

Dear María,

I am writing to support the proposed bill (Þingskjal 99 — 99. mál) **to end commercial whaling in Iceland** by bringing whales under the law on the protection, preservation and hunting of wild birds and wild mammals, no. 64/1994.

The disturbing findings in the 2022 MAST report revealed that 41 % of the whales killed by Hvalur hf, Iceland's last whaling company, suffered immensely before dying. **Despite the implementation of stricter regulations**, the first whaling tour of the 2023 season saw **two out of three fin whales hunted in clear violation** of both Article 5 of the regulations and Iceland's Animal Welfare Act.

Whaling does not support Iceland's economy, with **90 percent of whale products exported to Japan**. Moreover, living whales provide ongoing revenue to Iceland's whale-watching companies and associated industries (tour companies, hotels, and more).

**Whales do not have to justify their existence to us.** They are not an economic asset or catch quota. Whales have been in our oceans long before us and are a vital part of our marine ecosystem. If we can make peace with these majestic creatures, we can do much more to help Iceland reach its climate goals.

Kind regards, Steffi Meisl

*Environment & Natural Resources Master's Student at Háskóli Íslands  
Faculty of Food Science and Nutrition*