From: Errol Povah
To: MakahDEIS.nwr@noaa.gov;
Subject: 2008 Makah DEIS
Date: Saturday, May 10, 2008 12:23:26 PM

May 10, 2008

Dear Mr. Steve Stone et al:

Here is my "**sub**stantive" comment on the "**sub**ject" of the "Draft EIS on Makah whale-hunting request"...specifically, the "**sub**sistence" aspect of it.

All of those "subs", of course, raise the question, "Will **sub**marines be the Makah whalers' next ***weapon of choice***?" After all, the ***very traditional*** 50-caliber anti-tank gun only has a ***success rate*** of 50% so far...at least in terms of the ***retention*** of the two gray whales (that we know about) which slowly died after being shot with that weapon. Torpedoes would likely be much more efficient, especially if they hit the whale somewhere near the head.

Before you press the "delete" button, please read on: All sarcasm aside, I do want to pass along a few unequivocal FACTS!

If "ceremonial and **subsistence** purposes" (emphasis mine) is the best argument the Makah whalers and/or NOAA can come up with, to justify this 21st century barbarism, then I say, **"*UBI$TENCE* -- and ceremonial purpo$e$ -- *MY A$$!*"**

Just in case the above requires any translation/clarification, it means: The hunt has **nothing whatsoever** to do with **culture, heritage, tradition...or subsistence**: ***It is solely and exclusively about***

money! I, personally, don't have any direct evidence. That said, some time in early/mid 1999 -- as a volunteer crew member on board the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society vessel Sea Shepherd III, in and around Neah Bay, WA -- I heard that the Japanese had paid the Makah whalers $1 million to kill a gray whale. The Japanese had no interest in the whale itself or getting any of the meat.

"Why would the Japanese do that?", you might wonder. So glad you asked!

Until May 17, 1999, Japan and Norway were the only two illegal/pirate whaling nations in the world. And, until that same date, the U.S. had been one of the strongest voices -- ***opposing any and all whaling*** -- at the International Whaling Commission. >From the Japanese perspective, what better way to simultaneously 1) make whaling ***appear to be*** more globally acceptable/palatable and 2) quash the U.S. voice at the IWC?

"Ceremonial and subsistence purposes" is to the Makah whalers what "scientific research" is to the Japanese!

It's fraudulent! It's a scam! Don't be duped!

Choose the "no-action" alternative!

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