Quinault Indian Nation

POST OFFICE BOX 189 □ TAHOLAH, WASHINGTON 98587 □ TELEPHONE (360) 276-8211

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
RECEIVED
AUG 18 2008
F/NW03
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

August 12, 2008

Steve Stone
NMFS Northwest Region
1201 N.E. Lloyd Blvd., Suite 1100
Portland, OR 97232

By email to MakahDEIS.nwr@noaa.gov

RE: 2008 Makah DEIS

Dear Mr. Stone:

The Quinault Indian Nation ("Nation") submits these comments in support of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement ("DEIS") for proposed authorization of the Makah Tribe to resume limited hunting of eastern north Pacific gray whales in the coastal portion of the Tribe's usual and accustomed fishing grounds, off the coast of Washington State, for ceremonial and subsistence purposes.

The Makah Tribe specifically reserved the right to hunt whales in its treaty signed with the United States in 1855. The Makah people have hunted whales since time immemorial. As a neighboring Tribe, the Nation fully supports the Makah Tribe in the exercise of its treaty whaling rights. Accordingly, we recommend approval of the preferred alternative analyzed in the DEIS authorizing a waiver of the Marine Mammal Protection Act for the Makah Tribe's hunt of gray whales.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Fawn R. Sharp
President