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MEDIA RELEASE

Whaling Body Faces New EU Setback

27 June 2008, Santiago, Chile As the 2008 annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) draws to a close, its future as a resource management organization hangs in the balance, IWMC World Conservation Trust said today.

The IWC avoided most of its traditional issues of contention in Santiago and agreed to take steps that could lead to the implementation of a series of reforms. However, the rejection of a small science-based quota of humpback whales for Greenland on Thursday served to demonstrate the depth of division within the organization.

Coming into the meeting, the IWC still had to fix its internal decision-making processes and deal with the moratorium problem. Now it also has to find a way to deal with the new problem of block voting by the European Union, which sank the Greenland proposal and could torpedo the entire organization.

Eugene Lapointe, President of IWMC World Conservation Trust, said: “The IWC has made some small progress in improving the way it operates but has been dealt a major blow by the new EU block vote. European power over its decisions could harpoon the IWC.”

— ENDS —

The International Wildlife Management Consortium (IWMC) World Conservation Trust is an international organization that promotes Sustainable Use as a conservation mechanism, for the protection of the sovereign rights of independent nations and for the respect of diverse cultures and traditions.

Eugene Lapointe, President of IWMC World Conservation Trust was Secretary General of CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) from 1982 to 1990.

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