From: Dan Spomer
To: MakahDEIS.nwr@noaa.gov;
Subject: 2008 Makah DEIS
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Good morning:

Given the rather bizarre events that transpired before and during the recent sentencing of the five Makah who illegally killed a gray whale last year, it was become increasingly difficult to submit substantive comments by the deadline set by NMFS.

On one hand, you have statements attesting to the fact that the Makah Tribal Council knowingly approved- even encouraged- the illegal hunt of last September. On the other hand, comments from the Tribal Council conflict with that claim. And key players in the episode have been conspicuously silent of late, notably Bender Johnson, Jr. and Keith Johnson.

I honestly believe that NMFS should extend the comment period even further to allow the public time to gather additional information regarding this bizarre series of events, and I ALSO think that NMFS should launch an investigation to find who is telling the truth here. Are the whalers and/or affiants lying? Or is the Tribal Council lying?

Much rests on the truth here, and would become a very important- if not the MOST important- component of any EIS. I do not see how anyone could submit meaningful comments or information about this episode by the present comment deadline of August 15.

I look forward to your reply. Thank you for your time.

Regards,
Dan Spomer
Sekiu, WA