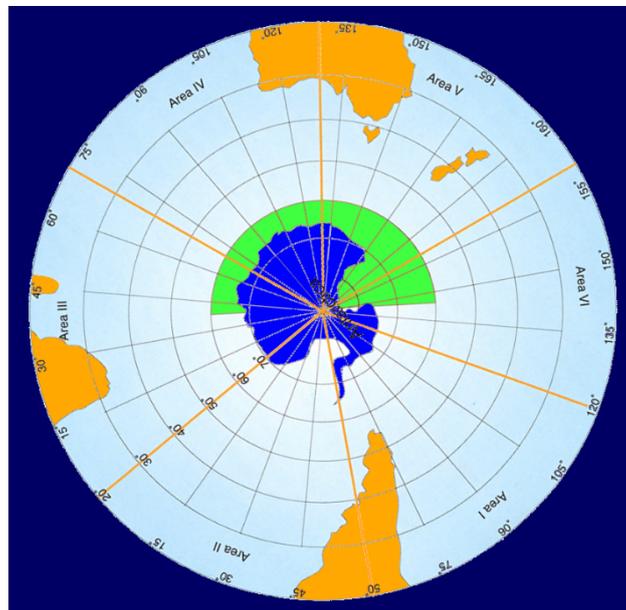
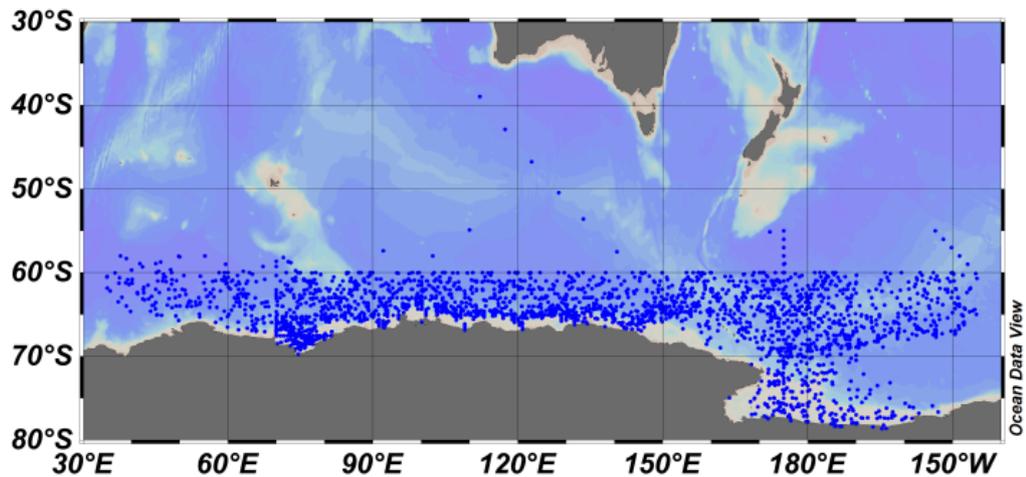


Oceanographic data obtained by the Japanese Whale Research Program in the Antarctic (JARPA, JARPAII) are open now to the scientific community

- Japan has carried out whale research in the Antarctic Ocean through its Japanese Whale Research Program under Special Permit (JARPA) and more recently through the second phase of this program, the JARPA II.
- The JARPA was conducted between 1987/88 and 2004/05 (18 year-period); the JARPA II started in the 2005/06 austral summer season. Data and research results obtained by these programs are reviewed by the International Whaling Commission Scientific Committee on a periodic basis.
- These research programs combine both non-lethal (whale sighting, oceanographic observation, whale biopsy collection, whale photo-identification, krill biomass using quantitative echo-sounder) and lethal (sampling and biological survey of a limited number of Antarctic minke and fin whales) methods to study whales and their environment in the Antarctic.
- The research area involves half of the Antarctic Ocean, between 35°E and 145°W, south of 60°S (in green in the map below).



- Oceanographic data have been collected systematically in the research area for a period of more than 20 years. A total of 2,500 oceanographic profiles were obtained by XBT (temperature profile by depth), XCTD/CTD (temperature and salinity profile by depth), as shown in the following figure.



- Oceanographic data collected in a long period are very important for studying environmental changes in the Antarctic, and in particular to investigate whether global warming is occurring in this sector of the Antarctic.
- Oceanographic data collected in a long period are also important to study changes in the distribution and dynamics of the Antarctic krill, a key species, supporting different species of baleen whales, pinnipeds, bird and fish.
- Because the importance of this long-time series of oceanographic data the Institute of Cetacean Research (ICR) has decided to open these data to the scientific community (free access). These JARPA and JARPAIL data are now available [here](#). The only condition for accessing these data is an acknowledgement to ICR as the institution that collected the data, in any future research based on these data.
- JARPA/JARPAIL research programs have collected other kinds of long-time series of biological data of whales and their environment, and these data are currently available to scientists through the [ICR data access protocol](#). ICR is in preparation to make those data open (free access) in the future as well.