

## Foreword

It is a pleasure for me to introduce the sixth issue of the Technical Reports of the Institute of Cetacean Research (TEREP-ICR-6). Consistent with its stated objectives, TEREP-ICR describes and reports on the process, progress, and results of technical or scientific research, as well as the state of technical or scientific research programs conducted by the ICR, including those commenced recently as is the case of the Japanese Abundance and Stock structure Surveys in the Antarctic (JASS-A).

The Covid-19 pandemic has continued affecting the ways of conducting scientific research at the ICR. Despite the difficulties, inconveniences and limitations derived from the pandemic, during 2022 the ICR has been able to safely and successfully conduct field surveys, laboratory works and analyses, and participate in national and international meetings. These efforts enabled the ICR to make significant progress on several research works during 2022 as shown in this issue of TEREP-ICR.

Similar as in previous TEREP-ICR issues, TEREP-ICR-5 was widely distributed in Japan and in foreign countries. Notwithstanding the challenges imposed by the pandemic, TEREP-ICR is on course towards achieving its objectives. At the same time, it has been a good opportunity for our scientists to compile and summarize their research conducted over the years, as a precursor to submitting their works for peer review publications.

I sincerely hope that this sixth issue of the TEREP-ICR will contribute further to an increased understanding among national and international scientific communities of the technical and research activities conducted by the ICR.

Dr. Yoshihiro Fujise  
Director General  
Institute of Cetacean Research  
Tokyo, December 2022