

Whaling Convention Act of 1949

Agencies: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Citation: [16 U.S.C. §§ 916 et seq.](#)

Enacted as: the “Whaling Convention Act of 1949”, on August 9, 1950

Summary:

The [Whaling Convention Act of 1949 \(Act\)](#), as amended, authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to implement the provisions of the [International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling](#) and to issue regulations necessary for this purpose. The Secretary is authorized and directed to administer and enforce all provisions of the Convention, this Act, and regulations promulgated pursuant to this Act. In conducting the duties prescribed under this Act, the Secretary of Commerce cooperates with other agencies of the federal government, state governments, or other independent institutions. The Secretary may also cooperate with any agency from any other government of any party to the Convention.

Under the Whaling Convention Act, it is illegal for any person under U.S. jurisdiction to engage in any act prohibited or fail to do any act required by the Convention, this Act, or any regulations promulgated by the Secretary of Commerce pursuant to this Act. It is also illegal to ship, transport, purchase, sell, offer for sale, import, export, or have in possession any whale or whale products taken in violation of the Convention, this Act, or any regulation promulgated by the Secretary of Commerce pursuant to this Act. The prohibitions of this Act do not preclude the taking of whales for scientific investigation, with the approval of the Secretary.

Regulations approved by the International Whaling Commission pursuant to the Convention shall be submitted for appropriate action or publication in the Federal Register by the Secretary of Commerce and shall become effective with respect to all persons and vessels subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

Source: [http://www.cnie.org/nle/crsreports/legislative/leg-11a.cfm#Whaling Convention Act of 1949](http://www.cnie.org/nle/crsreports/legislative/leg-11a.cfm#Whaling_Convention_Act_of_1949)

Information last updated: September 20, 2012