

Policy towards the Future Whale Research Programs
Statement by Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries,
the Government of Japan

18 April 2014

Taking account of the judgment by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in the case concerning *the Whaling in the Antarctic*, Japan has reviewed its policy on whaling based upon international law and scientific evidence, as well as upon its sincere stance towards conservation and management of whale resources, and decided to adopt the following policy and actions:

1. Basic Policy

The ICJ judgment reaffirms that one of the purposes of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling is the sustainable utilization of whale resources. In light of this, Japan has confirmed its basic policy of pursuing the resumption of commercial whaling, by conducting whale research programs, through the cooperation among the ministries concerned, based upon international law and scientific evidence in order to gather scientific data that is essential for the management of whale resources.

2. Whale Research Programs from FY 2015

Japan will conduct through the cooperation among related ministries an earnest review of the designs of whale research programs in the Antarctic and in the western North Pacific from FY 2015 with the aim of submitting new research plans to the Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) by the autumn this year, which reflect the criteria mentioned in the judgment. In doing so, Japan will follow an internationally open and highly transparent process through securing the participation of renowned scientists from Japan and abroad, and through other processes including discussions at the IWC Scientific Committee's workshop and coordination with other institutions conducting relevant studies.

In addition, in view of securing the safety of research vessels as well as researchers and crew, Japan will consider through the cooperation among the ministries concerned and in line with what is stated in the new research programs, appropriate measures against unlawful violent activities by the

anti-whaling group that are found by the ICJ as “regrettable sabotage activities”.

3. Whale Research Programs in FY 2014

- (1) In the Antarctic, Japan has decided to cancel the Second Phase of the Japanese Whale Research Program under Special Permit in the Antarctic (JARPAII) in accordance with the judgment.
- (2) In the western North Pacific, Japan will limit its research objectives taking account of the judgment and then reduce the scale of the research activities of the Second Phase of the Japanese Whale Research Program under Special Permit in the Western North Pacific (JARPNII).
- (3) In view of the consideration of research programs for FY 2015, Japan will take various necessary measures, including studies of feasibility or practicability of non-lethal methods such as collection of DNA samples in the western North Pacific, taking account of the content of the judgment.