

Japan
Fisheries
Association



NO.48 Feb. 2006

Sankaido Bldg.,
9-13 Akasaka 1, Minato-ku,
Tokyo, Japan 107-0052
tel: 81-3-3585-6683
<http://www.suisankai.or.jp>

Views and Opinions of Japan's Fisheries Industry

SAY NO TO GREENPEACE TERRORISM THE GREENPEACE MOVEMENT AS A TYPICAL EXAMPLE OF A COERCIVE MOVEMENT FOR CULTURAL DOMINATION DESCRIBED IN THE 2004 UNDP REPORT

The Greenpeace activist vessel Arctic Sunrise deliberately rammed the Nisshin-maru, a Japanese vessel conducting research whaling, on Sunday 8 January. In relation to this militant action by Greenpeace, Isaribi draws particular attention of our readers to the **Human Development Report 2004 Cultural Liberty in Today's Diverse World** published by the United Nations Development Program, 15 July 2004. The report sends a message that cultural freedoms should be embraced as basic human rights and as necessities for the development of increasingly diverse societies.

The report highlights the danger of coercive movements for cultural domination as follows: "The report argues that people should be free to be who they are, to choose their identities and to live accordingly. It further argues that the recognition of multiple and complementary identities - with individuals identifying themselves as citizens of a state as well as members of ethnic, religious and other cultural groups - is the cornerstone of cultural liberty. But movements hostile to these principles seek to eliminate diversity in the name of cultural superiority. Such movements, and their underlying sources of support, must be confronted." The report further argues, "Movements for cultural domination share some key elements. They distinguish themselves by their cultural identity- whether ethnic, racial or religious- and they attempt to impose their ideology by coercion, even extermination... Often, though not always, (they) resort to violence to achieve their aims."

The militant action that Greenpeace has taken against the Nisshin-maru is a typical example of COERCIVE MOVEMENTS FOR CULTURAL DOMINATION and poses a serious threat to the establishment of a peaceful multicultural world. Isaribi

demands Greenpeace to stop its supremacist and militant campaign in the name of environmentalism.

FACTS ABOUT THE RESEARCH WHALING

Despite the claims by Greenpeace,

1. Research whaling is legal.

In Article VIII of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW), the Contracting Parties have an unrestricted right to take whales for scientific research. Japan is a signatory to this Convention.

2. Research whaling is necessary.

When the commercial whaling moratorium was introduced in 1982, the main reason the anti-whaling nations gave for its introduction was the uncertainty surrounding the scientific data then available. In other words, they argued that safe management of whales was not possible because knowledge of the number of whales, age composition, sex ratio, and natural mortality rate was ambiguous. The research catch by Japan was launched to answer such questions and resolve the uncertainties.

3. Research whaling has no impact on the whale population.

The scientific evidence researched by the IWC's Scientific Committee demonstrated that up to 2,000 minke whales could be taken each year without any impact on their population.

Additional information can be obtained at the following website: Japan Whaling Association
<http://www.whaling.jp/english/qa.html>

LEADING FISHERIES SCIENTISTS REFUTE *NATURE* ARTICLE CLAIMS

- Unfounded alarmist claims do not assist
in appropriate conservation -

A recent article in a January issue (Vol. 439) of the journal *Nature* claims that five deep water species in the North Atlantic qualify as “critically endangered.” The International Coalition of Fisheries Associations (ICFA) reviewed the article with Canadian, Japanese, and Spanish scientists who have studied these species for years. The conclusion is that there is no evidence that these species are endangered. All agree that outdated data was used and the conclusions, therefore, are not scientifically sound.

The authors of the *Nature* article relied on research surveys that ended 12 years ago. These surveys focused on groundfish species that inhabit Canada’s continental shelf, whereas large portions of the deep water species analyzed by the article’s authors occur outside the surveyed area. The surveys used would have surveyed only a small fraction of the populations - perhaps as low as 10%. Surveys were adjusted in 1995 in order to capture more of the distribution of deep water species. These surveys show increasing population trends for 3 of the 5 species.

Sustainable fisheries are paramount. Errors such as these can lead to serious implications for fisheries. There may be a need for specific conservation measures for these species. However, unfounded alarmist claims of “endangered” do not assist in a rational, scientific discussion concerning the appropriate conservation measures.

ICFA DOUBTS THE *NATURE* ARTICLE WILL SURVIVE THE PEER REVIEW PROCESS

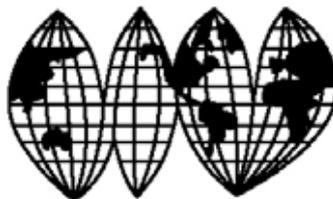
What follows is the full text of the letter of Patrick McGuinness, chairman of the International Coalition of Fisheries Associations (ICFA), sent to *Nature*’s editor in rebuttal to its Vol 439 article:

**Re: Deep Sea Fishes Qualify as Endangered; Vol 439,
January 2006**

We have reviewed the article entitled “Deep-sea fishes qualify as endangered” in your January 5 edition with scientists from Canada, Spain, and Japan. The authors, J. A. Devine et al, claim that their analysis of survey data demonstrates that five deep water species in the Northwest Atlantic qualify as “critically endangered.” We believe that this conclusion is wrong, mainly because of the limited coverage of the surveys the authors analyzed and the apparent limited use by the authors of published scientific reports, particularly the reports of Messrs Murua, Gonzalez, Power, Kulka and Simpson published by the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization and the Journal of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Science.

In general, these deep water species are widely distributed on both sides of the North Atlantic. Their highest density occurs at depths between 800 to 1,500 metres. However, they inhabit depths as low as 2,200metres. Prior to 1996, the research surveys in the Northwest Atlantic were conducted at depths and latitudes which would have surveyed only a small fraction of the populations - perhaps

as low as 10%. The surveys targeted groundfish species that inhabit the continental shelf, whereas large portions of the species analyzed by Devine et al. occur outside the surveyed area. In 1995, adjustments were made so that the research surveys would capture more of the main latitudinal and bathymetric distribution of the deep water species in the Northwest Atlantic, but even with these adjustments, the survey coverage of deepwater species with boreal distribution is incomplete.



**International Coalition
of Fisheries Associations**

However, the article in *Nature* reports that all the data analyzed for three of the species was only from surveys over the 1978-94 periods and most of the data analyzed for the other two species were similarly from the 1978-94 surveys. Consequently, the Devine et al report may be identifying a trend present only at the fringe distributions of the populations and any conclusions based on this analysis regarding the status of the populations as a whole are speculative or inferred - not scientifically sound. For example, the distribution of *Macrourus berglax* shifted towards deeper waters in the late 1980s. The report of Gonzales and Murua adopted at the 2005 meeting of the Scientific Council of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) state that the total biomass of one of the grenadier species, (*Macrourus berglax*), indicated a “general increasing trend from 1995

onwards.” The more recent adjusted surveys that cover more of the distributions of these species after 1994 show increasing biomass trends for 3 of the 5 species

I understand that the authors have submitted their report to Canada’s endangered species scientific body, COSEWIC. I doubt it will survive the peer review process. There may be a need for specific conservation measures for these species. However, unfounded alarmist claims of “endangered” do not assist in a rational, scientific discussion concerning the appropriate conservation measures.

Contact: Patrick McGuinness, Chair, International Coalition of Fisheries Associations
Tel: - 613-727-7450; Fax: - 613-727-7450;
E-Mail: pmcguinness@fisheriescouncil.org.

ICFA is a coalition of national fisheries associations from major fishing nations. Members include associations from North America, Asia, Europe, Scandinavia, South Pacific, South America, and Eastern Europe

SEAFOOD BENEFITS RECONFIRMED WITH OVERWHELMING SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE

Seafood & Health '05, Washington DC, December 5-7

The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) hosted Seafood & Health '05 in Washington DC, December 5-7. The governments of Norway, Canada, and Iceland also joined in the effort. During the Conference scientists, dietitians, medical professionals, food writers, health writers, and government officials participated in a dialogue about seafood and health.

The two main themes of the Conference were the health benefits of eating seafood and the difficulties of communicating these important health benefits to consumers when this news is often overshadowed by media stories that focus only on the risks. These scare campaigns are used by organizations that often have hidden motives. Two recent examples of media scare stories are mercury in large fish, like tuna and swordfish, and unacceptable toxin levels in farmed salmon.

Research presenters included scientists from the National Academies of Science, the American Dietetic Association, American Institute for Cancer Research and the American Heart Association. Academics from universities throughout the world in rheumatology, brain chemistry, nutrition, toxicology, biochemistry, women’s health, medicine, risk governance, epidemiology, and molecular bioscience presented their findings and discussed the significant health benefits derived from eating seafood.

Presenters at the Conference introduced studies that showed that eating seafood lowers blood pressure and heart rates, increases speed of information processing and attention span in children, reduces inflammation, increases the body’s healing abilities, corrects heart arrhythmia, prevents stroke and diabetes, prevents weight gain, and prevents heart failure. There is a consensus that eating more seafood reduces the risk of heart disease significantly, by 50% to 60% or even more.

Scientists also reported on research showing that omega-3 fatty acid consumption by pregnant women and infants - either through supplemented formula or breast milk - leads

to higher intelligence in toddlers and young children. Pregnant women and nursing mothers should increase consumption of seafood that is high in omega-3 fatty acids.

One interesting study was the relationship between methyl mercury and selenium, an important nutrient that helps thyroid function and is crucial for fetal brain development. It was reported by one research scientist that studies have shown selenium to neutralize mercury toxicity in the body. Commercial ocean fish are uniformly rich in selenium and therefore protect humans from mercury toxicity. Also, selenium intake can reduce the risk of certain cancers, such as prostate cancer, by up to 50 percent. Sixteen of the top 25 sources of selenium come from ocean fish.

It is clear that **there is a need for continuing education of consumers on nutrition issues and the benefits of seafood.** There is the need for more research and data. Some felt there may be the need for a new organization and/or Expert Panel, similar to the Panel of the American Institute for Cancer Research, to address these issues.

Nutrition guidance varies from country to country. Some believe there should be an international effort to standardize this worldwide.

To continue the work of this Conference, the Government of Norway announced it would hold a similar conference in 2 to 3 years in Norway.

At the conclusion, Thomas Billy, the Steering Committee Chair of the Conference and an International Food Safety Consultant, stated that the time has come to do risk/benefit analyses of seafood and other foods. There is now a wealth of information on this, and the methods to go forward with such analyses are available. Billy felt that **the key point of this Conference was to recognize that there should be a worldwide change in considering seafood health issues, towards conducting risk/benefit analyses. This new approach would provide consumers with an analysis of the risks and benefits of choosing certain foods, so they are not faced with only a small amount of information, which is often presented to scare them.**

JFA To Hold 8th Int'l Seafood & Technology Expo in Tokyo, July 19-21, 2006

The Japan Fisheries Association will hold the 8th International Seafood & Technology Expo at the Tokyo International Exhibition Center (Tokyo Big Sight), July 19-21, 2006. JFA expects the coming show will be successful as the preceding ones.

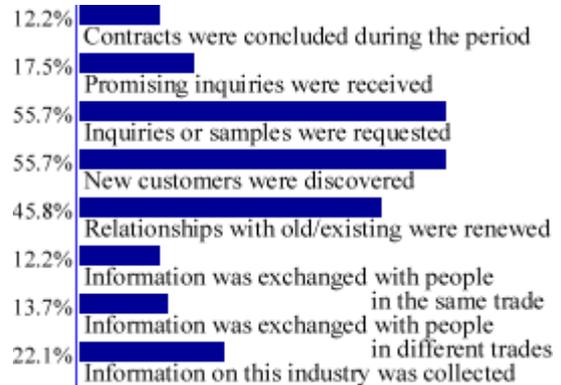
Given below is Exhibitors' Analysis of the 7th Japan International Seafood & Technology Expo, July 13-15, 2005

Total: **317** exhibitors, **553** booths
 (Overseas countries that attended the Expo: 8 countries and 1 area not including Japan)

Booths attended by:
17.7 sales persons for each company on average.
202 sales people at the maximum.

Invitation tickets delivered:
1,014 tickets for each company on average.
8,750 tickets maximum

Exhibit results



Business categories of visitors with whom contracts were concluded



Are you satisfied with the number of registered visitors?



Are you satisfied with the kinds of registered visitors?

