

Japan's position on Australia's announcement for its legal action against Japanese whaling

1. It is regrettable and not constructive that the Government of Australia has decided to initiate international legal action against Japanese research whaling while all concerned parties still continue rigorous negotiations to achieve a diplomatic solution at the International Whaling Commission (IWC).
2. Japan's research whaling is a legitimate activity conducted on the High Seas in accordance with Article 8 of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling. When the Government of Australia brings Japanese research whaling before the International Court of Justice, the Government of Japan will respond accordingly to this international litigation based on its position.
3. The Government of Japan intends to continue its negotiations with members of the IWC to achieve an agreed package at the IWC Annual Meeting to be held in late June of this year.

[Note]

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE REGULATION OF WHALING (※abstract)

Article VIII

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Each Contracting Government shall transmit to such body as may be designated by the Commission, in so far as practicable, and at intervals of not more than one year, scientific information available to that Government with respect to whales and whaling, including the results of research conducted pursuant to paragraph 1 of this Article and to Article IV.
4. Recognizing that continuous collection and analysis of biological data in connection with the operations of factory ships and land stations are indispensable to sound and constructive management of the whale fisheries, the Contracting Governments will take all practicable measures to obtain such data.