

**Statement of Chairwoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo  
Oversight Hearing on the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual International  
Whaling Commission Meeting  
Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans  
Tuesday, June 10, 2008**

**The Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans meets this morning to hear testimony regarding the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual International Whaling Commission Meeting to be held later this month in Santiago, Chile.**

**The IWC was established in 1946 to conserve whales for future generations and to regulate the then-extensive whaling industry. When whaling quotas failed to protect these stocks, the IWC instituted a moratorium on the commercial killing of whales in 1986.**

**While the moratorium has had a positive effect on many whale populations, Norway, Iceland, and Japan are now pushing to lift the**

**moratorium and replace it with a regulated commercial industry.**

**At the same time, Japan and Iceland continue to use Article VIII of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling to conduct commercial whaling under the pretext of scientific research. This despite the fact that almost all scientists agree that the lethal take of whales is not needed for scientific data collection.**

**Many of these issues are likely to be debated at this year's IWC meeting, and there will likely be much discussion about the institution's future. We must be very careful, however, that our efforts to save the institution do not come at the expense of the very species it was intended to protect.**

**The U.S. has been and should continue to be a leader in conserving whale species. With threats to whales increasing -- such as underwater noise**

**and climate change -- the U.S. should strengthen rather than compromise away protections for these extraordinary animals in an effort to ensure that Japan and other pro-whaling nations continue to participate in the IWC.**

**I'm pleased to be an original co-sponsor of Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rahall's House Concurrent Resolution 350. It, and a similar Resolution that was introduced in the Senate, urge the U.S. delegation to the IWC to carry out the intent of Congress and the will of our citizens to protect and conserve whales.**

**Specifically, it urges the U.S. to preserve the moratorium, stand in strong opposition to existing commercial and scientific whaling, and reject any proposal that would create a new category of commercial whaling that is misleadingly called "coastal whaling" or "community whaling."**

**With that, I look forward to hearing from our witnesses today, and to hearing strong assurances that our Delegation will hold the line at the meeting in Chile.**