

MEDIA RELEASE

30 January 2011

Bob Barker activists attack Japanese research vessel Yushin Maru No. 3

The Yushin Maru No. 3 (YS3), a Japanese Antarctic whale research vessel was subjected to attack today by the Netherlands-registered vessel Bob Barker (BB). The attack started at about 0630JST and lasted until about 0750JST

At about 0630JST two zodiac boats sent from the BB behind an iceberg rapidly approached the Japanese vessel and the activists started hand-throwing many projectiles toward the YS3. Two smoke bombs landed on the deck and one smoke bomb got entangled on the port-side protecting net of the YS3. One projectile containing paint hit the port side bow of the Japanese vessel. One zodiac boat deployed a rope in the way of the YS3.

During the attack the YS3 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 YS3 resulted from the activists' attack.

The YS3 continues monitoring the BB's activities.

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.

We call on all related countries including the Netherlands which is the BB's flag State and Australia, the virtual home port of the SSCS vessels, to stop condoning the SSCS's violent actions and to take every means available to restrain them. Further, we strongly request that these countries deal with the SSCS's 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.