EDITORIAL

This issue of INWR Digest is about to be posted as the 56th Annual Meeting of the IWC begins in Sorrento, Italy and the Northern Hemisphere whaling season is in progress in Canada, Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland, Japan, Norway, Russia and the United States. The IWC meeting program involves continuing discussion on such issues as the Revised Management Scheme (RMS), whale sanctuaries, killing methods and welfare issues, socio-economic implications of small-type whaling, the future of sustainable whaling, financing the commission’s work and secret ballots all contentious issues in past years. Despite this however, the membership of the Commission steadily increases, at the same time as one recent commentator (Corkeron 2004, see PUBLICATIONS) observes the dysfunction of the IWC as an international management organization has not lessened in the past decade. Corkeron comments that, while ritual whaler-bashing at the IWC remains a convenient conservation fig leaf for nations with no whaling industry and less than exemplary environmental management, should not whales-as-icons join flared pants and mirror (disco) balls as 1970s discards? The answer for IWC members seems rooted in their disparate domestic political agendas, and so continues the refractory thirty-year IWC stalemate. Nevertheless, we wish the delegates well as they, hopefully, begin to seek the middle ground during their passionate discussions variously in support of, or in opposition to, the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, the treaty which provides IWC its legal basis. Credible whaling research by natural and social scientists has, in the past, contributed to illuminating the issues and, in some cases, the solutions to difficult management issues. Hopefully a return to rational discourse and responsible action will not prove impossible at this pivotal time in the IWC’s history.

ALLEN P. MCCARTNEY (1941–2004)

It is with deep regret that we note the recent passing of a distinguished international authority on New World prehistoric indigenous whaling, Professor Allen P. McCartney. Professor McCartney’s research spanned more than forty years, based on extensive fieldwork from the Aleutian Islands to the Canadian Eastern Arctic. For many years, editor of Arctic Anthropology, he organized a number of international conferences on prehistoric whaling that resulted in books and published reports. A few weeks before his death in June 2004, he was able to see published the latest of his edited collections, Indigenous Ways to the Present: Native Whaling in the Western Arctic (see below for the book contents). An appreciation of Professor McCartney’s scholarly achievements is to be found on the INWR website www.ualberta.ca/~inwr/announcements/

NORWAY’S PARLIAMENT RECOMMENDS INCREASED WHALE QUOTA

On 18 May 2004, Norway’s Parliament decided to instruct the government to substantially increase the minke whale quota as soon as possible in accordance with advice from Norwegian scientists. This occurred as Parliament ended debate on Norway’s White Paper on marine mammal policy tabled by the Government in March 2004 (see www.ualberta.ca/~inwr/issues/new_norwegian_marine_mammal_policy_paper.html). The White Paper was first studied by Parliament’s Standing Committee on Business and Industry, which presented recommendations in early May, including that a quota of 1,800 minke whales per year be set until a new quota is recommended in four to five years’ time. The current and future quotas are to be consistent with the policy objectives of an ecosystem-based management regime. A catch level of 1,800 corresponds to the average yearly catch from 1963 to 1982, which scientists consider to have been a sustainable catch level, at less than the stock’s reproduction rate of at least 2 percent. Parliament expressed strong disappointment with the International Whaling Commission, which was characterized as having strayed from its founding treaty, the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling. The North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO) is viewed more positively, and as a consequence, Parliament instructed the Government to consider giving NAMMCO the task of setting total allowable catches (TACs) for marine mammals and distributing this TAC among Norway and other countries. Strong support was expressed for establishing an ecosystem-based management regime for marine mammals. Parliament is concerned at the quantity of seafood consumed by several species of seals and whales, with minke whales and harp seals alone consuming about twice the total amount of Norwegian...
With little knowledge about what, and how much, cetacean species (other than minke whale) consume, an ecosystem-based management regime will require data on the impact of these other predators on fish resources. Consequently, Parliament instructed the Government to consider research whaling involving other whale species and to prepare a new White Paper on Norway’s marine mammal policy, to be submitted in 2008 or whenever a new population estimate is available for minke whale stocks.

**ICELAND CONTINUES WHALE RESEARCH PROGRAM**

Iceland’s Minister of Fisheries, Mr. Arni M. Mathiesen, announced on June 1, 2004 that the scientific whaling program that commenced in 2003 would continue with a take of 25 minke whales in 2004. Mr. Mathiesen in his statement expressed pleasure that Icelandic whaling continues, and noted that it reconfirms that Iceland remains a whaling nation.

Following a pause in whaling since 1989, Iceland resumed whaling last year, taking 36 minke whales. Following international sighting cruises, scientists estimate that there are ca. 43,000 minke whales in Icelandic waters.

When Iceland rejoined the International Whaling Commission in 2002 with a legal reservation on the IWC ban on commercial whaling, the government announced that Icelandic vessels would not resume commercial whaling before 2006.

**U.S. COURT RULES ON THE MAKAH GRAY WHALE HUNT**

On June 7, 2004, a U.S. federal court of appeals ruled for the third time that the Makah Tribe must comply with more stringent environmental procedures before seeking to hunt gray whales. This decision is expected to involve several years of process before tribal whalers will know whether they can legally hunt gray whales again. The decision, from a three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, essentially followed two previous rulings by the court in requiring the U.S. government to conduct a comprehensive environmental analysis to ensure that the tribe's whale hunts will not compromise gray whale population. In addition, the court stated that the tribe and the federal agency that sponsors its hunts must obtain an exception to the U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) before future whaling can resume.

The Makah are the only tribe in the U.S. with an explicit treaty right allowing them to hunt whales. After obtaining a quota for gray whale from the IWC, in 1999 the Makah successfully hunted their first whale after a seventy year pause in whaling. Mr. Wayne Johnson, who was the whaling captain during the 1999 hunt, on hearing the court decision, confirmed the tribe's intention to whale again. Mr. Johnson also noted, following the decision: "It's another treaty broken by the United States".

In order to resume whaling, the tribe has two options: it can petition to have the case heard by the U.S. Supreme Court, or the tribe can comply with the court's ruling that requires the

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**SWIMMING WITH CETACEANS**

Interactions between human and free-ranging cetaceans have been reported in a number of publications in recent years. At the request of the U.S. Marine Mammal Commission, a study was conducted at a Florida-based swim with dolphins program. Among the findings of this study, by Samuels and Bejder (see PUBLICATIONS, below) are the following:

Swim-with activities, in which humans enter the water to interact with free-ranging cetaceans, are a popular form of nature tourism; however, there is considerable disagreement as to whether these encounters constitute a threat to the animals. A study designed to quantify effects of swim-with activities on the behaviour of bottlenose dolphins in Florida found that certain dolphin behaviours were identified as indicative of chronic interaction with humans. Those dolphins accepting food handouts from people were considered to be conditioned to human interaction through food reinforcement. Specific human-dolphin interactions that posed a risk for dolphins or humans were identified, and it was calculated that human interaction put a specific juvenile dolphin at risk once every 12 min, including being fed by humans once every 39-59 min. Humans interacting with that dolphin were estimated to be at risk once every 29 min. Although the study was of limited duration, the observations were so clear-cut and the nature of interactions so potentially hazardous it was concluded that food provisioning was the probable basis for this swim-with-free-ranging dolphins program, and that human interaction at this location was likely to be harmful to the dolphins and in clear violation of the US Marine Mammal Protection Act.

The authors conclude the methodology designed for this study can be adapted to study potential impacts of nature tourism on other coastal cetaceans populations.

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**NEW BEDFORD WHALING MUSEUM**

The New Bedford Whaling Museum in Massachusetts U.S.A. celebrated its centennial year in 2003. The Museum’s mission is to educate and interest the public in the historic interaction of humans with whales worldwide, as well as with local and regional communities with their rich whaling and maritime histories. The Vision Statement of the museum (which describes itself as the world’s leading interpreter of the global whaling story) is:

* to advance understanding of the profound influence of the whaling industry and the port of New Bedford on the history, economy, ecology, arts, and cultures of

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National Marine Fisheries Service completes a comprehensive environmental impact study and obtain a waiver to the federal Marine Mammal Protection Act (which generally outlaws anyone in the United States from harming or killing marine mammals). Federal officials had begun the environmental study called for by the court for some time before the court ruled on this case that was brought by several anti-whaling non-governmental organizations. Further information on this and earlier U.S. court ruling on Makah whaling, see www.ualberta.ca/~inwr/issues/makah_and_the_courts.html
the region, the nation and the world, to expand our capacity to tell the stories of the many diverse communities that shared in the creation of this history, through excellence in our collections, scholarship, and all forms of public engagement, and by so doing, the museum will be recognized as a compelling destination that inspires all visitors to reflect on the complex issues that shaped the past, remain critical today, and inform a sustainable future.

A full-day symposium, titled Pacific Encounters: John Manjiron and the beginnings of the U.S.-Japan Relationship will be held October 30, 2004. This event, organized by the museum, in collaboration with the Japan Society of Boston, will explore American cultural, diplomatic, and commercial relationships with Japan during the 19th century. On November 13 and 14 2004, the museum will present a theatrical performance about Manjiron. For more information contact www.whalingmuseum.org

**SEMINAR ON THE FUTURE OF WHALING**

A seminar titled "The Future of Whaling in the 21st Century", hosted by the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) and the Green College Centre was held in Oxford, U.K. on May 26 2004. WSPA is leading the campaign launched this spring by a coalition of more than one hundred organisations that oppose whaling because of concerns about animal welfare issues. This campaign includes publication of a WSPA report titled Troubled Waters: A Review of the Welfare Implications of Modern Whaling Activities. This report claims that it is not possible to kill a whale humanely, and calls for an end to all whaling activities.

The seminar was chaired by Sir Crispin Tickell, Director of the Green College Centre. Professor Patricia Birnie spoke on "An introduction to whaling and the IWC", Dr. Mark Simmonds, Director of Science at the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society, presented "Welfare implications of whale biology and behaviour", Philip Lymbery of the WSPA and Richard Watson of the Environmental Change Institute presented "Public attitudes towards whaling (in both whaling and non-whaling nations)", Professor Andrew Butterworth of Bristol University spoke on "Comparisons between slaughterhouse best practice and whale killing methods" Professor Stuart Harrop of the University of Kent spoke on "Whaling, ethics and law" and Ms. Laila Jusnes, of High North Alliance, Norway, spoke on "Practical perspectives from a whaling nation"

**WHALING IN THE BERG, CHUKCHI AND BERING SEAS**

A new book, titled Indigenous Ways to the Present: Native Whaling in the Western Arctic, edited by Allen P. McCartney, has been published by CCI Press, in association with the University of Utah Press. Chapters include:


This volume is Number 6 in the Studies in Whaling series published by CCI Press (Occasional Publication No. 54). See PUBLICATIONS (below) for additional bibliographic information.

**PUBLICATIONS**


