



## 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 RELEASE**

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### **Dutch ship engages in desperado attack**

Japan's Antarctic whale research (JARPA II) mother ship Nisshin Maru was subjected today to yet another butyric acid and paint projectile attack by the Netherlands-registered Steve Irwin.

Earlier in the day the Steve Irwin had repeatedly launched a hawser attack aiming to disable the rudder and propeller of the Nisshin Maru.

At about 16:00JST (2000hrs NZDT; 1800hrs AEDT) activists in rubber boats approached the Nisshin Maru and started firing numerous butyric acid and paint projectiles with a launcher gun. Some of the projectiles landed and spilled on the Nisshin Maru deck.

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

The Nisshin Maru used its water cannons and broadcasted warning messages to prevent the Dutch vessel rubber boats approaching.

The Togo-registered Bob Barker has disappeared from the scene and is no longer following the Nisshin Maru.

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.

The ICR urges 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.

The ICR strongly requests that these countries observe their international obligations and deal with the Sea Shepherd in a strict and objective manner.

**ENDS**