

2023

# Evaluating to what extent the 'scientific exemption clause' acts as a loophole and influences international whaling

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The Plymouth Student Scientist

University of Plymouth

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## **Research Information Sheet for Participants**

### **University of Plymouth, Faculty of Science and Engineering**

#### *International Whaling Practises*

I am a third year Ocean Science and Marine Conservation student at the University of Plymouth. I am conducting a survey on international whaling practises, specifically what is known about international bans as part of my final year research. I would be very grateful if you could spend a short time answering the questionnaire.

#### *Description of Research Processes*

If you agree to take part, you will be asked to participate in a short questionnaire. This questionnaire will last no more than 15 minutes. If you do not wish to answer a question within the survey, simply select the 'prefer not to say' option and move onto the next question. Your responses to the questions will be recorded through an online system and no personal information will be collected. The information recorded is confidential and will not be used, stored, or retained beyond my research.

#### *Voluntary Participation and Right to Withdraw*

Participation in the study is voluntary. You do not have to participate in the research. Because of the anonymous nature of this survey, it is not possible to withdraw from the study after responses have been submitted. This is because there is no system in place to identify individuals or their answers. If you wish to withdraw, simply close the questionnaire browser before reaching the submission point. If you do this, your response will not be recorded.

#### *Confidentiality*

All information will be confidential, with no personal data collection. No information will be shared with a third party.

#### *Contact Details of Research Lead*

Amy Wick

[amy.wick@students.plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:amy.wick@students.plymouth.ac.uk)

If you are dissatisfied with the way the research is conducted, please contact the Faculty of Science and Engineering Human Ethics Committee:

[scienghumanethics@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:scienghumanethics@plymouth.ac.uk)

By taking part in this questionnaire, you have read and understood the information given to you and have had the opportunity to withdraw if you so wish.

**By ticking the 'I agree' box, you are indicating that you are at least 18 years old, have read and understood the information provided, and agree to anonymously participate in this study\*.**

## Personal Opinion and Consumption

1. How important are whales for you?

1	2	3	4	5
Very unimportant	Somewhat unimportant	Neither important nor unimportant	Somewhat important	Very important

2. When thinking about whales, what three words do you first think of? Please state the words below

*Separate words using commas “,”*

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3. As an individual, would you purchase whale products?

*e.g. whale meat, products containing whale oil (makeup, candles, soap)*

a) Yes

b) No

c) Prefer not to Say

4. As an individual, would you consume whale products?

*e.g. whale meat*

a) Yes

b) No

c) Prefer not to Say

5. Please outline the reason for your above answer below

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## Personal Opinion and Hunting Practises

6. Are you aware that several countries still partake in whaling practises?

a) Yes

b) No

c) Prefer not to Say

7. If yes, please state the known country/countries below

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8. Would you visit a country that actively participates in whaling hunts?  
 a) Yes  
 b) No  
 c) Prefer not to Say

9. Please outline the reason for your answer below

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**Personal Knowledge of the International Whaling Commission (IWC)**

10. Have you ever heard of the International Whaling Commission, or IWC?  
 a) Yes  
 b) No  
 c) Prefer not to Say

11. If yes, how informed do you think you are about what they do?

1	2	3	4	5
Very uninformed	Somewhat uninformed	Neither informed nor uninformed	Somewhat informed	Very informed

12. Do you actively follow or receive updates on the work of the IWC?  
 a) Yes  
 b) No  
 c) Prefer not to Say

13. If yes, how often do you follow/receive these updates?  
 a) Daily  
 b) Weekly  
 c) Monthly  
 d) Yearly  
 e) Other

14. If other, please state below

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15. Given your own personal knowledge of the IWC, how effective do you think the organisation is in informing the public about its conservation work?

1	2	3	4	5
Very ineffective	Somewhat ineffective	Neither effective nor ineffective	Somewhat effective	Very effective

## The International Whaling Commission (IWC) and the International Whaling Ban

16. The International Whaling Commission imposed an international ban on commercial whaling in 1985. As an individual, were you aware of this ban?
- a) Yes
  - b) No
  - c) Prefer not to Say

17. The International Whaling Commission have identified three main categories of whaling. Which do you think is the most damaging to whale populations? Please rank the categories in order of damage, with 1 being least damaging and 3 most damaging. Select one response for each column

	1	2	3
Aboriginal/Indigenous			
Scientific			
Commercial			

18. Within the international whaling ban, aboriginal/indigenous and scientific practises are not subject to its ruling. In your opinion, should these exemptions exist?
- a) Yes
  - b) No
  - c) Prefer not to Say

19. Please outline the reason for your answer below
- 

20. Do you think exemptions will work in the long term when trying to conserve whales?
- a) Yes
  - b) No
  - c) Prefer not to Say

21. Please outline the reason for your answer below
-

22. In your opinion, to what extent do you agree with the following statements:  
 Please select one response for each row

	Strong disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Whales are important for the health of the ocean						
Whales are well protected by laws and policies						
Laws and policies are important for conservation						
The international whaling ban is effective in stopping hunting						
The international whaling ban is effective in helping to conserve whales						

### Eco-Centricity

23. Is conservation a topic of interest for yourself?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Prefer not to Say

24. Are you, in any way, associated with a conservation organisation/charity?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Prefer not to Say

25. If yes, please state the organisation/charity below and the appropriate capacity  
e.g. National Trust, Wildlife Trust, RSPB  
e.g. paid employee, volunteer, member, donator  
Separate answers using commas “,”
- 

26. Do you actively participate in any of the following environmental actions?

*Please select all that apply*

- a) Recycling
  - b) Using reusable items (e.g. water bottle, coffee cup, straws, shopping bags)
  - c) Using eco friendly products (e.g. soap bars)
  - d) Using public transport/cycling
  - e) Turning off electrical appliances/lights when not in use
  - f) Eating less meat/having a no meat diet
  - g) Shopping for local/seasonal produce
  - h) Shopping secondhand
  - i) None of the above
27. Is the idea of sustainable living a topic of interest for yourself?
- d) Yes
  - e) No
  - f) Prefer not to Say
28. In your own opinion, do you believe that we should be doing more to live sustainably?
- g) Yes
  - h) No
  - i) Prefer not to Say

## Demographics

29. What is your age bracket?
- a) 18-25
  - b) 26-35
  - c) 36-45
  - d) 46-55
  - e) 56-65
  - f) 66-75
  - g) 76+

30. What is your gender identity?

- a) Female
- b) Male
- c) Other
- d) Prefer not to Say

31. Please state your country of permanent residence

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