

## *International meetings*

# Participation of scientists from the Institute of Cetacean Research in International Meetings in 2023

### **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 its Scientific Committee (SC), which meets annually.

The 2023 meeting of the IWC SC (SC69A) was held from 24 April to 6 May in Bled, Slovenia. This was the first in-person Committee meeting since 2019 (SC68A). Four scientists from the Institute of Cetacean Research (ICR) participated in the meetings (Pastene, Tamura, Matsuoka and Katsumata). They presented a total of 10 documents: six documents at the Standing Working Group on Abundance Estimates, Stock Status and International Cruises (ASI), one document at the Working Group on Stock Definition and DNA testing (SDDNA), one document at the Sub-Committee on Conservation Management Plans (CMP) and two general documents (O: PICES Observer Report and Japan's Scientific Progress Reports).

The 2024 IWC SC meeting (SC69B) will be held in Bled, Slovenia from 22 April to 4 May.

The report of the IWC SC meeting can be found on the

website of the IWC (<https://archive.iwc.int/pages/view.php?ref=20108&k=>).

### **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. One of these is the Working Group on Ecosystem Monitoring and Management (EMM), which meets annually.

The 2023 meeting of the EMM Working Group was held from 3 to 14 July in Kochi, India. The main items on the meeting agenda were krill fishery management, spatial management and ecosystem monitoring. Under the spatial overlap analysis approach, several papers on monitoring of krill-dependent predators including whales



Meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) Scientific Committee (SC69A) held at the Rikli Hotel, Bled, Slovenia.



The meeting of the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)-Ecosystem Monitoring and Management (EMM) Working Group in Kochi, India.

in western Antarctic were presented. Isoda from the ICR participated in the meeting, presenting the document entitled 'Summary of the dedicated sighting survey under the Japanese Abundance and Stock structure Surveys in the Antarctic (JASS-A) in four austral summer seasons (2019/2020–2022/2023)'.

The report of the meeting can be found on the website of the CCAMLR (<https://meetings.ccamlr.org/en/wg-emm-2023>).

### Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) Biology Symposium 2023

The Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) is a thematic organization of the International Science Council (ISC), and it was created in 1958. SCAR is charged with initiating, developing and coordinating high quality international scientific research in the Antarctic region (including the Southern Ocean), and on the role of the Antarctic region in the Earth system. SCAR provides objective and independent scientific advice to the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings and other organizations such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on issues of science and conservation affecting the management of Antarctica and the Southern Ocean and on the role of the Antarctic region in the Earth system.

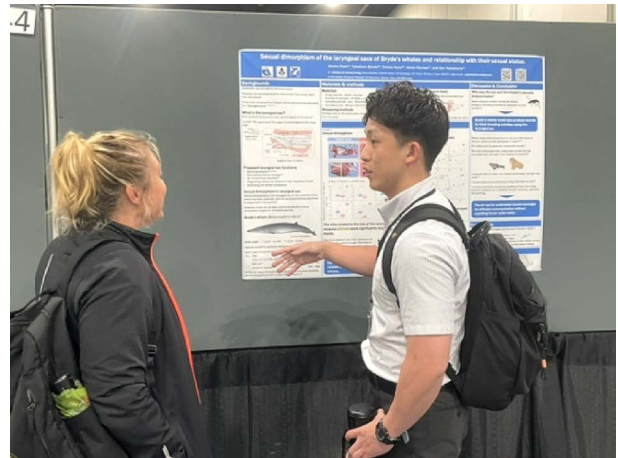
The XIII SCAR Biology Symposium was held from 31 July to 4 August 2023 in Christchurch, New Zealand. Katsumata from ICR participated in the meeting. He made an oral presentation of the study 'Wide range distribution of baleen whales in the Antarctic based on the data from the Japanese long-term ship-based monitoring'.



Presentation at the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) Biology Symposium in Christchurch, New Zealand.

### The 13th International Mammalogical Congress (IMC-13)

The IMC-13 meeting was co-hosted by the American Society of Mammologists and the International Federation of Mammologists. This meeting was held from 14 July to 20 July 2023 in Anchorage, Alaska, USA. Bando and Kuno from the ICR were co-authors of a poster presentation to the meeting entitled 'Sexual dimorphism of the laryngeal sacs of Bryde's whales and its relationship with their sexual status'.



Poster presentation at the International Federation of Mammologists (IMC-13) meeting in Alaska, USA.

### Annual meeting of the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO) Scientific Committee (SC)

The North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO) is an international body for cooperation on the conservation, management and study of marine mammals in the North Atlantic. The NAMMCO Agreement was signed in Nuuk, Greenland on 9 April 1992 by Norway, Iceland, Greenland and the Faroe Islands, and entered into force on 8 July 1992. The agreement focuses on modern approaches to the study of the marine ecosystem as a whole, and to better understanding the role of marine mammals in the ecosystem. NAMMCO has a Scientific Committee (SC), which meets annually.

The 2023 NAMMCO SC (SC29) meeting was held from 23 to 26 January in Copenhagen, Denmark. Four scientists from ICR participated in the meeting (Pastene, Tamura, Konishi and Inoue) as observers from Japan. They presented the following documents: the 2021–2022 Japan progress report on large cetacean research, the 2019–2020 Japan progress report on small cetacean re-

search, proposal for starting a collaborative study to further understand the role of baleen whales in the western North Pacific ecosystem and the 2021–2022 report on satellite tagging experiments at the Institute of Cetacean Research. The report of the meeting can be found on the website of NAMMCO ([https://nammco.no/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/report-sc29\\_16022023\\_rev.pdf](https://nammco.no/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/report-sc29_16022023_rev.pdf)).



Scientists participating in the 2023 North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO) Scientific Committee meeting (SC29) in the Greenlandic Representation, Copenhagen, Denmark.

### **NAMMCO-Japan MINTAG project meeting**

NAMMCO and Japan have agreed on a collaborative project to develop a new satellite tag suited for use on fast-swimming baleen whales which are of most interest to NAMMCO countries and Japan (MINTAG). The project started in 2022 and will run for five years. The project is divided into phases: development phase, testing phase, deployment-data collection-analyses phase, and publication-final reporting- workshop phase. The project is led by a Steering Group composed of scientists from NAMMCO countries and Japan, the Secretariat of NAMMCO and the Fisheries Agency of Japan (FAJ).

The meeting of the MINTAG Steering Group was held on 24 January 2023 during the NAMMCO SC meeting in Copenhagen. The main topics of the meeting were the tender material for tags, the web blog and the schedule for the test tagging experiments. Two scientists from the ICR (Pastene and Konishi) participated in the meet-

ing as members of the Steering Group. The 6th MINTAG meeting was held on 10 October 2023 online and two scientists from ICR (Pastene and Konishi) participated the meeting. Konishi presented an update of the Japanese efforts for tagging five fin whales in June 2023. The activities of the MINTAG project can be found on the website (<https://mintag-project.com/>).

### **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. It aims 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 in its member countries. Its present members are Canada, Japan, People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America.

The 2023 meeting of the PICES was held in Seattle, USA from 23 to 27 October. The business meeting of the Marine Bird and Mammals (S-MBM) section was held on 24 September 2023. One scientist from ICR participated in the meeting (Tamura) introducing the observer report of IWC SC meeting. The report of the PICES meeting can be found on the website of PICES (<https://meetings.pices.int/>).



The meeting of the 2023 North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES) in Seattle, USA.