From: jkuskin
To: MakahDEIS.nwr@noaa.gov;
Subject: 2008 Makah DEIS
Date: Saturday, May 10, 2008 11:17:02 AM

I have been following this issue for years and find it outrageous that we are considering allowing the Makah to hunt whales off the coast of Washington. There is an international ban on whaling which most countries, including the U.S. respect. I understand it was part of their culture at one time and they believe it will help bring their culture back to their families and community. However, whales are a very intelligent animal that build strong family bonds (certainly stronger than many human families we see in the U.S. today). To kill them just to invoke "that's what we used to do" just doesn't make any sense. It is true the Makah used to kill whales but that was when it was necessary to provide sustenance to their community. There are numerous communities around the world that used to be headhunters and cannibals yet we don't encourage them to bring back their old ways to enhance their current community. So of course some would say there's a big difference between the two because one is killing people and the other is killing whales. But what gives us the right to make that decision. Are we really more intelligent? On average, probably yes. But I would certainly question that in many cases and it is noteworthy the great whales do not kill each other. If only we could say the same!

Ira Rushwald