

みなと新聞

Agreement on the scientific use of cetaceans

The Japan Whaling Association and the Turkish Ambassador held talks.

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According to the Japan Whaling Association (Chairman Yoshimitsu Kubo), the association held a meeting in Tokyo on the 6th with Turkish Ambassador Ertuğrul, whose country joined the International Whaling Commission (IWC) in December of last year. They agreed on the stance that the use of whale resources should be discussed scientifically.

Ambassador Ertuğrul, who was trying whale cuisine for the first time, enjoyed whale dishes such as carpaccio, steak, and nigiri sushi at "La Ballena nel Parco," a whale restaurant directly operated by Kyodo Senpaku, Japan's largest whaling company.

Senator Kiyoshi Ejima, Deputy Secretary-General of the Liberal Democratic Party's Whaling Parliamentary League, also attended the meeting. Senator Ejima and Ambassador Ertuğrul reaffirmed the deep ties between the two countries, citing Japan's rescue efforts during the Ertuğrul incident in 1890 when a Turkish ship was shipwrecked off the coast of Wakayama, and the rescue of Japanese citizens by Turkish Airlines during the Iran-Iraq War. There was an agreement that discussions on the use of whale resources within the IWC should be based on scientific evidence.

Hideki Tokoro, president of Kyodo Senpaku, explained that based on the results of previous research and experiments, components in whale meat are expected to have beneficial effects on human health and longevity. Chairman Kubo emphasized the significance of the meeting, stating that "it is a great achievement that the ambassador of Turkey, a new member, has declared that they will determine their country's position based on scientific evidence," as the IWC General Assembly will be held in Hobart, Australia, this September.



From left to right: Representative Ejima, Ambassador Ertuğrul, Chairman Kubo, President Tokoro, and interpreter (Photo courtesy of the Japan Whaling Association)