

MEDIA RELEASE

6 March 2012

Bob Barker activists attack Japanese research vessels Yushin Maru No. 2 and Yushin Maru No. 3

On March 5 at around 1930JST Antarctic whale research (JARPAII) vessels encountered a Sea Shepherd (SS) ship the Bob Barker (BB) when they were moving after having ended another day of research activities.

As a measure to maintain security at sea the slower research base vessel the Nisshin Maru (NM) immediately started avoidance steering while research vessels the Yushin Maru No. 2 (YS2) and the Yushin Maru No. 3 (YS3), repeatedly broadcasted a warning message and towed from their stern a rope with keep-your-distance-warning buoys as a containment measure to make the BB desist from approaching the NM.

Around 2005JST the BB started firing more than 40 flare signals and delivering a high-power laser beam toward the YS2 and YS3. The laser delivering lasted for about 50 minutes. There were neither injuries to the Japanese crews or damage to both vessels from the BB's attack.

At around 2345JST the NM reached a safe distance from the BB while both the YS2 and the YS3 continue monitoring the BB's movements.

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 SS and its violent actions against the integrity and safety of Japan's whale research vessels and crews. The Institute of Cetacean Research intends to continue carrying out the JARPAII research undaunted by their violence.

NOTE: Photos to be attributed to the INSTITUTE OF CETACEAN RESEARCH, TOKYO, JAPAN. (<http://www.icrwhale.org/gpandsea.html>)