

Sabotage against Japanese Research Whaling Vessels
by Sea Shepherd

7 January 2010
Embassy of Japan
Canberra, Australia

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.

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.