



FISHERIES AGENCY
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES, GOVERNMENT OF
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April 1, 2016

Dr. Simon Brockington
Secretary to the International Whaling Commission
The Red House
135 Station Road
Impington
Cambridge
CB4 9NP

Dear Dr. Brockington,

The Government of Japan issued Special Permits No.27-SUIKAN-2500 dated April 1, 2016, authorizing the take of Minke whales for scientific research purposes in the Cetacean Studies in the Western North Pacific Ocean 2016 (costal 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 reduced the number of whales authorized to be taken under the attached Special Permits since 2014. Furthermore, the Director-General of the Fisheries Agency issued a guidance, a copy of which is also attached, on 1 April 2016 to the bearer of the attached Special Permits in accordance with 8 (11) of the respective Special Permits that it will need to employ non-lethal methods steadily, including the DNA biopsy samplings, 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 8 (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