

## Return of Fin Whaling and Decline in Minke Whaling: Updating Situations and Problems of Commercial Whaling in Iceland

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Two types of commercial whaling are conducted in the Icelandic waters. One is fin whaling; the other is minke whaling. As of July 28, 2018, a total of 57 fin whales and 6 minke whales have been landed in Iceland. After a two-year hiatus, fin whaling resumed this year. Since the first week of June, fin whaling has gone smoothly, and on average one whale has been harvested per day. In December 2017, the Japanese Health, Labour and Welfare Ministry simplified the inspection procedure for PCBs contained in fin whale meat imported from Iceland. This deregulation serves as a tailwind for the Icelandic fin whaling industry, since almost all the fin whale meat processed in Iceland is exported to Japan. Conversely, minke whaling ceased in the first week of July owing to the difficulties caused by the enlargement of the no-whaling (or whale watching) zone in Faxaflói Bay, near the capital city of Reykjavík. In November 2017, a day before leaving the position, the former Icelandic Fishery Minister enlarged the no-whaling zone. Therefore, minke whaling boats need to go much farther than they did before, which increases costs. In this presentation, I will report the update and problems in commercial whaling in Iceland.