

How 'scientific' is Japanese scientific whaling?

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Introduction

★ IWC requests Japan to stop all lethal research

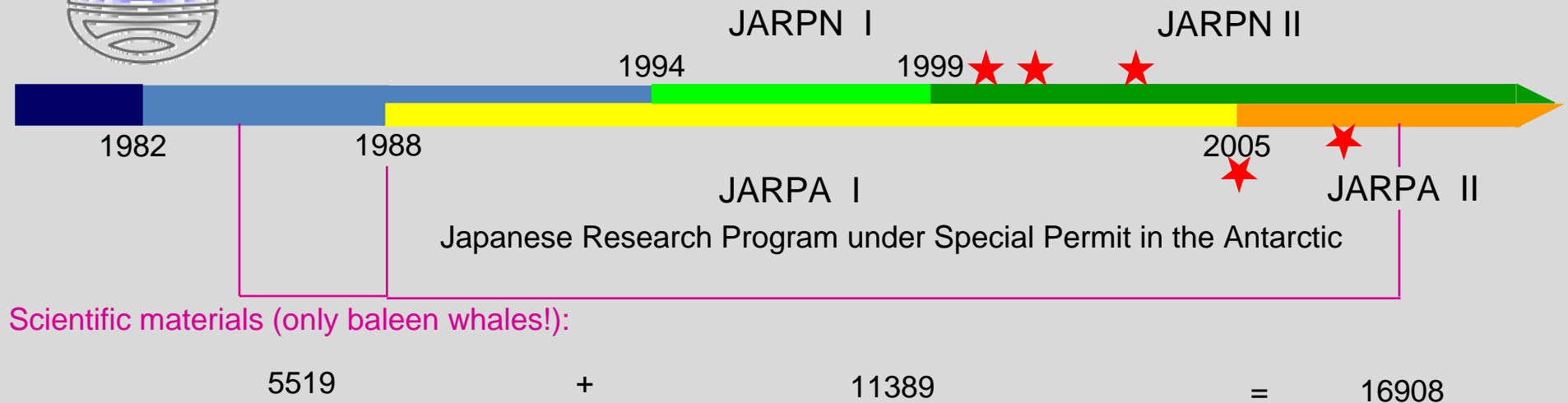
Moratorium
(zero catch quota)

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International Whaling
Commission (IWC)



Japanese Research Program under Special Permit in the western North Pacific



23 years of scientific whaling, 16908 animals to investigate, but only 71 scientific (peer-reviewed) papers

- 36 papers: ecology, pathology, genetics
- 32 papers: reproduction biology (?!)
- 3 papers: toxicology (butyltin – heavy metals – PCBs)

‘There is no doubt that whaling isn’t good for whales. What most people don’t know -and what pro-whaling nations such as Japan and Norway don’t want to consider- is that eating whale meat may be a human health hazard.’

The Humane Society of the United States, www.hsus.org

How healthy is eating whale meat?

Materials & Methods

22 September 2009: fin whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*) in Antwerp!



Relevant?



28-06-2008 Michael Milstein, The Oregonian, USA

[Oregon State University](#) researcher Scott Baker has uncovered victims of a hidden killing. The victims are endangered [fin whales](#), the second-largest living animals in the world after blue whales.

Using DNA fingerprinting, they discovered that the meat from Japan came from more fin whales than Japan has acknowledged killing.

Results & Discussion

On the menu	Concentration (ng/g wet weight)	Intake at low consumption rate*	Intake at high consumption rate**
PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) - Tolerable Intake (US EPA, 2002): 70 ng/kg/day			
Blubber	494	0.8	296.4
Muscle	127	0.2	76.2
DDTs (pesticides) - Tolerable Intake (US EPA, 2002): 500 ng/kg/day			
Blubber	357	0.6	214.2
Muscle	95	0.2	57.0
PBDEs (polybrominated diphenyl ethers) - Tolerable Intake (US EPA, 2002): 2000 ng/kg/day			
Blubber	22	0.04	13.2
Muscle	6	0.01	3.6

* Low consumption rate: (0.1 g/person/day or) 0.0017 g/kg body weight/day

** High consumption rate: (36 g/person/day or) 0.6 g/ kg body weight/day

(Source: Simmonds et al., 2002)

Fin whales accumulate pollutants!
(See also my poster n° 134)

How healthy is eating whale meat?



Japan doesn't know..... or Japanese scientists know, but do not communicate

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