



H.Con.Res. 350 – Expressing the sense of the Congress that the United States, through the International Whaling Commission, should use all appropriate measures to end commercial whaling in all of its forms, including scientific and other special permit whaling, coastal whaling, and community-based whaling, and seek to strengthen the conservation and management measures to facilitate the conservation of whale species, and for other purposes

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Con.Res. 350 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Nick Rahall (D-WV) on May 14, 2008. The resolution was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, but was never considered.

H.Con.Res. 350 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on June 18, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Con.Res. 350 resolves that it is the sense of Congress that the United States, through the International Whaling Commission, should:

- Use all appropriate measures to end commercial whaling in all of its forms, including scientific and other special permit whaling, coastal whaling, and community-based whaling;
- Oppose any initiative that would result in any new, Commission-sanctioned coastal or community-based whale hunting, even if it is portrayed as noncommercial, including any commercial whaling by any coastal communities that does not qualify as aboriginal subsistence whaling; and
- Seek to strengthen conservation and management measures to facilitate the conservation of whale species.

BACKGROUND

Since 1946, 79 nations have adopted the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, including the United States. This convention established the International Whaling Commission, which governs whaling throughout the world. The Commission adopted a moratorium in 1982 on commercial whaling, in an effort to promote the recovery of whale stocks.

Despite the International Whaling Commission's moratorium, three Commission member nations continue to hunt whales commercially – Japan, Iceland and Norway. Since the moratorium came into force, it is estimated that over 25,000 whales have been killed.

[International Whaling Commission](#)

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