

The Embassy of Japan to Switzerland
His Excellency Mr Ryuhei Maeda
Ambassador of Japan to Switzerland
Engestrasse 53, Postfach
3000 Bern 9

Wädenswil, December 2nd, 2015

Stop NEWREP-A: The Research Plan Ignores International Rules

Your Excellency,

We are a Swiss marine conservation NGO entrusted with Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. We would, accordingly, like to express our great concern that despite the ruling by the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the Government of Japan has announced it will move forward with its plans to carry out its new Antarctic research whaling program NEWREP-A. Under the guise of the program's 'scientific quota', 333 minke whales are planned to be killed each year, for the next 12 years.

OceanCare strongly opposes such new program and joins 15 Japanese NGOs which have issued the enclosed "Stop NEWREP-A: The Research Plan Ignores International Rules". We agree with our Japanese colleagues that the wellbeing of the oceans is already at stake due to ocean acidification, pollution including noise, overfishing and IUU fishing and should not further be threatened through a decline in marine resources.

Moreover, whales and dolphins do not belong to any nation as they are *res nullius* (nobody's property). On behalf of our 27,000 members and supporters, OceanCare endorses the demand of our Japanese colleagues in requesting that the Government of Japan respects international law, refrains from starting a new research whaling program and that it engages instead in ocean conservation.

Thank you for addressing this with the relevant ministries and decision makers of the Japanese Government. We should be pleased if you would kindly revert to us as to the status, and, ideally, that such activity will desist.

Respectfully yours,

Sigrid Lüber
President OceanCare

Enclosure

