

MEDIA RELEASE

6 January 2011

Steve Irwin attacks Japanese ship Yushin Maru No. 2

The Yushin Maru No. 2 (YS2), a Japanese Antarctic whale research vessel was subjected to attack today by the Netherlands-registered vessel Steve Irwin (SI). The attack started at about 1245JST.

Earlier in the morning the SI and the provisionally Australian-registered trimaran Gojira (G) stopped. The YS2 monitored them.

Thereafter, activists onboard zodiac boats sent from the SI approached the Japanese vessel and threw by hand several butyric acid-containing glass bottle projectiles. In addition, the activists deployed wire ropes with buoys aimed at the propeller and rudder of the YS2.

The Yushin Maru No. 2 broadcasted a warning message and made use of its water jet-pump as a preventive measure to make the activists desist from further approaching. Neither injuries to the Japanese crew nor damage to the YS2 resulted from the activists' attack.

Japan's research whaling in the Antarctic (JARPAII) is a perfectly legal activity carried out under the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW). The Institute of Cetacean Research strongly condemns the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society and its continued dangerous and violent actions against Japan's whale research vessels in the Antarctic.

We call on all related countries including the Netherlands which is the Steve Irwin flag state and Australia, the Gojira provisional flag state and the virtual home port of these vessels, to stop condoning the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society violent actions and to take every means available to restrain them. Further, we strongly request that these countries deal with the SSCS criminal actions in a strict and objective manner according to their international obligations.

NOTE: Photos and video to be attributed to the INSTITUTE OF CETACEAN RESEARCH, TOKYO JAPAN. (<http://www.icrwhale.org/gpandsea.htm>)