

Joint Statement on Conviction of Peter Bethune

Institute of Cetacean Research / Kyodo Senpaku Kaisha

7 July 2010

Today, Peter Bethune was sentenced to 2 years in prison with a 5-year suspended sentence for the crime of trespassing, vandalism, carrying a knife, obstructing legal business activities, and assault.

The Institute of Cetacean Research (ICR) and Kyodo Senpaku Kaisha welcomed the verdict.

The verdict demonstrates that his actions put the lives of Japanese seamen at risk and he committed a crime.

Bethune's criminal actions were perpetrated in disregard of a statement adopted at the IWC intersessional meeting in 2008, which called upon Sea Shepherd Conservation Society to refrain from dangerous actions that jeopardize safety at sea, and on its vessels and crews concerned to exercise restraint.

ICR and Kyodo Senpaku Kaisha strongly condemn the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society dangerous and violent actions against Japan's whale research vessels and crews in the Antarctic and demand that they are stopped immediately.

ICR and Kyodo Senpaku Kaisha call on the Netherlands, which provides Sea Shepherd vessels with a flag, and Australia, which provides Sea Shepherd with port facilities, to take action to stop further criminal acts being committed by this group.

We strongly request that these countries observe their international obligations and deal with the Sea Shepherd in a strict and objective manner.

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