



**FISHERIES AGENCY**  
**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES, GOVERNMENT OF**  
**JAPAN**

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June 15, 2015

Dr. Simon Brockington  
Secretary to the International Whaling Commission  
The Red House  
135 Station Road  
Impington  
Cambridge  
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Dear Dr. Brockington,

The Government of Japan issued Special Permits No.27-SUIKAN-434 dated 8 June, 2015, authorizing the take of Bryde's whales and Sei whales for scientific research purposes in the Cetacean Studies in the Western North Pacific Ocean 2015 (offshore component), and reports to the International Whaling Commission (IWC) in accordance with Article 8 (1) of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling.

The Government of Japan would like to inform the Members of the IWC that, taking account of the Judgment delivered by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on 31 March 2014, it has reduced the species and number of whales authorized to be taken under the attached Special Permits, and the Director-General of the Fisheries Agency issued a guidance, a copy of which is also attached, on 8 June 2015 to the bearer of the attached Special Permits in accordance with 9 (13) of the respective Special Permits that it will need to employ non-lethal methods steadily in order to advance their feasibility and practicability studies and their results will need to be included in its report to be submitted in accordance with 9 (3) of the said Permits.

I request that this letter as well as the attached Special Permits and the guidance by the Director-General of the Fisheries Agency be circulated to all IWC Commissioners.

Yours sincerely,

Joji Morishita  
IWC Commissioner  
Government of Japan