

Editorial

Welcome to the eighth issue of the Technical Reports of the Institute of Cetacean Research (TEREP-ICR-8).

This issue contains six technical reports and one commentary article. Takahashi and Pastene presented a summary of their published study on the use of mathematical models to investigate close kin in the southern right whale of the Indian sector of the Antarctic. The analysis was based on genetic data from biopsy samples obtained from several Japanese and International Whaling Commission (IWC) whale research surveys in the Antarctic. Kiemel and colleagues explained the development and implementation of Single Nucleotide Polymorphism (SNPs) markers for whale's population genomics research at the ICR. Katsumata and Isoda presented an overview of the studies on individual identification and photogrammetry of Antarctic blue whales based on drone surveys conducted by the ICR in the Antarctic.

Results of three important dedicated sighting surveys were presented in this issue: Isoda and colleagues summarized the results of the 2023/24 austral summer season survey of the Japanese Abundance and Stock structure Surveys in the Antarctic (JASS-A) conducted in a Indian sector of the Antarctic; Kim and colleagues summarized the results of sighting surveys conducted in the North Pacific in 2023; and Murase and Yoshimura presented an overview of the results of the 2023 IWC-Pacific Ocean Whale and Ecosystem Research (IWC-POWER) survey conducted in the eastern North Pacific.

In the commentary article, Pastene described two successful cases of international research collaborations by the ICR in 2023/24 highlighting the importance of international research collaboration in the study of cetaceans by the ICR.

TEREP-ICR-8 issue also included sections that outline the contribution of ICR scientists to international and national meetings in 2024, as well as their contribution in terms of peer-reviewed publications up to December 2024.

We trust that you will find this eighth TEREP-ICR issue informative and useful.

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