



CETACEAN SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

The Humane Society of the United States/Humane Society International believes that commercial whaling has no place in modern society. We no longer need the bone, blubber, meat, and oil that whales used to supply. In fact, today whales are more valuable alive than dead. Protecting whales not only helps the animals but also provides financial, educational, and aesthetic opportunities for people.

Promoting the protection of all animals

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

2100 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037
202-452-1100 • www.hsus.org

HUMANE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

©2002 The HSUS. All rights reserved.
Printed on recycled paper.

WHERE DOES WHALE WATCHING FIT IN?

NO ONE EXPERIENCING A CLOSE PERSONAL encounter with whales can fail to be moved by these animals. Many even become advocates for whales. Properly regulated whale watching excursions show the beauty of whales to people worldwide. Students and tourists can also gain valuable information about whales from whale watching programs. And researchers use whale watching vessels for their studies. Today, a live whale is more valuable than a dead one. The whale watching industry is now worth \$1 billion, according to a recent study, and nearly 500 communities in 87 countries offer whale and dolphin watching tours. Whale watching is even a growing industry in Iceland, Norway, and Japan!



GRACIELA KOEHN



CETACEAN SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

HOW YOU CAN HELP WHALES!

- ▶ Go whale watching! Experience for yourself the beauty—and value—of seeing whales in their own habitat. And encourage others to do the same.
- ▶ To find out more about whales and the commercial whaling issue, visit www.savewhalesnotwhaling.org or write to us at Save Whales—Not Whaling, The HSUS, 2100 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037.



NOAA/DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

- ▶ Write letters to your government officials, who need to know that their constituents are concerned about whales. If you are a U.S. citizen, write to President George W. Bush, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20500. Urge him to maintain the same policy toward whaling that has been held by every president since 1972: No commercial whaling. Also ask President Bush to apply trade sanctions against the whaling countries that ignore their international obligations and continue to slaughter whales. If your country is an IWC member, ask your head of state to maintain the ban on commercial whaling. See our website, www.savewhalesnotwhaling.org, for more information.

Save Whales → Not Whaling



THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

HUMPBACK WHALE COVER IMAGE TAKEN UNDER NMFS SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PERMIT 882, ©PHILLIP COLLA/HAWAII WHALE RESEARCH FOUNDATION.

Endangered by Greed



EVEN THOUGH WHALES HAVE SURVIVED for millennia, their lives are now in danger. Some populations even face extinction. One of their most deadly enemies? Commercial whaling.

You may have thought that whales were already saved. Not so. Despite a moratorium on commercial whaling—implemented by the International Whaling Commission (IWC) in 1986—some countries are still killing whales. And for what? For profit.

In this century, there are substitutes for the whale byproducts historically used for everything from perfume to corsets. Unfortunately, there is still demand for whale meat and blubber as expensive delicacies, and countries are willing to defy an international treaty to supply them.

WHY PROTECT WHALES?

WHALES ARE AMONG THE WORLD'S MOST fascinating and beautiful animals. These magnificent mammals nurse their young, breathe air, and communicate with one another. They populated the planet long before humans, yet scientists have barely begun to understand them. Sentient, intelligent animals, *who are integral elements of their ecosystems*, whales have intrinsic value—reason enough to protect them. But whales living in their natural habitats also have economic value, as millions of people pay to learn about them through whale watching excursions.

In fact, there is no good reason to kill whales, who also suffer the effects of pollution, global climate change, habitat degradation, fishing gear entanglement, and ship collisions. They aren't

overpopulated. They aren't a threat to anyone—although one of the more absurd claims made by whaling nations is that

whales compete with the commercial fishing industry by eating commercially important fish. Indeed, many whales do not even eat fish, and the decline in many fish stocks is from industrial overfishing.



And killing whales isn't just needless—it's cruel. All methods of killing whales are inhumane because the large size of even the smallest whales, their remarkable adaptations for diving, and the uncontrollable weather and conditions at sea make it very difficult to kill them instantaneously or render them immediately insensible. So whales may suffer horrible, painful deaths lasting anywhere from a few minutes to several hours.



WHO IS KILLING THE WHALES?

DESPITE THE IWC MORATORIUM, NORWAY and Japan continue to slaughter whales. Norway uses a technicality that makes commercially killing whales legal. Japan says it kills whales only for “scientific research,” yet whale meat continues to be available at Japanese supermarkets and restaurants—even meat from endangered whale species. In 2001, after years of taking minke whales for this so-called research, Japan added Bryde's whales and endangered sperm whales to its North Pacific kill. In 2002, Japan announced that it would once again increase the number of whales it kills and would begin to take endangered sei whales. Japan has also announced it will resume international trade in whale meat with Norway.

This is a critical time for whales and for the IWC whaling moratorium. Japan and Norway, joined by Iceland, are lobbying for the resumption of full-scale commercial whaling. And by offering financial incentives to some of the IWC member countries in return for their pro-whaling votes, Japan is openly gathering support for overturning the moratorium.

HOW CAN WHALING COUNTRIES BE STOPPED?

WHILE SOME COUNTRIES CONTINUE TO KILL whales in defiance of the IWC ban, trade sanctions can be a persuasive means of getting them to stop—at least temporarily. In 2000, The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) petitioned the U.S. government to certify that under the U.S. law known as the Pelly Amendment,

Japan is diminishing the effectiveness of an international fisheries or endangered/threatened species conservation program. In such a case, the U.S. president



has discretionary power to impose trade sanctions against a country to hold it accountable for its actions. Imposing trade sanctions would send a strong message, but former President Clinton did not act. President Bush has not yet chosen to apply sanctions—though he is in a position to do so—and signal that he takes seriously the plight of the world's whales.

HOW ELSE CAN WHALES BE PROTECTED?

A COMPLETE AND PERMANENT BAN ON commercial whaling is the most effective way to comprehensively protect whales from this threat to their survival.

Another important protection is the creation of international sanctuaries, areas that provide safe refuge for whales during critical feeding, breeding, and calving times. So far, the IWC has created two sanctuaries: one in the Southern Ocean (Antarctica) and one in the Indian Ocean. Currently Australia and New Zealand are working to create a South Pacific sanctuary, and Brazil is working toward the establishment of a South Atlantic sanctuary. Sanctuaries do not just keep whales safe from hunters. They also engage and benefit the surrounding communities by promoting whale watching and research and providing incentives to reduce pollution and other habitat degradation.

