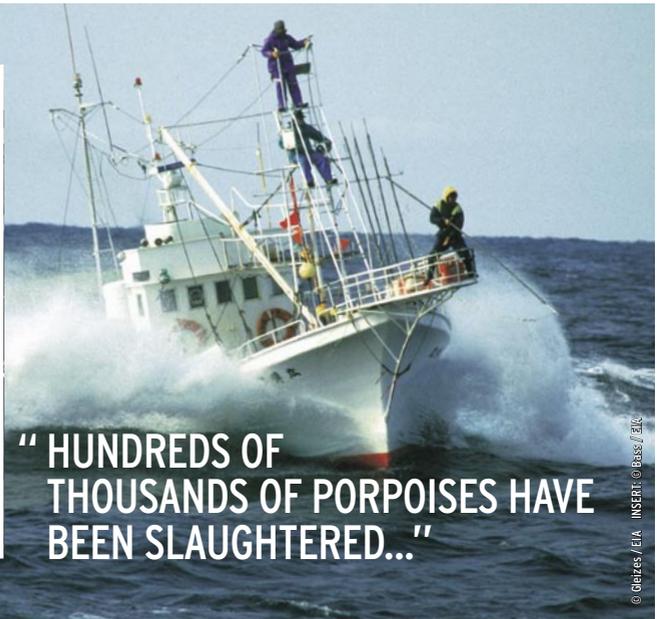


**STOP THE DALL'S
DISASTER!**

FOR THE LAST QUARTER OF A CENTURY, JAPAN'S DALL'S PORPOISE HUNT HAS BEEN THE LARGEST CETACEAN HUNT IN THE WORLD, WITH AS MANY AS 17,700 ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED EACH YEAR.





“ HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF PORPOISES HAVE BEEN SLAUGHTERED.. ”

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The Dall's porpoise has paid a high price for the International Whaling Commission's (IWC) ongoing moratorium on commercial whaling, introduced in 1986. Restricted in the hunting of larger whales, Japan's hunters turned to Dall's porpoises. The catch quadrupled from just over 10,000 in 1985 to more than 40,000 in 1988. Hundreds of thousands of porpoises have been slaughtered since.

For 16 years, the IWC has urged Japan without success to reduce Dall's catches to sustainable levels. In 2001, the IWC called on Japan to "halt the directed takes of Dall's porpoises until a full assessment by the Scientific Committee has been carried out." Unfortunately, disputing the IWC's jurisdiction over small cetaceans, Japan merely withdrew its scientists in protest from the IWC Scientific Committee's discussions of small cetaceans.

The catch quotas set by Japan's Fisheries Agency are based on abundance estimates that are more than 15 years old. The hunt

has consistently exceeded the IWC's recommended safe level of mortality and is clearly unsustainable.

Not surprisingly, Dall's porpoise hunters in the Sea of Japan have noticed a decline in the number of porpoises. In order to maintain catches, they have resorted to easy targets: female porpoises with nursing calves. The calves are left to die but are not counted in the reported catch statistics.

Around 800 tonnes of Dall's porpoise meat enters the Japanese market for human consumption every year. This is despite the fact that the meat is heavily polluted with high levels of mercury and other toxic pollutants. The meat is often deliberately mislabelled, selling as minke whale, or just 'whale', to an unsuspecting public.

For a quarter century the Dall's porpoise has suffered the same appalling over-exploitation that caused the collapse and near extinction of so many great whale populations around the world.

The Dall's porpoise disaster makes a mockery of Japan's claim that it only wants to resume commercial whaling on a sustainable basis. For this reason, Japan is trying to hide the hunt from the public eye, by stopping the IWC from discussing the management of all small cetaceans.

TAKE ACTION TO STOP THE DALL'S DISASTER

- Don't let Japan stop discussion of the largest commercial cetacean hunt in the world
- Insist that the International Whaling Commission exercises its competency for all cetaceans
- Support calls for the Dall's porpoise hunt to be suspended



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