



THE INSTITUTE OF CETACEAN RESEARCH

4-5 TOYOMI-CHO, CHUO-KU, TOKYO 104-0055 JAPAN

PHONE: +81-3-3536-6521 FAX: +81-3536-6522

MEDIA CLARIFICATION

23 August 2006

WHALES ARE ABUNDANT

The research vessels that carry out Japan's offshore research in the western North Pacific (JARPN II) returned this week after sampling the intended number of whales: 100 minke, 100 sei, 50 Bryde's and 6 sperm.

On August 21, some self-appointed pseudo-scientists using their IWC Scientific Committee NGO membership to pretend as if they spoke from a position of knowledge have publicly claimed that the number of sightings in a line survey represents the entire population of whales. This is fraudulent.

Legitimate scientists calculate abundance estimates with sighting data derived from "transect line" surveys in a particular area, through which species and numbers of whales sighted along the line are recorded. In a large area, transect line surveys are conducted along numerous survey lines set in several sub-areas and the sighting results of all survey lines in the research area are extrapolated to calculate the total population of a species in the whole research area. This is the method used by the IWC.

The number of sightings of whales in a transect line survey conducted in a limited area in no way reflect nor bear any resemblance to the true population of whale species in a particular area of water.

The total number of North Pacific minke whales sampled represents only 0.4 percent of the 25,000 IWC-estimated population. Abundance estimates for other species and ratio of sampled number of whales are presented in the table 1 below:

Table 1. 2006 JARPN II offshore survey target species, abundance and ratio of sampled whales in relation to their abundance.

Species	Sampled number	Abundance	Percentage
Minke whale	100	25,000	0.4
Bryde's whale	50	23,751	0.2
Sei whale	100	68,000	0.14
Sperm whale	6	102,000	0.005

The number of whales sampled is extremely small compared to abundance, and therefore has no detrimental effect on the stocks.

ENDS

For further information contact ICR spokespeople:

Glenn Inwood (New Zealand) +64 21 498 010

Gabriel Gomez (Japan) +81 3 3536 8227