

Editorial

Welcome to the fifth issue of the Technical Reports of the Institute of Cetacean Research (TEREP-ICR-5).

This issue contains eight technical reports and one commentary article. In TEREP-ICR-5, we continue with the series of reports summarizing the research findings on whales and the ecosystem in the Indo-Pacific sector of the Antarctic.

This time, Pastene and colleagues focus on the studies on stock structure in large baleen whale species other than the Antarctic minke whale. These studies have been possible because the ICR holds one of largest collections of biopsy samples of baleen whales from the Antarctic region.

Results of three important dedicated sighting surveys are summarized in this issue: Isoda and colleagues summarize the results of the 2020/21 austral summer season survey of the Japanese Abundance and Stock structure Surveys in the Antarctic (JASS-A); Katsumata and colleagues summarize the results of several surveys conducted in the North Pacific in 2019 and 2020; and Matsuoka and Murase summarize the results of the 2020 International Whaling Commission-Pacific Ocean Whale and Ecosystem Research (IWC-POWER) survey.

The basic concept of Density Surface Model (DSM) for estimating abundance of large whales is explained in a report by Hakamada.

Goto and colleagues summarize the biological and ecological knowledge acquired by ICR on the J stock common minke whales. Several biological and ecological studies of this stock have been possible by the genetic identification of individuals of this stock based on nuclear DNA markers.

Mogoe and colleagues report on the activities on stranding records by the ICR while Matsuoka and Yoshida outline the development and application of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) to the cetacean research by ICR.

In the commentary article, Pastene presents his view on the importance of international collaboration in the research of marine mammals, especially of baleen whale species.

TEREP-ICR-5 issue also include sections that outline the contribution of ICR scientists to international and national meetings in 2021, as well as their contribution in terms of peer-reviewed publications up to December 2021.

I trust that you will find this fifth issue informative and useful.

Dr. Luis A. Pastene
Editor, TEREP-ICR
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