August 7, 2008

Donna Darm
Assistant Regional Administrator
Protected Resources Division
National Marine Fisheries Service
7600 Sand Point Way NE
Seattle, Washington 98115

Dear Donna Darm,

I am writing to express my opinion about the Makah Tribe's request to resume whaling.

There is no way of humanely killing a gray whale; therefore we should not even be considering the resumption of whaling, for the Makah Tribe or anyone else. Last September the five rogue Makah hunters demonstrated this well. The gray whale suffered in pain for over 10 hours before succumbing to death. This should be the only criteria considered; therefore Alternate 1 is the only choice, to not allow hunting, period.

NOAA chose a staged photo of the Makah "hunters" in the traditional canoe to put on the front of this draft EIS. This photo is a misrepresentation of what has actually taken place on the water in 1999 and in 2007. I was there personally and witnessed the helicopter spotters, power boats and high-powered rifles and the overall lack of "traditional" and "cultural" ways.

The gray whales face depleting food sources, depleting ocean conditions, and an increase in human obstacles in their marine environment. They do not need to also deal with an increase of humans shooting at them in the name of "culture".

Sincerely,

Cheryl Rorabeck-Siler
P.O. Box 16
Nehalem, OR 97131