From: mrkalar@aol.com
To: MakahDEIS.nwr@noaa.gov;
Subject: attention Donna Darm (regarding the review of the DEIS for proposed Authorization Makah Whale Hunt
Date: Thursday, August 07, 2008 11:03:01 PM

Dear Donna Darm,
I am writing to you to voice my deep concern for "once again" is happening in terms of "authorization" of the Makah Whale Hunt.

To begin with I'd like to point out a few facts about this "alleged HUNT".

The 1997 IWC quota granted for the hunting of gray whales explicitly required that any hunting must be undertaken by a native group that has a subsistence need.

What exactly is the subsistence need of the Makah nation. There is NONE. This is the same ploy that is being used year after year after year. Japan, Canada and Norway are behind this. Financing the Makah nation to use their "subsistence treaty" to promote and eventually bring back "whaling" to the US.

The Makah whale hunt does not meet (nor has it in the past) the "Definition" of "Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling" and was made explicitly clear by the member nations of the International Whaling Commission when the proposal was brought before them in 1996 and again in 1997.

So we're looking at 10 years of inaffectual challenges to the NOAA by CERTAIN members of the MAKAH nation. **There are Makah Nation members who also OPPOSE whaling - several Makah elders have spoken out against whaling and received threats**. So the question I pose is why give permission to basically go out and slaughter a whale under "FALSE PRETENSES"?

also: The continued VIOLATION of Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling guidlines at the IWC by permitting the Makah hunt is likely to cause SIGNIFICANT environmental imapcts worldwide by undermining an international whale CONSERVATION agreement. **and we know that there is clear bias in favor of permitting a hunt - which is evident throughout the EA. NMFS must produce a full Environmental Impact Statement that truly takes a hard look at "ALL" the potential consequences of the Makah whaling proposal. I don't believe the information you have provided to me does that. Nor does it give reasonable grounds to substantiate the Makah Subsistence treaty proposal to hunt at this time.**

IMPORTANT:
The Coast Guard in the past has acted out in extreme AGGRESSIVE manner towards activists in the past while PROTECTING the Makah Hunters (traveling in high power speed boats and using HIGH POWERED ASSAULT WEAPONS TO SHOOT AT WHALES). I brought this to the attention of then Vice President Al Gore as I was outraged to learn of the coast guards activities:

I learned from the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society that activists boats were rammed and they the activists were INJURED by the USCG vessels as a whale was harpooned. The attack on activist's Erin Abbot's jet ski - running OVER her (she was eventually medi vacd to Olympia Memorial hospital) is just a TERRIBLE REMINDED of what is at stake here. World Whale Police Vessel too was rammed and crew member Julie Woodyer (a director of the VANCOUVER HUMANE SOCIETY) was injured.

And though the USCG imposed a $250,000 fine and six years in prison for violations of 500 yd EXCLUSION ZONE

around the hunter by activists attempting to prevent the killing of whales (several activists were arrested for violating the zone/ their vessels seized) NOTHING was DONE in terms of arrests to the Makah whalers for pulling out their .50 caliber rifle. **It is beyond comprehension the length and determination of the USCG to ENFORCE AN ILLEGAL WHALE HUNT and help the Makah kill whales to the POINT OF INJURING ACTIVISTS on the water**

The US Dept. of Commerce obtained an aboriginal Gray whale quota from the IWC in 1997 but AVOIDED ruling on the Makah's eligibility to hunt under the "conditions of aboriginal subsistence whaling as determined by the IWC. The US Administrations unilateral assignment of the quota to the Makah WITHOUT the consent of the IWC constitutes a violation of INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION LAW.

As far back as JUNE 9th 2000 **The US 9th Circuit Court of Appeals made a legal decision on the position of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society (which the SSCS has maintained since 1996** that's 12 years ago) **that the Makah whale hunt permitted by the US Administration did NOT meet the requirements of the National Environmental Protection Act.** Congressman Jack Metcalf and other plaintiffs pursued this case until justice was done. Overall the hunt was permitted based on POLITICS - NOT ON SCIENCE.

Once again the facts are: The Makah hunt DOES NOT MEET the CRITERIA ESTABLISHED by the IWC for Aboriginal Whaling: i.e.: subsistence need and continuous, unbroken tradition.

The killing of a BABY GRAY WHALE off the coast of Washington in May 1999 was an INFRACTION of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling.

THIS DANGEROUS PRECEDENT that you wish to allow will only lead to further abuses by self styled indigenous people such as the NORWEGIANS and JAPANESE who maintain the whale hunting is both indigenous and traditional.

and just how did the Makah nation purchase those expensive high powered speed boats? Once again this is simply the case of JAPAN, CANADA and NORWAY trying to UNDERMINE THE US's POSITION ON WHALING.

I cannot and will never condone any excuse to allow any form of whaling. anytime nor anywhere.

Sincerely and respectfully
Elizabeth Arlen

(I sent a similar email to Gail Helm at the Office of Protected Resources @ the NOAA Fisheries back in February 2001 and cannot believe that we are nearly 8 years later and still addressing the same issue - this is an outra!)

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