



# Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition

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## Petition to Protect the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary

To: His Excellency Taro Aso, Prime Minister of Japan

We, the undersigned, respectfully request that the government of Japan cease using lethal research methods in the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary (SOWS). There are many nonlethal methods of studying whales that allow researchers to gather all the data needed by whale biologists. The SOWS was established to provide a much-needed haven for the world's whales after decades of commercial whaling. The Southern Ocean provides the summer feeding grounds for an estimated 75% of the world's whales. Today's whale populations face a host of threats including climate change, pollution, and incidental bycatch. The best way to conserve whales and ensure healthy whale populations for generations to come is for the SOWS to be truly a sanctuary. On many environmental issues, such as climate change and energy conservation, Japan has set an outstanding example for the rest of the world. By ending scientific whaling in the SOWS, Japan can also be a leader in the conservation of these majestic mammals.

Name	Address	Signature

Please return completed forms to the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition Secretariat, 1630 Connecticut Ave. NW, Third Floor, Washington, DC 20009 United States of America.

