

Campaign Chile 2008 a Whale Sanctuary Press Release

President Bachelet Announced the Creation of a Whale Sanctuary in Chile

The proposal, promoted by Centro de Conservación Cetacea, Centro Ecoceanos and the National Confederation of Artisan Fishers (CONAPACH), will become the greatest marine environmental legacy of President Bachelet.



La Presidenta de la República, Michelle Bachelet, en su cuenta anual a la Nación, anunció que "enviará un proyecto de Ley a que declare a Chile territorio libre de caza de cetáceos".

Santiago, 21 may, 2008 (CCC News) - With the unanimous ovation of the Chilean Congress President Bachelet announced during her annual account to the country that she will send a project of Law to the Parliament to ban all whaling activities in Chilean jurisdictional waters.

This is the first time in the history of the Chile that a president addresses the conservation of cetaceans during its annual account to the country. Artisan fishers and NGOs celebrated the announcement as a triumph of the civil organizations and institutions that have promoted the Whale Sanctuary in Chile.

The promoters of the Sanctuary, Centro de Conservación Cetacea (CCC), Centro Ecoceanos and the National Confederation of Artisan Fishers (CONAPACH), valued the fact that president Bachelet is complying with the commitment she made to them last April during a formal meeting and declared that "today, the president has ratified her commitment, giving priority to the only cetacean conservation proposal that covers all Chilean jurisdictional waters and has the support of all Chilean of society."

Cosme Caracciolo, executive director of CONAPACH, affirmed, "a marine territory free of whaling is a Whaling Sanctuary and that is why we agree with the presidential announcement." Caracciolo added that for centuries artisan fishers had share the ocean with whales and that "this why we support the decision to definitively ban whaling operations in Chile."

Juan Carlos Cardenas, executive director of Centro Ecoceanos, declared that "this is a citizen proposal that has been characterized for having major support and that has successfully united all sectors of the society. Today president Bachelet has chosen this proposal. As a result, the Chilean public, the image of the country, our marine ecosystems and the people has succeeded".

Barbara Galletti, president of CCC affirmed that "the announcement of president Bachelet is a public triumph on how, as an independent and sovereign country, we want to protect and use the cetacean populations that live in our waters."

The Road to a Whale Sanctuary in Chile

The campaign “Chile 2008, a Whale Sanctuary” promoted by Conapach, CCC and Ecoceanos, began last October with a presentation to the Environmental Commission of the Chilean Senate and since then it has not stopped. On December 03, these organizations, joined by several senators and deputies delivered a letter signed by nearly 100 national and international NGOs, requesting president Bachelet to establish a Whale Sanctuary before the 60th annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission in Chile (June 2008). Afterwards the Deputy Chamber of the Congress unanimously adopted a project of agreement to create the Whale Sanctuary and the Chilean Navy, through Directemar, gave its support too. Finally, all major Chilean NGOs publicly expressed their support to the Sanctuary through an open letter published by the national newspaper La Tercera on March 31.



“Santu”, el símbolo de la campaña Chile 2008, Santuario de Ballenas, durante su última visita al Palacio de la Moneda el pasado 08 de abril.

The public support necessary to validate the proposal came last april, when CCC presented the results of a nationwide survey commissioned to the Chilean survey agency ADIMARK-GFK, with the support of Global Ocean, that demonstrated that 99% of the Chilean public wants to ban whaling operations definitively and that 97% of the people supports the establishment of the Whale Sanctuary.

On april 08, CCC, Ecoceanos and Conapach, joined by senator Juan Pablo Letelier, met with president Bachelet and obtained her commitment to give high priority to the adoption of a national law for the protection of cetaceans. In that opportunity, Bachelet mandated the Ministry of Environment, Ana Lya Uriarte, to give urgency to the implementation of this proposal.

Recently, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs ratified its support to the proposal through his IWC Commissioner, Ambassador Christian Maquieira.

The Project of law oriented to Project cetacean species in Chile jurisdictional waters has been a cooperative work conducted between the proponents and competent authorities in order to agree a text that fully represent the will of the Chilean people regarding cetacean conservation.

In this context, the working group will meet next week in order to review the final text before sending it to the parliament. According to the vice president of the Chilean Senate, Baldo Prokurica, the process will be conducted expeditiously. Through this process it is expected that Chile will have a Law for the protection of cetaceans in Chile before the IWC in Chile next June.

Chile, Leadership in Conservation for IWC60

The announcement of the Sanctuary was joined with a strong message against scientific whaling. President Bachelet affirmed that “Chile will oppose any capture and death of whales with scientific purposes during the next meeting of the International Whaling Commission.” The statement is a clear message for the nations that continue to hunt whales despite the moratorium.

It also constitutes a public triumph in an issue that is extremely sensitive among Chilean people. Elsa Cabrera, executive director of CCC stated that “president Bachelet sent a forceful message to the international community regarding the absolute support of the country to the non lethal



El 08 de abril, representantes de CCC, Ecoceanos y Conapach se reunieron con la Presidenta Michelle Bachelet para solicitar formalmente un Santuario de Ballenas para Chile.

use of the cetaceans and the total opposition to the whaling activities carried out by Japan in the Southern Ocean. The position announced by the government, just before the annual meeting of the IWC in Santiago, confirms the leadership the country will have to consolidate the sovereign right of using whales by non lethal means as part of the modernization process of the IWC.”

Fuente: www.ccc-chile.org, www.ecoceanos.cl

CAMPAIGN "CHILE 2008, A WHALE SANCTUARY"

DEAR FRIENDS, SORRY FOR THE DELAY IN SENDING THIS MESSAGE. WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OF YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN THE CAMPAIGN CHILE 2008, A WHALE SANCTUARY. CERTAINLY THIS IS AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT CAN BE DONE TOGETHER FOR THE PROTECTION OF WHALES. ABRAZOS AND WE WILL KEEP YOU UPDTAED ABOUT THE PROCESS IN THE CONGRESS

After eight months of campaign, President Bachelet Signed Project of Law to Create a Whale Sanctuary in Chile

Santiago de Chile, June 30, 2008 (CCC News) – Last week, at the former whaling station of Quintay, President Bachelet fulfill her commitment with the protection of whales after eight months of campaign by the Chilean non-governmental organizations Centro de Conservacion Cetacea, Centro Ecoceanos and the National Confederation of Artisan Fishers (CONAPACH).

During the ceremony, President Bachelet signed two decrees and one Project of Law oriented to protect all cetacean species from any whaling activity in Chile Economic Exclusive Zone (EEZ) and set the basis for a marine conservation policy in the country. The first decree indefinitely extends the current moratorium on whaling activities (that applied only until the year 2025) and the second decree declares all cetacean species as Natural Monument (meaning that they cannot be captured in Chile EEZ).

Additionally, the project of law protects all cetacean species from any type of captures and introduces modifications to the General Fishing Law, in order to “comply with international obligations and strengthen the non lethal use of cetaceans”.

The project of law entered the Congress last Friday, via the deputy chamber, and should be approved soon.

For Elsa Cabrera, executive director of CCC “this is the most important achievement of President Bachelet in environmental issues and it represents the will of Chilean public regarding whale conservation. We value this decision as the first step to consolidate a marine conservation in Chile.”

Juan Carlos Cardenas, from Centro Ecoceanos stated that “this is a powerful signal of Chile to the international community, especially to Japan. Passing this law during the first day of the IWC in Santiago is a strong message of our opposition to commercial and scientific whaling in the southern hemisphere.”

Cardenas added that “this initiative has the highest level of consensus in all sectors of the Chilean society (governmental and non-governmental) and it is the first step to develop a national policy on marine conservation in Chile. With this measure, we have demonstrated that the pressure generated by informed and organized citizens, artisan fishers and the national and international NGO community, can make governments move towards the defense of the marine biodiversity and the non lethal use of cetaceans, as part of the modernization process of the IWC.”

Steps Taken Towards the Whale Sanctuary in Chile

The campaign “Chile 2008, Whale Sanctuary” was launched on October 2007 by CONAPACH, Centro Ecoceanos and Centro de Conservacion Cetacea (CCC), with the support of more than a dozen of Latin American NGOs, during a presentation at the Environmental Commission of the Chilean Senate.

On December 03, the proponents gave a letter to President Bachelet requesting the creation of the Whale Sanctuary that had the support of 100 NGOs from Latin America, North America, Europe and Oceania.

A week later the Deputy Chamber of the Chilean Congress adopted by consensus a Project of Agreement requesting the creation of a Whale Sanctuary in Chilean jurisdictional waters and the Navy expressed its public support to this initiative.

In early 2008, Chilean NGOs related to marine conservation, signed a public letter requesting President Bachelet to create the Whale Sanctuary that was published in La Tercera newspaper.

In March 2008, CCC presented the results of a national poll survey to know the support of the Chilean people towards the Whale Sanctuary proposal. The survey results, made by the prestigious agency ADIMARK-GfK with the sponsor of Global Ocean, were historical and unprecedented: 99% of people supported the establishment of laws to protect cetaceans from whaling and 97% supported the creation of a Whale Sanctuary in Chile. The poll survey was the key element to validate the proposal at a national level.

In April 2008, representatives from CCC, Ecoceanos, CONAPACH and Senator Juan Pablo Letelier, met President Bachelet to request the Whale Sanctuary and give the results of the national poll survey. On that occasion, President Bachelet committed to give high priority to the project of law.

In May, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through its Environmental Office, informed that they supported the Whale Sanctuary proposal.

On May 21st, President Michelle Bachelet announced to the country that Chile will soon become a whaling free country. This was the first time a president speaks on behalf of whale protection during their annual account to the country.

On June 2008, the Under Secretariat of Marine, informed in an interview with Associated Press that they also supported the Whale Sanctuary proposal.

Finally, on June 23, President Bachelet signed the decrees and the project of law that bans all whaling activities in Chile EEZ and sets the basis for a marine conservation policy in the country.

This week the project of Law entered the congress and should be adopted soon by the legislative body.

Source: Centro de Conservación Cetacea, Ecocéanos.

Campaign “Chile 2008, Whale Sanctuary”

04/08/08 President Bachelet Gives her Support to the Whale Sanctuary

The president of Chile, Michelle Bachelet, held a formal meeting with representatives of Centro de Conservacion Cetacea, Centro Ecoceanos, Conapach, Fundacion Pumalin and Senator Juan Pablo Letelier to address the Whale Sanctuary proposal.



From left to right: Ministry of the Environment, Ana Lya Uriarte; Zoila Bustamante y Cosme Caracciolo (Conapach); Bárbara Galletti (CCC); President of Chile, Michelle Bachelet; Juan Carlos Cárdenas (Ecoceanos), Senator Juan Pablo Letelier; Carolina Morgado (Fundacion Pumalin); and Jorge White (Conapach).

Santiago de Chile, April 08, 2008. (Ecoceanos News)— The President of the Republic of Chile, Michelle Bachelet, expressed her approval and support to representatives of the artisan fishery and Chilean NGOs that have been promoting the creation of a whale sanctuary in Chilean jurisdictional waters before the annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission that will be conducted in Santiago de Chile next June.

During the meeting, President Bachelet stated that she will send as soon as possible a project of Law to create the Whale Sanctuary.

Then information was given by representatives of the Chilean NGOs in charge of promoting this proposal: Centro de Conservacion Cetacea (CCC), Centro Ecoceanos

and the National Confederation of Artisan Fishers of Chile (CONAPACH), who were accompanied in the meeting with Bachelet by Senator Juan Pablo Letelier and Carolina Morgado from Fundacion Pumalin.

After the meeting held in the Blue Room of the Presidential Palace of La Moneda, Barbara Galletti (president of CCC) stated that “we are extremely happy with the support expressed by President Bachelet regarding her interest in developing non lethal use alternatives related to cetaceans that will benefit the economies of our coastal communities”.

Galletti added that “the Sanctuary proposal has a wide support of the Chilean Congress, the Chilean people and more than 120 NGOs from Chile and abroad, so we are very confident it will be created soon”.

Juan Carlos Cardenas, executive director of Centro Ecoceanos, affirmed that “we value that President Bachelet committed herself in giving maximum priority to the proposal to establish a whale sanctuary in Chilean jurisdictional waters before the IWC meeting in Santiago next June”.

“President Bachelet agreed that there is no other issue in the country that generates such consensus in all the Chilean society than whale protection” Cardenas added.

Zoila Bustamante, president of CONAPACH stated that “the position of the artisan fishers of Chile is completely in favor of the establishment of a whale sanctuary, because it will mean we will have new alternatives for generating incomes for our fellow fishermen”.

During the meeting, the Chilean NGOs and CONAPACH handed a poster of a blue whale as a gift to president Bachelet. Bustamante declared to the president that “we bring you this gift of a blue whale that lives in the same areas where the artisan fishery works and we have never had any problem with them”.

Regarding other marine conservation initiatives, such as marine protected areas, Senator Letelier stated that “the sanctuary will be the foundation to support other proposals” and will allow to build a positive development of the artisan fishers community. “This is why is so important to have the support of the artisan fishers of Chile”, concluded Letelier.

The Ministry of the Environment of Chile, Ana Lya Uriarte, affirmed that the conversation with President Bachelet leaves everybody pleased because is a signal to “continue working together in concrete initiatives towards the next IWC meeting in Chile”.

Fuente: Centro Ecoceanos, CCC

Press Release Centro de Conservacion Cetacea – Centro Ecoceanos – CONAPACH

Campaign “Chile 2008, Whale Sanctuary”

Strong Message of Chile to Their President: We Want a Whale Sanctuary Now

The phrase was repeated last Friday during the presentation of the results of the national survey requested by Centro de Conservacion Cetacea to the poll agency Adimark-Gfk in order to know the support of the Chilean public regarding the creation of a Whale Sanctuary in Chile.



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Senator Juan Pablo Letelier, Roberto Mendez (CEO Adimark-Gfk) and Barbara Galletti (president of CCC) during the press conference made to present the historical and unprecedented results of the national survey on whale conservation.

Santiago, April 14, 2008 (CCC News) – A great media impact was generated by the results of the national survey requested by Centro de Conservacion Cetacea (CCC) to the poll agency Adimark-Gfk, in order to know the opinion of the Chilean people regarding the conservation of cetacean species in national waters and the creation of a National Whale Sanctuary.

The survey was conducted thanks to the support of Global Ocean in January 2008. It included 1283 people from all the major cities in Chile and the results were unprecedented and historical: 99% of the Chilean people consider that is fundamental that Chile creates laws oriented to protect whales from any type of whaling and 97% agree that Chile should establish a National Whale Sanctuary in Chilean jurisdictional waters. Also, 82% considers that the creation of the sanctuary will be a heritage of the government of President Bachelet to the future generations.

During a press conference conducted on April 11 in the former Congress Palace in Santiago de Chile, Barbara Galletti (CCC), Roberto Mendez (Adimark-Gfk) and Juan Carlos Cardenas (Ecoceanos), accompanied by Chilean senators Baldo Prokurika (RN) and Juan Pablo Letelier (PS), agreed that the results clearly show that this is an issue of national interest and that President Michelle Bachelet has to attend the will of its people.

Senator Baldo Prokurika (Renovacion Nacional) stated that “there are few causes that have so many Chileans in agreement. As vice president of the Chilean Senate, I want to express all our support to transform Chile into a country that leads these issues”. Prokurika also committed himself to “expeditiously adopt a project of law to create a National Whale Sanctuary”.



© Centro de Conservacion Cetacea
As Vice president of the Chilean Senate, Senator Baldo Prokurika (RN) committed himself to “expeditiously adopt a project of law to create a National Whale Sanctuary in Chilean jurisdictional waters”.

Senator Juan Pablo Letelier (Socialist Party) “congratulated the efforts made by the proponents of the sanctuary, who have been many years promoting this initiative and today, through this survey have been able to put on the table the issue and showed us that we have a task to do”.

Letelier added that “we would like to give a signal before the 60th annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) in June (...) because we understand that this is a very important act of sovereignty”. Letelier also highlighted the importance of protecting Antarctic krill in the southern ocean since it is the main food source of whales.

Juan Carlos Cardenas, executive director of Centro Ecoceanos, called president Bachelet to announce the creation of the National Whale Sanctuary on the 21st of May, when she makes the annual account of her government to the Chilean people in the National Congress. Cardenas stated that “the strong results shown in the survey gives her the necessary political and social support to announce it as soon as possible”.

“With this sign, Chile will help strengthen a pro-conservation position of regional countries during the IWC meeting in Santiago, against the pressure made by Japan, the only country that kill whales in the southern hemisphere (...) the issue of sovereignty and national unity are two basic elements that support the sovereign position of the Chilean government regarding whale conservation” Cardenas added.

Cardenas also called the attention about the fact that “99% of the people surveyed stated that the government should actively work in effectively regulating the Antarctic krill fishery, since the Southern Ocean is the main area of expansion of foreign fishing fleets and krill is the main food source of the whale species that will be protected in national waters”.

Roberto Mendez, CEO of Adimark-Gfk declared that “the strength of the public opinion is more than enough for the president, the congress and the senate to listen and act accordingly. Not doing so would be a lack of respect to the Chilean people. The unanimity seen in this survey is an opportunity to take action right away”.

Finally. Barbara Galletti, president of Centro de Conservacion Cetacea stated that “the national whale sanctuary represents the evolution of the country towards a more modern and sustainable development. One that includes the responsible and non extractive use of these marine mammals. The survey clearly shows that Chilean people have move forward in this issue and now it is up to the executive and legislative branch to respond to this national request and demonstrate that they are at the stature of their citizens”.

Fuente: Centro de Conservación Cetacea www.ccc-chile.org