Background on the IWC and the Revised Management Scheme

Background

In 1982, the IWC decided by majority vote to implement a pause or 'moratorium' in commercial whaling with effect from the 1986 coastal and 1985/86 pelagic whaling

The 'moratorium'

Among the issues still to be resolved were: (1) the level of international observer coverage required; (2) the type and level of tracking of whaling vessels required; (3) the timing (e.g. daily, weekly) of reporting of whales hunted, struck and killed; (4) maintenance and availability of a register of DNA profiles of all whales killed; (5) procedures to monitor the origins of whale products on the market; and (6) the funding of the scheme.

The Expert Drafting Group

2001-2002

The report of the Monaco meeting was discussed at the 2001 Annual Meeting of the Commission held in London. Although progress was made in a number of areas, agreement was not reached on all and the Commission agreed to establish an Expert Drafting Group (EDG) to develop a consolidated draft of two chapters of the Schedule, those relating to Supervision and Control, and those relating to Information Required.

May 2002

The Commission reviewed the work of the EDG and agreed to hold an intersessional Commissioners' meeting in October 2002 to forward this work.

October 2002