

## *International meetings*

# Participation of scientists of the Institute of Cetacean Research in International Meetings in 2019

### **34<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on the Okhotsk Sea & Polar Oceans, 2019**

The Okhotsk Sea & Polar Oceans Symposium is organized annually by the City of Mombetsu. This symposium promotes the advancement of all ice-related studies including biology and fisheries, in the Sea of Okhotsk.

The 2019 symposium was held at the Mombetsu Culture Hall, Mombetsu, Hokkaido, Japan from 17 to 20 February. Two scientists from the Institute of Cetacean Research (ICR) (Kato and Tamura) participated in the symposium by presenting an 'Outline of the second whale scientific permit survey off the coast of the Okhotsk Sea under the NEWREP-NP program.'



Mombetsu Culture Hall, Mombetsu, Japan.

### **Annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission Scientific Committee (IWC SC)**

The International Whaling Commission (IWC) is an international body set up by the terms of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW), which was signed in Washington, D.C., United States, on 2 December, 1946 to 'provide for the proper conservation of whale stocks and thus make possible the orderly development of the whaling industry.' One of the important components of the IWC is the Scientific Committee (SC), which meets annually.

The 2019 meeting of the IWC SC was held at the Safari Park Hotel & Casino, Nairobi, Kenya from 10 to 23 May. A total of ten scientists from the ICR participated in the meeting (Fujise, Kato, Pastene, Tamura, Matsuoka, Goto, Hakamada, Yasunaga, Taguchi and Takahashi). They presented five documents at plenary sessions, five

documents at the *Ad hoc* Working Group on Abundance Estimates, Stock Status and International Cruises, two documents at the Working Group on Ecosystem Modelling, two documents at the Working Group on Environmental Concerns, one document at the Working Group on Stock Definition and DNA Testing, and two documents at the Sub-Committee on Other Southern Hemisphere Whale Stocks.

The report of the IWC SC meeting can be found in the website of the IWC (<https://iwc.int/home>).



Safari Park Hotel & Casino, Nairobi, Kenya.

In 2019, ICR scientists also participated in the First Intersessional Workshop on the *Implementation Review* for western North Pacific common minke whales, held at the Fisheries Agency of Japan (FAJ)'s Crew House, Tokyo, Japan from 25 February to 1 March. Pastene, Goto, Hakamada, Taguchi, Inoue and Takahashi from the ICR participated in the workshop

The report of this meeting can be found in the website of the IWC (<https://iwc.int/home>).

### **Annual meeting of the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources—Working Group on Ecosystem Monitoring and Management (CCAMLR-EMM)**

The Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) is part of the Antarctic Treaty System. The Convention was opened for signature on 1 August 1980 and entered into force on 7 April 1982 thereby establishing the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources. The goal is to preserve marine life and environmental integrity in and

near Antarctica. It was established in large part in response to concerns that an increase in krill catches in the Southern Ocean could have a serious impact on populations of other marine life which are dependent upon krill for food. The CCAMLR has a Scientific Committee and several Working Groups including the Working Group on Ecosystem Monitoring and Management (EMM), which meet annually.

The 2019 meeting of the CCAMLR-EMM was held at the Concarneau Marine Station, Concarneau, France from 24 June to 5 July. One scientist from ICR participated in the meeting (Pastene). He presented the documents 'Distribution and possible areas of spatial mixing of two stocks of humpback whales, a krill predator, in the Indo-Pacific region of the Antarctic revealed by genetic analyses' and 'Outline of a research program to investigate the abundance, abundance trends and stock structure of large whales in the Indo-Pacific region of the Antarctic, including a survey plan for the 2019/20 austral summer season.' The presentations of these documents were made under the agenda item 'Krill predator biology, ecology and population dynamics.'

The report of the meeting can be found in the website of the CCAMLR (<https://www.ccamlr.org/>).



Concarneau Marine Station, Concarneau, France.

Agriculture and Consumer Protection, Economic and Social Development, Fisheries and Aquaculture, Forestry, Corporate Services, Human Resources and Finance and Technical Cooperation.

The Expert Meeting to 'Develop technical guidelines to reduce bycatch of marine mammals in capture fisheries' was held at the FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy on 17-19 September 2019. Twenty-nine fisheries and bycatch experts and observers from FAO Members participated in the Meeting: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Iceland, Japan, Norway, Russian Federation, Sweden, and the United States of America. The meeting was also attended by experts from various regional and international organizations: Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES), International Whaling Commission (IWC), North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO), and NGOs, including Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), Whale and Dolphin Conservation (WDC), and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). Kato, Advisor of ICR, participated in the meeting as an expert.

The report of the meeting can be found in the website of FAO (<http://www.fao.org/home/en/>).



FAO headquarters, Rome, Italy.

### **FAO Expert Meeting to Develop Technical Guidelines to Reduce Bycatch of Marine Mammals**

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. The FAO was formed on 16 October 1945 and has its headquarters in Rome, Italy. As of August 2018, the FAO has 197 member states. The agency is directed by the Conference of Member Nations, which meets every two years. The Conference elects a council of 49 member states that acts as an interim governing body, and the Director-General, that heads the agency. FAO is composed of six departments:

### **Annual meeting of the North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES)**

The North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES) is an intergovernmental science organization established in 1992 to promote and coordinate marine scientific research in the North Pacific Ocean and its adjacent seas, and to provide a mechanism for information and data exchange among scientists in its member countries. Its present members are Canada, Japan, People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America.

The 2019 meeting of the PICES was held at the Victoria,

BC, Canada from 16 to 27 October. One scientist from ICR participated in the meeting (Tamura). He presented the study 'Estimation of prey consumption by marine mammals in the PICES regions -Update of Hunt *et al.* (2000)-' as an oral presentation at the session 'Implications of Prey Consumption by Marine Birds, Mammals, and Fish in the North Pacific.' Konishi, Matsuoka and Hakamada were co-author in this study. Tamura, Hakamada and Matsuoka were co-authors of another study 'Spatial estimation of prey consumption by sei, Bryde's and common minke whales in the western North Pacific during the summers of 2008–2009: Density surface model approach,' that was also presented at the same session.

The report of the meeting can be found in the website of PICES (<https://meetings.pices.int/>).



Victoria Conference Centre, Victoria, Canada.

### **Annual meeting of the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO) Scientific Committee (SC)**

The North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO) is an international body for cooperation on the conservation, management and study of marine mammals in the North Atlantic. The NAMMCO Agreement was signed in Nuuk, Greenland on 9 April 1992 by Norway, Iceland, Greenland and the Faroe Islands, and entered into force on 8 July 1992. The agreement focuses on modern approaches to the study of the marine ecosystem as a whole, and to better understanding the role of marine mammals in the ecosystem. NAMMCO has a Scientific Committee (SC) which meets annually.

The 2019 NAMMCO SC meeting was held at Tórshavn Marina, Faroe Islands from 29 October to 1 November. Three scientists from ICR participated in the meeting (Pastene, Isoda and Taguchi) as observers from Japan. They presented the 2017–2019 Japan progress report on cetacean research as well an outline of the research program to investigate the abundance, abundance trends

and stock structure of large whales in the Indo-Pacific region of the Antarctic (JASS-A).

The report of the meeting can be found in the website of NAMMCO (<https://nammco.no/>).



Tórshavn Marina, Faroe Islands.

### **19<sup>th</sup> World Marine Mammal Conference**

The World Marine Mammal Conference (WMMC) is a joint conference between the Society for Marine Mammalogy (SMM) and the European Cetacean Society (ECS). The ECS was founded in January 1987 with the aim to promote and advance the scientific studies and conservation efforts of marine mammals and disseminate information about them to the society and the public. The ECS convenes once a year in a European country, alternating between southern and northern Europe as much as possible, with invited international authorities. The SMM was founded in 1981 and is the largest international association of marine mammal scientists in the world. The mission of the SMM is to promote the global advancement of marine mammal science and contribute to its relevance and impact in education, conservation and management.

The 19<sup>th</sup> WMMC was held at the Centre de Convencions Internacional de Barcelona (CCIB), Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain from 7–12 December 2019. Two scientists from the ICR participated in the conference (Konishi and Takahashi) presenting the studies 'Changes in sei whale feeding habits in response to fish species replacement in the western North Pacific during 2002–2018,' and 'A com-

parison of the diet composition derived from skin stable isotopes and stomach contents for two baleen whale species: sei and Bryde’s whales in the western North Pacific’ as posters at the session ‘Foraging Ecology.’

Konishi, Tamura and Bando were co-authors of the study ‘Tracing life history of immature Antarctic minke whales: stable isotope oscillation in baleen revealed ontogenetic diet shifts and seasonal migration,’ presented as a poster at the session ‘Foraging Ecology.’ Matsuoka was co-author of the studies ‘Estimation of population dynamics for the Antarctic blue whale using Bayesian state-space models’ and ‘Estimation of relationship between density surface of humpback whales and environmental factors in the North Pacific ocean using IWC-POWER data,’ presented as posters at the session ‘Population Biology and Abundance’ and ‘Habitat and Distribution.’ Katsumata and Kato submitted the study ‘Expansion of wintering ground of the humpback whales in the North Pacific: Beginning of the seasonal migration to around Hachijo Island, Izu Archipelago,’ which was presented as a poster at the session ‘Habitat and Distribution.’



The Centre de Convencions Internacional de Barcelona (CCIB), Barcelona, Spain.

### ‘Ecopath 35 Years—Making Ecosystem-Based Management Operational’ Conference

This conference and associated workshops was held at the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, St. Petersburg, Florida, USA from 4 to 11 December 2019, to showcase 35 years of progress using the Ecopath approach in fields such as fisheries management, marine conservation, ecosystem dynamics, climate impacts, and ecosystem-based management, as well as to introduce new aspects of the approach.

Tamura and Hakamada were the co-authors of a contributing study presented to the conference titled ‘Ecosystem modeling in the western North Pacific from 1994 to 2013 using Ecopath with Ecosim (EwE) with focus on forage fish and baleen whales.’



The Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, St. Petersburg, Florida, USA.