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NEW WARNINGS ISSUED TO ACTIVISTS

The Institute of Cetacean Research (ICR) said today it would take into custody any anti-whaling activists that board Japanese research whaling vessels as part of escalating actions to disrupt the scientific program in the Antarctic.

ICR Director-General Dr. Hiroshi Hatanaka said ICR believes the anti-whaling activists are trying to escalate their Antarctic PR campaign and that an attempt will be made to stop one of the research vessels by boarding it.

“As these people realize their current activities are having little effect on us conducting our research, we believe that they will become more desperate and possibly board one of our vessels,” Dr. Hatanaka said.

“The captains will broadcast a further warning to these people that if any of them board our vessels, they will be taken into custody and restrained. If they step foot onto any of our vessels, they will be deemed illegal intruders under Japanese law.”

In response to claims in the media that a harpoon was fired between two Greenpeace inflatable Zodiacs, Dr. Hatanaka said: “We are doing our best to ensure the safety of the activists. We certainly don’t want to see anyone hurt. These people must understand that when we conduct our lethal research, the area is very dangerous. We have warned them they should keep their inflatable boats away from the hunting zone.”

ENDS

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Visit also: www.icrwhale.org