

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 121

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the policy of the United States at the 53rd Annual Meeting of the International Whaling Commission.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 29, 2001

Mr. KERRY (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. SARBANES, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. FEINGOLD) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the policy of the United States at the 53rd Annual Meeting of the International Whaling Commission.

Whereas whales have very low reproductive rates, making whale populations extremely vulnerable to pressure from commercial whaling;

Whereas whales migrate throughout the world's oceans and international cooperation is required to successfully conserve and protect whale stocks;

Whereas in 1946 the nations of the world adopted the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, which established the International Whaling Commission to provide for the proper conservation of the whale stocks;

Whereas the Commission adopted a moratorium on commercial whaling in 1982 in order to conserve and promote the recovery of the whale stocks;

Whereas the Commission has designated the Indian Ocean and the ocean waters around Antarctica as whale sanctuaries to further enhance the recovery of whale stocks;

Whereas many nations of the world have designated waters under their jurisdiction as whale sanctuaries where commercial whaling is prohibited, and additional regional whale sanctuaries have been proposed by nations that are members of the Commission;

Whereas several member nations of the Commission have taken reservations to the Commission's moratorium on commercial whaling and 1 member nation is currently conducting commercial whaling operations in spite of the moratorium and the protests of other nations;

Whereas the Commission has adopted several resolutions at recent meetings asking member nations to abandon plans to initiate or continue commercial whaling activities conducted under reservation to the moratorium;

Whereas another member nation of the Commission has taken a reservation to the Commission's Southern Ocean Sanctuary and continues to conduct unnecessary lethal scientific whaling in the waters of that sanctuary;

Whereas the Commission's Scientific Committee has repeatedly expressed serious concerns about the scientific need for such lethal whaling;

Whereas scientific information on whales can readily be obtained through non-lethal means;

Whereas the lethal take of whales under reservations to the Commission's policies have been increasing annually;

Whereas there continue to be indications that whale meat is being traded on the international market despite a ban on such trade under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), and that meat may be originating in one of the member nations of the Commission; and

Whereas engaging in unauthorized commercial whaling and lethal scientific whaling undermines the conservation program of the Commission: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

2 (1) at the 53rd Annual Meeting of the Inter-
3 national Whaling Commission the United States
4 should—

5 (A) remain firmly opposed to commercial
6 whaling;

7 (B) initiate and support efforts to ensure
8 that all activities conducted under reservations
9 to the Commission's moratorium or sanctuaries
10 are ceased;

11 (C) oppose the lethal taking of whales for
12 scientific purposes unless such lethal taking is
13 specifically authorized by the Scientific Com-
14 mittee of the Commission;

15 (D) seek the Commission's support for spe-
16 cific efforts by member nations to end illegal
17 trade in whale meat; and

1 (E) support the permanent protection of
2 whale populations through the establishment of
3 whale sanctuaries in which commercial whaling
4 is prohibited;

5 (2) at the 12th Conference of the Parties to the
6 Convention on International Trade in Endangered
7 Species, the United States should oppose all efforts
8 to reopen international trade in whale meat or
9 downlist any whale population; and

10 (3) the United States should make full use of
11 all appropriate diplomatic mechanisms, relevant
12 international laws and agreements, and other appro-
13 priate mechanisms to implement the goals set forth
14 in paragraphs (1) and (2).

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