

Editorial

Welcome to the ninth issue of the Technical Reports of the Institute of Cetacean Research (TEREP-ICR-9).

This issue contains seven technical reports and two commentary articles. In the first report, Pastene and colleagues presented a review of the studies on phylogenetic relationship and taxonomy of minke whale worldwide conducted by -or in collaboration with- ICR. The review involved both genetic and non-genetic studies. In the second report, Yamada and Katsumata presented the results of a pilot study on the use of passive acoustic monitoring to investigate the presence of the fin whale in northern Japan during winter. In the third report, Inoue and colleagues outlined the two feasibility studies targeting small cetacean species in Taiji, Wakayama Prefecture: investigation of the school structure and movement of small cetaceans targeted by the drive fisheries in Taiji and developing of bycatch prevention devices for fisheries set nets. In the fourth report, Taguchi summarized the progress made in the studies on stock structure in western North Pacific common minke whales.

Results of three important dedicated sighting surveys were presented in the following three reports: Katsumata and colleagues summarized the results of the 2024/25 austral summer season survey of the Japanese Abundance and Stock structure Surveys in the Antarctic (JASS-A) conducted in the eastern part of Antarctic Area IV; Katsumata and colleagues summarized the results of sighting surveys conducted in the North Pacific in 2024; and Murase and Yoshimura presented an overview of the results of the 2024 International Whaling Commission-Pacific Ocean Whale and Ecosystem Research (IWC-POWER) survey conducted in the eastern North Pacific.

In the first commentary article, Ikeda and colleagues explained the background and plan to move forward of the new research facility of the ICR in Taiji, the ICR Taiji Office. In the second commentary article, Miyashita described the objectives and the history of the Japan-Russian Federation's research collaboration in the Sea of Okhotsk highlighting the importance of such collaboration for investigating the distribution and abundance of some species of cetaceans in this oceanic basin.

TEREP-ICR-9 issue also included sections that outline the contribution of ICR scientists to international and national meetings in 2025, as well as their contribution in terms of peer-reviewed publications up to December 2025.

We trust that you will find this ninth TEREP-ICR issue informative and useful.

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Tokyo, December 2025