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Whaling  
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CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSIONERS  
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**Safety at Sea**

Protest activities in the Southern Ocean related to Japan's JARPA II programme have grown in seriousness in recent years. Given the continuing nature of the protests and the expected forthcoming issue of special permits for the 2011/12 season by the Government of Japan I thought it appropriate to re-circulate the Commission's recent consensus Resolution (2011-2) on the need for safety at sea.

A media release on safety at sea for placement on the IWC's website is also included with this Circular Communication.

Simon Brockington  
Secretary to the Commission

c.c. Intergovernmental Organisation observers to the IWC

**Statement on Safety at Sea by the International Whaling Commission**

The International Whaling Commission is aware of the confrontations which have taken place in recent years in the Southern Ocean between vessels operated by the Government of Japan and anti-whaling protestors.

All Contracting Governments to the IWC support the right to legitimate and peaceful forms of protest and demonstration.

However, recent protest activities in the Southern Ocean have resulted in increasingly dangerous actions and confrontations. Such actions present a grave risk and imperil human life. Consequently, at its last Annual Meeting, all IWC Contracting Governments adopted a Resolution which stated that the IWC does not condone and in fact condemns any actions that are a risk to human life and property in relation to the activities of vessels at sea.

The IWC is aware that further incidents in the remote Southern Ocean could result in tragedy. Accordingly it urges that the resolution of differences on issues regarding whales and whaling should not be pursued through violent actions that present a risk to human life and property at sea, or the Antarctic environment.

IWC Resolution 2011-2 on Safety at Sea can be found at:

<http://www.iwcoffice.org/meetings/resolutions/resolution2011.htm>

IWC Resolution 2007-2 on Safety at Sea and Protection of the Environment can be found at:

<http://www.iwcoffice.org/meetings/resolutions/resolution2007.htm>

IWC Resolution 2006-2 on Safety of Vessels Engaged in Whaling and Whale Research-Related Activities can be found at:

<http://www.iwcoffice.org/meetings/resolutions/resolution2006.htm>