From: Gayle Hoenig
To: MakahDEIS.nwr@noaa.gov;
Subject: 2008 Makah DEIS.-Whales// Historic Testimony- Please read to the end - Many entries here
Date: Monday, June 23, 2008 8:54:27 PM

In 1946-47 It was as surgeon with a whaling fleet in the Atlantic that I saw it take up to an hour to tear and blast the lives out of the magnificent whales; surely the finest creature this world will ever know. As explosive harpoons were fired to burst in their intestines, I realized that at least half my life would have to be concerned with our fellow creatures and the rest with humans.

What harm do they ever do to us that we do this to them?

"It seems to me that we would be so much happier in the world if we could aim at an ultimate object of being able to say that no matter what creature we meet, that creature should have felt better for having met us."

Quoted From
Historic Congressional Testimony
Against Trapping

November 17-18, 1975

Dr. Harry Lillie

http://www.tribeofheart.org/tohhtml/testimony.htm

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Save The Whales

Iceland has announced plans to **kill 40 whales** over the next six months.

Did you know there is no humane way to kill a whale?

Causing so much intense suffering for a dying industry is **unacceptable**.

From: "TerryW" <blazingsaddles@frontiernet.net>

Date: Sat, 21 Jun 2008 01:28:28 -0700

Subject: Who do they think they are?

My own comments added to the letter:

These whales do not belong TO YOUR COUNTRY to kill as some would like. They belong to the world.

Please, let's evolve as a species, all of us, and put a permanent end to this needless and unnecessary killing and suffering. What does anyone *need* from a dead whale??

Sincerely,
Terry Watt

Iceland is Whaling Again

On May 20, 2008, Iceland announced that it would allow 40 minke whales to be killed over the next six months. **This is in open defiance of the commercial whaling ban that the International Whaling Commission (IWC) implemented in 1986, and a reversal of the country's decision in 2007 to halt this brutal practice.**

HSI commends Iceland's foreign affairs minister, Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir, for her comments criticizing the choice to resume whaling. Gísladóttir noted the negative effects that this whale hunt will have on the reputation and future of Iceland.

By contrast, Iceland's fisheries minister, Einar Kristinn Guðfinnsson, is choosing to ignore the consequences of the hunt and allowing this unnecessary slaughter to proceed when he could be promoting whale watching, a lucrative alternative, instead.

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Tell Norway: Whaling stains your "green" reputation red!

Trouble with links or images? Want to share this email? Use this link:
https://community.hsus.org/humane/notice-description.tcl?newsletter_id=24903272

Dear Gayle,

Next week, 80 countries will meet in Chile to discuss the future of whaling and whale conservation at the annual International Whaling Commission (IWC) meeting.

Tell Norway that whaling tarnishes its environmentally-friendly reputation.

The IWC voted to ban commercial whaling indefinitely in 1986. Despite this ban, several countries still hunt and slaughter whales and sell their meat, using loopholes and other means of avoiding official censure. Norway is one of these nations.

Norway prides itself on being a “green” country, one that aims to "maintain a healthy environment," "prevent climate change," and "safeguard endangered species." But what about whales?

Norway has killed hundreds of whales every year since 1993, despite a slowing market. And just weeks ago it shipped 5 tonnes of minke whale meat to Japan, where it is now stuck in storage without an import license -- seemingly unwanted by a country that already has more surplus whale meat than it can handle.

The brutal continuation of its whaling activities is a red stain on Norway's otherwise enviable reputation -- an ironic, unnecessary taint which puts Norway at odds with the rest of the conservation community.

TAKE ACTION
Please write to the Prime Minister of Norway, Jens Stoltenberg, today and tell him that the world will not overlook his country’s continued slaughter of whales. Then, **ask your friends and family** to do the same.

If Norway wants to keep its standing as a model of peace and planetary good health, it cannot continue killing threatened and endangered whales. They are vital to our ocean ecosystem. Prime Minister Stoltenberg needs to get the message that the slaughter must stop.

Thank you for all that you do to help animals.

Sincerely,

Andrew Rowan
Chief Executive Officer
Humane Society International

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Humane Society International | 2100 L Street, NW | Washington, DC 20037 USA
info@hsi.org | 301-258-1433 | www.hsi.org

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04/15/08

Japanese whalers return with only half of planned catch

The Nisshin Maru made a special stop in Tokyo so the coast guard could inspect it for possible damage sustained during clashes in which animal rights activists tossed containers of rancid acid at the whalers.

The fleet killed 551 minke whales this season, far below the plan of up to 935 minke and 50 fin whales. Japan had also planned to take 50 humpback whales this year, but postponed that in December in the face of an international outcry.

Japanese whaling officials criticized protesters for interfering, but vowed to press ahead with the hunt, which is allowed under international rules as a scientific program despite the 1986 ban on commercial whaling.

"The number of whales taken was low of course because of the sabotage," said Shigeki Takaya, a Fisheries Agency spokesman for whaling. "We're angry that they can carry out such dangerous activities, and it doesn't bother them."

The fleet left Japan in November and faced continual harassment from the animal rights groups Sea Shepherd and Greenpeace, which chased the boats across the Antarctic throughout the season.

Some protesters hurled containers of rancid butter and acid at the whalers, and the Japanese coast guard shot back "sound balls" similar to stun grenades. In January, two Sea Shepherd activists jumped onto a Japanese ship and spent several days in detention on board.

Activists this week said even the reduced take of whales was too large, and called on Japan to renounce the hunt at the next meeting of the International Whaling Commission in Chile in May.

"The Japanese government should ... salvage their international reputation by announcing an end to Southern Ocean whaling and make a commitment to whale conservation, not destruction," Greenpeace said in a statement.

Australia, one of the most vocal opponent of Japan's research hunt, also renewed its objection to Japan's whale hunt.

"It remains Australia's firm view that there is no scientific justification for Japan's whale hunt in the Southern Ocean," said Australia's Foreign Minister Stephen Smith and Environment Minister Peter Garrett in a statement.

The ministers also condemned violence and illegal activities by anti-whaling activists that could endanger safety at sea.

Japanese officials said they would continue with their research plans.

Takaya said it was too soon to tell whether the lower number of whales taken would have an impact on Tokyo's scientific program, which concentrates on gauging whale populations to bolster Japan's claim that the mammals are plentiful enough to be hunted commercially.

"Scientifically speaking, we have to take the data from the killed whales, but we'll work hard to make sure that the low number of whales taken so far will have no effect on the research," he said.

The hunt this year was also hindered by unusual ice floes impeding the Japanese ships, which found fewer minke whales

in parts of the ocean they last tracked two years ago, the government said.

Japan's hunt, which also provides supermarkets and upscale restaurants with whale meat, has come under increasing international pressure in recent years as Tokyo has expanded its catch.

The Antarctic hunt last year was cut short after 508 whales were killed because of a fire aboard a Japanese ship that killed one crew member. That hunt also faced heated high seas protests, but officials said the fire was unrelated to the demonstrations.

Japan has failed in efforts to have the IWC strike down the commercial whaling ban and grant wider hunting rights to small-scale coastal whalers. It has threatened to resign from the commission.

Tokyo has long argued that the whaling ban should only apply to endangered species. It also accuses the West of hypocrisy for criticizing current Japanese whaling after American and European whalers nearly wiped out the mammals in the 19th and 20th centuries.

The Japanese have hunted whales for centuries, and whale meat was widely eaten in the lean years after World War II. The meat, however, has plunged in popularity in today's prosperous Japan and, while still on the menu in a few upscale Tokyo restaurants, is only eaten regularly in small coastal whaling communities. http://www.cnn.com/2008/WORLD/asiapcf/04/15/japan.whaling.ap/index.html

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From: Center for Biological Diversity <kieran@biologicaldiversity.org>

Date: Fri, 20 Jun 2008 19:26:45 -0400 (EDT)

Subject: Endangered Earth: Save the Whale, Barcode the Fish

Suit Filed to Save Whales From Manmade Leviathans

Cars aren't the only vehicles that shouldn't speed; fast ships can be deadly, too -- especially to whales. That's why, this week, the Center for Biological Diversity filed suit against the U.S. Coast Guard for shirking its responsibility to protect endangered whales and other species from ships hurtling through their habitat off Southern California. Last September, at least three endangered blue whales off the California coast were killed by collisions with speeding ships, so in the very same month, the Center petitioned the administration to limit ships' speed in area whale habitat. Since no one heeded our call, on Wednesday we began our legal crusade to force the Coast Guard to analyze how whales are harmed by ship traffic and take steps to make sure that harm doesn't happen.

Read more in the *Ventura County Star*.

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From: "Sandra Abels" <grwhales@mindspring.com>

Date: Sun, 22 Jun 2008 09:59:51 -0400

Subject: FW: GWA LIST 5 - Update from International Whaling Commission meeting in Chile

Subject: GWA LIST 5 - Update from International Whaling Commission meeting in Chile

Dear Global Whale Alliance member,

The annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) takes place in Santiago, Chile from Monday 23rd-27th June.

This year's IWC meeting promises to be a tense and possibly crucial meeting. The IWC is currently considering its future and a compromise deal that would legitimise the resumption of commercial whaling is a frightening possibility. In particular, there are real concerns that Japan may succeed in getting coastal whaling recognised and exempted from the current ban on commercial whaling by offering to reduce so-called 'scientific' whaling. Japan currently targets over 1,000 whales for so-called 'research' in the north-Pacific and Antarctic each year and recently suspended plans to kill humpback whales in the Antarctic this year provided 'progress' is made in whaling talks at the IWC. Unfortunately, this blatant attempt to coerce the Commission into surrendering the whaling ban has led many anti-whaling countries to argue that a compromise deal is the only way to control whaling in defiance of the Convention.

Iceland and Norway are hoping that any deal struck with Japan will also include recognition of their whaling in defiance of the ban. Iceland has recently issued a quota of 40 minke whales to be slaughtered after it was hoped that whaling had been stopped in the country. Norway plans to kill over 1,000 minke whales over the next few months and both countries have recently shipped whale meat to Japan, in defiance of a CITES (Convention on Trade in Endangered Species) ban on trade in whale products, in the hope of restoring international trade in whale products

Meanwhile the PEW Charitable Trusts are proposing a compromise deal that would legitimise commercial whaling 'under IWC control'. We are greatly saddened by these divisive proposals which are providing existing and aspiring whaling countries with the hope that commercial whaling will be resumed in the near future. A proposal to create a Southern Hemisphere Whale Sanctuary sounds a very positive idea. However, agreement on that implies that commercial whaling is permitted to legitimately resume in the northern hemisphere. That would condemn seriously depleted northern whale populations to renewed commercial slaughter, and that is completely unacceptable.

Every Member State of the IWC has a say on these proposals, and a vote. You can check if your country is an IWC Member by visiting www.iwcoffice.org If so, please write, phone or email your head of government and let them know you want them to oppose any compromise deals, and vote for whales, not whaling.

The Global Whale Alliance (GWA) was founded in 2001 to fight commercial whaling and oppose any compromise deals that would lift the commercial whaling ban. We will be in Santiago next week and will send daily reports from this crucial meeting.

Best wishes

Global Whale Alliance

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