

Group hits whaling panel for ignoring some species

LONDON (Reuter-Kyodo) A British environmentalist group Monday accused the International Whaling Commission of pandering to rich whaling nations by ignoring many species on the brink of extinction.

In a report issued ahead of the 37-nation IWC's next meeting later this month, the independent Environmental Investigation Agency called for action to save the threatened whales.

The agency's campaign coordinator, Ros Reeve, said: "Up to 1 million whales and dolphins are being killed annually as the IWC sits back and does nothing.

"It's time for decisive ac-

tion to save some of the world's most endangered species."

The report said Japan had used coercion and aid to force developing countries to support whaling.

It said Denmark had consistently opposed IWC initiatives to protect dolphins and whales.

Some bodies of the white whales washed up in Canada's St. Lawrence River are designated as hazardous waste because of their contamination by industrial pollutants, it added.

The IWC meets in Glasgow, Scotland from June 29 to July 3.