

Sabotage against Japanese Research Whaling Vessels  
by Sea Shepherd on 6<sup>th</sup> February

8 February 2010  
Embassy of Japan  
Canberra, Australia

The Bob Barker, a Sea Shepherd anti-whaling sabotage vessel, collided with the Yushin-Maru No.3 at approximately 15:00 (AEDT), 6 February 2010. It happened after it attempted to disrupt, from the morning of the same day, the Nisshin-Maru, a Japanese research vessel conducting research whaling in the Antarctic Ocean.

- The Bob Barker chased the Nisshin-Maru from the morning of 6<sup>th</sup> February, then repeatedly fired a high-powered green-laser device against the Nisshin-Maru.
- At approximately 15:00 (AEDT), the Bob Barker suddenly approached the Yushin-Maru No.3, which had navigated along the Nisshin-Maru to guard it, and threw bottles containing butyric acid-like liquid toward the Yushin-Maru No.3. Although the Yushin-Maru No.3 tried to avoid, the Bob Barker collided with the stern of the Yushin-Maru No.3.
- The Yushin-Maru No.3 was not badly damaged (although it suffered minor damage to its hand rail) and no one on board was injured.
- While the Bob Barker was a Togo-registered vessel, it flew a national flag of Norway.

The Japanese Government is making appropriate inquiries to ascertain further details.

The Japanese Government has requested the Government of Togo to take appropriate measures against the Bob Barker. It will also notify the Government of Norway of the fact that the Bob Barker flew a national flag of Norway.

Japan's research whaling is conducted in accordance with relevant international laws and the repeated and reckless disruptive actions by the Sea Shepherd against Japanese vessels are totally inexcusable as they place the lives of crew in extreme danger.

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The Ady Gil, a New Zealand-registered anti-whaling sabotage vessel, collided with the Shonan-Maru No.2 at approximately 14:30 (AEDT), 6 January 2010. It happened after the Sea Shepherd anti-whaling activist group attempted to disrupt, from approximately 13:00 (AEDT) on the same day, Japanese research vessels conducting research whaling in the Antarctic Ocean.

According to the Japanese research whaling fleet,

- The Ady Gil, having followed the fleet from the night before, approached unusually close to the Nisshin-Maru, Yushin-Maru No.2 and Yushin-Maru No.3 from approximately 13:00 (AEDT), and attempted to disrupt their research.
- The Ady Gil then moved away from the Nisshin-Maru and the other vessels, and approached the Shonan-Maru No.2. The Shonan-Maru No.2 used its Long Range Acoustic Device (LRAD) and water cannon in an attempt to warn the Ady Gil not to approach too close. However, the Shonan-Maru No.2 could not avoid a collision because the Ady Gil, in cutting across the bow of the Shonan-Maru No. 2 from right to left, abruptly reduced its speed when directly in front of the Shonan-Maru No.2 and then suddenly increased its speed.
- The Ady Gil sustained serious damage to its bow and the crew was rescued by another anti-whaling sabotage vessel, the Bob Barker, which was close by. The Ady Gil did not appear to be in danger of sinking and did not send a distress signal.
- The Shonan-Maru No.2 was not badly damaged and no one on board was injured.

The Japanese Government is making appropriate inquiries to ascertain further details.

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