

Eight Species on Endangered List

Hickel Bans Importing of Whale Products

Washington

Interior Secretary Walter J. Hickel, ignoring industry protests, has banned U.S. imports of whale products to help prevent extinction of the world's largest creature.

Hickel also has called upon other nations and the international whaling commission to develop more effective means of protecting whales, used mostly to eat food and as an oil base for numerous products such as soap, margarine, beauty creams and transmission fluid.

"I take this action because I feel it necessary to influence the whaling nations to review their outlook, rebuild whale breeding stocks, and institute effective international control to save this priceless resource," Hickel said. "We are not going to wait until all these species are on the brink of extinction before we take positive action."

BANNED

The interior secretary banned the importation of virtually all whale products by placing eight species on the endangered species list in what he termed "a first step

Smoky Exhausts Are Illegal Again

Los Angeles

Air pollution control district officers were empowered yesterday to cite drivers of cars whose exhausts smoke excessively.

The authority of the officers to write citations was canceled by a bill passed in 1969 but restored during the last legislative session by a

measure which took effect yesterday.

Some 35,000 citations were issued from May, 1955, to August, 1969.

The smog patrol will cite violators into court, where they will be subject to maximum penalties of a \$400 fine and-or six months in jail.

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in preventing their worldwide extinction."

No animal or product of an animal on the endangered list may be imported or exported except under special permit.

The United States has virtually no whaling industry left, but it imports about 30 per cent of the world whale products, mostly from Japan and Peru. The Soviet Union also is a major whaling nation.

The species placed on the

endangered list include the fin, sei and sperm whales, the only types extensively hunted by commercial whalers. The rarer bowhead, blue, humpback, right and gray whales also were put on the list.

SPECIES

The blue whale is the world's largest creature, reaching beyond 100 feet in length and up to 150 tons in weight.

"The decision will be con-

troversial because certain interests have urged that we hold off listing the fin, sei and sperm whales until it is fully proven that they are on the verge of extinction," Hickel said. "But it is the clear intent of the endangered species conservation act, which took effect June 3, 1970, that we prevent conditions that lead to extinction."

"It is also clear that if the present rate of commercial exploitation continues unchecked, these three species will become as rare as the other five," he added.

"Whales are the largest, the most exciting and among the most intelligent of the creatures of the sea," Hickel said. "They are a wonderful heritage and we must not exterminate them."

"Yet we humans threaten to do just that — hunting them with radar and helicopters, using factory ships that can dispose of an 80-ton carcass in 30 minutes," he said.

"No animal can survive that kind of technology," Hickel said.

He said whales have become so rare compared with

30 years ago at the peak of whaling that "there is reason to doubt that enough males and females will find each other in the great oceans to keep the species alive."

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