

Japan's Scientific Progress Report on Large Cetaceans

in the period 2019/2020

Government of Japan

ABSTRACT

This document summarizes the data and samples of large cetacean, which were collected by the Institute of Cetacean Research (ICR) and National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries (NRIFSF) in 2019 and austral summer season 2019/20. Sighting data for abundance estimates of large cetaceans were collected in the western North Pacific, Gulf of Alaska 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 items were collected during the surveys for whales taken under the special permit research (NEWREP-NP) and commercial whaling in the western North Pacific. 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 Dedicated sighting vessel (<i>Yushin-Maru No.2</i>) (2019/20)	Southern Ocean	Blue whale	2020	Area IIIW	24
		Fin whale			150
		Sei whale			1
		Antarctic minke whale			211
		Humpback whale			191
		Sperm whale			15
		Southern bottlenose whale			30
Western North Pacific Dedicated Sighting vessel (<i>Yushin-Maru, Yushin-Maru No.2, Yushin-Maru No.3 and Kaiyo-Maru No.7</i>) (2019)	Pacific Ocean - North	Blue whale	2019	Western North Pacific	8
		Fin whale			81
		Sei whale			66
		Bryde's whale			204
		Common minke whale			51
		Humpback whale			172
		Sperm whale			545
IWC-POWER Dedicated Sighting vessel (<i>Yushin-Maru No.2</i>) (2019)	Pacific Ocean - North	Gray whale	2019	The Gulf of Alaska	15
		Blue whale			21
		Fin whale			458
		Sei whale			6
		Common minke whale			43
		Humpback whale			402
		Sperm whale			61
Dedicated Sighting vessel on small cetacean sighting survey (<i>Kaiyo-Maru No.7</i>) (2019)	Pacific Ocean - North	N.P.right whale	2019	Western North Pacific	1
		Bryde's whale			19
		Sperm whale			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-Mar</i> No.2) (2019/20)	Southern Ocean	Blue whale	2020	Area IIIW	Head, Dorsal, Lateral marking	20
		Humpback whale			Fluke, Dorsal marking	14
Western North Pacific Dedicated Sighting vessel (<i>Yushin-Mar</i> , <i>Yushin-Mar</i> <i>No.2</i> , <i>Yushin-Mar</i> No.3 and <i>Kaiyo-Mar</i> No.7) (2019)	Pacific Ocean - North	Blue whale	2019	Western North Pacific	Head, Dorsal, Lateral marking	8
		Humpback whale		Western North Pacific	Fluke, Dorsal fin	28
IWC-POWER Dedicated Sighting vessel (<i>Yushin-Mar</i> No.2) (2019)	Pacific Ocean - North	Gray whale	2019	The Gulf of Alaska	Lateral marking	6
		Blue whale			Head, Dorsal, Lateral marking	16
		Fin whale			Lateral marking	51
		Humpback whale			Fluke, Dorsal fin	30

2.2 Telemetry data

	Large Area	Species	Year	Local Area	Tag Type	No. Successfully Deployed
JASS-A Dedicated sighting vessel (<i>Yushin-Mar</i> No.2) (2019/20)	Southern Ocean	Fin whale	2020	Area IIIW	Satellite	10
		Antarctic minke whale			Satellite	8
Western North Pacific Dedicated Sighting vessel (<i>Yushin-Mar</i> , <i>Yushin-</i> <i>Mar</i> No.2, <i>Yushin-Mar</i> <i>No.3</i> and <i>Kaiyo-Mar</i> <i>No.7</i>) (2019)	Pacific Ocean - North	Blue whale	2019	Western North Pacific	Satellite	1
		Fin whale	2019	Western North Pacific	Satellite	6
		Sei whale	2019	Western North Pacific	Satellite	14
		Bryde's whale	2019	Western North Pacific	Satellite	1

3. Biopsy samples

	Large Area	Species	Year	Local Area	Number Collected
JASS-A Dedicated sighting vessel (<i>Yushin-Mar</i> No.2) (2019/20)	Southern Ocean	Blue whale	2020	Area IIIW	10
		Fin whale			11
		Antarctic minke whale			8
Western North Pacific Dedicated Sighting vessel (<i>Yushin-Mar</i> No.2, <i>Yushin-Mar</i> No.3 and <i>Kaiyo-Mar</i> No.7) (2019)	Pacific Ocean - North	Blue whale	2019	Western North. Pacific	5
		Fin whale			7
		Sei whale			5
		Common minke whale			1
		Humpback whale			3
IWC-POWER Dedicated Sighting vessel (<i>Yushin-Mar</i> No.2) (2019)	Pacific Ocean - North	Gray whale	2019	The Gulf of Alaska	2
		Blue whale			12
		Fin whale			45
		Sei whale			4
		Humpback whale			12
Dedicated Sighting vessel on small cetacean sighting survey (<i>Kaiyo-Mar</i> No.7) (2019)	Pacific Ocean - North	N.P. right whale	2019	Western North Pacific	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
NEWREP-NP Coastal component (Sanriku-spring) (2019)	Pacific Ocean - North	Common minke whale	2019	Off Ayukawa	20	20	38	Special Permit
NEWREP-NP Coastal component (Sanriku-spring) (2019)	Pacific Ocean - North	Common minke whale	2019	Off Hachinohe	27	27	38	Special Permit
NEWREP-NP coastal component (Abashiri-summer)(2019)	Okhotsk Sea - South	Common minke whale	2019	Off Abashiri	32	32	37	Special Permit
Commercial whaling Offshore component (2019)	Pacific Ocean - North	Sei whale	2019	Western North Pacific	25	25	23	Commercial whaling
		Bryde's whale			187	187	23	
		Common minke whale			11	11	23	
Commercial whaling Coastal component (Kushiro) (2019)	Pacific Ocean - North	Common minke whale	2019	Off Kushiro	33	33	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	6	Hokkaido	K	FPN	NA	FAJ
	6	Aomori	K	FPN		
	14	Iwate	K	FPN		
	6	Miyagi	K	FPN		
	1	Akita	K	FPN		
	4	Chiba	K	FPN		
	3	Niigata	K	FPN		
	9	Toyama	K	FPN		
	20	Ishikawa	K	FPN		
	4	Fukui	K	FPN		
	1	Shizuoka	K	FPN		
	2	Mie	K	FPN		
	3	Kyoto	K	FPN		
	4	Wakayama	K	FPN		
	1	Shimane	K	FPN		
	5	Yamaguchi	K	FPN		
	2	Kochi	K	FPN		
	10	Nagasaki	K	FPN		
	2	Miyazaki	K	FPN		
1	Kagoshima	K	FPN			
Sei whale	1	Toyama	K	FPN		
Humpback whale	1	Chiba	K	FPN		
	1		R	FPN		
	1	Mie	K	FPN		
	1	Yamaguchi	K	FPN		
	1	Kochi	K	FPN		
	2	Okinawa	R	FPN		
Unidentified baleen whale	1	Aomori	D	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	5	Hokkaido	FAJ
	1	Toyama	
	1	Ishikawa	
	2	Yamaguchi	
	1	Miyazaki	
Sei whale	1	Chiba	
Bryde's whale	1	Tokyo	
Humpback whale	1	Miyagi	
	1	Kanagawa	
	1	Shizuoka	
	1	Mie	
	1	Kochi	
	1	Nagasaki	
Gray whale	1	Kanagawa	
Sperm whale	2	Hokkaido	
	1	Iwate	
	1	Miyagi	
	1	Chiba	
	4	Kagoshima	
Unidentified large whale	1	Hokkaido	