

Search:

Articles-last 7 days

for

Go

The Inquirer | Daily News | Sports | Entertainment | Classifieds

Register or Log In.
Member Benefits

[Back to Home >](#)

Thursday, Jul 22, 2004

US & World

 [email this](#)  [print this](#)

[The Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

[Front Page](#)

[Local & Regional](#)

- [Philadelphia & Suburbs](#)
- [Montgomery County](#)
- [Chester County](#)
- [Bucks County](#)
- [South Jersey](#)

[US & World](#)

[Sports](#)

- [High School](#)
- [Outdoors](#)

[Business](#)

[Daily Magazine](#)

[Editorials &](#)

[Commentary](#)

- [Metro Commentary](#)
- [South Jersey Commentary](#)

• [Pennsylvania](#)

[Commentary](#)

• [Community Voices](#)

[Columnists](#)

[Personal Finance &](#)

[Investing](#)

[Tech.life](#)

[Health & Science](#)

[Food & Dining](#)

[Home & Design](#)

[Weekend](#)

[Arts & Entertainment](#)

[Travel](#)

[Sunday Neighbors](#)

[Real Estate](#)

[Education](#)

• [School Report Card](#)

[Religion](#)

[Automotive](#)

[Obituaries](#)

[Photography](#)

[Books](#)

[Currents](#)

Posted on Tue, Jul. 20, 2004

Japan loses bid for secret vote on whaling ban

By **Trisha Thomas**
Associated Press

SORRENTO, Italy - Japan lost a key vote yesterday in its bid to have an 18-year ban on commercial whaling overturned when its motion to hold secret balloting at this week's International Whaling Commission meeting was rejected.

Environmentalists had accused Japan of using development aid to swell the number of nations in the pro-whaling bloc, an assertion the Japanese delegation denied.

Japan, the world's prime consumer of whale meat, and other pro-whaling nations say whales are overeating the world's fish and must be killed to halt the continued decline of fish stocks.

An anti-whaling group disputed that in a report presented yesterday, saying most food consumed by marine mammals was not targeted by fisheries.

"The study shows that there is nothing to the argument that we could remove marine mammals, especially baleen whales, and feed the world with their food," said Daniel Pauly, a professor at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver and an author of the report.

"This food that marine mammals consume is essentially taken in areas where we don't fish and consists of animals that we do not exploit."

The report was funded in part by the international arm of the Humane Society of the United States, a member of Whalewatch, an anti-whaling coalition of more than 140 nongovernmental organizations. It mapped the fisheries of the world and compared them with fish consumption of marine mammals, finding few zones of overlap.

In its opening statement yesterday, Japan said: "Many of the whale stocks around Japan are increasing and consuming huge quantities of at least 10 species of fish that are caught by our fishermen."

Japan's bid to have all of this week's votes conducted by secret ballot was rejected, 29-24.

Image**Special Reports****INQUIRER
PHOTOGRAPHY**

- » [View our best work](#)
- » [Special Reports](#)
- » [Scene in Iraq](#)
- » [Pennsylvania Voters](#)

Environmentalists applauded the decision, saying it ensured transparency in decision-making by the International Whaling Commission's 57 member countries.

Lifting the 1986 ban on commercial whaling has been the focus of recent commission sessions. This year, Japan says it may consider pulling out of the group if the ban is not overturned.

With a three-fourths majority required to overturn the ban, many expect it will stay in place.

[email this](#)[print this](#)

Leaving From:

[Help](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Archives](#) | [Place an Ad](#) | [Newspaper Subscriptions](#)
[About Philly.com](#) | [About the Real Cities Network](#) | [Terms of Use & Privacy Statement](#) | [About Knight Ridder](#) | [Copyright](#)