



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

JAN 31 2014

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The Pelly Amendment to the Fishermen's Protective Act of 1967, 22 U.S.C. § 1978(a)(2) (Pelly Amendment), provides that the Secretary of the Interior shall make a certification to you if the Secretary determines that nationals of a foreign country, directly or indirectly, are engaged in trade or taking that diminishes the effectiveness of any international program for the conservation of endangered or threatened species. In this instance, facts have been brought to my attention regarding Iceland's international trade in whale meat and products.

The trade in whales is regulated by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), under which the Secretary of the Interior serves as the U.S. Management Authority and Scientific Authority. Based upon a review of the record compiled within the Department of the Interior, I have determined and hereby certify that nationals of Iceland are engaging in international trade in whale meat and products that diminishes the effectiveness of CITES.

This certification is based on the fact that Iceland continues to export commercial shipments of whale meat and products. All whale species are included in the CITES Appendices, and minke whale (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*) and fin whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*), the two species exported by Iceland, are included in Appendix I. Species included in Appendix I are generally considered to be threatened with extinction, and commercial international trade in such species is prohibited. However, from 2008 to 2010, Iceland exported approximately 1,300 kg of minke whale meat and over 850,000 kg of fin whale meat and products. Furthermore, Iceland continues to export whale meat. Although CITES provides for specific reservations and Iceland has entered reservations to the CITES Appendix I listings of these species, I have determined that Iceland's representation that its trade pursuant to those reservations is not detrimental to the survival of the affected whale species lacks an adequate scientific foundation, and thus its trade pursuant to those reservations diminishes the effectiveness of CITES. To date, Iceland has given no indication that it intends to cease its exports of whale meat and products.

I have notified the Secretaries of Commerce, State, and Treasury, the Chairs of the Council on Environmental Quality and the Marine Mammal Commission, and the U.S. Trade Representative of this certification. I have also recommended to the Secretary of State that the Government of Iceland be advised of this certification.

Respectfully,

Sally Jewell