

National meetings

Participation of scientists from the Institute of Cetacean Research in National Meetings in 2025

The 91st Annual Meeting and Symposium of the Tohoku Branch of the Japanese Biochemical Society

The Japanese Biochemical Society (JBS) was established in 1925. The JBS is a leading academic organization in Japan dedicated to advancing the field of biochemistry and molecular biology. The JBS is also an active member of international scientific communities, including the Federation of Asian and Oceanian Biochemists and Molecular Biologists and the International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. Through its activities, the JBS plays a vital role in fostering innovation, education, and scientific excellence in Japan and beyond.

The 2025 Annual Meeting of the Tohoku Branch of the JBS was held on 14 June at the Tohoku Medical and Pharmaceutical University, Miyagi. Yasunaga from the Institute of Cetacean Research (ICR) participated in the meeting as a co-author of the study titled ‘The nasal administration of balenine improves the pathology of MPTP-induced Parkinson’s disease in mouse models’.

The 2025 Spring Meeting of the Japanese Society of Fisheries Science (JSFS)

The Japanese Society of Fisheries Science (JSFS) was established in 1932. It is a non-profit, registered society dedicated to the promotion of all aspects of fisheries science. The JSFS fulfills its global commitment by promoting science, striving to achieve sustainable development

in the field of fisheries, while recognizing the crucial need to preserve the natural aquatic resources. It also strives to forge relationships with the fishing industry, comprising both capture and culture fisheries. The main events organized by the society are the biannual meetings held in spring and autumn in one of the main cities of Japan. This forum is where members present their research activities, exchange information, and foster collaborative research in areas of common interest.

The 2025 Spring Meeting of the JSFS was held from 26 to 29 March at Kitasato University, Sagamihara Campus, Kanagawa. Yamada, Katsumata, Isoda and Hakamada from the ICR presented the study titled ‘Development of passive acoustic monitoring methods for baleen whales during autumn and winter’. Additionally, Isoda, Taguchi, Goto and Katsumata participated as co-authors in three research presentations: ‘Abundance estimation of Antarctic krill in the NEWREP-A survey area (35°–165°E)’, ‘Population genetic analysis of humpback whales around Hachijojima using microsatellite DNA and SNPs’, and ‘Humpback whale return rates to waters around Hachijojima using whale watching data (2016–2023)’.

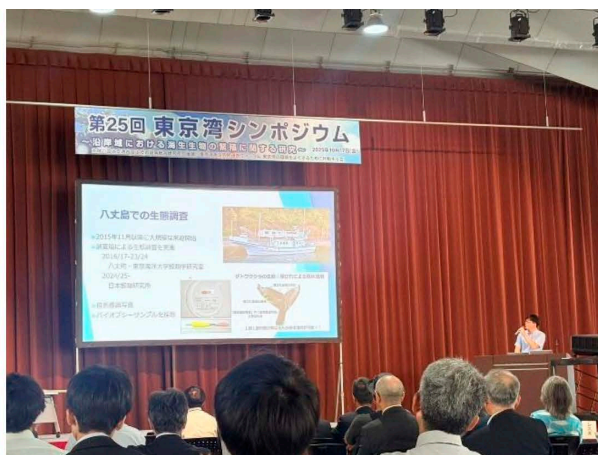
The 25th Tokyo Bay Symposium

The 25th Tokyo Bay Symposium was organized by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) to bring together private companies, NPOs, citizens, universities, research institutions, and government bodies to share the latest knowledge, and consider the better environment and future of Tokyo Bay.

The symposium was held on 17 October at the Osanbashi Hall in Yokohama, Kanagawa. This year’s theme was ‘Research on marine organism reproduction in coastal areas’, emphasizing the need for environmental restoration in coastal areas including harbors with greater consideration for the prosperity and generational succession of marine organisms. The symposium featured lectures by experts from various fields to deepen understanding of coastal environmental restoration. Katsumata from the ICR gave a lecture titled ‘Environmental conditions of humpback whale breeding areas inferred from the sudden appearance around Hachijojima’.



Venue of the 2025 Spring Meeting of the Japanese Society of Fisheries Science (Kitasato University, Sagamihara Campus, Kanagawa, Japan).



The 25th Tokyo Bay Symposium venue (Osanbashi Hall, Osanbashi International Passenger Terminal, Kanagawa, Japan) (left) and lecture on humpback whale breeding areas at the symposium (right).

The 42nd Kyushu–Yamaguchi Branch Meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society of Japan

The Pharmaceutical Society of Japan (PSJ), founded in 1880, is a leading academic organization that advances pharmaceutical sciences throughout the country. The Kyushu–Yamaguchi Branch plays an important role in promoting research collaboration and education among universities and institutes in the region.

The 42nd Annual Meeting of the PSJ was held at Kyushu University on 15 November. Yasunaga, Sakai and Inoue from the ICR participated as co-authors of the study entitled ‘Analysis of *D*-aspartic acid, *D*-alanine, and *D*-serine enantiomers in plasma and urine of the common minke whale from the western North Pacific’. The results provided a basis for future investigations of *D*-amino acids in marine mammals and their physiological significance.

The 2025 Marine Ecosystem Modeling Symposium

The 2025 Marine Ecosystem Modeling Symposium was held from 11 to 12 December at the Atmosphere and Ocean Research Institute, University of Tokyo, Kashiwa, Chiba, jointly organized by the Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency and the Japanese Society of Fisheries Oceanography (JSFO). The symposium theme was ‘Current status of input data and utilization of model outputs for understanding ecosystem structure and function’. The program consisted of three sessions: Input, Modeling, and Output, aiming to promote integrated understanding of marine ecosystems through practical examples of population dynamics models, food web models, and species distribution models. Katsumata and Hakamada from the ICR presented the study titled ‘Investigating abundance and habitat of large whales — from survey design to analytical methods’ in the Input Session of the symposium.