

## *International meetings*

# **Participation of scientists from the Institute of Cetacean Research in International Meetings in 2021**

### **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.

Originally, the 2021 meeting of the IWC SC was planned for Bled, Slovenia, between 27 April and 9 May (SC68C). The in-person meeting was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Instead, the meeting was carried out through a series of virtual sessions between 27 April and 14 May. A total of twelve scientists from the Institute of Cetacean Research (ICR) participated in the meeting as observers from Japan (Fujise, Kato, Pastene, Tamura, Matsuoka, Hakamada, Taguchi, Konishi, Goto, Isoda, Takahashi 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 report of the IWC SC meeting can be found on the website of the IWC (<https://iwc.int/home>).

ICR scientists also participated in the meeting of the 'IWC-POWER Technical Advisory Group (TAG)' and the 'Planning Meeting for the 2021 IWC-POWER Cruise,' held online from 9 to 10 November, 2020. Another online meeting was held on 21 April 2021 to discuss the effect of the Covid-19 pandemic on the logistical aspects of the 2021 IWC-POWER survey. Kato, Matsuoka and Takahashi from the ICR participated in these meetings. The report of these meetings can be found on the website of the IWC (<https://iwc.int/home>).

### **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 in-person meeting of the EMM Working Group was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Instead, an online meeting was held between 5 and 12 July, 2021. The main items on the meeting agenda were: Krill Management including risk analyses, Spatial Management and Climate Change. Under the risk analyses approach, several papers on distribution, abundance and prey consumption of whales in western Antarctic were presented. Three scientists from the ICR participated in the meeting (Pastene, Isoda and Katsumata).

The report of the e-mail group discussion can be found on the website of the CCAMLR (<https://www.ccamlr.org/>).

### **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 eco-



Scientists from the ICR participating in the online meeting of the NAMMCO Scientific Committee (25–29 January 2021).

system 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 2020 NAMMCO SC meeting was held online between 25 and 29 January 2021. The in-person meeting was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Four scientists from ICR participated in the meeting (Pastene, Konishi, Inoue and Takahashi) as observers from Japan. They presented the following documents: the 2019–2020 Japan progress report on large cetacean research, the 2018–2019 Japan progress report on small cetacean research, and the 2019–2020 report on satellite tagging experiments at the Institute of Cetacean Research. The report of the meeting can be found in the website of NAMMCO (<https://nammco.no/>).

### **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. The project is called 'Miniature Tag' or MINTAG project. The project started in 2021 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 first organizational meeting of the MINTAG Steering Group was held online on 4 August 2021. The main topics of the meeting were the tender material for tags, web blog and the schedule for the project. Two scientists from the Institute of Cetacean Research (Pastene and Konishi), and one member from the FAJ (Moronuki)

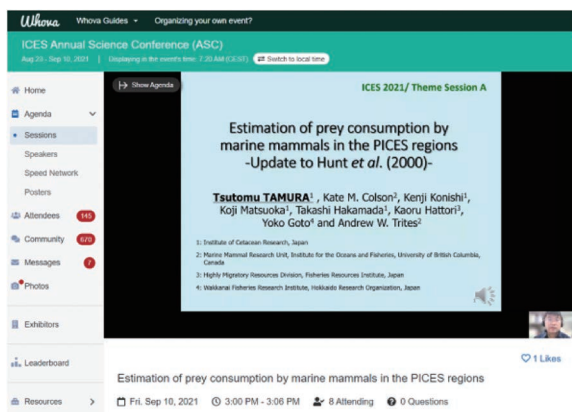
participated in the meeting as members of the Steering Group.

### **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 2021 meeting of the PICES was originally planned for Qingdao, China. The in-person meeting was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Instead, the meeting was held online between 18 and 29 October. The business meeting of the Marine Bird and Mammals (S-MBM) section was held on 30 September. 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 in the website of PICES (<https://meetings.pices.int/>).

The Annual Science Conference of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) was held online between 6 and 10 September 2021. The joint ICES/PICES session on top predators, food webs, and ecosystem-based fisheries management was held on 10 September. One scientist from ICR participated in this session (Tamura). He presented the study titled 'Estimation of prey consumption by marine mammals in the PICES regions —Update to Hunt *et al.* (2000)—'.



A scientist from the ICR giving a presentation at the joint ICES/ PICES session of the online ICES Annual Science Conference.

### 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium of the European Association for Aquatic Mammals

The 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium of the European Association for Aquatic Mammals was held online between 11 and 13 March 2021. The study titled 'Epibiotic macrofauna of Antarctic minke whale, *Balaenoptera bonaerensis* Burmeister, 1867, in the Southern Ocean,' co-authored

by Ten, Konishi, Nakai, Raga, Pastene and Aznar, was presented at the symposium as an oral presentation.

### Conference 2021/UK&Ireland Regional Student Chapter

This conference, organized by the Sea Mammal Research Unit, University of St. Andrews, was held online between 23 and 25 June 2021. The study titled 'The epibiont *Xenobalanus globicipitis* as a multifaceted indicator of cetacean biology: a review,' co-authored by Ten, Konishi, Raga, Fernandez, Pastene and Aznar, was presented at the conference as a poster presentation.

### XXIV Biennial of the Real Sociedad Española de Historia Natural

This biennial was held between 8 and 10 September 2021 in Valencia, Spain. The study titled '*Xenobalanus globicipitis*: un crustaceo epibionte posible indicador de migraciones de ballenas,' co-authored by Ten, Konishi, Nakai, Raga, Pastene and Aznar, was presented at the biennial as an oral presentation.