

ABSTRACT

Legal Aspects of National and International North Sea Conservation of Cetaceans

Presented diploma thesis focuses on the protection and conservation of cetaceans in the North Sea. The main goal of this paper is to determine how law contributes to the protection of these creatures, to name the most important instruments that help to protect cetaceans at international, regional, subregional and national levels. For protection of cetaceans it is also necessary to identify the natural way of life and behavior of these animals and to learn more about the dangers they face and how they can be prevented.

The thesis is divided into six parts. The first two parts are devoted to introduction to general biological and factual context of the protection of cetaceans and recapitulate the historical process of whaling and the dawn of their protection. The third chapter briefly summarizes legal regime of the sea and regime of living marine resources that is decisive for their protection and describes an international background of the marine biodiversity protection. Though my thesis is focused on the preservation of cetaceans of the North Sea, the core instruments of their protection are nowadays two global international contracts, the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling and Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. They constitute a background for whaling and international trade with specimen of cetaceans. Together with a case of protection of cetaceans at the International Court of Justice the fourth part is dedicated to the protection of cetaceans at a global level. The fifth chapter deals with the protection of cetaceans of the North Sea at the subregional and national levels, specifically under the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas, in the EU and in Norway, one of the few countries of the world where whaling has officially been conducted. Norwegian arguments for whaling are reasonable in many ways and they certainly are not without interest. The sixth part describes an attitude to whaling of the Czech Republic that represents an inland promoting a strict protection of cetaceans and a ban on whaling. The work complements the conclusion that summarizes the paper and indicates possibilities for further development in this area.