

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

15 February 2012

### **Steve Irwin activists attack Japanese research vessel Yushin Maru No. 3**

On February 15 the Yushin Maru No. 3 (YS3), an Antarctic whale research (JARPAII) vessel was subjected to attack by the Sea Shepherd (SS) ship Steve Irwin (SI). The attack lasted from around 1100 to 1530JST.

Around 1100JST SS activists aboard three rubber boats sent from the SI approached the YS3 and, aiming to disable the Japanese vessel rudder and propeller, repeatedly deployed ropes 11 times just in front of the YS3's bow. The YS3 retrieved 9 of the deployed ropes.

Further, a smoke bomb thrown by an activist hit the protective net and then fell into the sea. Also, seven glass bottles containing butyric acid, 24 glass bottles containing paint and more than 50 projectiles containing paint hit the YS3.

During the attack, the YS3, besides making use of its water pump as a preventive measure to make SS activists desist from further approaching, repeatedly broadcasted a warning message to stop their attack.

There were no injuries to the Japanese crew from this attack although the YS3 was defaced with butyric acid and paint.

Japan's research whaling in the Antarctic (JARPAII) is a perfectly legal activity carried out under the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW). The Institute of Cetacean Research strongly condemns the SS and its continued imprudent and violent actions perpetrated day after day against the integrity and safety of Japan's whale research vessels and crews. Over and over again, we call on all related countries including the Netherlands which is the SI's flag State, New Zealand and Australia which are the port States of SS vessels to take every measure available to restrain them and deal with their criminal actions in a strict and objective manner.

NOTE: Photos and video to be attributed to the INSTITUTE OF CETACEAN RESEARCH, TOKYO, JAPAN. (<http://www.icrwhale.org/gpansea/html>)