

MEDIA RELEASE

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Bob Barker and Gojira activists attack Japanese research vessel Yushin Maru No. 3

The Yushin Maru No. 3 (YS3), a Japanese Antarctic whale research vessel was subjected to attack today by the Netherlands-registered vessel Bob Barker (BB) and the provisionally Australian-registered trimaran Gojira (G). The attack started at about 2050JST and lasted until about 2130JST.

Earlier in the afternoon the G appeared in the vicinity of the BB.

At about 2050JST one zodiac boat sent from the BB repeatedly approached the Japanese vessel while the activists hand-threw more than ten butyric acid-containing glass bottle projectiles toward the YS3. One of the butyric acid projectiles landed on the bow deck of the YS3. The Gojira too repeatedly approached at about 30-40m in front of the YS3 bow so as to hinder her course.

There were no attempts by the BB or the G to deploy ropes in the way of the YS3.

During the attack the YS3 broadcasted a warning message and made use of its water jet-pump as a preventive measure to make the activists desist from further approaching.

Neither injuries to the Japanese crew nor damage to the YS3 resulted from the activists' attack.

Japan's research whaling in the Antarctic (JARPAII) is a perfectly legal activity carried out under the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW). The Institute of Cetacean Research strongly condemns the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society (SSCS) and its continued dangerous and violent actions against Japan's whale research vessels in the Antarctic.

We call on all related countries including the Netherlands which is the BB's flag State and Australia, the G's provisional flag state and the virtual home port of the SSCS vessels, to stop condoning the SSCS's violent actions and to take every means available to restrain them. Further, we strongly request that these countries deal with the SSCS's criminal actions in a strict and objective manner according to their international obligations.

NOTE : Photos and video to be attributed to the INSTITUTE OF CETACEAN RESEARCH, TOKYO JAPAN.