

## Foreword

It is a pleasure for me to introduce the third issue of the Technical Reports of the Institute of Cetacean Research (TEREP-ICR-3). At the outset I would like to inform that, as an effect of the change in the whaling policy of the Government of Japan, the whale research programs under special scientific permit, NEWREP-A in the Antarctic and NEWREP-NP in the western North Pacific, ceased on 30 June 2019. As explained in earlier issues, research under these programs was the main and first priority of the ICR. From now on, Japan will conduct whale research programs based on non-lethal methods in both the North Pacific and the Antarctic Oceans. In addition, collection of biological samples and data will continue based on whales caught for commercial purposes in Japan's territorial waters and Exclusive Economic Zone. The ICR will have an important role in designing and implementing new research programs, and our scientists will continue analyzing samples and data collected from previous and new research programs. Consistent with its stated objectives, TEREP-ICR will continue describing and reporting on the process, progress, and results of technical or scientific research, or the state of technical or scientific research programs conducted by the ICR.

Similar to TEREP-ICR-1, TEREP-ICR-2 was widely distributed to approximately 120 individual scientists from Japan and 30 foreign countries. It was also distributed to approximately 160 research institutions (including universities, research institutes, public libraries, museums and aquariums), both in Japan and foreign countries. As a result of disseminating information on ICR's research activities through the TEREP-ICR, an increasing number of international scientists are showing interest in conducting research in collaboration with the ICR. Based on this, I believe that TEREP-ICR are contributing to achieve its stated objectives.

I sincerely hope that this third issue of the TEREP-ICR will continue contributing to an increased understanding of the technical and research activities conducted by the ICR among the national and international scientific community.

Dr. Yoshihiro Fujise  
Director General ICR  
Tokyo, December 2019