

MEDIA RELEASE

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Antiwhaling activists attack Japanese ship Yushin Maru No. 3

The Yushin Maru No. 3, a Japanese Antarctic whale research vessel was subjected to attack today by the anti-whaling vessels Steve Irwin and Bob Barker. The attack started at about 0800JST.

Another SS vessel the Gojira was nearby but did not participate in the attack.

Activists onboard zodiac boats sent from the Steve Irwin and the Bob Barker approached the Japanese vessel and deployed ropes with buoys aimed at the propeller and rudder of the Yushin Maru No. 3. They threw several glass bottle projectiles against the Yushin Maru No. 3.

The Yushin Maru No. 3 broadcasted a warning message and made use of its water cannon as a preventive measure to make the activists desist from further approaching. Neither injuries to the Japanese crew nor damage to the Yushin Maru No. 3 resulted from the activists' attack.

Japan's research whaling in the Antarctic is a perfectly legal activity carried out under the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW). The Institute of Cetacean Research strongly condemns the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society and its continued dangerous and violent actions against Japan's whale research vessels in the Antarctic.

In addition, we call on all related nations including the Netherlands which is the Steve Irwin and Bob Barker flag state and Australia which is their virtual home port, to take every means available to restrain the violent actions by the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society and strongly request that they deal with their criminal actions in a strict and objective manner.

NOTE: Photos and video to be attributed to the INSTITUTE OF CETACEAN RESEARCH, TOKYO JAPAN. (<http://www.icrwhale.org/gpandsea.htm>)