

ECO

International Whaling Commission Annual Meeting

In this issue ...

- **More US Opposition**
- **Whale Mugging?**
- **Chilean Reception**
- **Still Dolphin-safe**

Japan's Stolen Whalemeat Scandal

Activists Junichi Sato and Toru Suzuki of Greenpeace Japan investigated and documented an amazing whalemeat scandal going on under the very noses of the Japan Institute for Cetacean Research (ICR). Their documentation was submitted to government authorities requesting a full investigation and prosecution of the guilty parties.

So what did Japanese police do? Early Friday morning, June 20th, they broke down the door of Greenpeace offices, rifled through the office papers, seized computers and documents, and arrested the two Greenpeace activists who presented the information to the police in the first place.

What is their crime? No one knows, as the Japanese authorities have not yet filed any charges, and a court was told that charges would not be filed for at least ten days.

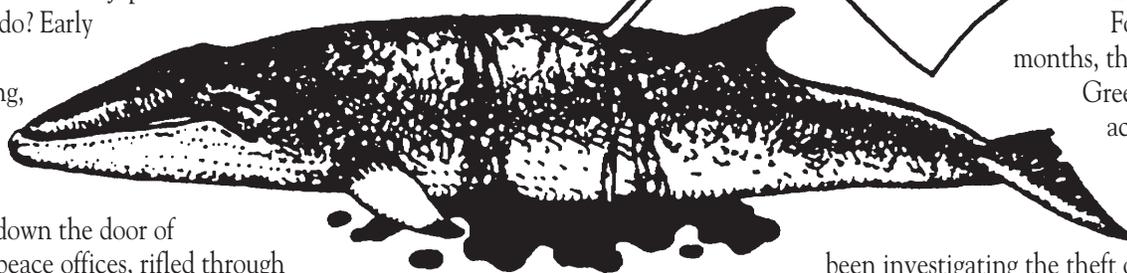
"This is the backlash," said Greenpeace Japan Executive Director Jun Hoshikawa. "We've uncovered a scandal involving

that these activists, who are innocent of any crime, would be arrested for returning whale meat that was stolen from Japanese taxpayers. In whose interest were these arrests made?

Because it would appear to us that this is an intimidation tactic by the government agencies

responsible for a scandal."

For four months, the Greenpeace activists have



powerful forces in the Japanese government that benefit from whaling, and it's not surprising they are striking back. What is surprising is

been investigating the theft of boxes of whalemeat from the so-called "scientific" whaling scheme. Boxes marked "cardboard" were unloaded from the whale factory ship *Nisshin*

Concludes on page two

A Message from Dr. Sidney Holt

While speculation in the Santiago corridors and on the Internet is rife about what the US Commissioner might

doing. I have a suggestion: they are considering whether to abandon

all give up on the idea of commercial pelagic whaling ending in less than, say twenty years.

The new Japanese factory ship, under discussion, will be expensive.



be up to in "dealing" with Japan, little attention seems being given to what the Japanese whaling and whale-meat trading interests are

pelagic whaling—"scientific" or other—or to finance the construction of another, bigger factory-ship plus up-to-date catchers. If they chose the latter I think we can

It must be big enough to handle full-grown fin whales—which are necessarily the prime target of any substantial expansion (and perhaps the occasional blue whale or

Concludes on page three

US Passes Resolution Opposing Whaling

In yesterday's ECO, we reported that two resolutions had been introduced into the US Congress opposing a US position at the IWC of support for any commercial or coastal whaling.

HCR 350 was passed unanimously by the full House of Representatives on June 18th.

According to the Animal Welfare Institute, House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Nick Rahall and eight of his colleagues introduced the resolution to send the message that the United States must not be bullied into submission at the meeting by pro-whaling interests.

"This resolution serves to put the United States back on track and reaffirm its historically strong position in support of the whales. As current chair of the IWC; the United States holds a very important role and must extend all efforts to refocus the body toward its much-needed conservation aims," said AWI Research Associate Susan Millward.

Theft Scandal, concluded from page one *Maru* and spirited off in an unmarked truck, destined to be sold by individuals from the company and crew. The offloading of these boxes of whalemeat, each box estimated to be worth US\$3,000 on the market, was conducted in plain view of the whaling company's representatives

order to document the thefts taking place. This box of whalemeat, along with the documentation of the

therefore been dropped.

"The whaling program in the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary is funded by the Japanese taxpayers, including the Greenpeace activists who have been arrested, and they have a right to know who is profiting from their money," said Mr.

and fellow crewmembers. Apparently, this theft of whalemeat has been going on for decades.

The Greenpeace activists intercepted one of the boxes, addressed to a private address, in

scandal, was turned over to the Public Prosecutor in Tokyo by the activists on May 15th, along with their assurances that the Greenpeace investigators would fully cooperate with authorities.

Greenpeace notes that additional allegations from the whaling scheme informers include:

- Throwing tons of whale meat overboard daily because they did not have processing capacity for the increased quotas.
- Cancerous tumours being found and cut out of whales and the remaining meat processed for public sale.
- Targeted hunts to ensure maximum catch, not random "sampling" as required by the research permits.
- Very bad working conditions because of the increased workload from the increased quotas.

As a final irony, the Tokyo District Prosecutor Office announced on June 21st that it has been unable to find evidence of the embezzlement and that the investigation into ICR, the crew, and whaling officials has

Hoshikawa.

"The Japanese whaling program has been shamed internationally for its lack of scientific credibility, now it is being shamed at home as well for trying to hide the corruption, and now for taking revenge on those who have exposed it. The Greenpeace activists should be immediately released."

Greenpeace is asking the public to contact the Japanese Prime Minister and Foreign Minister urging the release of the activists and an end to taxpayer-funded whaling.

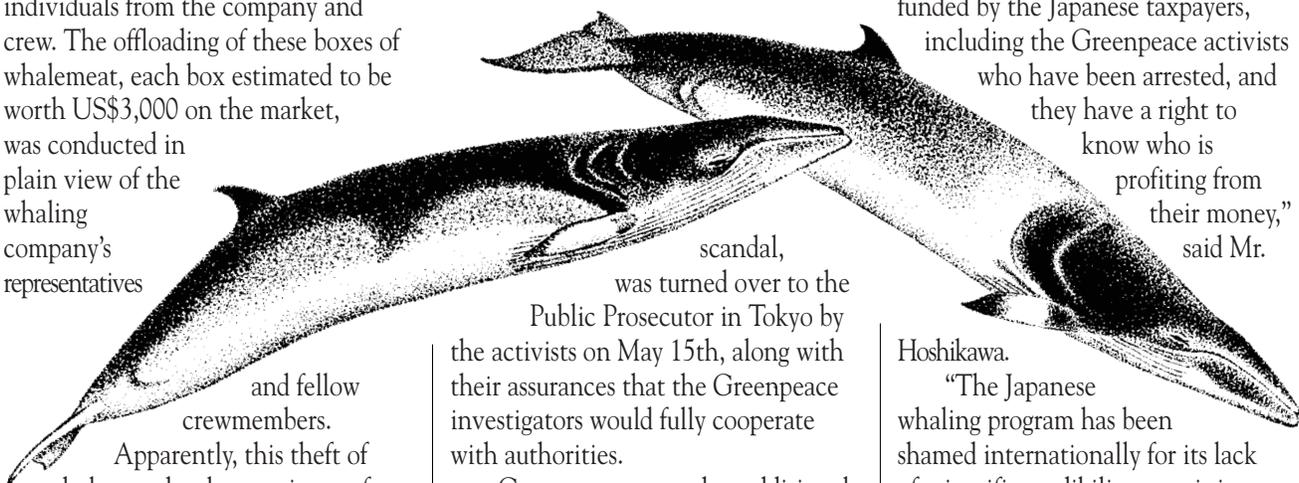
You're Invited

Come to the NGO reception tonight June 24th, in the Sheraton, Santiago, beginning at 6 PM. The reception is sponsored by Chilean NGOs, with support from IFAW, HSI, WSPA, GP and WDACS, and is being held next to the Breakfast Room.

ECO

ECO is published by Earth Island Institute's International Marine Mammal Project at the 60th meeting of the International Whaling Commission in Santiago, Chile, on behalf of environmental and animal welfare organizations around the globe.

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Japan Warns Citizens about Whales

It appears that whales are not only eating all of the fish in the world's oceans, they have now started roaming the back alleys of Santiago and the hallways of the Sheraton Hotel, on the prowl for Japanese tourists!

Japan's foreign office has issued a citizen's advisory to Japanese tourists

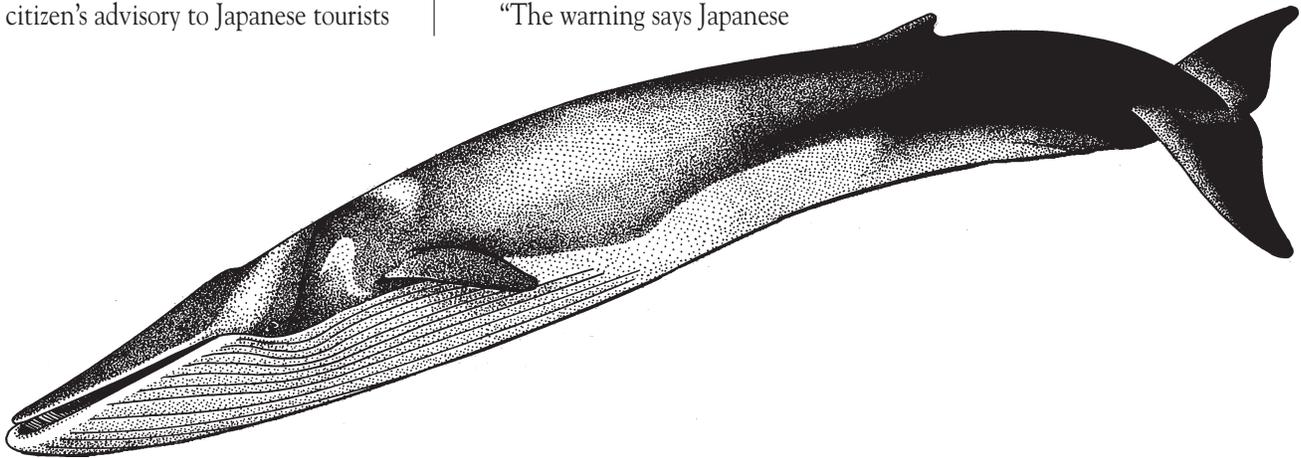
who may be visiting Santiago coincidental to the IWC meeting.

According to ABC news, Japanese have been told "to take care during the IWC meeting, where Japan's whaling programs are expected to again face fierce criticism.

"The warning says Japanese

people should not draw attention to themselves, they should avoid going to the five-star hotel where the IWC meeting is being held, and to steer clear of anti-whaling rallies."

Furthermore, "(t)he guidelines also warn against going out at night, and to refrain from talking carelessly about whaling in front of other people."



Holt, concluded from page one pygmy blue, and some Bryde's) — and to fully process the carcasses, neither of which can be done by their current whaling mother ship, *Nisshin Maru*. A new factory needs to have at least double the freezing/storage capacity of *Nisshin Maru* or substantially more if they are to be able to dispense with the auxiliary vessel(s) that in mid-season bring fuel oil and take away the frozen meat. The Japanese interests can have little hope of securing a modification of Schedule paragraph 10(e), so further expansion of Special Permit whaling is the way ahead, justified, as always, by the declared aim of studying the inter-relationships among whale species as well as their predation on fishes. Something like that is, after all, why the Government of Japan worked so hard, for several decades, especially to acquire a virtual whaling monopoly of the Southern Ocean.

But suppose they chose the former option? The Japan Institute of Cetacean Research (ICR) is already

facing severe financial troubles from which they can only escape by producing much more meat and selling it at a lower price. The costs of doing that are considerable, especially as they probably cannot rely forever on soft loans and "scientific" subsidy, and they have to invest in propaganda to persuade the young generation to eat lots of whale meat. That generation is also only now becoming aware of the fact that the whaling is heavily subsidized at public expense, and the Greenpeace Japan revelation of the scam by which factory ship crew are allowed to take significant quantities of unrecorded meat off for sale cannot be helpful to ICR and the traders. Accountants and banks are getting worried about all this, and might not be too happy to fund the next generation of pelagic whalers. And even miracles might happen: the ICR folks might at last begin to be a bit ashamed about permit whaling programmes never attaining their declared objectives (See the circulated Report of Paciano

II, a conversation among scientists sponsored by the UK charity Global Ocean.)

If the former option is decided we can be sure that strenuous efforts will be made by the Government to appeal to the international community to be constructive, and offer the very deals that many suspect some "like-minded" Governments are contemplating—close a blind eye, or even legitimize, Small-type Coastal Whaling, with arbitrary catch limits (applying the RMP probably wouldn't provide sufficient catch to feed a very limited and expensive minke meat market to keep well-off older people happy, even if it continues to be topped-up by some minke whales that foolishly happen to find their way into Korean fishing gear). It will be interesting, if so, to see how many "like-minded" take the bait.

And if the bean-counters do their job well, it would be nice to see the ICR down-sized or even closed down and its employees released on small pensions.

Documentary on Japan's Coastal Dolphin Kill

The Ocean Protection Society (OPS) is in Chile to release a shocking new video of the cruel slaughter of dolphins by Japanese whalers. Japan is seeking permission from the IWC to conduct commercial whaling off their shores.

"Dolphins and porpoises are whales, and size doesn't matter," says Louie Psihoyos, Director of OPS. "This short film will shed light on the truth the Japanese whalers don't want

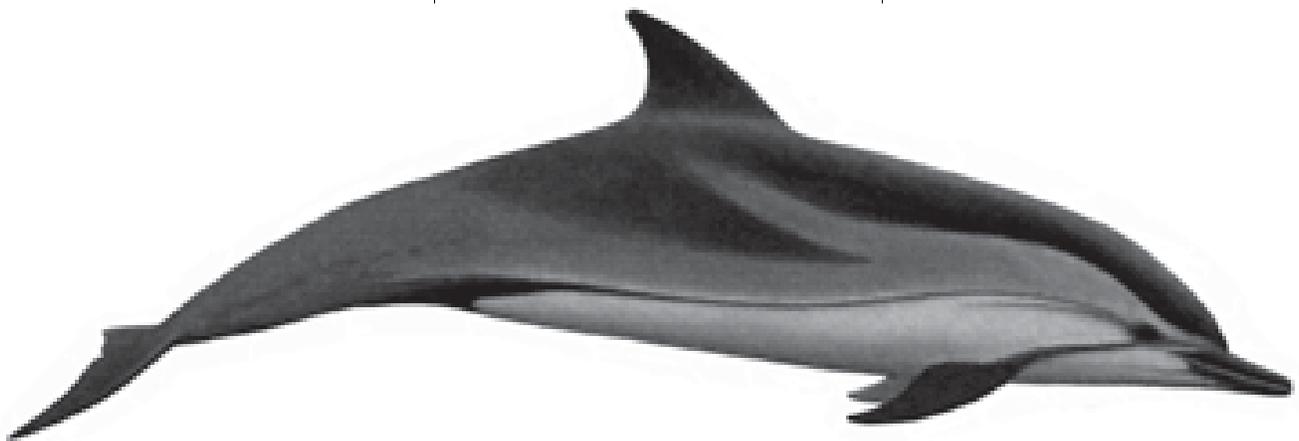
the world to see."

"The dolphin slaughter in Taiji, Japan, is the most horrendous thing I have ever seen in my life," states Ric O'Barry, Director of Save Japan Dolphins Coalition. "How can the IWC be considering opening up commercial coastal whaling in Japan, which would result in more slaughtered whales and more slaughtered dolphins?"

"Recently, in defiance of both

the IWC and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, Japan imported whale meat from Iceland and Norway," notes David Phillips, Director of Earth Island Institute. "How can the IWC trust Japan, which kills dolphins in the most cruel manner imaginable, slaughters whales in the name of science despite the moratorium, and now illegally trades whale meat?"

The full feature-length documentary will be released in theaters in 2009.



Dolphin-safe Tuna Remains Safe

In August 2007, the Bush Administration ended litigation against the dolphins by deciding it would not appeal a court order prohibiting the weakening of the Dolphin-Safe tuna label.

"At long last the Dolphin Safe label for tuna is safe from the Bush Administration's legal attacks," stated David Phillips, Director of Earth Island Institute. "After six years of litigation, the Administration has realized it must follow the law and cease efforts to allow dolphin-deadly tuna from Mexico onto US supermarket shelves."

On April 27th, 2007, a three-judge panel of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals handed down a unanimous judgment against the Bush Administration in ruling that the Commerce Department based its

efforts to weaken the standards for determining if tuna is "Dolphin Safe" on political issues, not science.

"Congress required the Bush Administration to base their decision about the standards of the Dolphin Safe tuna label on science," Phillips continued. "But the pressure from the State Department and the Mexican government to gut dolphin protections was enormous. The 9th circuit ruled unanimously—once again—against the Bush Administration."

US District court Judge Thelton Henderson has issued two major rulings on the Dolphin Safe label alone, including his statement, noted in the 9th Circuit court ruling: "This court has never, in its 24 years, reviewed a record of an agency action that contained such a compelling

portrait of political meddling. This portrait is chronicled in documents which show that both Mexico and the United State Department of State ... engaged in a persistent effort to influence both the process and the ultimate finding, and that the high ranking officials [sic] in the Department of Commerce were willing to heed these influences notwithstanding the scientific evidence to the contrary."

Noted in Passing:

For the umpteenth time yesterday, Japan's IWC Chair, in his opening remarks, once again threatened to leave the IWC if Japan's whalers don't get their way.

Isn't it wonderful to be part of this new spirit of cooperation and compromise?