

「調査捕鯨」に関する科学者からの声明書

世界的な商業捕鯨一時停止に応ずる責任があるにもかかわらず、日本は国際法の下で「調査捕鯨」という名目で何千頭ものクジラを過去10年の間に捕殺してきました。私達、下記に署名した科学者は日本のクジラ調査計画は信頼するに足る科学として最低限の基準を満たしていないと考えます。とりわけ、次のような点においてです。

- 私達は日本の捕鯨計画はクジラの管理に関する科学的疑問に答えるようには作られていないと危惧しております。日本は集積された情報を独立した審査のために公開することを拒否、その調査計画は検証可能な仮説や一般に認められている科学的基準に沿ったその他の実行指針が欠けています。
- 日本の「調査捕鯨」によって集められたデータのほとんどはクジラを殺さない方法で得る事が出来ます。たとえば、種、性別、系統群の大きさ、回遊パターン、系統群の確実性やその他の主要な生物学的な情報はクジラを傷つけることなく得る事が出来ます。しかし、日本のクジラ調査計画は止むに止まれぬ科学的必要性が無いにも関わらず毎年何百頭ものクジラを殺しています。
- 日本の捕鯨計画が持つ商業的な性質は、科学的独立性と相容れません。日本は捕殺したクジラの肉を商業市場で販売し、「調査捕鯨」用捕獲割当てを各捕鯨地域にそれぞれ分配しています。これらの商業的要因は科学的必要性がなくともクジラを殺す利潤誘因を作り出し、日本の計画の動機について困惑するような疑問が提起されています。
- 日本はクジラの食餌を究明するという表向き理由で国際的にも絶滅危惧種とみなされているイワシクジラの捕殺を近々始めると発表しました。しかし、過去50年の間に日本は既に20,000頭近くのイワシクジラを殺し、胃の内容物を分析しています。更にイワシクジラを殺すことで既に知られているイワシクジラの食餌に新たな情報を与えるという合理的な見込みはありません。

この計画に資金を出し続け、実行し続けることで日本は科学調査という大義名分を使って国際社会への責務から逃れているという深刻な批判に自らを晒しています。私達は科学者として、これは公正な意思決定を危うくし、政策を助ける科学の役割に対する世間の信用を損なうものだと考えます。したがって、私達は謹んで日本政府にその「調査捕鯨」計画を中断するよう要請致します。

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN ON “SCIENTIFIC WHALING”

Despite its obligation to comply with a global moratorium on commercial whaling, Japan has killed thousands of whales over the past decade, claiming an exemption for “scientific whaling” under international law. We, the undersigned scientists, believe Japan’s whale research program fails to meet minimum standards for credible science. In particular:

We are concerned that Japan’s whaling program is not designed to answer scientific questions relevant to the management of whales; that Japan has refused to make the information it collects available for independent review; and that its research program lacks a testable hypothesis or other performance indicators consistent with accepted scientific standards.

Most of the data being gathered by Japan’s “scientific whaling” are obtainable by non-lethal means; it is possible, for example, to determine species, gender, population size, migration patterns, stock fidelity, and other key biological information without harming whales. Yet Japan’s whale research program kills hundreds of whales each year in the absence of a compelling scientific need.

The commercial nature of Japan’s whaling program conflicts with its

scientific independence. Japan sells meat from the whales it kills on commercial markets and assigns “scientific whaling” quotas to individual whaling villages. These commercial ties create a profit incentive to kill whales even when no scientific need exists, raising troubling questions about the motives behind Japan’s program.

Japan has announced it will soon begin killing sei whales, an internationally listed endangered species, ostensibly to determine the whales’ diet. Yet Japan has already analyzed the stomach contents of nearly 20,000 sei whales it killed during the past fifty years. There is no reasonable likelihood that killing additional sei whales now will add to what is already known about their diet.

By continuing to fund and carry out this program, Japan opens itself to serious charges that it is using the pretense of scientific research to evade its commitments to the world community. As scientists, we believe this compromises objective decision-making and undermines public confidence in the role of science to guide policy. Accordingly, we respectfully urge the Japanese government to suspend its “scientific whaling” program.

Frederic Briand, Director General, la Commission Internationale pour l’Exploration Scientifique de la Méditerranée (CIEM), Monaco; Member, UN Experts Group on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection.

Theo Colborn, Senior Scientist, World Wildlife Fund-US; Pew Scholars Award in Environment and Conservation; International Rachel Carson Prize (Norway); Asahi Glass Foundation’s International Blue Planet Prize (Japan).

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Edgardo Gomez, Professor, Marine Sciences Institute, University of the Philippines; Pew Fellow in Marine Conservation; Presidential Lingkod Bayan Award, 2000; UNEP Global 500 Roll of Honour.

Roger Guillemin, Distinguished Professor, The Salk Institute; Nobel Prize in Medicine and Physiology; National Medal of Science (USA); Lasker Foundation Award; Honorary Member, Japan Biochemical Society.

Sir Aaron Klug, Medical Research Council Laboratory of Microbiology, Cambridge University; Nobel Prize in Chemistry; former President, Royal Society (England); Honorary Fellow of Peterhouse and of Trinity College.

Masakazu Konishi, Professor, California Institute of Technology; Member, National Academy of Sciences; Dana Award for Achievement in Health; International Prize for Biology, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science.

Jane Lubchenco, Distinguished Professor of Zoology, Oregon State University; MacArthur Fellow; Pew Scholar in Capital Conservation and the Environment; Heinz Award in the Environment; member, National Academy of Science; former president, Ecological Society of America; former president, American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Alan MacDiarmid, Blanchard Professor of Chemistry, University of Pennsylvania; Nobel Prize for Chemistry; Royal Society of Chemistry Centenary Medal and Lectureship (England).

Laurence Mee, Visiting Professor, Plymouth University Environmental Research Center; Pew Fellow; Fellow, Royal Society of Chemistry; Georgian Academy of Ecological Sciences.

Elliott Norse, President, Marine Conservation Biology Institute; Pew Fellow; Evergreen Award; Committee on Human Dimensions of Global Change, National Research Council; founding member, Society for Conservation Biology.

Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciarra, President, Istituto Centrale per la Ricerca Scientifica e Tecnologica Applicata al Mare; former Pres., European Cetacean Society; Tridente d’Oro Prize.

Gordon Orions, Professor Emeritus of Zoology, University of Washington; Eminent Ecologists Award, Ecological Society of America; Guggenheim Fellow; Chairman, Board of Environmental Studies and Toxicology, National Research Council (USA).

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David Suzuki, Professor Emeritus, University of British Columbia; Fellow, Royal Society of Canada; Sanford Fleming Medal, Royal Canadian Institute; Medal of Honour, Canadian Medical Association; UNEP Global 500 Roll of Honour; UNESCO Kalinga Prize for Science.

John Terborgh, Director, Duke University Center for Tropical Conservation; MacArthur Fellow; Guggenheim Fellow; Pew Fellow; Member, National Academy of Sciences; Daniel Giraud Elliott Medal, National Academy of Sciences.

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