

Japanese fleet prepares to resume commercial whaling

<p>Notes & Cues:</p>	<p>Article:</p> <p>Japan announced last year it was leaving the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and would resume commercial whaling on July 1, sparking global condemnation and fears for the world’s whales.</p> <p>Japan has long maintained that eating whale is an important part of its culture and that most species are not endangered.</p> <p>A global whaling moratorium was imposed in 1986, but Japan then began what it called scientific research whaling in the North Pacific and Antarctic. Critics said that it was simply commercial whaling in disguise.</p> <p>Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, whose district includes the old whaling centre of Shimonoseki, has long campaigned to restart commercial whaling, but the industry’s future is far from clear.</p> <p>Only about 300 people around Japan are directly connected to whaling, and the annual supply of whale — about 5, 000 tonnes — amounts to roughly 40-50 grams per Japanese person a year.</p> <p>”To resume this so we can eat it — well, that’s good, ” said Yuya Kusakari, 37, who was fishing for flounder with his 8-year-old son.</p> <p>Kusakari said he ate whale maybe once or twice a year.</p> <p>”It’s really not all that available now, and it’s expensive, ” he said.</p>
<p>Summary:</p>	