

EDITORIAL

This issue (as all issues of EPL) deals with a lot of different subjects, with the goal of providing our readers with input on and awareness of the most important issues of the day.

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We also have updates on earlier partial reports on three meetings, and provide coverage on continuing controversies such as the situation before the international whaling commission. Recently we have heard that Greenland's whaling community is pressing the country to withdraw from the IWC as a result of its failure to set a catch quota on humpback whales.

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We were also shocked by the British report that 42 of the whales killed under Japan's scientific whaling programme were pregnant.

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We are happy to report that the SADC Marine Fisheries Ministerial Conference has agreed on measures to curb illegal unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, including many port state and transshipment controls. We hope that these measures will quickly be implemented by all affected SADC Member Countries.

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In a former editorial, we criticised the US government's 2006 decision to close the US/EPA libraries. We are happy to note a recent agreement between US/EPA and the American Federation of Government Employees, which has enabled the reopening of the libraries.

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Next issue, as in past years, we will provide a detailed report of the agenda of the most relevant issues to be addressed by the 63rd UN/GA session. This will be followed in the first issue of 2009 with a report of the results.

25 September 2008

- Wolfgang Breyer -