

Japan killed 50 whales in **Antarctic** protected area, data shows (A,B)

Japanese **whalers** have killed more than 50 minke whales in an Antarctic **marine** protection area this year, **WWF** has revealed.

whaling 捕鲸, 捕鲸业

WWF World Wide Fund For Nature 世界自然基金会

The **disclosure** comes on the opening day of the International Whaling Commission's annual meeting in Brazil, which Japan is **chairing** as it seeks to restart commercial whaling.

chair v.担任主席

Japan allows itself to hunt whales under a "scientific" programme which still **sees** the meat go on sale. The 2018 hunt led to 333 minke whales being killed in the Southern Ocean, including 122 pregnant females.

see 坐视

Now analysis of an IWC scientific committee paper by WWF shows that three Japanese ships killed dozens of minke whales in part of the Ross Sea marine protection area (MPA) in January and February 2018. All fishing is restricted in that section of the MPA in order to protect marine life, including blue, humpback, minke and **killer whales, emperor penguins** and Weddell seals.

However, the 24-nation body that agreed the MPA – the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources – does not control whaling in the region. The International Court of Justice **ruled** in 2014 that Japan should cancel all existing "scientific whaling" permits in the Southern Ocean but Japan simply **issued** itself a new permit for the killing of hundreds of Antarctic minke whales each year until 2027.

issue sb sth 给...颁发...

At the IWC meeting, Japan wants to allow the hunting of whales whose populations are assessed as high and create a “sustainable use” committee. “There couldn’t be a better opportunity,” a Japanese government official said. Japan has previously *labelled* opposition to its whaling *as* “eco-*imperialism*”.

label v. 给...贴标签

imperialism 帝国主义

Previous attempts to weaken the existing ban have failed and Japan appears unlikely to succeed in changing the rules.