

# OBJECTING TO BIG SHOTS

The International Whaling Commission (IWC) is calling for the oil and gas industry to reduce the impact of seismic air guns on marine species. The IWC claims that the guns which are used for energy exploration create noise loud enough to cross the ocean. The Commission claims that the guns are a possible threat to whales, dolphin, and squid as well as other ocean species.

Seismic guns are used to map the possible sites of oil and gas deposits in the Gulf of Mexico, the North Sea, and the Australian Continental Shelf. Research



has found them to cause damage to hearing and therefore the migratory patterns in ocean species. An allied group, the Natural Resources Defense Council, contends that the noise generated from California seismic guns travels all the way to Asia.

Major oil companies have set up an \$8 million research fund to investigate the impact of the air guns but company spokesmen indicate that they are not aware of any physical injury resulting from their use.