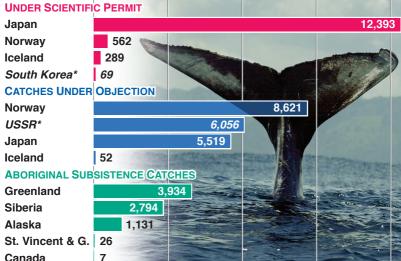
Crunch time for whale conservation

The International Whaling Commission is to consider a controversial plan to legitimise whaling but reduce the numbers of whales caught. A moratorium has been in place for 25 years, but Japan, Norway and Iceland continue hunting under a variety of exceptions to the ban

WHALE CATCHES UNDER MORATORIUM (1985-2009). Total: 41,453



KEY POINTS OF PROPOSAL

Source: IWC

*South Korea and USSR ceased whaling in 1986

- All whaling to be brought under IWC control for 10 years, with countries agreeing not to hunt unilaterally under provisions such as "scientific whaling" and to abide by quotas set by IWC
- Whaling states granted annual kill quotas through 2020, totalling nearly 12,000 specimens
- Set up control measures including observers on ships, DNA registers of harvested whales and market sampling to detect illegal whaling
- Whaling limited to three countries already hunting Japan, Iceland and Norway. Subsistence hunting by indigenous peoples unaffected