



## THE INSTITUTE OF CETACEAN RESEARCH

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Netherlands ship harassing the Nisshin Maru**

Today at about 0700JST the Netherlands-registered ship Steve Irwin appeared near the location of the Japanese Antarctic whale research vessels. The Steve Irwin is closely following the research mother ship Nisshin Maru and making water cannon hosing and hawser attacks to entangle the Japanese vessel propeller.

The Dutch ship appeared in the vicinity of the Nisshin Maru at about 0700JST February 8 starting to close in while shooting a water cannon at around 0730JST. The Steve Irwin took up a position behind the Nisshin Maru joining the Togo-registered ship Bob Barker which has been in the area since February 6. In addition, the Bob Barker has been repeated and frequently firing a high-power green laser device against the Nisshin Maru crew. In order to deter their reckless approach and sabotage attempts, the Nisshin Maru is using her water cannons and a warning sound broadcast.

However a few Nisshin Maru crewmen got soaked from the Steve Irwin water cannon, there were neither injuries nor damage to the mother ship.

The Institute of Cetacean Research strongly condemns the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society dangerous and violent actions against Japan's whale research vessels in the Antarctic carried out in contempt of the International Whaling Commission consensus criticism and demand for self-restraint.

The Institute of Cetacean Research urges again the Netherlands, the Steve Irwin's flag state, Australia, the de facto home port country to the Steve Irwin, and all other related countries to take every means available to prevent the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society violent actions and strongly requests that they observe their international obligations and deal with the Sea Shepherd in a strict and objective manner.

Photographs and video of the incidents in the Antarctic can be seen at:  
<http://www.icrwhale.org/gpandsea.htm>

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