



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for International Fisheries
Washington, D.C. 20230

May 5, 2015

Mr. Joji Morishita
IWC Commissioner for Japan

via Dr. Simon Brockington
Executive Secretary
International Whaling Commission
The Red House, 135 Station Road
Impington, Cambridge
UK CB4 9NP

Joji
Dear ~~Mr. Morishita~~,

Thank you for your January 21, 2015, letter and associated questionnaire to International Whaling Commission (IWC) contracting governments requesting information on governments' views of Japan's 2014 proposal on small type coastal whaling. The United States appreciates Japan's efforts to obtain information to further understand the positions of each country. We support Japan's work to increase dialogue with member nations and consider the different points of view of IWC member nations.

The United States continues to believe that the IWC is the premiere body for the conservation of large whales and the management of whaling. We are particularly concerned with the depleted status of the J-stock of western North Pacific minke whales. The United States also continues to support the IWC's commercial whaling moratorium. Therefore, the United States cannot support Japan's proposal for a schedule amendment to permit small type coastal whaling vessels to catch western North Pacific minke whales.

We thank you for your efforts to reach out to IWC contracting governments concerning Japan's requests related to small type coastal whaling. The United States supports continued dialogue with IWC member governments on this and other issues.

Sincerely,

Russell F. Smith III
IWC Commissioner for the United States

