From: Elaine Friedman
To: MakahDEIS.nwr@noaa.gov;
Subject: 2008 Makah DEI
Date: Thursday, May 29, 2008 11:01:47 AM

RE: 2008 Makah DEIS

NOAA's Fisheries Service:

Thank you for accepting public opinion on the Makah Indian Tribe's February 2005 appeal to recommence hunting Pacific gray whales in coastal waters off Washington State. I understand the Draft EIS weighs a range of options to the tribe's proposal to kill whales.

I respectfully ask you to consider this fact: In the 21st Century, no human being needs whale meat to survive -- including the Makah Tribe, who until recently left the gray whale alone for over 70 years.

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

After five Makah whalers illegally shot and harpooned a gray whale off Neah Bay in 2007, the ani