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MEDIA RELEASE

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VIDEO PUTS ANTARCTIC COLLISION IN NEW LIGHT

The Institute of Cetacean Research (ICR) said today the release of video taken from the Nisshin-Maru shows that Greenpeace had plenty of time to avoid a collision and instead turned their vessel hard to port to deliberately ram the Japanese research vessel.

The Greenpeace activist vessel the Arctic Sunrise deliberately rammed the Nisshin-Maru on Sunday 8 January. They have subsequently tried to blame the accident on the Japanese fleet.

ICR Director General Hiroshi Hatanaka said today that the release of the video provides a clearer view of the events leading up to the collision. Previous video supplied to media was edited by Greenpeace to show the collision in a better light.

“The Arctic Sunrise could have avoided this collision. Instead the skipper turned the boat into the path of the Nisshin-Maru and rammed us at our weakest point. It was a deliberate action to get media coverage.”

“The captain of the Greenpeace vessel conducts close quarter’s harassment, cuts across our bows, approaches from angles to try to force us into a position where we must give way; they continually harass our vessels and pressure them to change direction.”

“Also, it is clear from the video taken by Greenpeace that the captain of the Arctic Sunrise was aware that the Nisshin Maru could not change its direction to the left because of the existence of another vessel (Oriental Bluebird) on its left side.”

“This cannot be called a peaceful protest,” Dr Hatanaka said.

Dr Hatanaka said the research vessels had now left for another part of the Antarctic Ocean to continue their work.

SEE OTHER COLLISION VIDEO AT: <http://www.icrwhale.org/gpandsea.htm>
<http://www.icrwhale.org/gpandsea-footage.htm>

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