

Please personalize your letter by including your own comments.

“Politeness if Powerful” ~ Peggy Oki, cetaceans.org / Origami Whales Project.

We encourage you to be polite and respectful.

Please send one email or letter to MAST Minister Bjarkey Olsen Gunnarsdóttir
bjarkey.olsen.gunnarsdottir@mar.is

Dear Minister Bjarkey Olsen Gunnarsdóttir,

I am writing regarding the recent decision to grant Hvalur hf a license to hunt up to 128 Fin whales. While I understand that this number is lower than in previous years and that the license term is significantly shorter than the 5- or 10-year periods applied for and acknowledge quotas divided into regions, plus the length of time required to deliberate all of the scientific reports thoroughly. I remain deeply concerned about the implications of this decision.

I appreciate your statement acknowledging that this decision does not align with your personal values but that you are bound by Iceland's constitution. In your announcement, you added, “The change in the law must go through the parliament; it’s not my personal decision.”

The findings of a 2022 MAST report are particularly disturbing, revealing that 41 percent of the whales killed by Hvalur hf, Iceland's last whaling company, suffered immensely before dying. Despite introducing stricter regulations, the first whaling tour of the 2023 season saw two out of three Fin whales hunted in clear violation of Article 5 of the regulations and Iceland's Animal Welfare Act.

Kristján Loftsson, the last whaler, has claimed that the delay in granting the permit has made it too late to prepare for this hunting season. However, should Hvalur hf proceed with whale hunting this season, I urge you to remain vigilant and to consider suspending this permit if sufficient evidence of violations, as noted above, is found.

It has been proven that there is no humane way to kill Fin whales, the second largest animal on the planet. I fully support a permanent ban on whaling in Iceland and urge you to support a future for Iceland without whaling.

Sincerely,

[Insert your name and country]