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To: MakahDEIS.nwr@noaa.gov;
Subject: Resumption of Whaling
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It is hard to comprehend why a country would want to continue a practice (lifestyle, "right", whatever you want to call it) that does not improve the future of its people. It has been argued that the training for the "hunt" involves mental and physical strengthening and the honing of personal discipline. However, the ultimate goal of all this preparation is the destruction – most likely maiming – of a marine mammal that is on the decline. Will tourists flock to see two whales a year being hauled up on the beach after being **shot**? It won't be a Kodak moment. The perception by people here and abroad that this is an offensive act will be stronger than the temporary thrill of the hunt.

A few years ago I had an interesting conversation with a docent at the superb museum in Neah Bay. He spoke of the tribe's efforts to lure visitors to the town - with every idea offered being scrutinized and evaluated. The resumption of whaling cannot be the best that they can come up with. What are they thinking?

MaryAnne Thulin
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