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PRESS RELEASE

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**Internet Relay Broadcast of
the 54th International Whaling Commission (IWC) Annual Meeting.
(<http://www.e-kujira.or.jp/iwc/iwcmeeting.html>)**

The 54th Annual Meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) is being held from 20 to 25 May, 2002 at Kaikyo Messe in Shimonoseki, Japan. The web site "Kujira Portal Site", which offers the latest whale news from Japan, will broadcast the IWC meeting to the world,

The main issues being discussed at this year's IWC meeting are the following:

(1) The Second Phase of the Japanese Whale Research Program in the West North Pacific (JARPN)

Consistent with increasingly strong support from international fisheries organizations, including FAO, for research to improve multi-species approaches to management, Japan is convinced that it should start JARPN as a full-scale research program from 2002. The main objective of the proposed research is to determine what whales are eating, how much and where. Data from these studies will be put into ecosystem models which will contribute to the improvement of the management of all living marine resources in the western north Pacific.

(2) Revised Management Scheme (RMS)

RMS is a new scheme for management of whale resources incorporating the already adopted risk averse method for calculating catch quotas as well as surveillance and monitoring components.

(3) Consumption of Seafood by Whales

The issue of the amount of marine living resources consumed by whales as food, estimated to be from 3 to 5 times the amount of the world's marine fisheries harvest for human consumption, is gaining increasing interest at the

IWC.

(4) Small-Type Coastal Whaling Allocation of 50 Minke Whales

The establishment of an interim allocation of 50 minke whales for Japan's small-type coastal whaling communities from a stock that has been scientifically demonstrated to be abundant and robust will be discussed.

Anticipating heated discussion on these issues by anti-whaling and pro-whaling delegates at this year's IWC meeting especially because it is being held in Shimonoseki, Japan, we will broadcast the IWC Plenary Meeting to the world through the internet as we did at the last year's meeting. The purpose of this broadcasting is to promote the correct understanding on the nature and content of the discussions being held there. Live and digested version will be offered through the web page "IWC internet Broadcasting Page" (<http://www.e-kujira.or.jp/iwc/iwcmeeting.html>) starting from the 20th of May 2002.

You can also reach the web pages through "Kujira Portal Site" (<http://www.e-kujira.or.jp/>) and the web page of the Whaling Section of Japan (<http://www.jfa.maff.go.jp/whale/index.htm>)

For Further Information

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