From: Michael Mcmullin
To: MakahDEIS.nwr@noaa.gov;
Subject: Attn: 2008 Makah DEIS
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Is the purpose of hunting whales to supply food? It seems that there are many other sources of nutrition, including protein, which do not require the killing of whales. But we're told that the whale hunt is really about cultural tradition and religion, and that the hunting of whales fulfills some spiritual need. I'm sure that the Aztec priest felt spiritually fulfilled when they tore the hearts out of living captives to offer to their gods. I doubt that the persons sacrificed universally thought of the procedure as spiritually edifying. For the whale hunters there may be a deep spiritual significance. But for the non-volunteering whale it is probably a matter of terror and inhumanely painful death. Is it really necessary that probably intelligent and certainly innocent creatures be subected to that? Must they suffer and die for the sake of the religious traditions of other beings? Necessary killing of animals for food is one thing. Killing them, cruelly, for fun or for cultural/religious tradition is quite another. In fact I consider it unambiguously evil. Sincerely, Michael McMullin, michael.mcmullin@mgmail.org