

To the Editor:

Your January 3rd editorial on whaling overlooks several critical facts.

Your editorial underplays our commitment to the conservation of marine living resources. You correctly write that Japan will limit whaling to its coastal waters, but fail to note that Japan will set catch limits at a level which does not negatively affect the sustainability of target species, using the method established by the International Whaling Commission. Japan also prohibits catching at-risk species.

Japan has never “been a renegade member” of the IWC. Since its creation in 1946, the IWC has allowed whaling for research purposes. Also, Japan has observed the 1986 moratorium on commercial whaling - obliged to be revisited by 1990 but in reality not -.

Cultural diversity with mutual respect is a globally-recognized value. Japanese whaling tradition – not dying as you misdirect it – deserves your due respect.

Sincerely,

Akira Chiba
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The writer is consul general of Japan in Los Angeles