



THE INSTITUTE OF CETACEAN RESEARCH

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JAPAN UNDERTAKES NON-LETHAL ANTARCTIC WHALE RESEARCH

The Institute of Cetacean Research (ICR) announced today that it will conduct non-lethal whale research in the Antarctic from January 8 to March 28, 2015.

Japan's non-lethal whale research program involves techniques such as sighting surveys and biopsy sampling. Three Antarctic-capable vessels will participate in the research. They are:

- Yushin Maru and Yusin Maru No.2, and
- Nisshin Maru, which will be used as a supply vessel.

In addition, the Government of Japan will send a patrol vessel, Shonan Maru No.2.

As this research does not require the killing of whales, all harpoons necessary for lethal sampling will not be present on any of the vessels.

Non-lethal whale research was not contested in the International Court of Justice in the recent case between Australia and Japan, with New Zealand intervening.

It is important that all scientific research continues on whales in the Antarctic in order to contribute to the Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission to recognize the abundance of particular species of whales. At its meeting in Slovenia last May, the IWC Scientific Committee endorsed the research.

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