Editorial

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

   This second issue contains nine research articles and one commentary article. The first research article interprets the results of several biological and ecological studies on large whales under the JARPA and JARPAII in the Antarctic ecosystem in the context of two hypotheses, the 'krill surplus' hypothesis at the middle of the past century and the hypothesis of recovery of large whales since the 1980's. The second article explains the purposes and the progress of the ecosystem modeling studies conducted by the ICR in both the Antarctic and western North Pacific. The next article summarizes the information on spatial and temporal distribution of large whales in the Indo-Pacific region of the Antarctic, emphasizing the importance of long-term monitoring research programs. Other articles summarize the biological information obtained from Antarctic fin and western North Pacific Bryde's whales, two species for which biological information is very limited for the period after the commercial whaling. This issue also contains an article explaining the criteria of the ICR for evaluating novel non-lethal research techniques in whales. In relation to this, one article is included that explains and summarizes the research being conducted to investigate the feasibility of novel non-lethal techniques for investigating the age and reproductive status of whales. Two articles deal with results of routine non-lethal research, the first summarizes the surveys on marine debris conducted by the ICR in the Antarctic, and the second summarizes the data on photo-identification of three Antarctic baleen whale species in the Antarctic. The commentary article deals with the issue of the ethics of whaling.

   This second issue also includes sections to outline the contribution of ICR scientists to national and international meetings in 2018 as well as their contribution in terms of peer reviewed publications up to December 2018.

   I hope you will find this second issue informative and useful.

Dr. Luis A. Pastene
Editor TEREP-ICR
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