From: C O"Donnell
To: MakahDEIS.nwr@noaa.gov;
Subject: Attn: 2008 Makah DEIS
Date: Monday, May 12, 2008 10:32:37 AM

Greetings,

I am writing to express my opposition to any authorization to allow the hunting and killing of gray whales by the Makah Indian Tribe.
The gray whale is protected by the MMPA and the MMPA should continue to be reinforced by the United States government.
The US has participated along with many other countries in discontinuing the practice of whaling; and many, many people in the US and around the world object to continued whaling by countries such as Norway and Japan. As a nation, we cannot make exceptions for our own citizens.
Scientific discovery in the area of oceanographic research is providing new information about the underwater ecosystems and its inhabitants every day. Our knowledge has broadened immeasurably with regard to the intelligence and habits of the large marine mammals and much remains to be learned. One thing for sure is that in the twenty-first century it is totally unnecessary to hunt and kill whales for most peoples even where traditions exist. This especially holds true for the Makah who although have historically hunted whales have not done so for generations. There would seem to be options available to the Makah to celebrate their heritage that would not involve killing whales. Symbolic no-kill hunts could be a viable option.
I ask that NOAA take the no-action alternative and not approve the Makah Tribe's request for a waiver of the MMPA moratorium with regards to hunting and killing whales or any other protected species.

Sincerely,
Cathy A. O'Donnell