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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Non-Lethal Research in the Antarctic Ocean (Japan's effort for the sustainable use of whales is lawful and consistent with the ICJ Judgment)**

The Institute of Cetacean Research (ICR), undertaking whale research in cooperation with the Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and other relevant organizations including the Government of Japan, stated that Japan's non-lethal whale research program to be conducted in the Antarctic Ocean this year is lawful and legitimate as has been fully endorsed by the IWC Scientific Committee.

The ICR carries out its research in order to utilize its scientific expertise for conservation and management of marine living resources, including whales. Scientific knowledge is essential for such activities including this year's non-lethal research. Any violent sabotage activities against this effort must not be tolerated by the international community.

It is regrettable that there is sometimes mischaracterization of whale research programs in which the ICR is involved. One of such cases is about the proposed new scientific whale research program in the Antarctic Ocean. This proposed plan proves Japan's sincere effort to be consistent with the decision by the International Court of Justice in March 2014. It is drafted upon scientific analyses, taking account of the reasoning and conclusions of the ICJ Judgment as it suggested (see paragraph 246 of the Judgment), and will be reviewed in full by the IWC Scientific Committee before conducting the proposed plan. The ICR sincerely hopes that constructive discussions will be held based on legal and scientific grounds.

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