

NEW ZEALAND PROPOSES MORE ADDITIONS TO THE REVISED MANAGEMENT SCHEME — WHERE'S THE GOOD FAITH?

LONDON

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New Zealand has told the International Whaling Commission meeting in London that it's important for the Commission to make progress on completing and implementing the Revised Management Scheme (RMS) yet it continues to act in bad faith towards achieving that goal, Japan's Commissioner to the International Whaling Commission, Minoru Morimoto, said.

"New Zealand and its anti-use cohorts have told the IWC they are now willing to include in the RMS two paragraphs previously agreed by all members, and a resolution has been put forward to that effect. What they didn't tell the IWC was that while everyone else's backs were turned, they altered the two paragraphs to include other provisions."

"Those nations now say its important to adopt measures previously agreed and then they propose to adopt measures that have not been agreed."

"If that's not acting in bad faith, I don't know what is," Mr. Morimoto said today. "Including new proposals into the RMS every time the Commission meets has unfortunately become the norm for those countries against sustainable use. But to do it in such a deceptive, Machiavellian way this time is of grave concern."

"These additions come on top of the new proposals New Zealand put forward at the RMS Working Group meeting in Monaco in February," Mr. Morimoto said. "It's becoming all too clear that new proposals on top of new additions are merely excuses for actually holding up completion of the RMS, not passing it."

"It is especially concerning because these nations have refused outright to even discuss lifting the current moratorium on whaling when the RMS is implemented. The fundamental premise for developing and implementing the Revised Management Procedure and the RMS is that the moratorium will not be required."

"That is because the RMP and RMS, when implemented, will provide safe quotas only for abundant stocks. It is an overly precautionary approach ensuring that whaling poses no risk to the stocks. Yet, despite this approach, we have still seen two attempts, albeit unsuccessful, to implement two sanctuaries that would have made the entire Southern Hemisphere no-go areas," Mr. Morimoto said.