

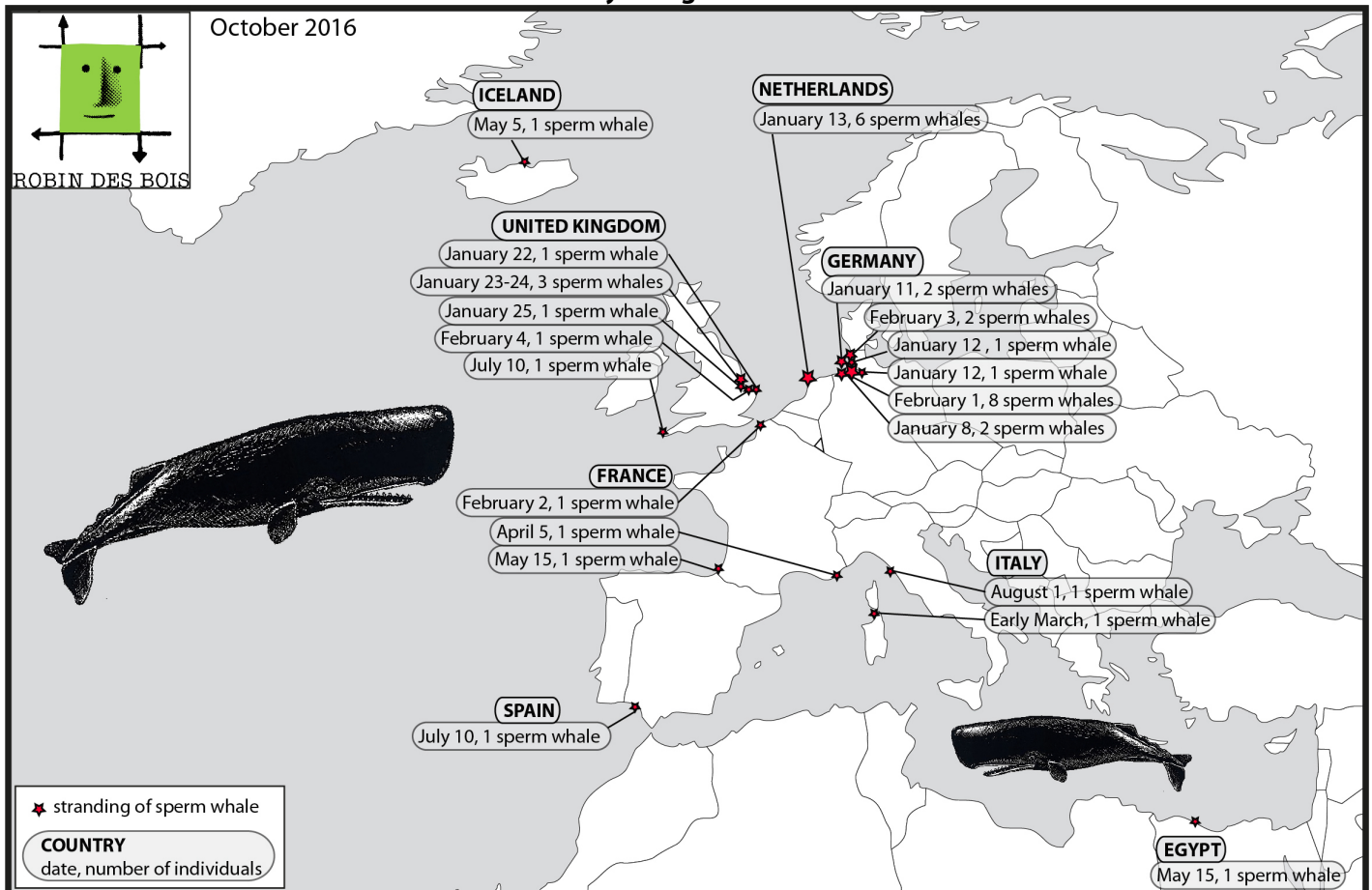
ON the TRAIL

Information and analysis bulletin on animal poaching and smuggling
 Special Edition – 66th International Whaling Commission, Portoroz, Slovenia
 Published on October 20, 2016. Original in French

For 3 years, the NGO Robin des Bois (Robin Hood) has been publishing in French and in English the quarterly bulletin “On the Trail” on the poaching and smuggling of animal species threatened with extinction. Information come from a thousand sources, institutions, local medias and NGOs on the spot throughout the world. Each event is analyzed, related with a maximum of practical details and further developments are traced through time.

Sperm whale is the great forgotten one in the work of the IWC at Portoroz. Yet, in Europe the most prestigious, the most mysterious, the most performing, the most literary and the most coveted among cetaceans is on the front line of the casualties, of those waste-suffocated and those disorientated by vibrations and noises from offshore activities, maritime traffic and submarine explosions of ammunition.

January – August 2016



Opposing the global caricature suffered by whales, Robin des Bois published a report on their positive contributions as soon as 2010. Whales are not only plankton, squid and fish eaters. They are also architects and gardeners of the World Ocean even after their death.

On Whales and their Usefulness (pdf 20 pages 1Mo)

http://www.robindesbois.org/wp-content/uploads/Of_whales_and_their_Usefulness-1.pdf

Extracts from the bulletins « On the Trail» n° 1 to 14

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

Appendix I : species threatened with extinction. Trade in specimens of these species is permitted only in exceptional circumstances and under import and export permits.

Appendix II : export permit required in order to avoid utilization incompatible with the species survival. Import permit if required by national law.

Appendix III : species that are protected in at least one country, which has asked other CITES Parties for assistance in controlling the trade. In the case of trade from a State that included the species in Appendix III, an export permit of that State is required.

SEIZURES

AMERICA

Seizure and arrest

Whale teeth (sperm whale) (*Physeter macrocephalus*, Appendix I)

Whale bone (Order Cetacea)

Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, United States of America (Los Angeles, California)

July 11, 2013

Operation Wild Web was carried out in the United States and in 3 Asian countries in August 2012. Charges started to be filed in California: An antique dealer in Los Angeles – East Meets West Antiques – for selling a pair of seal fur moccasins (US\$ 750) but also bags and a traditional doll made of whale teeth. He could be sentenced to up to 5 years in prison. California is not the only state involved. 154 violations were exposed, notably in Texas and in Florida the list includes walrus ivory, clocks made out of turtle shells and a leopard skin coat. Gref Williford, head of the Texas Park and Wildlife Department criminal investigation unit sums up with a rather bitter tone "It is all about the bottom line and greed, if there is a way to make a dollar off it they will".

Seizure of 1.4 kg of dolphin meat (family Delphinidae, Appendix I or II)

Chimbote, Region of Ancash, Peru

October 2013

The meat was seized on the La Perla Market in Chimbote. The seller will be charged as stated by national law protecting dolphins and other marine mammals. This is law n°26585 from 1996 prohibiting capture and sale. The Chimbote fishing port is specialized in fish meal. The port was recently set under the direction of the Regional Ancash Government who projects to have it modernized and become the main port for national and Brazilian exports. The first stage of this project already requires US\$ 88 million investment out of an estimated total of US\$ 300 million

Seizure of 1.5 kg of dried dolphin meat (family Delphinidae, Appendix I or II)

Callao, Region of Lima, Peru

October 2013

Dolphin is in style in Peru 1.5 kg of dried dolphin meat had been seized in the restaurant El Colorao in Callao. According to the Mundo Azul NGO, 15,000 dolphins are illegally caught each year off Peru. They can then be found on market stalls but dolphin meat and fat is also used as bait for shark fishing.

Seizure of elephant and walrus ivory (*Odobenus rosmarus*, Appendix III) and whale bones (*Cetacea spp.*, Appendix I or II) and arrest

Honolulu, State of Hawaii, United States of America

May 2015

A jeweler from Hawaii with stores in Waikiki and Ala Moana called Hawaiian Accessories had been receiving for at least the past 3 years packages of elephant and walrus ivory and whale bone, 3 products banned from import in the United States of America. The raw ivory was then transferred to the Philippines where a certain Sergio Biscocho would carve it into hooks and other objects that then, to tie the loop, would return to Hawaii by the postal services or in Biscochos luggage. Biscocho is now in custody in Hawaii. He was refused bail. Federal services say that risk he escapes are too important. 4 accomplices have been charged. Just to make it even

harder to trace the ivory, Hawaiian Accessories also sell mammoth ivory of which import is still authorized without restriction in a vast majority of States.

ASIA

Seizure of various items including 367 ivory objects, 3 narwhal tusks about 3 meters long (*Monodon monoceros*, Appendix II), precious coral (*Corallium rubrum*) and a polar bear hide (*Ursus maritimus*, Appendix II).

Dalian International Airport, Liaoning Province, China

April 1st, 2013

The flight came from Nagoya, Japan. The items detected by X-ray were hidden in 11 suitcases belonging to 4 passengers of unrevealed nationality. It is the largest seizure of this kind ever seen by Dalian customs. The ivory objects included figures of Buddha, vases, pencil holders and censers; their total value is estimated at more than US\$ 640,000. The narwhal exclusively lives in the glacial Arctic Ocean. It is threatened by habitat degradation, acoustic and chemical disturbances and pollutions. This seizure, abundantly illustrated and relayed by the Chinese press, occurred shortly after the plenary meeting of CITES where many critics have mentioned the inability or unwillingness of China to track animals or animal parts and plants protected by international conventions on its territory.

Seizure of 820 kg of bottlenose (genus *Tursiops*, Appendix II) and Risso's dolphin (*Grampus griseus*, Appendix II) meat.

County of Yunlin, Taiwan

17th September 2013

The fisherman from Taiwan had been selling dolphin meat to the local restaurants for 2 years. During the traditional autumn festivals the demand for dolphin sausage is the highest. The sale of dolphin meat and other cetaceans is illegal in Taiwan. It is punishable by a fine of between US\$ 10,000 50,000. Mr Huang is said to have bought the meat in the north of Taiwan for the price of US\$ 5 per 600 g and was apparently reselling it for US\$ 8. In 2 days, he had offloaded 180 kg. Seal meat was also found in the freezer. Off North East of Taiwan there is a small population of fur seals

Seizure of 7.65 tons of dolphin meat (family *Delphinidae*, Appendix I or II)

Kaohsiung, Taiwan

January 11-12, 2014

The search of a frozen products company uncovered the existence of the trafficking. The meat had been bought from local fishermen. The seizure is equivalent to the poaching of about 150 dolphins. Since 1989, Taiwan law forbids the fishing and sale of all marine mammals species. The director of the company faces a maximum of 5 years in prison and/or a fine of 50,000 US\$.

August 20, 2015

Hong Kong, China

The "759 store" was selling whale meat imported from Japan as "Red whale meat". Of Icelandic or even Norwegian origin? Norwegian meat is considered toxic in Japan due to its excess levels of pesticides (see "On the Trail" n° 8 p. 7). Has it been destroyed or exported?

End December 2015

Zonguldak port, Black Sea Region, Turkey

Seizure of mammoth or elephant tusk sections, sperm whale teeth (*Physeter macrocephalus*, Appendix I) and walrus tusks (*Odobenus rosmarus*, Appendix III in Canada) from a truck unloaded from a Roll-on Roll-off ship coming from Ukraine. Arrest of 2 Ukrainian citizens.

EUROPE

Seizure of 250 sperm whale teeth

Real de Montroi, Valencia, Spain

July 2013

The Nature Protection Service of the Civil Guard had been worried about the sale of ivory over the Internet since June. 2 men, aged 48 and 73, had been questioned. They tried to sell 80 kg of ivory whale teeth. The price asked was 1,000 euro per kilo. The species has been registered under Appendix I of CITES since 1981. Japan, Norway, Iceland, and Palau entered a reservation. Spain was part of the cartel of whaling countries, which opposed, right up to the last minute, the suspension of commercial whaling at the International Whaling Commission. At the Castillejos whaling station, near the Ceuta port in the Spanish enclave in Morocco, whalers returned and butchered hundreds of harpooned sperm whales caught in the Mediterranean or in the Atlantic Ocean in a large area around the Canary Islands. During the last 10 years of commercial whaling 1975-1985 Spain officially caught 3,245 sperm whales, which adds up to a lot of teeth to be put on the market. Is the 73-year-old Spanish seller an heir to this era ?

Investigations opened following the sale of dolphin meat (family Delphinidae, Appendix II)

Rome and Civitavecchia, Italy

December 2013

So it was no joke. Rumors have been going around for several years. Dolphin meat would be sold in fine slices for a little less than € 1,000. Several restaurants serve it with onions, tomatoes and celery for € 100 a dish. The team of journalists from channel Uno filmed it all. Fishermen talk of dolphins who are caught unintentionally in the nets. Others say the nets are thrown on purpose into waters where dolphins have been spotted. It is forbidden to sell dolphin meat in Italy as in all of Europe. When there is dolphin by-catches, the fishermen chop the heads, cut up the animal and claim them to be sharks. It fools the Italian coastal guards with no difficulty.

Seizure of 3 kg of Northern Minke whale meat (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*, Appendix I with reserves of Norway, Palau, Iceland and Japan)

Berlin, Land of Berlin, Germany

January 22, 2014

The whale meat proposed at the Norwegian stand at the world's biggest food and agricultural fair "Green Week" in Berlin, which had more than 400,000 visitors. Alerted by the NGOs Meer eV and the Whale and Dolphin Conservation, customs seized 3 kg of meat. 4 kg had already been sold at a price of 2 US\$ per portion either smoked or marinated with blueberry jam. In complete bad faith, the stall's supervisor claimed to be surprised to learn that the sale of whale meat was not allowed in Germany and in the European Union. The merchandise had passed through customs with no problems. «We wanted to showcase Norway's variety.»

Seizure of 4 leopard skins (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I), one jaguar skull (*Panthera onca*, Appendix I), a sperm whale tooth (*Physeter macrocephalus*, Appendix I) and 2 stuffed snowy owls (*Bubo scandiacus*, Appendix II)

Burnley, England, United Kingdom

October 23, 2014

The arrest warrant led to a complete harvest from all horizons and all places, including the sea. A 23-year-old man is being questioned by inspectors from the National Wildlife Crime Unit. Where does it come from and what is it for?

Seizure of elephant, sperm whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*, Appendix I) and hippo (Hippopotamidae family) ivory

Netherlands

April 2015

During an antiques show in the "Utrecht Fair" exhibition center, 73 raw and carved ivory pieces were seized including more than a dozen elephant tusks. 3 traders, a German, a Belgian and a Scottish are involved. The Dutch Authority for food products and consumer safety mimics the Avignon Customs in France that regularly seize ivory during international fairs. In the Province of South Holland, 25 ivory objects including netsukes, were seized. They were offered for sale on the Internet.

Seizure of 33 skulls and bones including 5 cetaceans skulls (*Cetacea* spp., Appendix I or II), several wolf skulls (*Canis lupus*, Appendix II), a gorilla skull (*Gorilla* spp., Appendix I), a brown bear skull (*Ursus arctos*, Appendix I or II), a Malaysian bear skull (*Helarctos malayanus*, Appendix I), a rhino skull with horns, a narwhal tusk (*Monodon monoceros*, Appendix II), an elephant foot, a stuffed crocodile head (*Crocodylia* spp., Appendix I or II), and 7 hippopotamus teeth (Hippopotamidae family, Appendix II)

Zoersel, Flanders, Belgium

April 29, 2015

OPERATION COBRA III

May/June 2015

Participants : CITES, Interpol, UNODC (United Nation Office on Drugs and Crime), World Customs Organization. In the Netherlands, operation COBRA III claims the seizure of 16 whale ribs and the head of a rock monitor. "European Union remains a source, a destination and transit region for endangered species traffic."

April 27, 2016

Hampshire, England, United Kingdom

Seizure of a sperm whale tooth (*Physeter macrocephalus* Appendix I), a leopard skull, the skull of a large flying fox (*Pteropus vampyrus*, Appendix II), a caracal skull (*Caracal caracal*, Appendix I or II), and a pair of Dama gazelle horns (*Nanger dama*, Appendix I) being sold on the Internet. The 58-year-old man was interrogated and only reprimanded. Legal importation certificates validated other parts of protected animals.

SENTENCING

AMERICA

OPERATION LONGTOOTH

Conviction of a man fined US\$ 385,000 for trafficking 250 narwhal tusks (*Monodon monoceros*, Appendix II)

St. Stephen, Province of New Brunswick, Canada

October 2013

He made a total of US\$ 700,000 off the backs of narwhals, more precisely off narwhal tusks. Since 2003, he illegally exported and sold 250 tusks to 8 American clients in Maine and Hawaii. Gregory Logan used a trailer with a hidden compartment to tie tusks to the bottom and smuggle them across the border. The court of St. Stephen declared a US\$ 385,000 fine and 4 months of house arrest to the Canadian citizen who owns 2 houses, one in the Province of New Brunswick and the other in the Province of Alberta. His arrest took place thanks to the cooperation between the U.S. and Canadian services. Operation Longtooth, to date, failed to shed light on the complicity that allowed Logan to capture 250 narwhal tusks, marine mammals that only Inuit communities have the right to hunt to ensure their right to livelihood. The import of narwhal tusks is banned in the United States. The narwhal is an endangered species. Only male narwhals have this 'tusk', a left outer tooth that can reach up to 3 meters in length. Gender-targeted hunting is just another issue that affects the future of species.

Conviction for narwhal tusks trafficking (*Monodon monoceros*, Appendix II)

State of Maine, United States of America

January 2015

Zaruskas is unlucky, he did not know that the 33 narwhal tusks that he ordered from Canada between 2002 and 2008 were illegal and came from Inuit poachers. He thought he was just doing business, he was actually smuggling. His lawyer will appeal. Zaruskas already was granted concessions. For health reasons, his imprisonment has been postponed for 3 months. He also has to pay a fine of \$85,000 US.

Sentencing for the sale of Sei whale meat (*Balaenoptera borealis*, Appendix I)

State of California, United States of America

April 6, May 4 and 18, 2015

On the menu at The Hump, there was whale (see "On the Trail" n°4 p. 12 and n°6 p. 7). Under the Marine Mammal Act the parent company, Typhoon Restaurant, and general manager Brian Vidor were sentenced to jointly pay \$27,500 US in fines. The Santa Monica restaurant is closed. It is illegal to serve whale meat anywhere in the United States, whatever the species.

November 13, 2015

San Francisco, California, United States of America

54-year-old Michael Polenske, a well-known art and fine wine seller in Yountville, was sentenced to 3 years of probation, to 120 hours of public service and to a \$ 63,232 US fine for importing threatened species between 2007 and 2011. With the complicity of Hedley's Humpers (international logistics coordinator specialized in the transport of artworks), he imported to the United States sea turtle shells (*Cheloniidae* spp., Appendix I), whale and sperm whale vertebrates (*Physeter macrocephalus*, Appendix I), killer whale jaws (*Orcinus orca*, Appendix II), seal skulls and giant clam shells (*Tridacna gigas*, Appendix II) to the United States. He bought them in France and Belgium and imported them under the designation of wooden, plaster, or plastic oval and abstract sculptures or as garden decorations made of stone (see "On the Trail" n°8 p.10).

February 11, 2016

Montreal, Province of Quebec, Canada

The Montreal Auction House was sentenced to pay a fine of \$ 33,500 C (US\$ 25,710) for selling a narwhal tusk (*Monodon monoceros*, Appendix II) outside of the country, without an export permit between December 2010 and November 2013, several kitchen utensils made of ivory (worth \$ 45,000 C, or US\$ 34,536), a leopard fur coat (*Panthera pardus*, Appendix I), a lynx fur coat (*Lynx* spp., Appendix I or II), and a crocodile skin handbag (*Crocodylidae* spp., Appendix I or II).

OPERATION PONGO

April 27, 2016

Portland, State of Oregon, United States of America

Sentencing of 2 Malaysian citizens to 6 months in prison and US\$ 25,000 in fines for illegally importing orangutan skulls (*Pongo* spp., Appendix I), whale and dugong (*Dugong dugon*, Appendix I) bones, bear claws (*Ursidae* spp., Appendix I and II), and other endangered animal parts in the State of Oregon.

September 28, 2016

Bangor, State of Maine, United States of America

The retired officer of the Canadian Mounted Police had already been fined 385,000 dollars in Canada for illegally exporting 250 narwhal tusks to the United States (Cf. "On the Trail" n°3, p 4). Logan who was also a State of Maine resident was extradited to the United States in March 2016 and remanded in custody pending the issue of the trial. One of his accomplices, Andrew J. Zaruskas, who was involved in the arctic marine mammal tusk trade in the United States, has already been sentenced to a 33 months in jail.

July 2016

Honolulu, State of Hawaii, United States of America

Whale bones and walrus ivory: conviction of the director and 2 employees of Hawaiian Accessories as well as the owner of J.R. Wooden, a Philippines-based export company.

EUROPE

Conviction for the sale of protected species

Kingston upon Thames, Region of Great London, United Kingdom

January 24, 2014

He would sell the dismantled skeletons of sperm whales, dolphins and ivory on Ebay. His 2 shops on the net were called Arctic Antiques and Ice Antiques. His ivories were hidden under the code name "cattle bones"; he would personally carve the marine mammal teeth. All his collections have been seized and he has been

sentenced to a 1375 £ fine (2246 US\$), a mere slap on the hand for 12 indictments. However the World Society for the Protection of Animals shows hope in saying "We welcome the news of this successful prosecution and hope that this will encourage Londoners to report similar crimes involving endangered species to the Met's Wildlife Crime Unit." "On the Trail" has been following the adventures of Alick Edward Brown since the beginning of October 2013 (cf. "On the Trail" n°2 p. 76).

April 18, 2016

Thornaby, England, United Kingdom

Her bids were made on Ebay. Thanks to a search warrant, NWCU (National Wildlife Crime Unit) agents along with Cleveland police discovered, in the home of a 56-year-old woman, 2 sperm whale teeth (*Physeter macrocephalus*, Appendix I) and 2 carved elephant tusks which cannot be qualified as antiques. All the trophies have been handed over to the police for disposal.

ASIA

September 27, 2016

Metropolitan area of Daegu, South Korea

Sentencing of 2 masters, 30 fishermen and one delivery driver to 10 to 18 months in prison and to fines ranging from 1.5 to 5 million wons (\$ 1350 to 4500 US). The whaler pirates illegally captured 40 Minke whales (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*, Appendix I) from 2014 to August 2016 off North Gyeongsang Province (cf. "on the Trail" n°13 p. 12). On the illegal market, a Minke whale sells from 25 to 100 million wons (between \$ 22,500 and 90,000 US).

OCEANIA

November 18, 2015

Sydney, New South Wales, Australia

Australian court condemned Kyodo Senpaku Kaisha, owner of the whale factory-ship *Nisshin Maru*, to a fine of 1 million Australian dollars (US\$ 708,000) for having killed Antarctic Minke whales (*Balaenoptera bonaerensis*, Appendix I) in the Australian waters of the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary.

POACHING

Poaching of a bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*, Appendix II)

Gulf of Mexico, Alabama, USA

December 2014

The marine mammal was deeply hit with a yellow arrow. He survived it seems 5 days. He died of a generalized infection. Then his body was beached. The Gulf of Mexico, more known for its pollution and oil spills, is noticeable also for its dolphin killers. 17 dolphins found on the beaches were killed by gun or arrow between 2002 and 2014. The rate with which they are being killed has been going up for the last 4 years. A month ago a mother dolphin who would have given birth a few days later was found dead on a Florida beach. The Marine Mammal Act since 1972 forbids harming wild marine mammals, killing them, transporting them or feeding them.

May 13th 2016

Okaloosa Island, State of Florida, United States of America

Another big saddle-backed dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*, Appendix II) killed by bullets washed ashore on a beach in the Gulf of Mexico. The phenomenon worsens. Hotline: 18008531964.

THEFTS

AMERICA

Teeth stolen from the corpse of a killer whale (*Orcinus orca*, Appendix II)

Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada

December 6, 2014

Extraction of the teeth from the killer whale brought back to the beach in waiting an autopsy was felt as a profanation by public opinion and public authorities as trafficking in dismembered animal skeletons is branching off worldwide and as killer whale teeth are sold on internet. The operation took place at night.

EUROPE

Theft of a rhinoceros horn, a narwhal tusk (*Monodon monoceros*, Appendix II) and elephant ivory

Calci, Tuscany Region, Italy

March 6, 2015

A 17th century rhinoceros horn 60 cm long and weighing around 3.5 kg exhibited in the historical gallery of the Museum of Natural History was stolen the night of March 6. It is worth between € 20,000 and € 30,000. The police are following the trail of the collectors, and of the Asian market. A narwhal tusk was also stolen at the same time. La Certosa di Pisa ("Charterhouse of Pisa" in English) is an old Carthusian monastery. The building has been home to the Museum of Natural History since 2013.

September 21, 2015

Skogar, Rangárping eystra Municipality, Southern Region, Iceland

Discovery of an adult sperm whale carcass (*Physeter macrocephalus*, Appendix I) length of 10 to 12 m. A few hours later, the lower jaw with more than 40 ivory teeth was missing. The waterfront farmer allegedly removed it in accordance with Icelandic customs. "Hvalreki" (beached whale) still stands today in Iceland for "good fortune". In 2012, another sperm whale beaching was followed by amputation of her ivory filled jaw by an unidentified poacher. Between 1990 and 2011, 132 sperm whale beachings were recorded on UK coasts. A whale was recently beached on the south of the island of Taiwan: the autopsy found a heap of plastic bags and fishing nets in her stomach.

January 2016

Skegness and Gibraltar Point, County of Lincolnshire, England, United Kingdom

Stranding of 3 sperm whales (*Physeter macrocephalus*, Appendix I). Thefts of marine ivory are increasing in Canada (cf. "On The Trail" n°7 p. 7), Iceland (cf. "On The Trail" n°10 p. 9) and in England today. Sperm whale teeth were also reportedly stolen on beaches in Germany.

TRADE AND TRANSPORT

Trade of 4,250kg of Minke whale products (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*, Appendix I except the population of West Greenland, which is included in Appendix II)

Norway-Japan

April 12, 2013

On April 12, a sea shipment of 4 tons of whale meat arrived in Japan from Norway where Minke whale hunting is carried out. It was addressed to Toshi International by Mykebust Trading. In Japan, it appears that whale meat is also sold as dog food for wealthy families. Japan and Norway made a reservation to the Appendix I listing and authorized themselves bilateral trade without consideration for the laws of transit States.

Transport of 2000 t of fin whale meat (*Balaenoptera physalus*, Appendix I with a reservation from Iceland and Japan) Port of Hafnarfjordur, Capital Region, Iceland

March 31, 2014

At the end of March, the *Alma* loaded 2000 t of whale meat in Hafnarfjordur in Iceland. Mid April, *Alma*, under Cyprus flag, Ukrainian ship-owner (based in Crimea), had been forbidden to enter the Durban port, South

Africa, where it intended to fill its fuel tanks to continue the trip until Tokyo. Between 2008 and 2012, Iceland has exported 1600 t of whale meat and whale products to Japan. In 2011 and 2012, the subarctic island candidate for the integration into the European Union, had suspended its hunting activities, the openly commercial hunt, without the scientific alibi. Iceland entered a reservation to the listing of the fin whale to Appendix I of the CITES Convention. Iceland risks diplomatic troubles and logistic complications in selling whale meat to Japan, its partner that doesn't either acknowledge the prohibition of international trade of fin whale products. Iceland has just announced reopening the hunt with a global quota of 770 individuals between 2014 and 2018. This also exposes them to commercial retentions on behalf of the United States. The American administration considers that Iceland's whaling polity undermines the efforts of the International Whaling Commission and compromises the recovering of whale populations. In February 10 containers of fin whale meat had crossed Canada. Arriving in an Atlantic port, they had been sent to Halifax before being loaded again on an unknown container ship on its way to Japan. Canada said that it had no judicial means to prevent this transit and tests were run to verify that it was effectively fin whale meat.

Delivery of 2100 t of fin whale meat (*Balaenoptera physalus*, Appendix I with reservations from Iceland and Japan) Port of Osaka, Osaka Prefecture, Japan

May 7, 2014

2100 t of fin whale meat loaded on the *Alma* at the Icelandic port of Hafnarfjordur at the end of March (see "On the Trail" 4 p. 13) arrived in Osaka. On June 17, the whale hunters of the Hvalur H/F Company hunted and killed 19 fin whales in a week according to EIA (Environmental Investigation Agency). Since 2006, Iceland has exported more than 5,400 t of meat to Japan and killed a thousand whales. The International Whaling Commission did not validate these self-allocated quotas. The next commission meeting will be held in September 2014 in Portoroz, Slovenia. Like Iceland, Norway has difficulty selling their stock of whale meat in the domestic market and would like to export it to Japan. According to Frank A. Jenssen, a specialized journalist, "in about 10 to 15 years, there may be no whalers left in Norway, and it would be a tragedy." For others, this would be good news.

Japanese Ministry of Health regards whale meat from Norway as a toxic waste

Japan

March 11, 2015

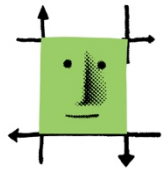
Japan is uncompromising about the percentage of pesticides in whale meat. However, it is less strict about the level of cesium137 and other radionuclides from the Fukushima disaster. The Japanese Minister of Health announces that the meat imported from Norway has been "thrown out". It had 0.2 parts per million (PPM) of aldrin and dieldrin, above the tolerated levels of 0.1 and 0.05.

1700 t of whale meat from Iceland boarded to be sent to Japan (Minke whale *Balaenoptera acutorostrata*, Appendix I or Fin whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*, Appendix I)

Iceland - Japan

May 2015

Japanese researchers' discovery is an important one. Eating whale meat would possibly help treat senile dementia and Alzheimer disease. A new rumor that has a strong impact in a country where 25% of the population is above 65 years old. The meat left the island several days late on schedule apparently due to mechanical problems on the reefer *Winter Bay* deflagged to Saint-Kitts-and-Nevis recently and scandalously belonging to a European owner.



ROBIN DES BOIS

Europe mixed up in the traffic of whale meat

Press release. June 19, 2015

The *Winter Bay* left Iceland on June 4 with a little less than 2000 tons of whale meat in destination to Japan. Iceland is with Norway the only country next to the European Union authorizing whaling. The European Directive on the conservation of natural habitats and wild fauna and flora stipulates that Member States should prohibit the transport of specimens of all cetacean species living or dead or of byproducts. In fact, the *Winter Bay* came to be sold by its Norwegian ship-owner to a Latvian ship-owner, Aquaship Ltd. based in Riga. Latvia is a member of the European Union since 2004. "It is the first time that a European ship owner is directly and voluntarily involved in the traffic of whale meat since the implementation of the Directive. We have informed the European commissioners for transport and for the environment," declares the NGO Robin des Bois. The *Winter Bay* to this day is docked in Tromsø in Norway for reasons that are not known.

Winter Bay, ex-Nordvaer, ex-Victoriahamn. IMO 8601680. Palletised cargo reefer. Length 79,90 m. St. Kitts and Nevis flag. Classification society Det Norske Veritas. Built in 1986 in Rissa (Norway) by Fosen MV. Sold in May 2014 by her Norwegian owner Nor Lines Rederi AS to British Virgin Islands based Dalriada Tortola, a shell-company for the Latvian Aquaship Ltd. In the wake, she was deflagged from Faroe Islands to St. Kitts and Nevis.

September 9, 2016

Osaka, Osaka Prefecture, Japon

Arrival from Iceland of 1800 tons of whale meat (*Balaenoptera physalus*, Appendix I) transported on the *Winter Bay* through the Russian-controlled North-East passage. In 8 years, 9000 tons of meat from whales listed in appendix I of CITES have been exported towards Japan by Iceland and Norway. Appendix I prohibits the international trade of animals under its supervision. Iceland, Norway and Japan couldn't care less about this international regulation. A precedent inspiring Southern African countries and again Japan about elephant ivory. *Winter Bay* is owned by Dalriada Ltd, now based in Tallinn, Estonia, European Union.

To download "On the Trail":

<http://www.robindesbois.org/en/category/balilage/faune/pillage-et-commerce/>

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"On the Trail" is carried out by Robin des Bois (Robin Hood) with the support of :

