

## Japan to leave International Whaling Commission, resume commercial hunt

Japan announced Wednesday that it is withdrawing from the International Whaling Commission and will resume commercial whale hunting next year, sparking **swift condemnation** from other governments and conservation groups.

swift 迅速的

condemnation 谴责; 定罪

Tokyo argues that the IWC has failed to **live up to** its initial dual **mandate** in 1946, to find a balance between preserving whale stocks and allowing the "orderly-development" of the whaling industry. After failing to reach an agreement at a global conference in Brazil in September to resume commercial whaling, Japan is now following through on a threat to withdraw from the global body entirely.

live up to 达到; 符合

mandate 命令; 授权

"Regrettably, we have reached a decision that it is impossible in the IWC to seek the coexistence of states with different views," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said in a statement.

As a result, Japan will cease taking whales from **the Antarctic** Ocean and Southern **Hemisphere**—where it has **ostensibly** been killing whales for scientific research—and will conduct commercial whaling "within Japan's **territorial** sea and its exclusive economic zone," he said.

the Antarctic 南极

hemisphere 半球

ostensibly 表面上

territorial 领土的

Clare Perry, oceans campaigns leader for the Environmental Investigation Agency, said history had demonstrated **unequivocally** the need for global precautionary management of whale populations.

unequivocally 明确地

"By leaving the IWC Japan is rejecting **multilateralism** and setting a very bad precedent for conservation which will likely have very serious negative consequences for the world's whales," she said. "It may bring a **reprieve** for the whale populations currently protected in international waters but at a very high price."

multilateralism 多边主义

reprieve 暂缓; 缓刑

Whale meat was a vital source of protein in Japan as it recovered from the **ravages** of World War II, but is much less popular these days. Yet the government argues that it is part of Japan's traditional culture, dating back centuries.

ravage 毁坏; 残垣