

Press Release

NINTH CIRCUIT DECISION ON CONTEMPT WELCOMED

Tokyo 22 December 2014

The Institute of Cetacean Research (ICR) and Kyodo Senpaku (KS) today welcomed the decision of the United States Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals that Sea Shepherd Conservation Society (SSCS), Paul Watson and SSCS board members at the time concerned are in Civil Contempt of an Injunction that the Court issued on 17 December 2012.

That Injunction stated:

“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.”

Lawyers acting for ICR and KS wrote to SSCS on 29 January 2013 after this Injunction was first violated and demanded assurances that it would not be violated again. After receiving no assurances from Sea Shepherd, and after further breaches occurred, ICR and KS initiated a Contempt action on 11 February 2013. The decision by the Appeals Court on this Contempt action establishes that Sea Shepherd, Paul Watson and SSCS board members at the time violated the Injunction. It awards attorney’s fees, costs and compensatory damages to ICR and KS and refers the issue of sanctions to the District Court.

Ends

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