

# **Intention of future whaling operations and sighting surveys for western North Pacific common minke whales**

Hiroshi Hatanaka<sup>1</sup> and Tomio Miyashita<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*The Institute of Cetacean Research, Toyomi-cho 4-5, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 104-0055, Japan*

<sup>2</sup>*National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries, Fukuura 2-12-4, Kanazawa-ku, Yokohama, Kanagawa 236-8648, Japan*

## **ABSTRACT**

This paper describes a draft plan for future harvesting of common minke whales by Japan in the western North Pacific in the context of the RMP *ISTs*. It also outlines the plan for future sighting surveys for abundance estimates.

## **FUTURE WHALING OPERATIONS**

Two types of whaling operations will be carried out, land-based whaling and pelagic whaling.

### **Land-based whaling**

- i) Whaling will be conducted by small-type coastal catcher boats.
- ii) Operation will be restricted to sub-areas 7 and 11 (Figure 1).
- iii) Whaling season will be from April to October in sub-area 7 and from August to October in sub-area 11 in order to avoid the by-catch of J-stock animals.
- iv) O-stock minke whales will be targeted but some few J-stock animals are expected to be by-caught.
- v) The operation of the boats will be outside 10 n miles of the coast in order to minimize the possible takes of J-stock animals.

### **Pelagic whaling**

- i) Whaling will be conducted by catcher boats with a mother-ship or catcher boats being able to process the carcass.
- ii) Operations will be made in sub-areas 8, 9, 11 and possibly 13.
- iii) O-stock minke whales will be targeted. Under stock structure scenario A some W-stock animals are

expected to be caught in sub-area 9 and possibly sub-area 13.

- iv) Whaling season will be from April to October in sub-areas 8, 9 and 13, and from August to October in sub-area 11 in order to avoid the by-catch of J-stock animals in this sub-area.
- v) In sub-area 11 the operation of the boats will be outside 10 n miles of the coast in order to minimize the possible takes of J-stock animals.

#### **SIGHTING SURVEYS FOR ABUNDANCE ESTIMATE**

- i)** Sighting survey will be conducted every year in sub-areas 7, 8 and 9 as a part of JARPN II. Oversight will be applied to IWC SC.
- ii)** Sighting survey will be conducted every five years in sub-areas 11 and 12, and oversight will be applied to IWC/SC.

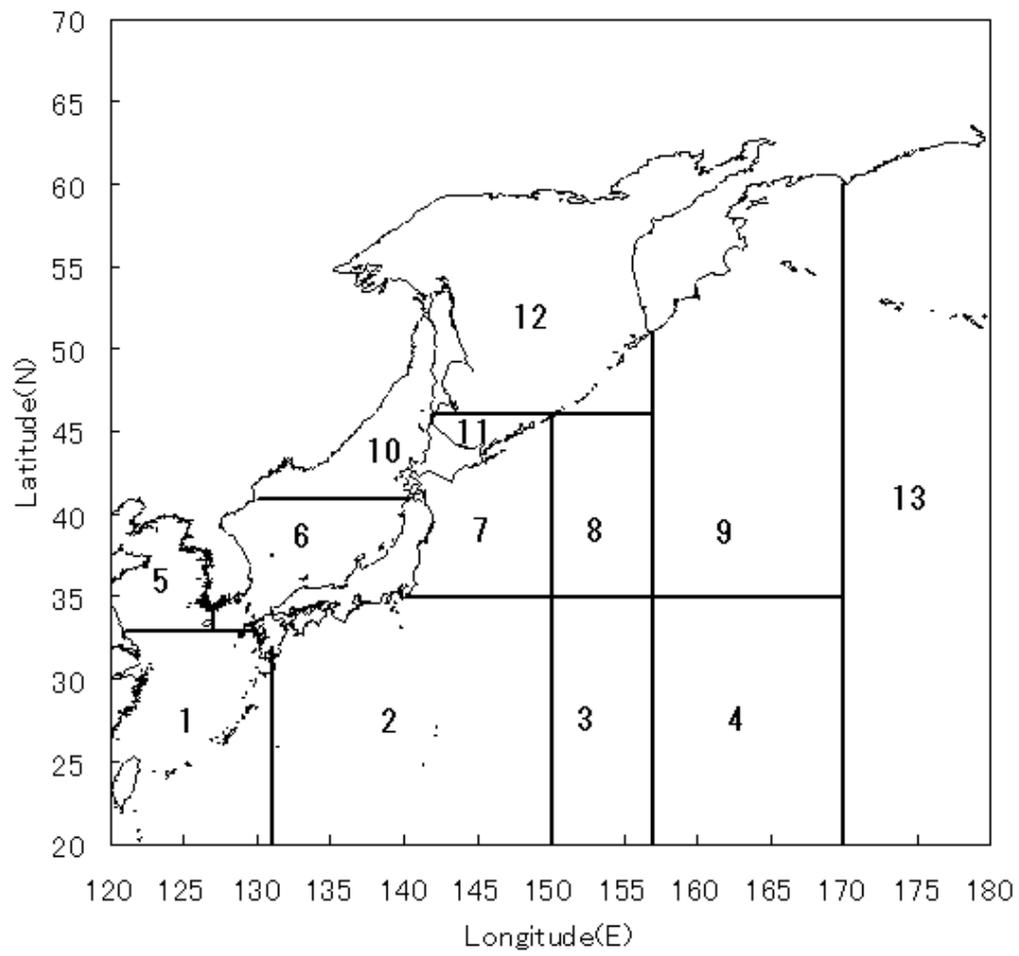


Fig. 1. Definition of sub-areas for the *ISTs* of the western North Pacific minke whales, adopted in 2003.