

UK's position on the hunting of cetaceans

The UK strongly opposes the hunting of cetaceans (whales, dolphins and porpoises) other than some limited activities by indigenous people for clearly defined subsistence needs. The UK reiterated this position at the 2014 International Whaling Commission (IWC) meeting in Slovenia.

The UK remains concerned over the small cetacean hunts in Taiji and Futo, in particular with regards potential population impacts and animal welfare. The UK Government continues to raise these concerns with the Japanese Government and has sought assurances that the legislation regulating them will be improved and enforced. The Japanese government is in no doubt as to the strength of feeling and opposition in the UK to these hunts and we will continue to express our concerns at every appropriate opportunity, including in the build up to, and at, the next IWC meeting in 2016.

The UK also continues to work with other IWC Parties to raise the profile of small cetacean issues and to encourage more to be done to improve their protection and address welfare concerns.