

Sea Shepherd gives the whales a Christmas gift.

No whale will be killed on Christmas Day.

The Sea Shepherd Conservation Society flagship Farley Mowat intercepted the Japanese whaling fleet at 0400 Hours on Christmas day. Captain Paul Watson calculated a possible interception course by dropping out of the chase behind the Greenpeace ships Esperanza and Arctic Sunrise. He headed due west and caught the fleet as they attempted to head south towards Porpoise Bay.

At 0200 Hours they were spotted on radar. The Farley Mowat passed the Esperanza and headed to the Japanese factory ship, the Nisshin Maru, coming alongside.

The Nisshin sped up as the Farley Mowat came alongside. A few moments later the factory ship turned and came towards the Farley Mowat despite the fact that the Farley Mowat on the starboard side of the Nisshin Maru had the right of way.

Both ships were on a collision course and the Nisshin Maru's bow was plunging high out of the water as she came at full speed towards the Farley Mowat.

Captain Watson ordered a mooring line deployed behind the Farley Mowat. As soon as the Nisshin Maru saw the line they turned and backed off to avoid their prop being fouled.

At 0600 Hours the Nisshin Maru was heading west into heavy seas with the Farley Mowat on her tail. Captain Watson notified the Nisshin Maru that they were in violation of International law and that acting under the authority of the United Nations World Charter for Nature, he was ordering them to depart the Southern Oceans and return to Japan.

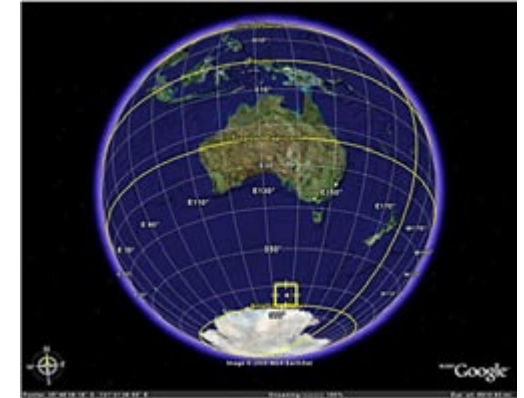
The Farley Mowat and the Esperanza are



chasing the Nisshin Maru in heavy weather. The chase is expected to last all day and chances are good that no whales will die in the Southern Ocean on Christmas Day.

Sea Shepherd Conservation Society welcomes your support. To learn how to support their conservation work, please visit their donation page.

www.seashepherd.org/donate.html



Location of the confrontation is highlighted in the yellow box. This year Farley Mowat has air power -- a helicopter and a flying inflatable boat.



The Japanese are violating the Southern Ocean Sanctuary.

They are violating the International Whaling Commission (IWC) moratorium on commercial whaling.

They are targeting endangered fin and humpback whales that are protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. (CITES). The Japanese are also in violation of the Australian laws protecting the Australian Antarctic Territorial waters.