



**IWMC**  
World Conservation Trust

3, Passage Montriond  
1006 Lausanne, Switzerland  
Tel/Fax: +41(21) 616-5000

1470 Heather Ridge Blvd, Unit 104  
Dunedin, Florida 34698, USA  
Tel/Fax: +1(727) 734-4949

Email: [iwmc@iwmc.org](mailto:iwmc@iwmc.org)  
[www.iwmc.org](http://www.iwmc.org)

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Defeat of so-called Sanctuary Welcomed

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*Portoroz, Slovenia 25 October 2016.* IWMC World Conservation Trust, the premier advocate for the sustainable use of wildlife, welcomed today's decision by the International Whaling Commission (IWC) to reject establishing a so-called whale sanctuary in the South Atlantic.

The so-called sanctuary was proposed by a collection of nations that oppose all whaling irrespective of the abundance of stocks. Contrary to claims made by Australia, the proposal was not endorsed by the Scientific Committee of the IWC or all range states.

Eugene Lapointe, President of IWMC World Conservation Trust, said: "This proposal has now been rejected by the IWC for the last 15 years because it has no scientific basis. The IWC is obliged to make decisions based on science, not emotions. If it had passed, it would have undermined the decision-making process and credibility of the organization."

The proposal failed to get the required three-quarter majority.

The proponents are free to introduce a range of conservation measures in their Exclusive Economic Zones, which extend 200 miles from their coastlines. Whaling does not take place in the area that was the subject of the proposal.

— 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.

For more information and interviews, please contact  
Eugene Lapointe, Grand Bernardin Hotel 00386 5695 1000, Room 923  
Swiss Cellular 079 327-3034  
Email: [iwmc@iwmc.org](mailto:iwmc@iwmc.org)  
[www.iwmc.org](http://www.iwmc.org)

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