From: deanna cope
To: MakahDEIS.nwr@noaa.gov;
Subject: 2008 Makah DEIS
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Thank you for taking public comment on this issue. I do not agree with upholding the Makah tribes treaty rights to hunt grey whales off Washington coast.There needs to be significant penalties imposed on the tribe following the non sanctioned hunt last fall.
I do not believe that no jail time is an ok exchange for a guilty plea. Especially when the whale they hunted suffered for ten hours.
I understand that the guidelines provided to the tribe are in place to prevent the suffering of the whales during the hunt. But if you watched the hunt, like I did in 1999 you cannot say that the grey did not suffer.
If the tribe feels so strongly that they need to preserve their ancestry, then they need to hunt like their ancestors. Paddle out, use a harpoon and then paddle back in towing the whale back to shore using their own strength and determination. I don't believe their ancestors used power boats to tow their kill back to shore. And if someone is injured or killed during the process it was their decision to be there and take part.
Lastly I hope there is a significant look at how this will impact the whale population and environment. When our environment is facing challenges already, and those environmental issues will eventually affect the health and preservation of this species. Shouldn't we do all we can to maintain and preserve the current population of grey's.
Thank you for your consideration
Deanna Cope