watson aboard his ship, the Sea Shepherd. In order to preserve the industry, six Japanese whaling companies negotiated an agreement through the Japan Fisheries Agency in July . The government will be doing all it can to actively support your efforts. Japan objected to the moratorium and continued whaling Under the ICRW an objecting nation is exempted from the disputed regulations. Japan also continued to hunt sperm whales despite a IWC zero catch quota. However, conservation groups sued the United States Secretary of Commerce, claiming that the law did not allow any deals. That claim was defeated by a US Supreme Court decision in , and, as agreed, Japan withdrew its objection to the moratorium and ceased commercial whaling by . Despite the fact that the IWC scientific committee rejected its research proposals, Japan continued whaling. The IWC adopted a resolution in recommending Japan not proceed until disagreements over its research proposals were resolved. A second resolution was also adopted on February 14, , recommending Japan not proceed. On February 9, , Japanese whalers killed the first minke whale in Antarctic waters under the new self issued research whaling permit. Japan has requested the opportunity to fish for 3, metric tons of sea snails and 5, metric tons of Pacific whiting. These requests will be denied. In addition, Japan will be barred from any future allocations of fishing privileges for any other species, including Pacific cod, until the Secretary of Commerce determines that the situation has been corrected. The IWC has asked its members that conduct research whaling programs to demonstrate that the research provides critical information, that the research is needed for whale management purposes, and that non-lethal research techniques are not able to provide the same information. The IWC has issued at least 19 resolutions criticizing Japan for failing to meet these conditions and asking it to stop issuing permits. To date, Japan has refrained from taking humpback whales. Commercial whaling is prohibited within the sanctuary boundaries. Only Japan voted in opposition. For example, many new Caribbean member nations voted in favor of whaling interests in including the defeat of a proposed South Pacific Whale Sanctuary. As many of these nations received economic aid from Japan, accusations of vote buying were made by anti-whaling groups. In , Japanese fisheries official Masayuki Komatsu stated Japan used overseas development aid as a tool to gain influence. It also suggested reforms such as the use of secret ballots and increased recognition of cultural differences in the IWC. Environmental organizations had hoped the change in government would bring about an end to Japanese whaling. However, in the Foreign Minister of Japan, Katsuya Okada, explained that whaling would continue to receive support as a matter of policy. Separate from millions in overseas development aid, membership fees, paid flights, hotel stays and spending money was all provided, by Japan, to gain the support of IWC delegates. In some cases cash was presented in envelopes by Japanese officials. When South American countries proposed a vote to establish a new whale sanctuary in the South Atlantic Ocean, Japanese delegates led Iceland, several Caribbean countries, and additional representatives in a walkout. As a result, the vote was postponed for one year along with other matters pending

consideration by the commission. The replacement "NEWREP-A" plan, scheduled to commence in December, covers a larger area of the Southern Ocean around the Antarctic, and 3, whales will be targeted over 12 years, which is fewer than in previous seasons. The plan was submitted to the IWC and its scientific commission, but approval is not required from either for Japan to proceed. Improvement of both biological and ecological data on Antarctic minke whales. Investigation of the structure and dynamics of the Antarctic marine ecosystem through the development of ecosystem models. On December 1, , Japan sent a fleet to the Antarctic Ocean with the aim of catching minke whales. The move was met with objections from the Australian and New Zealand governments. Coastal waters are also utilized for small-type coastal whaling of dolphins and other small cetaceans. Large and small whales are sometimes taken as bycatch in the nets of Japanese fishing vessels as well. During the 2010 season, the Japanese fleet included a factory ship, four whale catchers and two security patrol vessels. The Japanese self-imposed quota includes minke, 50 fin and 50 humpback whales per season. A harpoon cannon with a grenade tipped harpoon is fired at the target whale. A rope is trailed from the harpoon in order to prevent the whale from being lost. If the whale is struck and not killed instantly by the explosive tipped harpoon, a second harpoon may be used or the whale may be shot with a rifle until dead. A past method of using a second harpoon to electrocute whales is now forbidden by the IWC. Environmental groups have reported whales being dragged backward and drowned. Lines are later used to transfer the whales from the whale catcher to the factory ship. Whales are next winched onto the factory ship through a slipway at the stern of the vessel. On the flensing deck several workers use specialized tools to butcher the whale. Usable product is delivered to the lower decks of the ship for further processing and refrigerated storage. Non usable product is dumped back into the ocean. Additional regulations from the United Nations International Maritime Organization took effect on August 1, , prohibiting ships using heavy oil from navigation in the Antarctic Treaty System area to prevent pollution.

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The Antarctic region has been home to numerous fishing villages, whaling stations, scientific bases, and way stations for exploration.

In so doing, it demonstrated its willingness and ability to address past criticisms of its treatment of scientific evidence. The Court decided that it did not need to discuss several theories of international law as applied to the environment and wildlife advanced by Australia and New Zealand as intervenor ; [5] and it did not discuss the question raised by Japan of whether the moratoria were based on science. Parties that object to an amendment are not bound by it. Notwithstanding anything contained in this Convention any Contracting Government may grant to any of its nationals a special permit authorizing that national to kill, take and treat whales for purposes of scientific research subject to such restrictions as to number and subject to such other conditions as the Contracting Government thinks fit, and the killing, taking, and treating of whales in accordance with the provisions of this Article shall be exempt from the operation of this Convention. Each Contracting Government shall report at once to the Commission all such authorizations which it has granted. Each Contracting Government may at any time revoke any such special permit which it has granted. In , the IWC established zero catch limits for all whaling, with two exceptions: It also banned the use of factory ships. Japan has a current objection to the moratorium on killing minke whales and to the establishment of the Southern Ocean Sanctuary. Its research objectives are: On average, minke whales were killed annually under JARPA II, about half the target sample size of minke whales, fifty fin whales, and fifty humpback whales per season. Australia argues that the reservation is intended only to address maritime boundary delimitations. Accepting this, the Court concluded that the reservation did not apply as in this case there were no overlapping maritime claims between Japan and Australia. Australia claimed that Japan had failed to act in good faith by ignoring the zero-catch limit for commercial whaling, paragraph 10 e of the Schedule, and the prohibition on commercial hunting for humpback and fin whales in the Southern Ocean Sanctuary, paragraph 7 b of the Schedule. It further argued that the species it hunted were not endangered and that the moratorium on hunting whales was not based on science. In a previous case the Court was sharply criticized, by some of its own judges as well as public opinion, for poor handling of significant scientific and technical issues. The procedure for presenting scientific evidence followed a strict and rapid schedule. The parties were to inform the Court by December 28, of the expert evidence they intended to present, including a list of experts to be called at the hearing. The Court then gave the parties about one month to respond in writing. The oral hearings were held about one month later June 26 to July 16, , when all of the written submissions were made public. Two experts were called by Australia, one by Japan; the experts were examined and cross-examined and they responded to questions posed by the judges. The Court did not appoint its own expert, which it is authorized to do under article 50 of the ICJ Statute. In contrast, Australia and New Zealand maintained that permit requirements must conform to an objective standard. The Court found that it did not need to consider whether JARPA II constitutes commercial whaling, which might have involved looking at factors like the amount of whale meat sales, employment, and capital return. The Court was at pains, as it was throughout the decision, to distinguish the tools that it found appropriate for legal interpretation of the treaty from the methods used within scientific disciplines. The second part of the analysis is key: The Court found that lethal methods would be necessary to obtain evidence from internal organs and were not per se unreasonable. Also, several aspects of the study were not reasonably related to the objectives of the research program, including: The Court established an efficient procedure to elicit expert opinion from the parties, allowing judges and counsel to interrogate and clarify their understanding. The Court, however, examined only the ICRW, which provided a sufficient answer to the question posed by this dispute. Thank you for the comments of two guest editors, Timo Koivurova and Anastasia Telesetsky. New Zealand Intervening , Judgment Mar. Educational and news media copying is permitted with due acknowledgement. Caitlin Behles serves as the managing editor. Please click the button below to get started.