

## *International meetings*

# Participation of Scientists of the Institute of Cetacean Research in International Meetings in 2017

### **Annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission Scientific Committee (IWC SC)**

The International Whaling Commission (IWC) is an international body set up by the terms of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW), which was signed in Washington, D.C., United States, on 2 December, 1946 to 'provide for the proper conservation of whale stocks and thus make possible the orderly development of the whaling industry.' One of the important components of the IWC is the Scientific Committee (SC), which meets annually. The 2017 meeting of the IWC SC was held at the Golf Hotel, Bled, Slovenia, from 9–21 May. A total of ten scientists from the Institute of Cetacean Research (ICR) participated in the meeting (Yoshihiro Fujise, Luis A. Pastene, Tsutomu Tamura, Koji Matsuoka, Mutsuo Goto, Takashi Hakamada, Genta Yasunaga, Kenji Konishi, Tatsuya Isoda and Mioko Taguchi), who presented eight documents at plenary sessions, one document at the Sub-Committee on Revised Management Procedure, five documents at the *Ad hoc* Working Group on Abundance Estimates, Stock Status and International Cruises, two documents at the Working Group on Ecosystem Modelling, two documents at the Working Group on Stock Definition and DNA Testing, one document at the Sub-Committee on In-Depth Assessments, and two at the Sub-Committee on Conservation Management Plans.



Hotel Golf, Bled, Slovenia.

In 2017 ICR scientists also participated in several intersessional meetings of the IWC SC: a) Review Workshop for the New Scientific Whale Research Program in the western North Pacific (NEWREP-NP), held at the Toyomi Center Building, Tokyo, Japan, from 30 January–3 February (Seiji Ohsumi, Yoshihiro Fujise, Luis A. Pastene, Tsutomu Tamura, Koji Matsuoka, Mutsuo Goto,

Takeharu Bando, Takashi Hakamada, Genta Yasunaga, Satoko Inoue, Mioko Taguchi and Megumi Takahashi); b) Workshop on the *Implementation Review* of western North Pacific Bryde's Whales held at the Fisheries Agency of Japan (FAJ)'s Sanban-cho, Tokyo, Japan from 21–24 March (Luis A. Pastene, Tsutomu Tamura, Mutsuo Goto, Mioko Taguchi, Takashi Hakamada and Koji Matsuoka); c) Workshop on the Comprehensive Assessment of North Pacific Humpback Whales held at the Marine Mammal Laboratory, Seattle, USA from 18–21 April (Koji Matsuoka); d) Planning Meeting for the 2018 and 2019 IWC-POWER Cruises in the North Pacific held at the FAJ's Crew House, Tokyo, Japan from 15–18 October (Koji Matsuoka and Takashi Hakamada).

### **Annual meeting of the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources—Working Group on Ecosystem Monitoring and Management (CCAMLR-EMM)**

The Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) is part of the Antarctic Treaty System. The Convention was opened for signature on 1 August 1980 and entered into force on 7 April 1982 thereby establishing the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources. The goal is to preserve marine life and environmental integrity in and near Antarctica. It was established in large part in response to concerns that an increase in krill catches in the Southern Ocean could have a serious impact on populations of other marine life which are dependent upon krill for food. The CCAMLR has a Scientific Committee and several Working Groups including the Working Group on Ecosystem Monitoring and Management (EMM), which meet annually. The 2017 meeting of the CCAMLR-EMM was held at the Palacio San Martin, Buenos Aires, Argentina from 10–14 July. One scientist from ICR participated in the meeting (Tsutomu Tamura) presenting a document titled 'Feeding habits and prey consumption of Antarctic minke whale *Balaenoptera bonaerensis* in the Indo-Pacific region of the Southern Ocean' relevant to the meeting agenda item 'Ecological interactions: predators.'



Palacio San Martín, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

### **XIIIth Scientific Committee for Antarctic Research (SCAR) Biology Symposium**

The Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) is an interdisciplinary body of the International Council for Science (ICSU). It was established in February 1958. SCAR is charged with initiating, developing and coordinating scientific research in the Antarctic region. The scientific business of SCAR is conducted by its Standing Scientific Groups. SCAR also provides scientific advice to the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings and other organizations on issues of science and conservation affecting the management of Antarctica and the Southern Ocean. The XIIIth SCAR Biology Symposium was held at the University of Leuven, Leuven, Belgium from 10–14 July 2017. One scientist from ICR participated in the meeting (Luis A. Pastene) who presented the study titled ‘Cetacean as indicators of historical and current changes in the Antarctic ecosystem’ as an oral presentation at the session ‘Distribution and trends of top predators.’ He was also co-author of the study titled ‘Changes in circumpolar spatial distribution of baleen whales in the Antarctic from 1980s to 2000s,’ which was presented as a poster at the session ‘Large scale analyses of spatial diversity pattern.’



Leuven University, Leuven, Belgium.

### **Annual meeting of the North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES)**

The North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES) is an intergovernmental organization that promotes and coordinates marine scientific research in the North Pacific Ocean and provides a mechanism for information and data exchange among scientists in its member countries. The 2017 meeting of the PICES was held at the Far Eastern Federal University, Vladivostok, Russia from 22 September-1 October. One scientist from ICR participated in the meeting (Tsutomu Tamura) presenting the study titled ‘Estimation of prey consumption by cetaceans in the western North Pacific-Update of Hunt *et al.* (2000)’ as an oral presentation at the session ‘Seasonal and climatic influences on prey consumption by marine birds, mammals and predatory fishes.’ He was also co-author of another study titled ‘Spatial estimation of prey consumption by sei whales in the western North Pacific during the summers of 2008–2009: Density surface model approach,’ also presented to the meeting.



Far Eastern Federal University, Vladivostok, Russia.

### **22<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Meeting of the Society for Marine Mammalogy (SMM)**

The Society for Marine Mammalogy (SMM) was founded in 1981 and is the largest international association of marine mammal scientists in the world. The mission of the SMM is to promote the global advancement of marine mammal science and contribute to its relevance and impact in education, conservation and management. The 22<sup>nd</sup> Biennial meeting of the SMM was held at the Halifax World Trade and Convention Centre, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada from 23–27 October 2017. One scientist from ICR participated in the meeting (Kenji Konishi) presenting the study ‘Movements of satellite monitored Antarctic minke whales inside and along the ice edge at the feeding area in the Pacific sector of the Antarctic Circle,’ as a poster at

the session 'Habitat and Distribution.' He and other ICR members were co-authors of another study titled 'Estimation of feeding records in pregnant Antarctic minke whales using stable isotope analysis of carbon and nitrogen of baleens,' which was also presented as a poster.



Halifax World Trade and Convention Centre, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

### **Annual meeting of the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO) Scientific Committee (SC)**

The North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO) is an international body for cooperation on the conservation, management and study of marine mammals in the North Atlantic. The NAMMCO Agree-

ment was signed in Nuuk, Greenland on 9 April 1992 by Norway, Iceland, Greenland and the Faroe Islands, and entered into force 90 days later on 8 July 1992. The agreement focuses on modern approaches to the study of the marine ecosystem as a whole, and to better understanding the role of marine mammals in the ecosystem. NAMMCO has a Scientific Committee (SC) which meets annually. The 2017 NAMMCO SC meeting was held at the Marine Research Institute, Reykjavik, Iceland from 14–17 November. One scientist from ICR participated in the meeting (Genta Yasunaga) as an observer for Japan and presented the Japan progress report on cetacean research in 2016.



Marine Research Institute, Reykjavik, Iceland.