From: Che Green
To: MakahDEIS.nwr@noaa.gov;
cc: Steve.Stone@noaa.gov; Che Green;
Subject: 2008 Makah DEIS
Date: Saturday, June 07, 2008 11:12:32 AM

Steve Stone
NOAA Fisheries Northwest Region
1201 NE Lloyd Blvd., Suite 1100
Portland, OR 97232

Mr. Stone:

There is an inherent conflict of interest in the mandate of NOAA and NMFS, namely the protection and stewardship of natural "resources" (including sentient creatures), while also promoting the commercial nature of exploiting those resources. It's very telling that these agencies (including your own) fall under the U.S. Department of Commerce. One might wonder why the decision to allow the hunting and killing of gray whales would fall to the commerce department... only in America.

I mention this not to belittle your position, but rather to encourage you to leave these important decisions to those who should rightfully have some authority over these matters. Magistrate Arnold has ruled the Makah's killing of gray whales illegal and disallowed any defense based on religious, cultural, or traditional bases. The hunt is illegal, period. The quibbling over how many whales you plan to allow them to kill per year is proclaiming that you will knowingly let the Makah violate federal law.

Let NOAA and NMFS stick with their "commerce" mandate and leave the fate of these sentient sea creatures to impartial arbiters. If the Makah are truly hunting for "subsistence" and "cultural" reasons, and not commercial, then NOAA and NMFS have no jurisdiction and no authority to overrule a federal magistrate.

Regards,
Che Green
Seattle, WA