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To: MakahDEIS.nwr@noaa.gov;
Subject: Tribal whaling
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I believe the last time they killed a whale, legally, most of it's flesh was left to rot on the beach. My friends who live out that way, said they couldn't pay people to eat the blubber. I'm all for Indian rights as long as we remain back in time during the 17 and 1800's when the treaties were signed. But the world has changed since then. Those treaties might be applicable if whales and salmon were at the same population levels they were or even at the levels of 20 years ago. No outdated treaty should have precedence when those fisheries are now close to levels that go below the species threshold of genetic sustainability. For some of our waters, that genetic sustainability has already disappeared with the fish. What amazes me is that wasting a whale seems to be systemic. The Makah had a by catch of 5000 Chinook. That didn't seem to bother them that much either. I would argue that when those treaties were signed, fish and whale were bountiful. Now, because of hatcheries, no fish is even remotely the same as 300 hundred years ago. And the whale and the fisheries that do have a good genetic pool left to work from are at levels that will not sustain any population growth. Populations may be dropping faster now because of genetic inferiority, not climate change. Climate change has always been around and yet they survived. Genetics is important. Just look at what happened when the Bush administration tried to have hatchery fish counted as part of the wild fish population saying they were the same. Turns out it isn't true. They are not the same. So lets go with that decision. Then that means the fish and whale that are mentioned in those treaties are not the same fish genetically as when they were signed. The treaties should be null and void. Everything should be null and void when we are at risk for losing all of our original fisheries and are this close to extinction.

The only fix is to shut down all fishing (whales or their food sources), from Nome to San Diego. Tribal, commercial and sport. When I say that, it pains me to think I may never fly fish again in my favorite river. But at least I'm not just thinking of myself and leaving rotting flesh on the beach. It would be for the greater good.

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