

生食用

WDCS
Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society

消費期限 08. 1.31
 100g当り (円) 780
 内容量 780g
 0 200811 009203 16
 保存温度4℃以下

生食用

消費期限 08. 1.31
 100g当り (円) 780
 内容量 (g) 124
 0 200811 009678 16
 保存温度4℃以下

Small Type Whaling
A false choice for the IWC

生食用

For over two decades since the International Whaling Commission (IWC) imposed a Moratorium to protect whales from commercial whaling, Japan has repeatedly sought to overturn this ban. Today, Japan continues to seek a whaling quota from the IWC to provide 'emergency relief' to four coastal towns that it claims are still suffering financial hardship and cultural disintegration as a direct result of the ban.

The IWC is now considering a compromise proposal to award these four towns a five year minke whaling quota, for local consumption only, in return for Japan voluntarily reducing its scientific whaling programme in Antarctica (JARPA).

To test the claims that form the basis of this proposal, WDCS, the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society, and IKAN, the Iruka (whale) and Kujira (dolphin) Action Network in Japan reviewed each town's historic and current whaling operations and interviewed a range of relevant people (whalers, processors, wholesalers, retailers, consumers, and town officials). This report outlines the key findings of the WDCS/IKAN research.





Photo © WDCS/Nicola Hodgins

Summary of findings

For years, Japan has falsely claimed that Abashiri, Ayukawa, Wada and Taiji 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. Japan also claims that the IWC's ban on minke whaling directly caused cultural disintegration and financial hardship in these towns; and that only the IWC could alleviate their problems, by allowing them to conduct a minke whaling operation in their coastal waters.

The crucial facts that Japan has never presented to the IWC:¹

- Two of the four towns have no history of conducting STW of minke whales in their coastal waters; the other two only began 60–70 years ago.
- The four towns commercially hunted Baird's beaked whales and pilot whales before the ban. They continued to hunt these

species and Risso's dolphins in Small Type Whaling operations that were run by local whaling companies and shared vessels and crew.

- It is highly unlikely that the IWC's Scientific Committee would recommend quotas for the minke whale populations found off Wada, Taiji and Abashiri.
- The towns are already hunting minke whales off Ayukawa in a commercial hunt unregulated by the IWC. Since 2002, three of the four towns have been hunting these whales under Japan's scientific whaling programme in the North Pacific (JARPN) from which the products are sold all over Japan. The same vessels, crews and operators that participate in JARPN would hunt, land and process minke whale meat in Ayukawa under the IWC's new proposed hunt at the same time. However, they would only be allowed to sell the products from

the IWC-regulated hunt locally. It is not clear how Japan or the IWC will ensure that products from the simultaneous hunts are separated and that meat from the new hunt is restricted to local consumption only.

- Any economic hardship suffered by the four towns today results not from the IWC's 1982 ban on minke whaling, but from falling demand for whale meat in Japan, coupled with an over-supply of meat from its scientific whaling programmes. Before Japan expanded its scientific hunts, the four communities actually benefited from the Moratorium because they monopolized the supply of fresh meat from other whale species.

¹ Full details are provided in a separate report by WDCS and IKAN available from WDCS



Photo © Tim Stenton

Japanese whaling

For decades, the IWC was unable to prevent the over-exploitation of whales by unsustainable and unregulated commercial whaling. This led to population declines of over 95% in some species including blue and North Atlantic right whales which are still critically endangered. In 1982, the IWC finally adopted a Moratorium on commercial whaling which came into effect in 1986/7. Although most whaling nations complied with the decision, Japan continued large scale commercial whaling through a loophole in the IWC's founding treaty which permits whales to be killed for scientific research. Japan's two so-called 'scientific whaling' operations in Antarctica (JARPA) and the North Pacific (JARPN) have expanded relentlessly since the early 1990s, killing hundreds of whales from five different species each year and providing thousands of tonnes of whale meat to Japan's domestic market.

Japan also permits smaller scale hunts for small whales, dolphins and porpoises in its coastal waters, unregulated by the IWC. Although some parts of Japan have a centuries-long history of hunting in coastal waters, these particular operations, known as Small Type Whaling (STW), are a relatively new phenomenon; starting only in the early 20th century, and only officially licensed by the Government of Japan to kill minke whales since 1947.

Japan's Small Type Whaling

Last century, Japan's Small Type Whaling (STW) operations, targeting mainly Baird's beaked whales, Risso's dolphins and pilot whales as well as some minke whales, ran parallel to its large scale, high seas hunts of minkes and other great whales. However, when the Government started to encourage the use of bigger whaling vessels to participate in its larger commercial hunts after World War 2, many owners of STW boats sold their whaling vessel licenses to big whaling companies and terminated their STW operations.

By the time the commercial whaling moratorium came into effect, all remaining Small Type Whaling companies had their head offices in Abashiri (Hokkaido Prefecture), Ayukawa (Miyagi Prefecture), Wada (Chiba Prefecture), or Taiji (Wakayama Prefecture). These companies

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were always commercial (i.e. for-profit operations), maintaining salaried employees and paying local taxes.

In response to the Moratorium, four of the last nine STW vessels stopped operating, leaving

five ships operated by eight companies. However, since the Moratorium, each of the four towns has maintained STW hunts for short-finned pilot whales, Risso's dolphins and Baird's beaked whales in their coastal waters.

Despite Japan's claims that all four towns have a long history of minke whaling, only Abashiri and Ayukawa actually have a sustained history of hunting minke whales in STW operations in their coastal waters (from 1933 for Abashiri, from 1948 for Ayukawa). There are no records of Taiji and Wada ever having hunted minke whales in STW operations in their coastal waters although they are believed to have provided vessels to hunts in other areas on a short term basis.

In 2002, Japan expanded its scientific whale hunt in the North Pacific to target coastal minke whales. The Institute of Cetacean Research (ICR) which oversees Japan's so-called 'scientific whaling', agreed commercial contracts with Japan's Small Type Whaling Association to provide vessels and crews to participate in two hunts; off Ayukawa in the spring, and off Kushiro (not an STW town) in the autumn. The ICR buys each whale from the whaling companies at a set price and then sells a proportion of the fresh meat at a lower, subsidized price under a 'public quota' to the Small Type Whaling towns (and some other towns around Japan),² which are permitted to sell minke whale meat.

In contrast to the STW towns' other hunts using their Small Type Whaling vessels, this minke whaling activity does not take place in their coastal waters, but is a cooperative, centralized effort many miles from their home port. Each April to June, one vessel each from Wada and Taiji travel hundreds of miles to Ayukawa to hunt 60 minke whales up to 50 nautical miles offshore. Each September to December, the same vessels, plus one vessel from Ayukawa, travel to Kushiro to hunt 60 more minke whales.

2. For example in 2002, an ICR press release confirmed that the 50 minke whales caught by STW yielded 84.3 tons, of which 12.06 tons of meat "were sold at Abashiri, Kushiro, Ayukawa, Wada, Taiji".

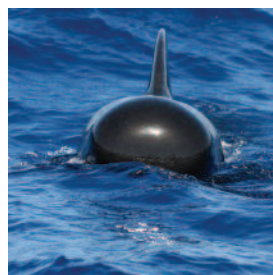
▼STW vessels, Ayukawa



▼STW port of Taiji



▼Pilot whale



▼Whale meat in restaurant



▼STW vessel



Cultural disintegration and financial hardship – exposing the truth.

Japan has long claimed to the IWC that the four towns had to give up longstanding Small Type Whaling of minke whales in their coastal waters as a result of the Moratorium and continue to suffer economic and social hardship as a direct result. It argues that each town needs to conduct minke whaling in its coastal waters to ensure its recovery. Our research challenges this:

- Although Taiji and Wada have no recorded history of conducting STW for minke whales in their coastal waters, today all four towns benefit from contracts with the ICR to participate in so-called 'scientific' minke whaling and buy meat from that hunt.
- Interviews with local people suggest that Wada actually has a greater interest in maintaining its hunt of Baird's beaked whales than starting up a minke whaling operation.
- Whaling is now of little importance, either culturally or financially, to Abashiri which does not even have its own active STW vessel. It shares ownership of a vessel based in Ayukawa which travels to Abashiri once a year to take its quota of four Baird's beaked whales.
- STW is commercial whaling. A recent merger of companies that owned and operated several of the STW vessels created a single whaling, processing, marketing and distribution company based in Ayukawa.
- Although production by STW dropped to a third as the Moratorium came into effect, there was a period of strong financial recovery beginning in 1990 as STW monopolized the supply of fresh whale and dolphin meat in Japan. However, this growth reversed from 2000, coinciding with the dramatic expansion of Japan's scientific whaling programmes, a change in the law to permit sale of fresh meat from bycaught whales, and the growth of stockpiles of whale meat. Any economic hardship still suffered by the STW communities today results from being out-competed by Japan's own large scale high seas whaling; not the 20 year old moratorium from which they actually briefly benefited.

Any economic hardship still suffered by the STW communities results from being out-competed by Japan's own large scale, high seas whaling

If the Government of Japan was serious about the needs of the four towns and the ability of whaling to resolve their problems, it could have addressed the matter itself, rather than asking the IWC. It could have allowed them to reap greater benefits from JARPN under their ICR contract, including giving them the

right to keep more of the meat or sell it commercially. That Japan has chosen not to do this suggests either that its claims were untrue, or that the Government does not in fact have their best interests at heart.



Photo: © Hal Sato

The IWC's new proposal

The compromise proposal before the IWC would award the four STW towns a five year minke whaling quota, for local consumption only, in return for Japan voluntarily reducing its scientific whaling programme in Antarctica. It does not specify where the whaling would take place, or what is meant by 'local use'.

Japan has claimed for years that the STW quota it sought from the IWC would be a non-commercial operation although it was unclear how the STW company whose vessels and crew already participate in Japan's North Pacific scientific whaling operation on a commercial basis could afford to expand their operations for free and make no revenue from meat sales. It now appears that the IWC has dropped any pretence that a new STW quota would be a non-profit operation which raises serious legal questions about the impact on the Moratorium of adopting this proposal. Furthermore, since meat sales under the compromise proposal would be restricted to 'local use' only, the towns may be worse off than they are now under contract to JARPN which is unrestricted by quotas, subject to no international regulation and allows meat sales all over Japan.

Moreover, since Japan is making no commitment to reduce its hunts under JARPN, the IWC will have to deduct those 'scientific' minke whale catches from any catch limit it sets under the compromise proposal, effectively 'capping' the potential of the new operation.

The IWC needs to agree a robust management scheme (including Observation, Inspection and Catch Documentation Schemes and a diagnostic DNA Register) to ensure that all products (not just meat) from minke whales hunted under the new proposal are:

- physically separated from the products of whales hunted under JARPN (including from the Kushiro component) which are also currently distributed to the four STW towns;
- only distributed "locally" (once that is defined);
- kept out of Wada, Taiji and Abashiri's processing and distribution channels for the products of small whales and dolphins from their local hunts which are sold nationally.

Conclusion

WDCS and IKAN conclude that Japan's longstanding demands for a whaling quota are largely unsupported by fact. Accordingly, we are deeply concerned that the proposed 'deal' to give Japan the legal right to conduct minke whaling in its coastal waters in return for some voluntary reduction of its Scientific Whaling Programme in the Antarctic would be unenforceable in practice. It may also bring no tangible benefit to the towns. We believe that the compromise proposal being considered by the IWC is based on a false choice perpetuated by Japan for years that was never intended to benefit the four towns but is meant to re-legitimize Japan's commercial whaling and overturn the IWC's Moratorium.



www.wdcs.org

WDCS is the global voice for the protection of whales, dolphins and their environment.
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