From: Peggy Nelson
To: MakahDEIS.nwr@noaa.gov;
Subject: Makah whaling DEIS response
Date: Friday, August 15, 2008 4:27:59 PM

I recommend the "no-action" alternative in the Makah DEIS. Here is why:
—Parametrix, the firm hired to prepare the DEIS, has been employed by the Makah Tribe. This is a blatant conflict of interest and renders all the "science" and "facts" presented in the DEIS to be untrustworthy.
—Whaling will disrupt the Gray whales' migration and feeding patterns. The whales are already stressed by dead zones and algae blooms, as well as naval activities. The whales' response to harassment makes them vulnerable to starvation and reduces reproduction.
—The number of vessels and aircraft proposed in the whaling event is untenable. Tourist water craft is minuscule by comparison, and does not tax the whales.
—Whaling on the Strait of Juan de Fuca would be dangerous and disrupting for those who live near or along the strait.
—The resident population of Gray Whales are used to tourists, kayakers, and sightseers. These folks know the protocol of whale watching. The whales have grown to trust tourists and their patterns of feeding are not disrupted. All this would change with whaling. The whales would be passive targets.
—Whaling, as proposed by the Makah, is a smokescreen for the tribe's true intent: commercial whaling of Humpbacked whales.
—The figure of 93 percent of Makah want whaling, is not true. Many Makah oppose whaling. Their voices were not represented in the DEIS.
—The Makah tribe has spent $675,000 on the pursuit of whaling between 2003 and 2007. This money could be spent on education, jobs, drug rehabilitation , care for the elderly, housing, and tourism ventures.
I also endorse the comments of Peninsula Citizens for the Protection of Whales.

Thank you for your consideration.

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