

## **Outline of the Proposed Plan for the New Scientific Whale Research Program in the western North Pacific**

### **1. Research Title**

NEWREP-NP: **New Scientific Whale Research Program in the  
western North Pacific**

### **2. Research Objectives**

(1) Contribution to optimizing the establishment of a sustainable  
catch limit for common minke whales in the coastal waters of  
Japan

(Refinement of the catch limit calculation by the Scientific Committee of  
International Whaling Commission (IWC SC))

(2) Contribution to the RMP/IST\* for North Pacific sei whale

(No catch limit has been calculated on North Pacific sei whale so far by the  
IWC SC)

\* The Revised Management Procedure (RMP) is the IWC's agreed mechanism to  
calculate safe catch limits for commercial whaling. Implementation Simulation Trial  
(IST) is an application test of RMP using simulations (experiment under various  
conditions).

### **3. Research Area**

As indicated in the attached map

### **4. Research Period**

12 years (2017-2028, midterm review is planned after the first  
six years)

## **5. Research Methods**

### (1) Lethal Survey

#### a) Common minke whales (coastal and offshore waters)

Annual sample size (coastal waters):

47 animals (Abashiri coastal area; for the first six years of the whole Research Period (sample size for the second half of the 12 year research period will be estimated based on the results of the first half))

100 animals (Pacific coastal area)

Annual sample size (offshore waters): 27 animals

#### b) North Pacific sei whales (offshore waters)

Annual sample size: 140 animals

### (2) Non-lethal Surveys (whole of the research area)

- Sighting surveys for abundance estimation
- Biopsy sampling of skin tissue to elucidate stock structures
- Satellite tagging to elucidate movement pattern
- Investigation of the feasibility and practicability of age-determining method based on DNA methylation analysis using biopsy samples as an alternative to earplug reading

## **6. Research vessels to be used**

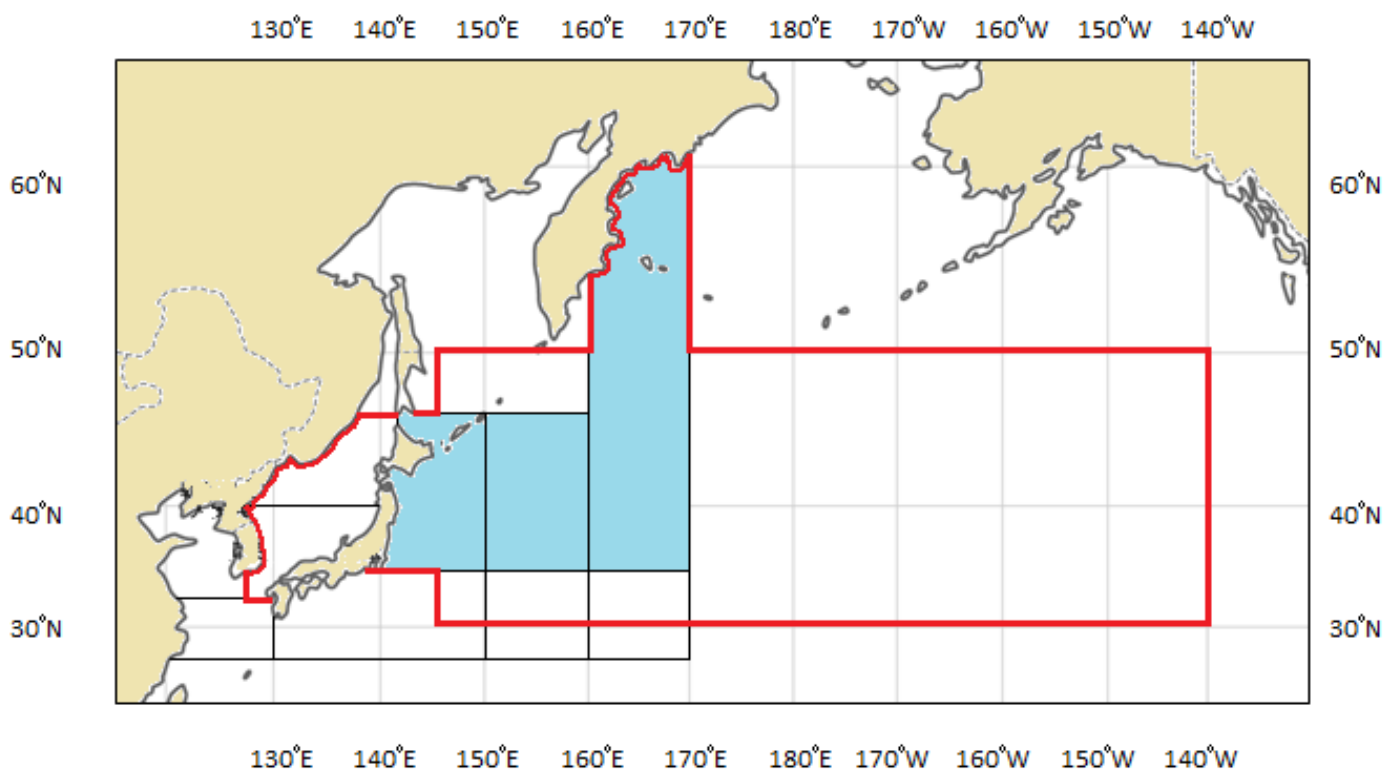
Coastal area: maximum 5 small type whaling catcher vessels

Offshore area: 1 research base vessel, 2 sighting/sampling vessels,  
2 dedicated sighting vessels

## **7. Collaboration with other research institutions**

- Participation of foreign scientists
- Collaboration with national and international research institutions
- Collaboration with other relevant research programs such as IWC-POWER (Pacific Ocean Whale and Ecosystem Research)

## Research Area under NEWREP-NP



Lethal Survey Sea Areas : Light Blue Colored Area

Non-lethal Survey Sea Areas : Area Framed by Red Line

(Note: Japan's territorial sea, Exclusive Economic Zone, and high seas only)