

## *International meetings*

# Participation of scientists from the Institute of Cetacean Research in International Meetings in 2020

### **Annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission Scientific Committee (IWC SC)**

The International Whaling Commission (IWC) is an international body set up by the terms of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW), which was signed in Washington, D.C., United States, on 2 December 1946, to 'provide for the proper conservation of whale stocks and thus make possible the orderly development of the whaling industry'. One of the important subsidiary bodies of the IWC is the Scientific Committee (SC), which meets annually.

Originally, the 2020 meeting of the IWC SC was planned for Cambridge, United Kingdom, between 12 and 24 May. The in-person meeting was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Instead, the meeting was carried out through a series of virtual sessions in the same period. A total of nine scientists from the ICR participated in the virtual meetings (Fujise, Kato, Pastene, Tamura, Matsuoka, Hakamada, Taguchi, Isoda and Katsumata). They presented a total of 11 documents: six documents at the Standing Working Group on Abundance Estimates, Stock Status and International Cruises (ASI), three as Intersessional Steering Group (ISG) reports, one at the *ad hoc* Working Group on Photo-ID (PH), and one at the Sub-Committee on Conservation Management Plans (CMP).

The report of the IWC SC meeting can be found on the website of the IWC (<https://iwc.int/home>).

In 2020, ICR scientists also participated in the Meeting of the IWC-POWER Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and the 2020 IWC-POWER Planning Meeting, held at the Fisheries Agency of Japan (FAJ)'s Crew House, Tokyo, Japan from 18 to 21 January. On 20 April, a virtual meeting was held to discuss the effect of the Covid-19 pandemic on the logistical aspects of the 2020 IWC-POWER survey. Kato, Pastene, Matsuoka, Hakamada, Taguchi and Takahashi from the ICR participated in these meetings.

The report of these meetings can be found on the website of the IWC (<https://iwc.int/home>).

### **Annual meeting of the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources—Working Group on Ecosystem Monitoring and Management (CCAMLR-EMM)**

The Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) is part of the Antarctic Treaty

System. The Convention was opened for signature on 1 August 1980 and entered into force on 7 April 1982, thereby establishing the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources. Its goal is to preserve marine life and environmental integrity in and near Antarctica. It was established in large part in response to concerns that an increase in krill catches in the Southern Ocean could have a serious impact on populations of other marine life, which are dependent upon krill for food. The CCAMLR has a Scientific Committee and several Working Groups, including the Working Group on Ecosystem Monitoring and Management (EMM), which meet annually.

The 2020 CCAMLR EMM meeting was planned originally for Kochi, India, between 6 and 17 July. The in-person meeting was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Instead, an e-mail group held virtual discussions between 6 and 13 July, on three main topics: Risk Assessment Approach, Krill Management Approach, and Research and Monitoring Plan. One scientist from the ICR participated in the meeting (Pastene).

The report of the e-mail group discussion can be found on the website of the CCAMLR (<https://www.ccamlr.org/>).

### **Annual meeting of the North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES)**

The North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES) is an intergovernmental science organization established in 1992 to promote and coordinate marine scientific research in the North Pacific Ocean and its adjacent seas, and to provide a mechanism for information and data exchange among scientists of member countries. The present members are Canada, Japan, People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America.

The 2020 meeting of the PICES was originally planned for Qingdao, China, between 22 October and 1 November. The in-person meeting was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Instead, a business meeting of the Section on Marine Bird and Mammals (S-MBM) was carried out virtually on 16–17 October. One scientist from the ICR participated in the meeting (Tamura). He presented the document 'Estimation of prey consumption by marine mammals in the PICES regions—Update of Hunt *et al.* (2000)—'. The business meeting discussed research projects for the next five years.

The report of the meeting can be found on the website of PICES (<https://meetings.pices.int/>).