

PREFACE

The fifth volume of the *Cetacean Population Studies (CPOPS)* has finally been published. The considerable delay since the release of the previous volume is primarily due to a slowdown in my editorial work. This was influenced by personal health-related challenges, including partial visual impairment. Nevertheless, thanks to the steadfast commitment and collaborative efforts of the CPOPS editorial team at the secretariat—under the leadership of Dr. Gabriel Gomez—we are pleased to present this volume, which features a collection of high-quality contributions to the field.

This volume features valuable contributions such as rare sighting records of the extremely elusive pygmy right whale and new findings on whale lice parasitizing the bowhead whale.

Additionally, a comprehensive review on biological traits of a genetically identified stock of the common minke whale, as well as retrieval of biological data from a mass stranding event involving sperm whales, are included.

In any case, it is imperative that we strengthen our editorial structure promptly in order to ensure smoother progress in future.

December, 1, 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hidehiro Kato', written in a cursive style.

Hidehiro Kato, Ph. D.
Editor-in-Chief, Chairman,
Publication Committee for the Cetacean Population Studies