



JWA NEWS

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For the Promotion of Sustainable Whaling

Harassment against Japan's research

JWA Condemns Ill-intentioned Harassment by Greenpeace and Sea Shepherd in the Antarctic

Japan's 18-year Antarctic Whale Research Catch Program (JARPA), which started in 1987, was completed last year, with significant scientific results. Based on the outcome of the program, Japan launched a second-phase program (JARPA II) in December last year with the aim to survey the actual situation of competition among whale species.

To obstruct the research, the anti-whaling organization Greenpeace sent its Arctic Sunrise (949 tons) and Esperanza (2076 tons) to the Antarctic on December 21 with the aim to obstruct Japan's research activities. This harassment activities were also joined by Farley Mowat (648 tons) of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, which arrived in the research area on December 23.

In the course of their harassment, the Greenpeace ship had its bow to intentionally ram the hull of a Japanese research vessel. Also, Sea Shepherd ship attempted to set wires underneath the stern of a Japanese vessel to destroy the latter's propeller. It also used protruding diamond-powdered steel blade—what it calls “can opener”—from the vessel side in a bid to make a hole in the hull of the Japanese vessel. (See photos).

These activities are obviously ill-intentioned activities which should be called terrorism or



Activists throwing ropes and hooks to sabotage Nisshin-Maru



Arctic Sunrise about to ram the Japanese vessel
(Photos: the Institute of Cetacean Research)

piracy, going beyond the scope of the ordinary protest demonstration.

Fortunately, no injuries were inflicted on the crew on Japanese vessels, but by January 10 both Greenpeace and Sea Shepherd declared that they would make similar obstruction in next research season. Unless such malicious actions are restricted, the possibility cannot be denied that there will be serious risks to human life on the ocean.

The Japan Whaling Association strongly urges Greenpeace and Sea Shepherd never to engage in this kind of terroristic activities again.

In this issue, the JWA would like to present to our readers the responses of Japanese whaling- and fisheries-related organizations to the harassment of Japan's research and propaganda activities by anti-whaling groups.

JAPAN'S ANTARCTIC RESEARCH IS LEGAL ACTIVITY

On January 16, the Institute of Cetacean Research (ICR) responded to calls in both New Zealand and Australia for legal action to be taken against its research program in the Antarctic.

ICR Director General Dr. Hiroshi Hatanaka said: "Our research is perfectly legal in every aspect referred to by anti-whaling opponents and scientifically necessary to ensure the best decisions can be made for sustainable resource management."

The ICR research is conducted under a special permit issued by Japanese Government based on its right under Article VIII of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW), which reads that: "Notwithstanding anything contained in this Convention any Contracting Government [including Japan] may grant to any of its nationals a special permit authorizing that national to kill, take and treat whales for purposes of scientific research subject to such restrictions as to number and subject to such other conditions as the Contracting Government thinks fit, and the killing, taking, and

treating of whales in accordance with the provisions of this Article shall be exempt from the operation of this Convention."

"The fact that Article VIII begins and ends by categorically stating absolutely nothing in the ICRW or its Schedule affects research carried out under this provision. This means that the current moratorium on commercial whaling, which in our view expired in 1990, and the Southern Ocean Sanctuary provide no legal basis on which to stop this research."

Dr. Hatanaka added that while Japan's Antarctic research was perfectly legal, the data obtained would ensure the proper management of whale resources under a future commercial whaling regime.

"While we have one eye on the law, the other is on the need to ensure that whale stocks are utilized sustainably for future generations and our research will help us achieve that."

He added that Japan was

also meeting its obligations under the 1959 Antarctic Treaty. "The Antarctic Treaty does not apply to the research activities conducted on the high seas."

Some media coverage in Australia alleges that Japan is conducting its research in an area called the "Australian Antarctic Sanctuary". "Article IV of the Antarctic Treaty freezes all claims to the Antarctic. Japan, like most other nations in the world, does not recognize Australia's territorial claim: the Antarctic is for everyone," Dr. Hatanaka said.

Furthermore, Article VI of the Antarctic Treaty says: "... nothing in the present Treaty shall prejudice or in any way affect the rights, or the exercise of the rights, of any State under international law with regard to the high seas within that area."

"The 'rights' of any State under international law with regard to the high seas include freedom of fishing," Dr. Hatanaka said.

Finally, Dr. Hatanaka said that the necessary permits had been duly provided by the Japanese Government under the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)

and that nothing in the CITES is violated.

“The legality of Japan’s research in the Antarctic has been discussed ad infinitum at the IWC and other fora. The legal basis is very clear; the

environmental basis is even clearer: the marine resources in the Southern Ocean must be utilized in a sustainable manner in order to protect and conserve them for future generations,” Dr. Hatanaka said.

Greenpeace’s Harassment Beyond Ordinary Protest —Pro-use NGO Rebutts Greenpeace’s Criticism—

The Beneficiaries of the Sea Coalition, a non-governmental organization (NGO) promoting sustainable use of marine living resources, rebutted Greenpeace’s criticism of Japan’s whale research catch programs in an open letter addressed to Jun Hoshikawa, the new secretary general of Greenpeace Japan.

In the letter, sent under the name of its President, Kunio Yonezawa, on February 8, 2006, the Coalition said that the obstruction activities by Greenpeace, in cooperation with the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, against Japan’s whale research fleet in the Antarctic during this past December and January was “an act of violence putting the lives of crewmembers at risk and of illegal terrorism going beyond the boundaries of ordinary protest.” “It was a despicable act—one that was criticized even by the Australian Environment Minister who is known for his devoted anti-whaling position,” it said.

In an earlier press conference, Hoshikawa stressed that, in its protest activities, Greenpeace gives first priority to not causing any risk to human lives but also said that Japan’s whale research program “cannot gain the understanding of the international society.”

The Coalition disproved those remarks as being far removed from the truth. It said that the results of Japan’s research have been highly valued by whale scientists throughout the world. At present many members of the International Whaling

Commission (IWC) are working for an early completion and implementation of the Revised Management Scheme (RMS), a risk-averse scientific management system ensuring sustainable use of whale resources, and the countries supporting the RMS will eventually gain a majority at the Commission. Japan’s research is a fully legal activity complying with Article VIII of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling. It is carried out in accordance with international law, including the freedom to engage in scientific research as stipulated by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

The Coalition said that the Greenpeace representative’s remarks are misleading as they ignore the present work and trend in the IWC. The scale of Japan’s research will have no direct impact on the population of whales and the environment. Greenpeace’s assertion is nothing but a scientific fantasy. The Coalition advised that it would be more effective for Greenpeace to tackle more serious problems of the world, such as global warming.

THE GREENPEACE MOVEMENT AS A TYPICAL EXAMPLE OF A COERCIVE MOVEMENT FOR CULTURAL DOMINATION DESCRIBED IN THE 2004 UNDP REPORT

Isaribi, an English-language newsletter presenting the view of Japan's fishing industry published by the Japan Fisheries Association, criticized in its February, 2006, issue Greenpeace's ecoterrorism against Japan whale research program in the Antarctic.

The Greenpeace activist vessel Arctic Sunrise deliberately rammed the Nisshin-maru, a Japanese vessel conducting research whaling, on Sunday 8 January. In relation to this militant action by Greenpeace, Isaribi draws particular attention of our readers to the **Human Development Report 2004 Cultural Liberty in Today's Diverse World** published by the United Nations Development Program, 15 July 2004. The report sends a message that cultural freedoms should be embraced as basic human rights and as necessities for the development of increasingly diverse societies.

The report highlights the danger of coercive movements for cultural domination as follows: "The report argues that people should be free to be who they are, to choose their identities and to live accordingly. It further argues that the recognition of multiple and complementary identities - with individuals identifying themselves as citizens of a state as well as members of

ethnic, religious and other cultural groups - is the cornerstone of cultural liberty. But movements hostile to these principles seek to eliminate diversity in the name of cultural superiority. Such movements, and their underlying sources of support, must be confronted." The report further argues, "Movements for cultural domination share some key elements. They distinguish themselves by their cultural identity-- whether ethnic, racial or religious--and they attempt to impose their ideology by coercion, even extermination...Often, though not always, (they) resort to violence to achieve their aims."

The militant action that Greenpeace has taken against the Nisshin-maru is a typical example of COERCIVE MOVEMENTS FOR CULTURAL DOMINATION and poses a serious threat to the establishment of a peaceful multicultural world. Isaribi demands Greenpeace to stop its supremacist and militant campaign in the name of environmentalism.

Anti-whaling Demarche by 17 Nations

FEWER NATIONS ANTI-WHALING JWA responds to 17-nation anti-whaling demarche

The Japan Whaling Association (JWA), which promotes and protects Japan's whaling culture and works in the interests of whaling peoples, said it was an encouraging sign that only 17 nations had supported a Brazil-led demarche against science and sustainable whaling.

In a press statement released on January 19, 2006, JWA President Keiichi Nakajima said: "Only

17 of the IWC's current 66 members supported the protest, and quite noticeably, the United States, Switzerland and Denmark, the current chair, did not."

"The world wants a resolution to the current impasse at the IWC, not more politics. The world wants the IWC to meet its legally binding obligation of producing and implementing a sustainable commercial whaling regime where the rules are

obeyed and seen to be obeyed.”

“The moratorium on commercial whaling is an anomaly,” he said.

Mr Nakajima said it was an encouraging sign because 75 percent of the IWC members had not supported the protest, adding that it took a three quarters vote to make substantive changes to the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW).

“Is it fair that the 25 percent of the IWC members with hardline, intolerant, anti-whaling stances towards science and sustainable

environmental management should be allowed to drive IWC direction and hold back those who want to finish the management regime and lift the moratorium?” he asked.

“We are not asking these countries to like it - we are asking these countries to accept it and move on. Our differences over whaling are small compared with our similarities. There are far too many important issues in the world today like climate change for our time, energy and resources to be used on political posturing over whaling. It’s time to end the moratorium.”

Use of Whale Meat in Japan

WHALE MEAT IS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION ALMOST IN ITS ENTIRETY

--Only a minuscule portion is used as pet food--

On February 16, 2006, the Institute of Cetacean Research (ICR) said a minuscule amount of whale by-product caught through Japan’s research programs in the Antarctic and western North Pacific or residuals from non-IWC regulated whaling ends up as pet food. The Institute sought to debunk the latest falsehoods and incorrect assumptions made by anti-whaling lobbyists and members of the media. “The way in which this story has been spun by anti-whaling lobbyists through naive journalists who didn’t check their facts demonstrates the lack of objectivity that some media have when it comes to whaling,” the ICR’s Director General Dr. Hiroshi Hatanaka said.

“This is an indictment on western media who do not question the information they

receive on whaling and instead further reinforce falsehoods and wrong assumptions. It is the public that loses through receiving false information,” he said.

Pet food

The particular sale of whale meat for pet food referred by the journalists was carried out by a company near one of the traditional small-type whaling bases on the Boso Peninsula, south east of Tokyo. This was sold as a jerky-type product and was made from less than 100kg of a batch of Baird’s Beaked whale, which the processor received from a local whaling company.

Baird’s Beaked whale is not one of the species regulated by the International Whaling Commission and is not included in the ICR’s research programs.

The sustainable management of this particular species of whale is regulated by the Government of Japan’s Fisheries Agency.

“The whale meat used for the pet food was “hyakuhiro” - the small intestine of the whale commonly referred to as tripe - and other cheaper cuts that are not utilized for human consumption,” Dr. Hatanaka said. Similarly, a small percentage of whale by-products from the research programs, ie some leavings after processing, that are not utilized for human consumption are also processed for the pet food market. This accords with the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW) where it states that whales taken under the research provisions “shall so far as practicable be processed”. “As with other meat industries, such as cattle and sheep

slaughtering for instance, not every part of the whale - intestines, some organs, etc - is appropriate for human consumption and these parts are processed for the pet food market."

"To suggest, as these groups have done, that fine cuts of whale meat from Japan's research programs is being turned into pet food because Japan has a glut of it is not true," Dr. Hatanaka said.

Stocks of whale meat

The distribution of frozen whale meat from the research programs is highly regulated. The price range that Japanese consumers are expected to pay is set by the Government and the supply to the market is kept under tight control and drip fed to ensure that whale meat is available in selected areas throughout the entire year.

"Demand always exceeds

supply. At any given time, there will be an amount of whale meat in storage to ensure supply is always available. Japanese are not losing their taste for whale, and if left to market forces, the price of whale meat would increase considerably and reach consumers at unaffordable prices," Dr. Hatanaka said.

"The fact that the price of whale meat is well regulated by the Government means it is also affordable for some schools to reintroduce it as a protein-rich lunch option for pupils."

The wholesale price of minke whale red meat is set at a fixed price of 1950 Yen per kilogram. The whale meat from the western North Pacific research is available to the public from mid-December onwards.

Dr. Hatanaka said anti-whaling lobbyists are told when the catch reaches storage and coincide their public relations campaign to falsely allege the

augmented supplies mean whale meat is not in demand because there is a large amount of it.

"Obviously our stocks of whale meat increase when we start selling the by-products from the North Pacific after Government approval in December and again when selling byproducts from the Antarctic in July. It is at these times that supplies of whale meat are at their highest," Dr. Hatanaka said.

NB: Under the rules of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW) all whales taken through research programs must be processed to the greatest extent practicable. Japan processes the whale meat and sells it on the market. The funding obtained goes towards financing the following year's research programs.