

## Editorial

Welcome to the sixth issue of the Technical Reports of the Institute of Cetacean Research (TEREP-ICR-6).

This issue contains seven technical reports and one commentary article. In TEREP-ICR-6, we started with the series of reports summarizing the research findings on whales and the ecosystem in the western North Pacific Ocean.

Regarding the research findings in the western North Pacific, Taguchi and colleagues (Part 1) focused on the studies on stock structure in large baleen whale species. These studies have been possible because the ICR holds one of largest collection of genetic samples in this oceanic basin, which derived from both past whale research programs under special permit and biopsy samples collected during dedicated sighting surveys. Takahashi and colleagues (Part 2) focused on the results of abundance estimates of baleen whale species based on sighting data collected systematically during dedicated sighting surveys. Bando and colleagues (Part 3) focused on the results of biological parameters in baleen whale species based on samples and data collected during past whale research programs under special permits.

Results of three important dedicated sighting surveys are summarized in this issue: Isoda and colleagues summarized the results of the 2021/22 austral summer season survey of the Japanese Abundance and Stock structure Surveys in the Antarctic (JASS-A); Katsumata and Matsuoka summarized the results of surveys conducted in the North Pacific Ocean in 2021; and Murase summarized the results of the 2021 International Whaling Commission-Pacific Ocean Whale and Ecosystem Research (IWC-POWER) survey.

Konishi and Isoda summarized the results of the long-term track movement of Antarctic minke whales revealed by satellite-monitored tagging experiments conducted by the ICR, and examined these preliminary results in the context of the available stock structure hypothesis derived from genetic analyses.

In the commentary article, Gómez Díaz presented his view on the development and relevance of the ICR in the context of recent whaling events in Japan and the world.

TEREP-ICR-6 issue also includes sections that outline the contribution of ICR scientists to international and national meetings in 2022, as well as their contribution in terms of peer-reviewed publications up to December 2022.

We trust that you will find this sixth issue informative and useful.

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