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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Flagless ship attacks Yushin Maru No. 3**

The Yushin Maru No. 3 research vessel working for Japan's Antarctic whale research program (JARPA II) was subjected to a projectile attack by the flagless ship, the Bob Barker on February 24.

At about 15:00JST (1900hrs NZDT; 1700hrs AEDT) activists in rubber boats approached the Yushin Maru No. 3 and started firing numerous chemical-containing projectiles with a launcher gun. Some of the projectiles landed and spilled on the Japanese vessel deck.

The Yushin Maru No. 3 had been monitoring the Bob Barker ship activities. There were no damages to the Yushin Maru No. 3 or injuries to its crew.

The Dutch ship Steve Irwin stopped following the Nisshin Maru on the 22 February. The now flagless Bob Barker ship too is no longer following the Nisshin Maru.

The Institute of Cetacean Research strongly condemns Sea Shepherd's 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), 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.

Photographs and video of the incidents in the Antarctic can be seen at:  
<http://www.icrwhale.org/gpandsea.htm>

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