

Public Statement

January 22, 2016

Statement by the president of the Japan Whaling Association (JWA), regarding the joint statement on Whaling and Safety at Sea by the governments of Australia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, and the United States released on January 11, 2016

Mr. Kazuo Yamamura, the president of the JWA, made the following comment today regarding the four-country joint statement released by the US Department of State.

However, I agree with the joint statement call to the masters of all vessels involved to uphold their responsibility to ensure safety at sea in order to avoid the risk of loss of life or injury and damage to property or the marine environment in compliance with international regulations, I feel uncomfortable with the joint statement by those four governments, which classifies both Japanese vessels conducting legitimate research activities and anti-whaling vessels conducting reckless, dangerous and illegal activities equally as the same. The US 9th Circuit Court of Appeals determined Sea Shepherd activities as piracy in February, 2013. Despite releasing the joint statement calling for safety at sea, both the government of Netherlands, flag state of vessels owned by Sea Shepherd, and the government of Australia, providing ports to them, have not fulfilled their responsibilities at all by taking measures to prevent dangerous activities in advance and ensure safety at sea. It is extremely regrettable to hear that Sea Shepherd owned vessel Steve Irwin departed from Freemantle, West Australia on January 18, 2016 to interfere with Japanese research activities on the Antarctic Ocean.

The joint statement disingenuously states that they do not believe that Japan has sufficiently demonstrated that it has given due regard to the guidance found in the 2014 International Court of Justice judgment. Japan is following the judgment's recommendations sincerely as a State that places a great importance on the international legal order and the rule of law as a basis of the international community. The New Scientific Whale Research Program in the Antarctic Ocean (NEWREP-A) has been formulated fully in consideration with matters pointed out in the ICJ judgment, and finalized through necessary procedures, then, submitted to the International Whaling Commission. In addition, the joint statement declares that all information necessary for management and conservation of whales can be obtained through non-lethal methods, but it is an irresponsible remark unfounded at the present stage. The Japanese new research program includes non-lethal research items evaluating the

feasibility of non-lethal methods, and it will be found out more clearly by NEWREP-A whether lethal research methods possibly can be replaced by non-lethal ones in future.

Finally, it is those four government states that are maintaining moratorium on commercial whaling, and reform the International Whaling Commission, but such attitudes are without doubt primary factors leading to international dispute on the whaling issue. The moratorium on commercial whaling has as supplement condition that it shall be reviewed and its zero quotas modified by 1990, however, such review has been delayed endlessly by anti-whaling nations including those four nations ignoring the terms completely. Also, those nations are making claims repeatedly against the objective set forth in the preamble of the International Convention for Regulation of Whaling, "to make possible the orderly development of the whaling industry," and they do not demonstrate their duty as IWC member nations ratifying the treaty. To prevent international friction, it is necessary to discuss the whaling issue based only on scientific evidence, and mutually recognize that there is a difference of values with regard to whales.

Kazuo Yamamura
President
Japan Whaling Association