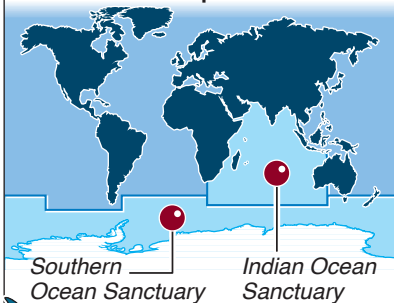


Bid to end sanctuary

Japan is proposing to abolish the *Southern Ocean Sanctuary* set up by the 66-member International Whaling Commission to protect whales from commercial hunting. Conservationists say sanctuaries provide essential breeding and feeding grounds for endangered whale species



► **2005:** At least 1,550 whales will be killed – mostly by Japan and Norway

► **2006:** Japan to increase its annual kill of *minke whales* to 935, up from 440, under its research programme