



THE INSTITUTE OF CETACEAN RESEARCH

4-5 TOYOMI-CHO, CHUO-KU, TOKYO 104-0055 JAPAN

PHONE: +81-3-3536-6521 FAX: +81-3536-6522

MEDIA RELEASE

13 February 2010

Dutch ship pirates still short of Animal Planet reel quota

On February 13 Japan's Antarctic whale research (JARPA II) mother ship Nisshin Maru was subject to another illegal high-power laser attack by Togolese ship Bob Barker while the Dutch-registered ship Steve Irwin made a close-range firefighter water cannon display.

The Dutch and Togolese ships have been pursuing the Nisshin Maru since February 6 and 8 respectively. At about 17:50JST February 13 the Steve Irwin helicopter took off and the Dutch ship started firing its firefighter water cannon while closing in to the Nisshin Maru port side up to 30 meters. The Togolese ship too approached the Nisshin Maru while repeatedly firing an illegal high-powered laser weapon aiming at the Japanese crew.

The attack lasted until 1900JST. There were neither injuries to the crew nor damage to the Nisshin Maru.

The Institute of Cetacean Research strongly condemns the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society dangerous and violent actions carried out in contempt of the International Whaling Commission consensus criticism and demand for self-restraint and against Japan's whale research vessels and crews who are conducting perfectly legal research activities in the Antarctic

The Institute of Cetacean Research urges again the Netherlands, the Steve Irwin's flag state, Australia, the de facto home port country to the Steve Irwin, the Togolese Republic, the Bob Barker's flag state, and all other related countries to take every means available to prevent the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society illegal and violent actions and strongly requests that these countries observe their international obligations and deal with the Sea Shepherd in a strict and objective manner.

Photographs and video of the incidents in the Antarctic can be seen at:

<http://www.icrwhale.org/gpandsea.htm>

ENDS