

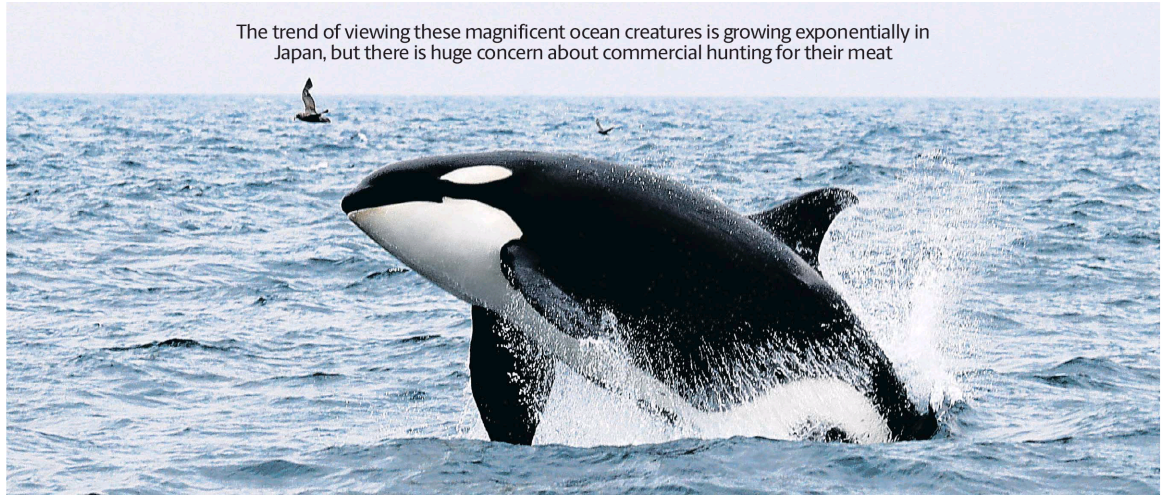
Daily Dispatch Monday July 15, 2019

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The trend of viewing these magnificent ocean creatures is growing exponentially in Japan, but there is huge concern about commercial hunting for their meat

Whale watching is truly gripping

ELAINE LIES

People packed the decks of the Japanese whale-watching boat, screaming in joy as a pod of orcas put on a show splashing tails at each other, rolling over, and leaping out of the water.

In Kushiro, just 160km south of Rausu, where the four dozen people laughed and cheered, boats had set off on Japan's first commercial whale hunt in 31 years.

Killed that day were two minke whales, which the boats in Rausu also search for glimpses of - a situation that whale-watching boat captain Masato Hasegawa confessed had him worried.

"They won't come into this area - it's a national park - or there'd be big trouble," the 57-year-old former pollock fisherman said. "And the whales we

saw today, the sperm whales and orcas, aren't things they hunt."

"But we also watch minke," he added. "If they take a lot in the [nearby] Sea of Okhotsk, we could well see a change, and that would be too bad for whale watching."

Whale-watching is a growing business around Japan, with popular spots from the southern Okinawa islands up to Rausu, a fishing village on the island of Hokkaido, so far north that it's closer to Russia than to Tokyo.

The number of whale watchers around Japan has more than doubled between 1998 and 2015, the latest year for which national data is available. One company in Okinawa had 18,000 customers between January and March this year. In Rausu, 35,451 people

packed four boats last year for whale and bird-watching, up 2,000 from 2017 and more than 9,000 higher than 2016. Many stay in local hotels, eat in local restaurants, and buy local products such as sea urchins and seaweed.

"Of the tourist boat business, 65% is whale watching," said Ikuyo Wakabayashi, executive director of the Shiretoko Rausu Tourism Association, who says the numbers grow substantially each year. "You don't just see one type of whale here, you see lots of them," she said. "Whale watching is a huge tourist resource for Rausu and this will continue to grow."

Wakabayashi was drawn to Rausu by whale-watching a native of the western city of Osaka, she fell in love with the area after three trips there to see orcas. "I thought this was an incredible place," she said. "Winters are tough, but it's so beautiful."

Hasegawa, who says he has a waiting list of customers in high season, has ordered a second boat.

"Right now, the lifestyle we whales leaping out of the water near Rausu, Hokkaido, Japan. Pictures: REUTERS/KIM MUNGKHAOON



THRILLING ONLOOKERS: Tourists on a whale watching tour boat look for the aquatic marine mammals at sea, then find and photograph killer whales leaping out of the water near Rausu, Hokkaido, Japan. Pictures: REUTERS/KIM MUNGKHAOON

Japan's former IWC commissioner.

"The alternative - is to just limit the supply of whale meat to some of the major places in Japan that have a good tradition of whale eating," Morishita said. "Taking advantage of this IWC withdrawal, I think there are business chances that are viable."

In areas for which whaling is a tradition, this niche market could promote tourism, which Abe has made a pillar of his economic plan.

"Whale eating in a sense is ideal - it's different, it's well known, and for better or worse, it's very famous," Morishita said. "Taking advantage of this IWC withdrawal, I think there are business chances that are viable."

Whales up close For Rausu, on Hokkaido's remote Shiretoko Peninsula, the viable business is whale watching.

Foxes run through the streets of the city's downtown, which clings to a narrow strip of land below mountains and faces the Nemuro Strait. Summer often brings thick fog, while winter storms can leave waist-high drifts.

Though fishing was long Rausu's economic backbone, the industry has taken a hit from declining fish stocks, which locals blame on Russian trawlers and falling prices. The population has dropped by several hundred annually, slipping below 5,000 this year.

Hasegawa, a fourth-generation fisherman, began his tour boat business in 2006. Though the first few years were a struggle, he is now happy with his choice as Rausu's reputation grows globally.

On a recent weekday, customers packed the parking lot at a wharf lined with squid-fishing boats, waiting to board Hasegawa's boat and those of other companies. Hasegawa's customers came from all over Japan and several foreign countries.

"Today there were more [whale] jumps than usual it was fantastic," said Kiyoko Ogi, a 47-year-old Tokyo bus driver who's been whale-watching in Rausu three times. "I'm really opposed to commercial whaling - seeing whales close is so exciting."

While hunting was never big in Rausu, and though Hasegawa said there once was "trouble" with people hunting small Baird's beaked whales nearby, those fishermen now stay far from the tours and will tell him where to find orcas and sperm whales.

But he's dubious about whether demand for whale meat will ever pick up. Restaurants and hotels in Rausu avoid serving it. — Reuters

LEGALS

ERRATUM

ADVERT DATE: 15 JULY 2019

REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE OF STREETLIGHTS ERRATUM:

This advert is to notify that bidders that the CDB for the repairs and maintenance of streetlights advertised on the 28 June 2019 has been changed from 2EP to SEP OR 4EP PE, furthermore compulsory briefing has also been changed on the 23 July 2019, Minute Aylet at 10 am and the closing date will have also been changed to the 02nd August 2019. Please that the bidders who have attended the compulsory briefing on the 12 July 2019 are not required to attend on the 23rd July 2019.

Enquiries: All SCM related enquiries can be directed to Mr T. Mbuluho at: (039) 255 8500 and Technical Enquiries to: Mr L. Mokohe Tel: 039 255 8500 Fax: 039 255 0167. Other enquiries regarding this Bid may be directed to the office of the Municipal Manager.

GPT No: Municipal Manager

Province of the EASTERN CAPE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

BID NOTICE

Bidders are invited for the bid listed here under:

ECM19-1920-2001: Appointment of the Travel Management Services to Eastern Cape Department of Social Development (ECSDS) for a period of 36 months.

Briefing Meeting will be held as follows:

Description	Date of Briefing	Time	Venue	Contact Details for Briefing Venues
Appointment of Travel Management Services to Eastern Cape Department of Social Development (ECSDS) for a period of 36 months	23 rd July 2019	10h00	Shirley Youth Care Centre, Rikhotso Main Boardroom	M. M. Vanda: 032 719 9347

The minimum specification requirements are detailed in the bid documentation. Bid Documents will be available from 15th July 2019 between 08h00 and 16h00 at the office of the Provincial Department of Social Development, Supply Chain Management Unit, Albertina Sisulu House, Beattie Street, King Williams Town (open to the public) and at the office of the Provincial Department of Social Development, Office number 708, Second Floor, Albertina Sisulu House, Beattie Street, King Williams Town.

No late, telegraphic or faxed quotations will be accepted for consideration. The lowest priced and only quotation will not necessarily be accepted. The Department reserves the right to accept or reject any quotation. The bid opening process will be in line with the PPPFA guidelines.

Completed bid documents in a sealed envelope with the relevant bid number number of the service required and the service required and the tender bid, submitted next to the security deposit at Albertina Sisulu House, Beattie Street earlier than 16h00 on the Closing Date of 17 August 2019.

For Question pertaining to sale and completion of bid documents please contact Mr. M. Vanda at 032 719 9347.

LEGALS

NOTICE CALLING FOR THE INSPECTION OF THE RAYMOND MHLABA MUNICIPALITY 1ST SUPPLEMENTARY VALUATION ROLL IN TERMS OF THE MUNICIPAL PROPERTY RATES ACT 6 OF 2004.

Raymond Mhlaba Municipality wishes to give a notice in terms of Section 49(1) (a) (i) read together with Section 78(2)(f) of the Local Government Municipal Property Rates Act 6 of 2004, that the Municipality's 1st Supplementary Valuation Roll for the period 1 July 2019 to 31 June 2020 will be open for public inspection at All Raymond Mhlaba Municipal offices and Library's during office hours, from 04 June 2019 to 31 July 2019.

Notice is further given in terms of section 49(1) (a) (ii) read together with Section 78(2) of the Municipal Property Rates Act of 2004, that the owner of an immovable property or any other person who desires may lodge an objection with the Municipal Manager in respect of any matter reflected in, or omitted from the Valuation Roll within the above mentioned period.

In terms of Section 50(2) of the Municipal Rates Act 6 of 2004, an objection must be in relation to a specific individual property and not against the Valuation Roll. The form for lodging an objection is obtainable from All Municipal offices or the Website of the Raymond Mhlaba Municipality: www.raymondmhlaba.gov.za. Completed forms must be returned to The Municipal Manager Offices at: P.O. Box 36 Fort Beaufort 5720 or 8 Somerset rd, Fort Beaufort 5720 on or before 31 July 2019.

For Further enquiries please contact the Project Manager (Mr Britz) at Raymond Mhlaba Municipality Property Valuation Office at: (046) 645 7437.

Ms U. T. Malindi THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER RAYMOND MHLABA MUNICIPALITY

Dispatch LIVE CO. ZA

"Better than it would have been with fishing."

Small industry

The five whaling vessels moored at Kushiro port on Sunday, the night before the hunt resumed, were well-used and well-maintained. Crew members came and went, carrying groceries or towels, heading for a public bath.

Barely 500 people are directly involved with whaling around Japan, and though the government maintains whale meat is an important part of food culture, the amount consumed annually has fallen to only 0.1% of total meat consumption.

Yet Japan, under Prime Minister Shinzo Abe - himself from a whaling district - left the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and returned to commercial whaling on July 1.

Whaling advocates, such as Yoshifumi Kai, head of the Japan Small-type Whaling Association, celebrated the hunt. "We endured for 51 years, but now it's all worth it," he said in Kushiro on Monday night after the first minke were brought in to be butchered. "They'll be whaling for a week here, we may have more." Everybody acknowledges that rebuilding demand could be tough after decades of whale being a pricey, hard-to-find food.

Consumption was widespread after World War Two, when an impoverished Japan needed cheap protein, but fell off after the early 1960s as other meat grew cheaper.

"Japan has so much to eat now that fish is thrown out, so we don't expect demand for whale will rise that fast," said Kazuo Yamamura, president of the Japan Whaling Association.

"But looking to the future, if you don't eat whale, you forget that it's a food," he said. "If you eat it in school lunches, you'll remember that, you'll remember that it's good." Pro-whaling lawmaker Kiyoshi Ejima said that subsidies were unlikely, but that the government should be careful not to let the industry founder. About 55,000 (\$47.3-million) was budgeted for whaling in 2019.

"If we pull away our hands too soon, a lot of companies will fail," he added.

The goal of selling whale throughout Japan may be impractical, said Joji Morishita,

MAYIBUYE

ERRATUM

MTC, 2019/2020 - Proposals to conduct a feasibility study on possible integration of the Eastern Cape Government Fleet Services, Aviation Function of the Department of Transport into Mayibuye Transport Corporation.

Correction on previous tender advert dated 12 July 2019.

The compulsory briefing session will be held on 17 July 2019 at 10h00 am NOT 10h00 pm.

Enquiries: M.S. K. Govt, email address - govk@mtcc.co.za