

MEDIA RELEASE

11 January 2012

Steve Irwin activists attempt to sabotage Japanese research vessel Yushin Maru No. 2

On January 11 the Yushin Maru No. 2 (YS2) Antarctic whale research (JARPAII) vessel was subjected to attack by the Sea Shepherd (SS) ship Steve Irwin (SI). The attack lasted from around 1650 to 1750JST.

Around 1650JST Sea Shepherd activists aboard two rubber boats sent from the SI approached the YS2 and, aiming to disable the Japanese vessel rudder and propeller, deployed two ropes just in front of the YS2 bow. In addition, the activists threw more than 20 glass bottles containing butyric acid and paint glass bottles. Seven of these projectile bottles reached the deck of the YS2.

During the attack the YS2 made use of its water pump as a preventive measure to make activists desist from further approaching.

There were no injuries to the Japanese crew. Up to the present, damage to the YS2 from the activists' attack has not been confirmed.

Earlier today (the morning of 11 January) the SI performed an attack on the Japanese Fisheries Agency vessel Shonan Maru No. 2 (SM2). The attack included their fixing hooks and wires on the SM2 rails.

Japan's research whaling in the Antarctic (JARPAII) 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 and its continued dangerous and violent actions against Japanese vessels and crews in the Antarctic, and calls on all related countries including the Netherlands which is the SI flag state to take every measure available to restrain them and deal with their criminal actions in a strict and objective manner according to their international and domestic obligations.

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