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WHALING COMMISSION

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Circular Communication to Commissioners and Contracting Governments  
**IWC.CCG.1159**

**Japanese Special Permits – North Pacific (offshore component)**

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

Copies of the permits are attached to this Circular.

In addition, a letter from the Commissioner for Japan and a guidance note issued by the Director General of the Fisheries Agency are also 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