



THE INSTITUTE OF CETACEAN RESEARCH

TOYOMI SHINKO BLDG. 4-5 TOYOMI-CHO CHUO-KU TOKYO 104-0055 JAPAN
PHONE: +81-3-3536-6521 <http://www.icrwhale.org> FAX: +81-3-3536-6522

MEDIA RELEASE

By-products from Japan's whale research program on sale

Tokyo, DEC. 6.- The Director General of the Institute of Cetacean Research in Tokyo, Dr. Seiji Ohsumi, announced today that whale meat from Japan's research in the North Pacific will be distributed in the Japanese market from December 9, 2002.

This year, Japan conducted its research program in the North Pacific from July to October 2002. The primary objective of the research is to obtain data to better manage all marine resources in the area. Article VIII of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling specifically provides for any IWC member country to issue permits for catching whales for research purposes. The Convention also requires that the by-products of the research be processed in order that valuable resources are not wasted.

The Institute of Cetacean Research will distribute 195 tons of whale meat for use in public institutions by local governments and 506 tons to wholesale markets. Because the supply of products is short of the level of demand, distribution to each prefecture is decided on the basis of historical consumption and current demand to ensure broad and equitable distribution and pricing. An additional amount of the byproduct (724 tons) will be used for further processing. Proceeds from the sale of the by-products are used to cover a portion of the research costs. This year, a total of 150 minke whales (of which 50 specimens were obtained in inshore waters), 50 Bryde's whales, 39 sei whales and 5 sperm whales were sampled, producing a total of 1425 tons of by-products. Consumers of whale meat products are assured that all products offered for sale have been tested and meet all the standards of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.

Dr. Ohsumi said "The IWC Scientific Committee has said that Japan's research programs are providing valuable scientific information". "The management of all marine resources should be based on sound scientific advice so this research is important" he added.

For further information on Japan's whale research programs please go to the website of the Institute of Cetacean Research <http://www.icrwhale.org>

or contact Mr. Takumi IKESHIMA at ICR +81-3-3536-6521.