

Editorial

Welcome to the third issue of the Technical Reports of the Institute of Cetacean Research (TEREP-ICR-3).

This third issue contains seven technical reports and one commentary article. The first report summarizes the results of research on assessment and management of Antarctic minke whales. The second report shows the progress of the research on age estimation in Antarctic minke whale based on aspartic acid racemization. The third report explains the importance of $g(0)$ for estimating abundance of large whales in the Antarctic. The fourth report summarizes the technical aspects of ICR's oceanographic and krill surveys in the Antarctic. The next two reports in this issue deal with research in the North Pacific. The first one summarizes the information on population genetic structure of the North Pacific sei whale, which is of importance for management purposes. The second one summarizes the information on spatial and temporal distribution of large whales in the western North Pacific, emphasizing the importance of long-term monitoring research programs. The technical report note explains the platform and equipment used during the ICR's satellite tracking experiments on large whales.

The commentary article deals with the issue of Japan's withdrawal from the International Whaling Commission and the implications of this for the whale research conducted by the ICR.

This third TEREP-ICR issue also includes sections to outline the contribution of ICR scientists to national and international meetings in 2019 as well as their contribution in terms of peer-reviewed publications up to December 2019.

I hope you will find this third issue informative and useful.

Dr. Luis A. Pastene
Editor TEREP-ICR
Tokyo, December 2019