

Whaling Convention

Official reference	International Convention for the regulation of whaling	
Official website	https://iwc.int	
Relevant dates	Document	2/12/1946
	Entry into force	10/11/1948
	Ratification by Belgium	9/07/2004
	Document Protocol 1956	19/11/1956
	Entry into force	4/05/1959
	Ratification by Belgium	9/07/2004
Policy level	International	
Type of instrument	Convention	
Geographical reach	World seas	
(Legal) coverage in the BNS	Internal waters, territorial sea, exclusive economic zone	
International zone	International Whaling Commission	
Competent authorities in Belgium	Federal authorities; FPS Health, Food chain safety and Environment; DG Environment; Agency Marine Environment	
Federal ratification	Wet van 9 juli 2004 betreffende de toetreding van België: - tot het Internationaal Verdrag tot regeling van de walvisvangst en tot het Reglement, gedaan te Washington op 2 december 1946; - tot het Protocol, gedaan te Washington op 19 november 1956, bij het Internationaal Verdrag tot regeling van de walvisvangst, gedaan te Washington op 2 december 1946	

// abstract:

The Convention for the regulation of whaling is an international environmental convention, set in place to ensure the conservation of the whale population and thus facilitate an adequate development of the whaling industry. It deals with the commercial, scientific and traditional whaling practices. The goals of this convention include the protection of all whale species against overhunting, the establishment of an international regulatory system for whaling in order to guarantee decent protection and development of the whale stocks, as well as securing the large natural resources represented by whales for future generations. For this purpose, the Convention established the International Whaling Commission (IWC). Each Contracting Party is represented by one member in the commission. The IWC can, whether or not in cooperation with the Contracting Parties or other organisations, (1) encourage, recommend or organise whale research, (2) collect and analyse statistical information with respect to the whale population and whaling (3) and investigate and disseminate information on methods of maintaining and increasing whale stocks.

The 1956 Protocol extends the definition of a 'whale catcher', to include all ships, as well as helicopters and other aircraft.