

MEDIA RELEASE

9 February 2011

Gojira attempts to sabotage the Nisshin Maru

At about past 1800JST today, the Nisshin Maru (NM), the Japanese Antarctic whale research mother ship was being subjected to attack by the provisionally Australian-registered trimaran Gojira (G). The attack was continuing as of 2030JST.

At 1810JST the G deployed and started drawing one rope (propeller fouler). The G approached dangerously close to the NM bow and navigated across the mother ship's course repeatedly.

In addition, the G launched multiple glass bottle projectiles, smoke bombs and incendiary devices including a parachute flare-type toward the NM.

The NM started broadcasting a warning message and made use of its water jet-pump as a preventive measure to make the activists desist from further approaching.

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 (SSCS) and its continued dangerous and violent actions against Japan's whale research vessels in the Antarctic.

Over and over again, we have called on all related countries including the Netherlands which is the flag State of two of SSCS ships and Australia, the Gojira's provisional flag State and the virtual home port of the SSCS vessels, to stop condoning the SSCS's violent and illegal actions and to take every means available to prevent their unlawful activities.

We also call on New Zealand, which has lent harbour to the Steve Irwin (SI) of SSCS and let it depart as of today, to take strict measures against the SSCS. The SI, which has repeated dangerous actions against Japanese research vessels, is supposed to head to the Antarctic Ocean to join the SSCS's dangerous activities. We have to describe it that New Zealand is condoning the SI's dangerous activities from that point forward. In addition, the United States of America, home country to the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, should avert the risk of being perceived by the world that it financially supports their dangerous activities by giving tax exemption status to the violent organization.

Lastly, we again strongly request that these countries deal with the SSCS's criminal actions in a strict and objective manner according to their international and domestic obligations.

NOTE : Photos and video to be attributed to the INSTITUTE OF CETACEAN RESEARCH, TOKYO JAPAN.