

International meetings

Participation of scientists from the Institute of Cetacean Research in International Meetings in 2022

Annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission Scientific Committee (IWC SC)

The International Whaling Commission (IWC) is an international body set up by the terms of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW), which was signed in Washington, D.C., United States, on 2 December 1946, to 'provide for the proper conservation of whale stocks and thus make possible the orderly development of the whaling industry'. One of the important subsidiary bodies of the IWC is its Scientific Committee (SC), which meets annually.

The 2022 meeting of the IWC SC was carried out through a series of virtual sessions from 25 April to 13 May (SC68D). A total of twelve scientists from the In-

stitute of Cetacean Research (ICR) participated in the meetings (Fujise, Kato, Pastene, Tamura, Matsuoka, Hakamada, Taguchi, Konishi, Goto, Isoda, Takahashi and Katsumata). They presented a total of 10 documents: six documents at the Standing Working Group on Abundance Estimates, Stock Status and International Cruises (ASI), one document at the Working Group on Stock Definition and DNA testing (SDDNA), one document at the Sub-Committee on Conservation Management Plans (CMP) and two general documents (O: PICES Observer Report and Japan's Scientific Progress Reports).

The report of the IWC SC meeting can be found on the website of the IWC (<https://iwc.int/events-and-workshops/sc68d-2022>).

IWC's Workshop of the Technical Adviser Group (TAG) and 2023 cruise planning meeting for the IWC-POWER program

IWC-POWER (Pacific Ocean Whale and Ecosystem Research) is a large international research program aimed to study the abundance and abundance trend of large whales in the North Pacific through annual dedicated sighting surveys. The program is designated and implemented by the Scientific Committee of the IWC through a Steering Group, which in turn count with a Technical Adviser Group (TAG). The TAG usually meets once a year. The IWC-POWER program has carried out surveys with the participation of scientists from Japan, USA, Russian Federation, Republic of Korea and Mexico.

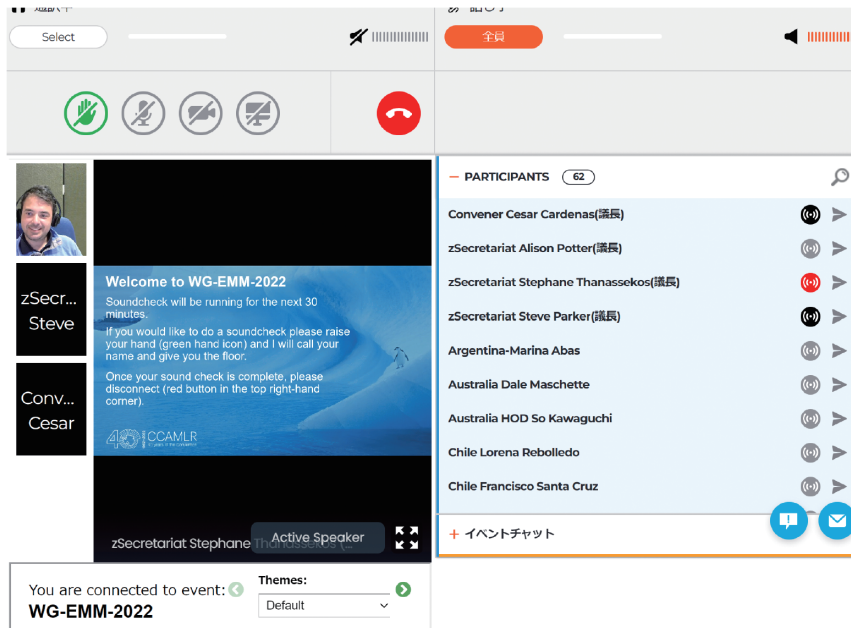
The TAG and the 2023 cruise planning meetings were



Observers from Japan participating in the online 2022 IWC Scientific Committee meeting at the ICR meeting room.



Scientists participating in the 2022 IWC's TAG and 2023 cruise planning meeting for the IWC-POWER program.



2022 online meeting of the CCAMLR-EMM Working Group.

held from 6 to 10 September 2022 at the Fisheries Agency’s Crew house, Tokyo. The TAG meeting was co-chaired by Matsuoka of the ICR, who also chaired the planning meeting. In addition, Pastene, Taguchi and Isoda from the ICR participated in the meetings. A total of 10 primary documents were presented.

The report of the meetings can be found on the website of the IWC (<https://iwc.int/events-and-workshops>).

68th Meeting of the International Whaling Commission

The plenary sessions of the 68th meeting of the IWC was carried out between 17 and 21 October 2022 at the Grand Hotel Bernardin and Conference Centre, Portoroz, Slovenia. Among the main items in the meeting agenda were: the Scientific Committee presentation of four consecutive meetings; discussion on finance and administra-



68th meeting of the International Whaling Commission.

tive issues; proposals to amend the *Schedule*; discussion on proposed resolutions; and aboriginal subsistence whaling. Fujise and Ohmagari from the ICR participated in the meeting. The next meeting of the IWC will be held in Lima, Peru in 2024.

Annual meeting of the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources—Working Group on Ecosystem Monitoring and Management (CCAMLR-EMM)

The Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) is part of the Antarctic Treaty System. The Convention was opened for signature on 1 August 1980 and entered into force on 7 April 1982, thereby establishing the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources. Its goal is to preserve marine life and environmental integrity in and near Antarctica. It was established in large part in response to concerns that an increase in krill catches in the Southern Ocean could have a serious impact on populations of other marine life, which are dependent upon krill for food. The CCAMLR has a Scientific Committee and several Working Groups. One of these is the Working Group on Ecosystem Monitoring and Management (EMM), which meets annually.

The online meeting of the EMM Working Group was held from 4 to 11 July 2022. The main items on the meeting agenda were: krill management including risk analyses, spatial management and climate change. Under the risk analyses approach, several papers on distribution, abundance and prey consumption of whales in western

Antarctic were presented. Three scientists from the ICR participated in the meeting (Tamura, Isoda and Katsumata).

The report of the meeting can be found on the website of the CCAMLR (<https://meetings.ccamlr.org/en/wg-emm-2022>).

Annual meeting of the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO) Scientific Committee (SC)

The North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO) is an international body for cooperation on the conservation, management and study of marine mammals in the North Atlantic. The NAMMCO Agreement was signed in Nuuk, Greenland on 9 April 1992 by Norway, Iceland, Greenland and the Faroe Islands, and entered into force on 8 July 1992. The agreement focuses on modern approaches to the study of the marine ecosystem as a whole, and to better understanding the role of marine mammals in the ecosystem. NAMMCO has a Scientific Committee (SC), which meets annually.

The 2022 NAMMCO SC (SC28) meeting was held online from 24 to 28 January 2022. Five scientists from the ICR participated in the meeting (Pastene, Tamura, Konishi, Hakamada and Takahashi) as observers from Japan. They presented the following documents: '2020–2021 Japan progress report on large cetacean research', '2019–2020 Japan progress report on small cetacean research', 'Outline of the process to calculate a catch limit for North Pacific common minke whale', and '2020–2021 report on satellite tagging experiments at the Institute of Cetacean Research'.

The report of the meeting can be found on the website of NAMMCO (https://nammco.no/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/final_report-sc28-2022.pdf).



Scientists participating in the 28th online meeting of the NAMMCO Scientific Committee.

Meetings of the Steering Committee of the NAMMCO-Japan MINTAG project

The essence of the Miniature-Tag project (MINTAG project) is the development of smaller and lighter satellite transmitter tagging systems than the ones existing on the market today. The objective is to develop a tag (MINTAG) adapted to the study of the lesser-known fast swimming baleen whales such as fin, common minke, sei and Bryde's whales, as well as pilot whales. The project is a cooperation between the four NAMMCO member countries (see above) and Japan. MINTAG is led by a Steering Group, which meets regularly. Pastene and Konishi from the ICR are members of the Steering Group. An outline of the MINTAG project can be found at the NAMMCO homepage.



Fourth online meeting of the Steering Group of the NAMMCO-Japan MINTAG project.

In 2022 several meetings of the Steering Group have been carried out. The fourth meeting of the Steering Group was held online on 9 September 2022. The main objectives of the meeting were to review of summer test shooting, tag design and meeting with Wildlife Computers, project website, plan and schedule for 2023, data depository and budget.

29th Annual Meeting of the NAMMCO Council

The 29th NAMMCO Council meeting was held at the Grand Hotel, Oslo, from 13 to 15 September 2022. Pastene from the ICR participated in the meeting as member of the observer delegation from Japan composed by the Fisheries Agency and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) members. The Council meeting was carried out concurrently with the meeting of the Management Committee.



Observers from Japan to the 29th Annual Meeting of the NAMMCO Council.

Annual meeting of the North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES)

The North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES) is an intergovernmental science organization established in 1992. It aims to promote and coordinate marine scientific research in the North Pacific Ocean and its adjacent seas, and to provide a mechanism for information and data exchange among scientists in its member countries. Its present members are Canada, Japan, People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America.



Hotel Paradise Busan, the venue of the PICES-2022 meeting.

The 2022 meeting of the PICES was held at the Hotel Paradise Busan, Busan, Korea. The business meeting of the Marine Bird and Mammals (S-MBM) group was held on 24 September 2022. One scientist from the ICR

participated in the meeting (Tamura) introducing the observer report of the 2022 IWC-SC meeting. The report of the PICES meeting can be found on the website of PICES (<https://meetings.pices.int/>).

Workshop of the project Basin-scale Events to Coastal Impacts (BECI)

The Basin-scale Events to Coastal Impacts (BECI) is an approved UN Decade of Ocean Science (UNDOS) project supported by the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) and the North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES). The objective of BECI is, over the course of the UN Decade (2021–2030), to develop and implement an international ocean intelligence system of monitoring, research and analytical approaches that will provide timely knowledge and advice to decision makers regarding the impact of current and future ocean conditions from the high seas to coastal socio-ecological systems. In order to develop a high-level science plan for BECI, a series of workshops are carried out to assemble experts to advise on the state of climate and ocean models, knowledge of the current and projected conditions of climate and ocean in the North Pacific and their likely effects on biological production including fishery resources and emerging tools and technology that can be used to effectively monitor and study the connection between fish and the ecosystem.

The Workshop 3 of the BECI ('Technology and tools for monitoring and synthesis') was held online from 13 to 14 June 2022. Katsumata from the ICR participated in this workshop by presenting the study entitled 'Progress in the development of a long-range flying VTOL-UAV 'ASUKA''. Presentations made at the Workshop 3 can be found at https://beci.info/workshop_3/.



Presentation by an ICR scientist at the Workshop 3 of the BECI.

24th Biennial Conference of the Society for Marine Mammalogy (SMM)

The Society for Marine Mammalogy (SMM) was founded

in 1981 and is the largest international association of marine mammal scientists in the world. The mission of the SMM is to promote the global advancement of marine mammal science and contribute to its relevance and impact in education, conservation and management. The SMM held conferences every two years.

The 24th biennial conference of the SMM was held at Palm Beach, Florida, USA from 1 to 5 August 2022. This was the first fully hybrid, live-virtual conference of the SMM. Kim, Bando, Fujise and Kato from the ICR were co-authors of a poster presentation entitled 'Prenatal development stages of the Antarctic minke whale', presented to the conference.

2022 Conference of the Spanish Cetacean Society (SEC)

The Spanish Cetacean Society (SEC) was founded in April

of 1999 during the XIII Annual Conference of the European Cetacean Society held in Valencia. The SEC was created with the global goals of promoting and coordinating the co-operation between people and institutions dedicated to research and conservation of marine mammals in Spain and to reinforce the link between researchers and the relevant authorities in order to integrate research efforts in the framework of the regional, national and international biodiversity conservation strategies. The SEC held annual conferences.

The 2022 annual conference of the SEC was held in Ibiza, Spain from 27 to 30 October. Pastene, Konishi and Nakai from the ICR were co-authors of an oral presentation entitled 'La distribución especial del epibionte *Xenobalanus globicipitis* como indicador de diferencias morfocinematicas entre cetaceos'.