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**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES, GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN**

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**WHALING COMMISSION CRITICIZES GREENPEACE**

Greenpeace was criticized by the International Whaling Commission today when the organisation passed by consensus a resolution resulting from the activities of the publicity group in the Antarctic this summer.

“Greenpeace carried out a series of very dangerous activities. We cannot tolerate activities that jeopardise the navigations of our vessels, put lives at risk and damage property that belongs to the Japanese Government,” Japan’s Alternate Commissioner, Joji Morishita, told the IWC conference when introducing the resolution.

The resolution was co-sponsored by the United States, the Netherlands, which is the flag state of Greenpeace vessels the MV Arctic Sunrise and MV Esperanza, and New Zealand.

“Over the years, Greenpeace’s interference campaign has become bigger and more dangerous and its actions in the Antarctic are getting more extreme year after year. It’s a miracle that we have not had any casualties or injuries from their dangerous actions,” Mr Morishita said.

Greenpeace rammed Japan’s Antarctic research vessels on 8 January this year. “We were hit at the side of our vessel, which is one of the weakest points of a ship as opposed to the front of the vessel, which is the strongest point. The collision was created, not by us, but by Greenpeace. We believe these incidents were totally against international maritime laws,” he said.

Mr Morishita encouraged all IWC members to support the resolution, which instructs protest organizations to conduct activities in a civilised manner. “We encourage all IWC members and NGOs, even if they don’t share the same opinion about whaling, to support this resolution telling NGOs to stop putting Japanese lives at risk and to conduct their activities in accordance with established international maritime law.”

The resolution was passed by consensus.

Mr Morishita added that Japan was in the process of considering further action against Greenpeace.

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