

Japan's Scientific Progress Report on Large Cetaceans in the fiscal year 2020 (April 2020 to March 2021), with statistical data for the calendar year 2020

Government of Japan

ABSTRACT

This document summarizes the data and samples of large cetaceans, which were collected by the Institute of Cetacean Research (ICR), Fisheries Resources Institute (FRI) and Fisheries Agency of Japan (FAJ) in the fiscal year 2020 (April 2020 to March 2021), and statistical data for the calendar year 2020. Sighting data for abundance estimates of large cetaceans were collected in the western North Pacific, Okhotsk Sea and the Antarctic during systematic sighting surveys. During the surveys, photo-ID, biopsy and satellite tracking experiments on large cetaceans were also conducted. A large number of biological data and samples were collected during the surveys for whales taken under the commercial whaling. Species and figures of bycatch and stranding of large cetaceans are based on the reports of prefecture governments to the FAJ, which compile information from individual fishermen, fishermen cooperatives and general public. Data and samples collected are being analyzed for contributing to the management of large cetaceans in the North Pacific.

1. SIGHTINGS DATA

	Large Area	Species	Year	Local Area	No. of Sightings
JASS-A (including middle and low latitudinal sighting survey) Dedicated sighting vessel (<i>Yushin-Mar</i> No.2) (2020/21)	Southern Ocean	Blue whale	2021	Area IIIW	29
		Fin whale			257
		Bryde's whale			1
		Antarctic minke whale			122
		Humpback whale			739
		Sperm whale			9
		Southern bottlenose whale			20
Western North Pacific Dedicated Sighting vessel (<i>Yushin-Mar</i> , <i>Yushin-Mar</i> No.2, <i>Yushin-Mar</i> No.3 and <i>Kaiyo-Mar</i> No.7) (2020)	Pacific Ocean - North	Blue whale	2020	Western North Pacific	4
		Fin whale			76
		Sei whale			63
		Bryde's whale			391
		Common minke whale			2
		Humpback whale			2
		Sperm whale			574
IWC-POWER Dedicated Sighting vessel (<i>Yushin-Mar</i> No.2) (2020)	Pacific Ocean - North	Blue whale	2020	Western North Pacific	31
		Fin whale			32
		Sei whale			181
		Common minke whale			3
		Humpback whale			8
		Sperm whale			90
Western North Pacific Dedicated Sighting vessel (<i>Yushin-Mar</i> , <i>Yushin-Mar</i> No.3 and <i>Kaiyo-Mar</i> No.7) (2021)	Pacific Ocean - North	Fin whale	2021	Western North Pacific	25
		Sei whale			1
		Bryde's whale			9
		Common minke whale			1
		Humpback whale			40
		Right whale			1
		Sperm whale			224
Dedicated Sighting vessel on small cetacean sighting survey (<i>Kaiyo-Mar</i> No.7) (2020)	Pacific Ocean - North	Sperm whale	2020	Western North Pacific	7

2. MARKING DATA

2.1 Natural marking data

	Large Area	Species	Year	Local Area	Feature	No. of whales photo identified
JASS-A Dedicated sighting vessel (<i>Yushin-Maru No.2</i>) (2020/21)	Southern Ocean	Blue whale	2021	Area IIIW	Head, Dorsal, Lateral marking	20
		Humpback whale			Fluke, Dorsal fin	41
Western North Pacific Dedicated Sighting vessel (<i>Yushin-Maru, Yushin-Maru No.2, Yushin-Maru No.3 and Kaiyo-Maru No.7</i>) (2020)	Pacific Ocean - North	Blue whale	2020	Western North Pacific	Head, Dorsal, Lateral marking	4
		Humpback whale			Fluke, Dorsal fin	1
IWC-POWER Dedicated Sighting vessel (<i>Yushin-Maru No.2</i>) (2020)	Pacific Ocean - North	Blue whale	2020	Western North Pacific	Head, Dorsal, Lateral marking	26
		Fin whale			Lateral marking	1
		Humpback whale			Fluke, Dorsal fin	3
Western North Pacific Dedicated Sighting vessel (<i>Yushin-Maru, Yushin-Maru No.3 and Kaiyo-Maru No.7</i>) (2021)	Pacific Ocean - North	Humpback whale	2021	Western North Pacific	Fluke, Dorsal fin	4
		Right whale			Head	1

2.2 Telemetry data

	Large Area	Species	Year	Local Area	Tag Type	No. of Deployments
JASS-A Dedicated sighting vessel (<i>Yushin-Maru No.2</i>) (2020/21)	Southern Ocean	Fin whale	2021	Area IIIW	Satellite	7
		Antarctic minke whale			Satellite	10
		Humpback whale			Data logger	2
Western North Pacific Dedicated Sighting vessel (<i>Yushin-Maru, Yushin-Maru No.2, Yushin-Maru No.3 and Kaiyo-Maru No.7</i>) (2020)	Pacific Ocean - North	Fin whale	2020	Western North Pacific	Satellite	7
		Sei whale	2020	Western North Pacific	Satellite	11
Abashiri coastal tagging and biopsy survey (<i>Chipashiri</i>) (2020)	Okhotsk Sea	Fin whale	2020	Off Abashiri	Satellite	2

3. Biopsy samples

	Large Area	Species	Year	Local Area	Number Collected
JASS-A (including middle and low latitudinal sighting survey) Dedicated sighting vessel (<i>Yushin-Mar</i> No.2) (2020/21)	Southern Ocean	Blue whale	2021	Area IIIW	8
		Fin whale			15
		Bryde's whale			1
		Antarctic minke whale			14
		Humpback whale			16
Western North Pacific Dedicated Sighting vessel (<i>Yushin-Mar</i> , <i>Yushin-Mar</i> No.2, <i>Yushin-Mar</i> No.3 and <i>Kaiyo-Mar</i> No.7) (2020)	Pacific Ocean - North	Blue whale	2020	Western North. Pacific	2
		Fin whale			12
		Sei whale			15
		Humpback whale			2
IWC-POWER Dedicated Sighting vessel (<i>Yushin-Mar</i> No.2) (2020)	Pacific Ocean - North	Blue whale	2020	Western North. Pacific	13
		Fin whale			9
		Sei whale			38
		Bryde's whale			1
		Humpback whale			2
Western North Pacific Dedicated Sighting vessel (<i>Yushin-Mar</i> , <i>Yushin-Mar</i> No.3 and <i>Kaiyo-Mar</i> No.7) (2021)	Pacific Ocean - North	Fin whale	2021	Western North Pacific	4
		N.P. right whale			1
Abashiri coastal tagging and biopsy survey (<i>Chipashiri</i>)(2020)	Sea of Okhotsk	Fin whale	2020	Off Abashiri	5
		Common minke whale			1

4. Direct catches of cetaceans

	Large Area	Species	Year	Local Area	Total Landed	No. of animals examined	No. of research items	Type of Catch
Factory ship type whaling (2020)	Pacific Ocean - North	Sei whale	2020	Western North Pacific	25	25	24	Commercial whaling
		Bryde's whale			187	187	24	
Small type coastal whaling (Ayukawa landstation) (2020)	Pacific Ocean - North	Common minke whale	2020	Off Sanriku region	17	17	29	Commercial whaling
Small type coastal whaling (Hachinohe landstation) (2020)	Pacific Ocean - North	Common minke whale	2020	Off Sanriku region	31	31	29	Commercial whaling
Small type coastal whaling (Abashiri landstation) (2020)	Pacific Ocean - North	Common minke whale	2020	Off Hokkaido	21	21	29	Commercial whaling
Small type coastal whaling (Kushiro landstation) (2020)	Pacific Ocean - North	Common minke whale	2020	Off Hokkaido	26	26	29	Commercial whaling

5. Fisheries bycatches of cetaceans

Species	No. of animals	Location ¹⁾	Fate ²⁾	Gear ³⁾	Target fish species ⁴⁾	Source or contact
Common minke whale	8	Hokkaido	K	FPN	NA	FAJ
	1		D			
	2	Aomori	K	FPN		
	6	Iwate	K	FPN		
	8	Miyagi	K	FPN		
	1	Akita	K	FPN		
	1	Ibaraki	D	FPN		
	1	Chiba	K	FPN		
	1	Kanagawa	K	FPN		
	3	Niigata	K	FPN		
	2	Toyama	K	FPN		
	13	Ishikawa	K	FPN		
	2	Fukui	K	FPN		
	1	Mie	K	FPN		
	3	Kyoto	K	FPN		
	3	Wakayama	K	FPN		
	2	Shimane	K	FPN		
	1	Yamaguchi	K	FPN		
	1	Tokushima	K	FPN		
	2	Kochi	K	FPN		
	1	Fukuoka	K	FPN		
	1	Saga	K	FPN		
	6	Nagasaki	K	FPN		
1	Miyazaki	K	FPN			
1	Kagoshima	K	FPN			
Fin whale	1	Kyoto	K	FPN		
Humpback whale	3	Shizuoka	R	FPN		
	2	Wakayama	R	FPN		

1) Recorded at the place of fishing gears.

2) Fate of whale: D = discarded dead or seriously injured, K = kept for sale or specimen, R = released alive

3) Described using "FAO FISHING DESCRIPTION AND CODES", that is, stationary uncovered pound nets (FPN), set gillnets (GNS) and miscellaneous gear (MIS).

4) Target fish species: NA = not available

6. Stranding of cetaceans

Species	No. strandings	Prefecture	Source or contact
Common minke whale	4	Hokkaido	FAJ
	1	Aomori	
Sei whale	1	Ibaraki	
Bryde's whale	2	Miyagi	
Fin whale	1	Hokkaido	
	1	Kanagawa	
	1	Fukui	
	1	Fukuoka	
Humpback whale	3	Chiba	
	1	Kanagawa	
Gray whale	1	Hokkaido	
Sperm whale	1	Hokkaido	
	1	Ibaraki	
	1	Tokyo	
	1	Shizuoka	
	1	Yamaguchi	
	1	Kumamoto	
	1	Miyazaki	
	1	Kagoshima	
1	Okinawa		