From: Steve Scott
To: MakahDEIS.nwr@noaa.gov;
Subject: 2008 Makah DEIS
Date: Monday, May 12, 2008 11:35:36 AM

ARTICLE 4
The right of taking fish and of whaling or sealing at usual and accustomed grounds and stations is further secured to said Indians in common with all citizens of the United States, and of erecting temporary houses for the purpose of curing, together with the privilege of hunting and gathering roots and berries on open and unclaimed lands: Provided, however, That they shall not take shell-fish from any beds staked or cultivated by citizens.
Makah Treaty Jan 31, 1855
Isaac Stevens Gov. and Head of Indian Affairs
Various Elders representing Makah and other local tribes

"...in common with...": Everybody took whales then, this treaty grants the tribes the right to hunt "in common with" everybody else.

As far as I know the rest of us aren't hunting whales anymore. In fact it's against the law, and as it should be..

If indeed the Makah wish to kill whales as a cultural experience, it should be required that they use the same tools, weapons and boats as used at the time the treaty was signed. Use of modern boats and firearms, exploding harpoons, etc. should not be a part of the hunt, and butchering should be with ancient stone or bone hand tools. Drying and preserving the harvested flesh should also be done with the same traditional methods.

Anything less negates the cultural value of the hunt, which is the basis of the Makah's reason for the hunt.

If the Makah wish to use modern powerboats, rifles and whaling techniques, their permit should be denied.

Sincerely,
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