

# ECO

International Whaling Commission Annual Meeting

*In this issue ...*

- **Stewed Toxins**
- **Martian Whales?**
- **Arnold and Michelle**
- **Coastal Whalers**

## **Pinochet Regime and Japan's Outlaw Whalers**

The secret massacre of Chile's endangered whales by Japanese whalers in the 1960s, documented in Monday's *ECO*, continued openly in the 1970s under the dictatorial rule of Gen. Augusto Pinochet.

A modern factory/catcher ship supplied by a Japanese whaling company was sent to Chile in 1977 to vastly expand an existing Chilean whaling operation, Macaya Hermanos.

The Macaya shore station, based in the port of Chome on the central coast, was launched with three old catcher boats acquired from Antarctic

whaling fleets. From 1968 to 1975, as many as 352 whales were harpooned each year, mainly sperm and sei whales, outside of any regulation, because Chile refused to join the International Whaling Commission. The meat and oil was exported to Japan.

But by 1976 only one boat was operable, taking just 77 whales. Japan's giant Taiyo Fishery Co., which ran pirate whaling ships worldwide in addition to its Japan-flagged fleets, announced a joint venture with Macaya to expand the Chilean whaling operation. Taiyo—today

named Maruha—sought to export one of its surplus whale catcher boats to Macaya. But the Japanese government, already stung by IWC criticism of such flagrant support of outlaw whaling, blocked the export permit for the ship.

Undaunted, Taiyo concocted another, more successful scheme to expand unregulated whaling in Chile. A Taiyo subsidiary, a marine supply company named Taito Seiko Co., purchased a modern stern trawler, the *Orient Maru No. 2*, from Tokushima Suisan Co. The ship had been a Japanese pollock trawler in the Bering Sea until it was made surplus

*Continued on page two*

## **Some Barbed Questions from Dr. Sidney Holt**

Does Japan really want commercial whaling legitimized?

And will it really abandon the IWC if it does not get its way?

Does the Japan Fisheries Agency really want Schedule paragraph 10(e) (the "moratorium") modified to allow some commercial whaling under Article V of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling 1946? I think not; whaling under Article VIII (Special Permits) is far more convenient and profitable. Not only are catches determined unilaterally, but no other IWC regulations pertain: submission of data, minimum sizes, prohibition of killing nursing mothers and calves, honouring sanctuaries and season opening and closing dates. Why would they give up those freedoms?

But there are other cogent

reasons for Japan not really wanting Article V whaling to resume. If it did it would surely be regulated under the Revised Management Procedure (RMP). The basic requirement of the RMP is the existence of agreed estimates of whale population numbers and of their statistical confidence limits. After two decades of intensive sightings surveys, the Scientific Committee still does not have any agreed estimates of the numbers of Southern Hemisphere minke whales (contrary to what the government of Japan claims). And the Committee is nowhere near estimating the numbers of fin whales now feeding in the Antarctic—and that is the species/stock on which the profitability of any resumed Article V whaling depends in the medium and long-term.

Regardless of publicized threats, Japan is most unlikely to leave the IWC while it continues whaling. What could it gain by such a move? It would effectively join the ranks of pirate whalers in direct conflict with the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and the UN environment conferences in Rio and Johannesburg. What would be the point of upping the diplomatic and legal stakes in that way? Japan's Alternate Commissioner has written "we'll set up a new international organization." But the Antarctic is where the whales and future profits reside, and CCAMLR exists and is active. Set up another, competitor with CCAMLR? Bend CCAMLR (of which Japan is a Member) to Japan's will? Most unlikely!

No, Japan will stay in the IWC so long as the organization exists.

## Guess Who's Eating the Fish?

For years, the politically powerful and conservative Japan Fisheries Agency has pushed the myth that whales are responsible for the decline of fish stocks around the world. The reasoning goes: We need to kill the whales so we will have fish to kill.

But guess who's really eating all the fish? If you guessed Japan and other developed nations in Europe and the US, you would indeed get a big prize. (But probably not from the Japan Fisheries Agency.)

A number of noted fisheries scientists have proven for years that the decline of commercial fish stocks around the world has been caused by the rapacious catch of fish by many fishing nations—but the vast bulk of

the fish catch is funneled into just a few developed nations. Poorer nations suffer from competition and loss of their own fish stocks as well as the decline in local fishing jobs. The nation with one of the biggest appetites for fish is Japan itself.

“Blaming whales is an issue that is not only false—whales are no more responsible (for the global decline in fish stocks) than the Martians—but which prevents the very small resources of West African countries from being devoted to understanding the real reasons why their fisheries are declining,” stated Dr. Daniel Pauly, director of the University of British Columbia Fisheries Centre.

Dr. Pauly and others have

estimated that less than one percent of commercial fishing stocks involve any interactions with ANY marine mammals. Indeed, immensely large stocks of whales coexisted for centuries with much larger stocks of fish around the world. Only with the advent of industrialized fishing methods in the past 50 years (mostly after the period of greatest industrialized whale slaughter had alarmingly reduced cetacean numbers) have fish stocks begun serious declines.

Remi Parmentier, Senior Policy Advisor for the Pew Environment Group's Whale Project, said Japan has been raising the issue “to scare and recruit countries into supporting its move to end the (whaling) moratorium.”

*Pinochet*, contined from page one when the U.S. imposed its 200-mile fishing limit.

Taito Seiko then sold the ship to the Paulmy Co. of Liberia, a Taiyo dummy corporation designed to hide the identity of the owner. Taito Seiko filed an export document with the Japanese government stating, “The purpose of such procurement is its use for shrimp trawling off the coasts of Panama.”

## ECO

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Indeed, the *Orient Maru No. 2* was renamed the *Paulmy Star No. 3* and registered under the Panamanian flag as a “camaronero,” a shrimp boat. It left Japan in April 1977, but never got within 3,000 miles of Panama. Instead, the *Paulmy Star No. 3* headed south to Tahiti's port of Papeete, a scene of intrigue since the days of Captain Bligh and the mutiny on the *Bounty*.

When the 150-foot, 350-ton *Paulmy Star* sailed away from Tahiti on June 30th for Chile, it carried a massive harpoon gun on its bow.

As one Chilean conservationist observed when the ship arrived in Chome: “A harpoon gun is not famous as a productive weapon against shrimp.” The stern slipway had been widened and a huge winch installed to permit the largest of whale carcasses—even blue whales—to be hauled aboard the *Paulmy Star* for slaughter.

Before the *Paulmy Star* arrived in Chile, Taiyo Fishery Co. had persuaded the Pinochet military junta to grant Macaya Hermanos a permit to kill 500 whales a year for three

years. Shortly after the ship arrived, a Chilean newspaper reported: “With the arrival of the new whaling ship, which can remain at sea for long periods and which offers lower maintenance costs, the Macaya Brothers' firm hopes to extend the whaling season to 10 or 11 months—the last season lasted only six months—thus increasing the number of animals caught and maintaining constant activity at its whaling station in Chome, south of San Vincente.”

When Chilean conservationists raised an outcry over the granting of the whaling permit and the heavy Japanese interests in the operation, the Pinochet junta blocked their move to forbid the export of whale products.

The factory/catcher boat roamed the long Chilean coast harpooning dozens of whales each month without any regulation. Endangered blue, right and humpback whales were killed, as well as fin and sei whales; the carcasses were butchered onboard. Nobody knows the extent of

*Concluded on page three*

## Japan's Institutional Contradictions

The Japanese Institute for Cetacean Research, which is running Japan's so-called "scientific" slaughter of whales in the Antarctic and the North Pacific, has taken a swing at Australia for that country's refusal to compromise.

But in the same breath, the ICR representative (we call them "PR flaks" in the US) is flatly refusing any Southern Oceans Sanctuary for whales.

The Australian *Herald Sun* reports that said PR flak, Glenn

Inwood, states: "I think it is not helpful that they (Australia's delegation) come to this meeting with fresh demands when every other country is making an eleventh-hour attempt to broker a deal that will ensure the future of the commission."

(ECO would like to point out that it is much more likely that the Commission will have a future if the Commission keeps a few whales around, but we digress.)

But once Mr. Inwood has finished preaching compromise, he

immediately slams a door in the face of the other countries at the IWC:

"The whale sanctuary in the Atlantic won't fly," Mr. Inwood pronounces.

"They will bring it up at the meeting, but they won't take it to a vote. They will see there is too much opposition."

When most countries compromise, we say that there is "give and take."

Of course, the Japanese whaling industry and their government puppets just take, and take, and take ...

*Pinochet*, concluded from page two the three-year slaughter because no records were reported to the IWC or Norway's Bureau of International Whaling Statistics. Hundred-ton shipments of whale meat were regularly sent by refrigerator ship to Japan, where none of the imports

insisted that the Japanese whalers owned the *Paulmy Star* and directed its entire operation.

The *Paulmy Star* was one of many pirate whaling ships operated by Taiyo Fishery Co. in every ocean. These included the infamous *Sierra* and *Tonna*, which pillaged whales in

1982 when environmentalists and the United States launched a major campaign to put them out of business. The U.S. threatened economic sanctions against non-IWC nations such as Chile, which promptly joined the IWC and had zero whale quotas imposed. The *Sierra* was rammed

along the Portuguese coast, then later sunk by a limpet mine in Lisbon harbor. The *Tonna* capsized during a storm while it was attempting to winch a giant fin whale onboard.

Chile's new President, Michelle

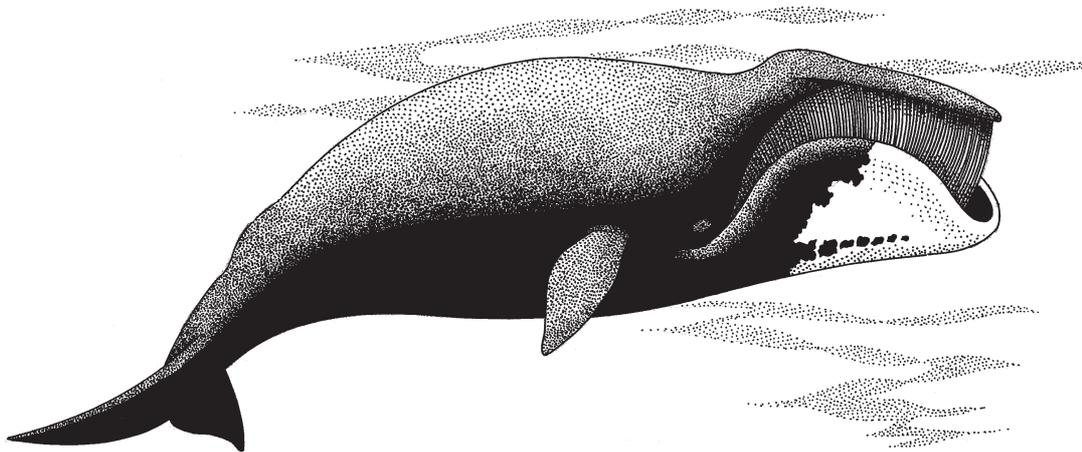
were reported in customs statistics.

In fact, the *Paulmy Star* was a true pirate ship, whaling outside Chilean oversight and defying all international regulation. While the ship was ostensibly being leased to Macaya Hermanos by Paulmy Co. of Panama, the reality is that it was operated totally separately from Macaya by a Taiyo employee, Hiroshi Otsuka. Chilean officials privately

the Atlantic for more than a decade, and the *Susan*, *Teresa* and *Cape Fisher*, which roamed the Indian and Atlantic Oceans, and the Taiwan-based *Sea Bird*, also operated by the Paulmy Co. of Panama, which depleted humpback and Bryde's whale stocks in the Western Pacific.

The *Paulmy Star* and the other pirate ships were forced to end their bloody slaughter between 1978 and

Bachelet, yesterday signed into law a ban on all whaling and the creation of a whale sanctuary in Chile's EEZ. ECO salutes President Bachelet, her government, and the people of Chile for their forward-thinking efforts to protect whales and their ocean heritage, for Chileans and for all peoples.



## Chile-California Bilateral Agreements

Chilean President Michelle Bachelet and California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger met at the University of California at Davis on June 12th to sign bilateral scientific, agriculture, and education agreements between the two Pacific coast states. Whale-watching and marine mammal studies are important industries in both places.

The two most dynamic economies in South and North America have been developing strong ties in recent decades because of their similar geography and climate—but opposite growing and tourist seasons.

Whale-watching was launched in California in the 1960s and is now a worldwide phenomenon generating billions of dollars annually on every continent. Chile has a rapidly-developing whale-watching industry along its 2,700-mile coast, especially since more than 200 blue whales have arrived in recent years. California's whale-watching industry has bases in dozens of coastal communities stretching nearly 1,000 miles from San Diego to Eureka, focused on gray whales during the winter and spring months, and feeding humpback and blue whales during the spring,

summer, and fall.

Universities in California have been educating Chilean scientists and agricultural specialists for decades. This training has been crucial to the booming Chilean agricultural economy and for the conservation of Chile's marine resources such as fish and whales.

U.S. conservation groups and the California whale-watching industry are pledging to lend their expertise to Chile's growing tourism industry. They are encouraging "The Governor" to visit President Bachelet later this year to help promote Chile's new nationwide whale sanctuary.

## A Bit of History from Dr. Sidney Holt

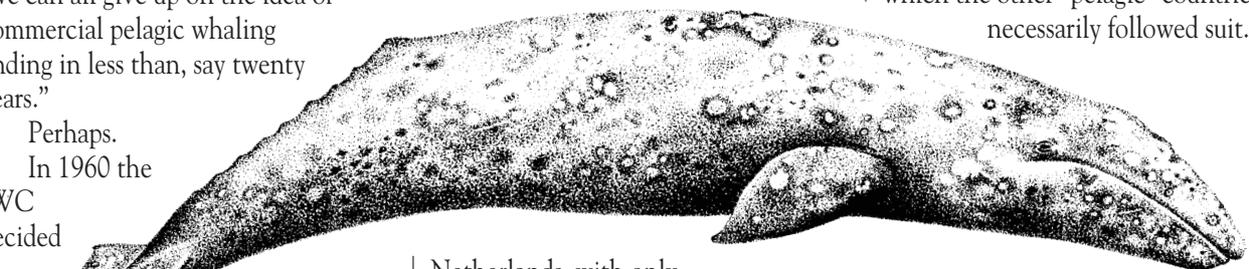
Correspondents have written to say I am too pessimistic in writing that if Japanese interests decide to invest in a new, bigger factory ship, "we can all give up on the idea of commercial pelagic whaling ending in less than, say twenty years."

Perhaps.

In 1960 the IWC decided

investments had been made in several new Antarctic expeditions and that catches had to be big enough to justify those, financially. The

noises but did not press very hard on this matter. Japan then, as now, repeatedly threatened to leave the IWC. It was the first delegation, on every occasion, to lodge objections to each voted catch reduction, following which the other "pelagic" countries necessarily followed suit.



in principle to reduce the Antarctic baleen whale catch limit to sustainable levels, beginning in 1964, although Japan objected to that decision. (As it later objected to the 1974 decision to institute a new Management Procedure, in the wake of the UN Resolution calling for a ten-year moratorium on commercial whaling.) In 1962 the scientists said such reduction was extremely urgent, more so than had been thought. From 1963, Japan opposed all proposals for reduction, and the Commission's Verbatim Records reveal that the reason repeatedly given was that big

Netherlands, with only one expedition, made the same complaint, understandably, because a catch limit reduction meant they would be out of business—which they soon were. The USSR made similar

This practice—resistance to conservation, objections and threats—continued through the 1970s. Has Japan, the wayward leopard, changed its business spots?

## Toxic Stew for You and Me

Whales are showing severe signs around the globe of toxic contamination from a variety of pollutants. Like these mammals of the sea, we mammals of the land are taking on toxic loads ourselves.

There are several important studies around the IWC meeting about toxic contamination of human-

consumed whale and dolphin meat, including research by the Elsa Nature Conservancy of Japan, Blue Voice, and the Environmental Investigation Agency.

There will be a press conference on this subject at 1 PM today in the media room on the first floor of the Sheraton Hotel.