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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Netherlands ship attacking one more time**

At about past 16:00JST today, Japan's Antarctic whale research (JARPA II) mother ship Nisshin Maru was subject to a projectile attack by the Dutch-registered ship Steve Irwin.

The Steve Irwin and another ship, the Bob Barker, have been pursuing and repeatedly harassing the Nisshin Maru since February 6 and 8 respectively. At about past 16:00JST February 16 the Steve Irwin started closing in to the Nisshin Maru while activists onboard used a large slingshot contrivance to fire numerous ball-shaped plastic projectiles against the Japanese vessel.

The Steve Irwin has ceased its attack but is still following the Nisshin Maru. The Togolese ship stayed away.

There were no damages to the Nisshin Maru or injuries to its crew.

The Institute of Cetacean Research strongly condemns the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society dangerous and violent actions carried out against Japan's whale research vessels and crews who are conducting perfectly legal research activities in the Antarctic, and urges again and again the Netherlands, the Steve Irwin's flag state, Australia, the de facto home port country to the Steve Irwin, the Togolese Republic, the Bob Barker's flag state, and all other related countries to take every means available to prevent the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society illegal and violent actions and strongly requests that these countries observe their international obligations and deal with the Sea Shepherd in a strict and objective manner.

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