From: Lisa Koehl
To: MakahDEIS.nwr@noaa.gov;
Subject: 2008 Makah DEIS
Date: Thursday, May 29, 2008 8:02:04 AM

Dear NOAA's Fisheries Service Members:

First, I would like to thank you for allowing me theopportunity to make my concerns hard in regards to the Makah Indian Tribe's February 2005 appeal to recommence hunting Pacific gray whales in coastal waters off Washington State. I have recently learned that the Draft EIS weighs a range of options to the tribe's proposal to kill whales.

I most respectfully ask you to **PLEASE** consider this fact: In the 21st Century, no human being needs to consume whale meat to survive; including the Makah Tribe, who until recently, have left the gray whale to live in peace for over 70 years.

The "reinforcement of tribal identity" certainly does not justify murderous slaughter.
Whales are most often harpooned or blasted with high-powered rifles under the guise
of "cultural" whaling. Holidays are "observed" with whaling contests and races.
No celebration can ethically justify animal suffering and death.

After five Makah whalers illegally shot and harpooned a gray whale off Neah Bay in 2007, the animal gradually bled to death over nine agonizing hours of suffering. The Makah Nation dismissed all charges, as long as the offenders violated no laws for the next year. Federal prosecutors offered a plea deal that asked the tribal court to waive prosecution. As you are aware, the tribal judge ignored the federal plea deal, ordering the five whalers to instead stand trial in a sympathetic Makah courtroom.

Please, it is unacceptable for the Neah Bay whale and others who will suffer an agonizing and prolonged death at the hands of Makah killers.
Please do not honor "treaty rights" to massacre whales.

There is no rationale for "ceremonial and subsistence" whaling in the contemporary world. **Please,** I urge you to deny the Makah Nation's proposal to legally kill whales under their treaty.

Most sincerely,

Lisa Koehl, Someone Who Cares
Brooklyn, CT
lkoehl@snet.net