

promptly on the IWC's Scientific Committee on this issue; and

- Call for a UN conference to be convened by 1995 to review the international machinery for the protection of all cetaceans, and to consider the most effective means for providing cetacean research, conservation and management into the 21st century.

The New Zealand intervention brought some strong responses from Denmark, Iceland, and Norway. They pointed out that the IWC already has a whaling moratorium in effect, which is subject to review and which should not be pre-judged; that the IWC's statutes clearly focus only on large cetaceans and that there remains in the IWC a vigorous debate as to whether the statutes should be broadened; and that the IWC is the international competent body dealing with whales, thus negating any need for a UN conference on whaling. Finally, they stated that the UNCLOS, which recognizes that marine resources should not be overexploited, also states that they should be used for the benefit of mankind. Therefore, although they support the prohibition of whaling of endangered stocks, they believe coastal and indigenous communities should be able to take those stocks which are healthy (Japan noted that there was also a need to continue some whaling of such stocks for scientific purposes). They also emphasized that efforts to protect whales should be focused on protecting and enhancing their habitats, rather than banning whaling, as some whale populations are being depleted more as a result of environmental degradation than by harvesting.

Australia, New Zealand, and some South Pacific states raised the issue of driftnet fishing, which brought a direct response from Japan, and more oblique comments from Norway and the US. All delegations addressing this issue reaffirmed the provisions of General Assembly resolution 44/225 on large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing. Japan reported that it had been cooperating with Canada and the US by allowing observers from those countries to board Japanese commercial driftnet vessels and by collecting and exchanging scientific data on directed and non-directed species. Noting the "productive discussions" held in Sydney, B.C. in June, 1991, involving experts from the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission (INPFC) and observers from Korea, Australia, New Zealand, South Pacific, and the UN, Japan hoped that the next INPFC meeting (to be held November, 1991 in Tokyo) would enable countries to better understand the impact of driftnet fishing on marine living resources and to develop more effective conservation and management measures.

The US emphasized the need to avoid fishing techniques or practices which are wasteful; Norway commented that instead of focusing on particular fishing techniques, efforts should be directed towards ensuring sustainable catch levels, based on an "ecosystem management" approach. China called for countries to implement "eco-fishing" techniques, a proposal supported by Australia.