

**Joint ICR/ KS MEDIA RELEASE : Institute of Cetacean Research and Kyodo Senpaku**

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## **The U.S. Appeals Court Order enjoins the Sea Shepherd from physical attacks**

The Institute of Cetacean Research (ICR) and Kyodo Senpaku (KS) welcome today's Court Order issued by the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals in their safety at sea complaint against Sea Shepherd and Paul Watson. ( See <http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/datastore/opinions/2012/12/17/12-35266.pdf> )

The Order enjoins Sea Shepherd, Paul Watson and anyone "acting in concert with them" from physically attacking the Japanese research vessels or any person on them and from navigating in a manner that is likely to endanger safe navigation at sea. The Order also prohibits Sea Shepherd and Paul Watson from approaching ICR or Kyodo Senpaku "any closer than 500 yards" when the research vessels are navigating on the open sea.

The Order will remain in force until the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals issues its opinion on the appeal that is currently pending.

ICR and KS recently filed a request asking the Appeals Court to expedite its review because the Sea Shepherd had launched its sabotage vessels and announced its intention once again to take physical action against the Japanese research vessels.

The original complaint was filed in December 2011 at the District of Washington Federal Court in Seattle. ICR and Kyodo Senpaku requested a preliminary injunction to protect their vessels and crews against violent and unlawful attacks by Sea Shepherd. Since that request was denied by the trial court, the organizations filed the appeal that is currently being considered by the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals.

ICR conducts its Antarctic whale research program under a permit issued by the Government of Japan in accordance with Article VIII of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling. Kyodo Senpaku provides the vessels and crews for the research program.

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