

As a result of this decision, fin whales will be completely protected in both the Southern Hemisphere and the North Pacific, and the only stock that can legally be fished is the small one in the North Atlantic. The details are in the table.

Quotas and Catches 1975/6 and 1976/7

	Southern Hemisphere			North Pacific			North Atlantic	
	1975/6 <i>quota</i>	1976/7 <i>catch</i>	1976/7 <i>quota</i>	1975/6 <i>quota</i>	1976/7 <i>catch</i>	1976/7 <i>quota</i>	1975/6 <i>quota</i>	1976/7 <i>quota</i>
Fin whale	220	206	nil	nil	nil	nil	363	344
Sei whale	2230	1820	1863	nil	nil	nil		
Bryde's whale	nil	nil	nil	1363		1000		
Minke whale	6810	6034	8900				2550	2483
Sperm whale								
Male	5870	4022	3894	5200		4320		
Female	4870	3024	897	3100		2880		

All those nils, coupled with the continued downward spiral of both quotas and catches, are the highest possible condemnation of the bad management of the International Whaling Commission. Had the commission listened to its scientists twenty years ago, there could have been a flourishing whaling industry today, instead of a dying one.

Next year's meeting is at Canberra, Australia.

Marine Mammals and Man

The current generation gap in conservation seems to lie between 'old-timers' who concentrate on species studies and the up and coming scientists who are increasingly conscious of the interdependence of all living things and prefer to study ecosystems. This was conspicuous at the meeting at Bergen, Norway, in September 1976, when some 200 marine mammal ecologists, biostatisticians and other specialists assembled from all five continents for a Scientific Consultation on Marine Mammals, sponsored by FAO. The aim of this meeting was to get as complete a picture as possible of the status of the world's whales, dolphins, seals, marine otters, dugongs and manatees, their importance as a resource and how their stocks can be conserved. The final result will not be known until the publication of the report, early in 1977, of the working party which after the conference retired to an island retreat to digest the reports of the meeting's 23 working groups, under the guidance of Dr Sidney Holt, director of the FAO/UNEP Marine Mammals Project in Malta, whose brain-child the whole exercise was.

Almost every species of marine mammal is to some degree threatened by man's activities, whether by direct commercial exploitation, as for whales and seals, or by killing because they directly compete with man for seafood, as with seals and otters, or even purely incidentally by being caught in fish nets, as with dolphins. DDT and dieldrin concentrations in dolphin blubber, combined with the effects of such chemicals in the marine environment as a whole, point up the pollution threat, and the general availability of firearms and motor-boats has given a new meaning to subsistence hunting by Inuit (Eskimo) and other peoples dependent on wild food resources. Loss of habitat, except

by the pollution of estuaries, affects marine mammals far less than terrestrial ones, although breeding beaches are increasingly being disturbed and migrations may be affected by shipping movements. Indeed the only marine mammal that seems to exist entirely undisturbed by man, apart from some of the rarer species of whale, is the Antarctic crab-eater seal, presumably because of the remoteness of its rookeries. However, the removal of the great bulk of the Antarctic whale stocks and the harvesting of krill, which has already begun, are causing changes in the ecosystem that are bound to affect the crab-eater.

Oryx 100% Fund

The following are the latest grants from the FPS Oryx 100% Fund:

- £500** to J. Lovisek for studies to facilitate management and conservation of endangered caimans in Bolivia and Brazil;
- £300** to Dr J. Juvik for studies of *Geochelone* tortoises in Madagascar;
- £300** for Durham University expedition to St Vincent for continuation of studies on the St Vincent parrot, reported in *Oryx*, July 1976, page 324;
- £270** to John Newby for meteorological equipment needed for migration studies of the endangered scimitar-horned oryx and addax in Tchad, which could greatly help in controlling poaching of these antelopes;
- £250** to G. Stutzin for equipment for the game guards protecting the Andean huemul;
- £100** for Aberdeen University expedition to Aride (Seychelles) to study endangered birds;
- £92** to Wahab Owadally, Conservator of Forests in Mauritius, for the distribution of books on wildlife to Mauritius schools.

Legacies and Gifts

FPS is very grateful for the following donations over £10, totalling £4746, and other smaller gifts received between March and November 1976:

Legacies

Miss H.K. Jillard, additional to £25,000 already reported	£2697
Dr. J.L. Linzell	£250

Gifts

S. Marchant	£22
Mrs Diana Spearman	£10
New Moorgate Trust Fund	£1000
Mrs M.A.E. Balston and Mrs J.A. Southby	£13
Dr E.T.O. Slater	£10

Oryx 100% Fund

K. Richards	£30	Mrs Tyrwhitt	£20
Tom Cretain	£25	R.G. Chapple	£10
Philip English	£10	W.D. Francis	£29
Thomas Forman & Sons Ltd	£30	Mrs A.M. Jackson	£50
Dr Ruth Gipps	£30	K.J. Proud	£10

Earmarked for East African Wildlife Society anti-poaching unit (ICL Discretionary Trust)

£500