

Press Release

Institute of Cetacean Research and Kyodo Senpaku File Motion for Contempt in Lawsuit with Sea Shepherd

12 February 2013

The Institute of Cetacean Research (ICR) and Kyodo Senpaku (KS) filed, on February 11, a Motion for Contempt against Sea Shepherd for breaching the Injunction Order issued by the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals on 17 December 2012.

This Injunction Order states: “Defendants Sea Shepherd Conservation Society and Paul Watson, and any party acting in concert with them (collectively “defendants”), are enjoined from physically attacking any vessel engaged by Plaintiffs the Institute of Cetacean Research, Kyodo Senpaku Kaisha, Ltd., Tomoyuki Ogawa or Toshiyuki Miura in the Southern Ocean or any person on any such vessel (collectively “plaintiffs”), or from navigating in a manner that is likely to endanger the safe navigation of any such vessel. In no event shall defendants approach plaintiffs any closer than 500 yards when defendants are navigating on the open sea. This injunction pending appeal... shall remain in place until we issue an opinion on the merits of this appeal.”

In support of their Motion for Contempt, ICR and KS detail that the Sea Shepherd vessel Brigitte Bardot violated the Injunction Order on 29 January 2013 by breaching the 500 yard safety perimeter around the ICR and KS vessels that the Court imposed. The Brigitte Bardot approached 20.25 yards of the Yushin Maru No. 3 vessel.

The Court will review evidence supporting the motion which SS had designated as confidential.

ICR conducts an Antarctic whale research program under a permit issued by the Government of Japan in accordance with Article VIII of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling. Kyodo Senpaku provides the vessels and crews for the research program.

For More Information contact: Gavin Carter, Washington, DC: Phone (703) 619-1504.