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Circular Communication to Commissioners and Contracting Governments  
**IWC.CCG.1150**

**Government of Japan: Letter, Special Permits and Guidance  
North Pacific (coastal component) 2015**

The Government of Japan has issued Special Permits authorizing the 2015 take of minke whales for scientific research purposes in the western North Pacific Ocean (coastal component), and reports to the International Whaling Commission in accordance with Article VIII(1) of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling.

In addition the Government of Japan has requested that a letter related to the Special Permits, including an associated guidance document, are circulated to Contracting Governments.

The letter, the guidance document and copies of the Special Permits are attached.

Simon Brockington  
Executive Secretary

*c.c. Accredited Observers to the IWC*

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*Chair:* Mr Bruno Mainini (Switzerland)  
*Vice-Chair:* Mr Joji Morishita (Japan)  
*Executive Secretary:* Dr Simon Brockington