From: Karina Gilje
To: MakahDEIS.nwr@noaa.gov;
Subject: 2008 Makah DEIS
Date: Friday, May 09, 2008 12:00:43 PM

Dear Mr. Stone,

I would like to comment on the above topic. According to the research done recently by Stanford University and University of Washington:

Gray Whales A Fraction Of Historic Levels, Genetic Research Shows
ScienceDaily (Sep. 11, 2007) — Gray whales in the Pacific Ocean, long thought to have fully recovered from whaling, were once three to five times as plentiful as they are now, according to this article. The number of Grey Whales is already declining possibly due to environmental/ changing climate effects. Opening up the hunting on them will only decrease the population even more. The study also suggests that lowered numbers of gray whales no longer play their normal role in ocean ecology. A reduced population of gray whales has likely exerted large changes in Pacific ocean ecosystems. Unique among whales, the gray bulldozes the oceans, digging troughs through the sea floor for food. In the process, they resuspend ocean sediments bringing food to the surface. Other species may feel the loss of whales as well, for example the feeding plumes of gray whales are foraging grounds for Arctic seabirds.

Regards,

Karina Gilje

Meetings: Makah Tribe's Request To Hunt Eastern North Pacific Gray Whales, 26375–26376 [E8–10377] [TEXT] [PDF]