



SEA SHEPHERD LEGAL POSITION STATEMENT- MAKAH TRIBE INTENT TO CONDUCT WHALING

Sea Shepherd Legal (SSL) opposes the killing of any cetaceans, by any means.

SSL intends to pursue all appropriate legal remedies to prevent the killing of cetaceans, including those hunted for alleged ceremonial and subsistence purposes.



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Sea Shepherd Legal

· March 11, 2015 ·

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Paige Nelson Bravo!!!

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Sammarye Lewis Thank You!!!

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Reinhilde Vandorpe We're with you all the way!

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Jenny Oogy Powell Awesome!!!

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Kirsten Ramirez Woohooo love this!

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Kelly Korkes SS all the way!!!!

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For The Whales: Sea Shepherd on Makah Tribe's Request to Hunt Whales

As you may have heard, NOAA Fisheries is considering granting a waiver to the Makah Tribe to hunt gray whales on the Washington Coast. An administrative hearing on the matter will take place at the Jackson Federal Building in Seattle, beginning at 1:00 p.m. on November 14th, and running through November 21st. We encourage Sea Shepherds and other members of the public to attend. Please note that the hearing will not be a venue for public comment or protests. However, there will be opportunities for your voice to be heard in the coming months. We will share public comment deadline dates as they become available.



Credit: Simon Ager

[Sea Shepherd Legal \(https://seashepherdlegal.org/\)](https://seashepherdlegal.org/), Sea Shepherd's environmental law firm committed to saving marine wildlife by enforcing, strengthening, and developing protective laws, treaties, policies and practices worldwide, issued the following statement: *"Sea Shepherd opposes the*

intentional killing of cetaceans, no matter the circumstances. From the Faroe Islands to Iceland, from Japan to Norway, Sea Shepherd's opposition to whaling is categorical and uncompromising."

There are a multitude of additional reasons Sea Shepherd opposes a hunt off the coast of Washington: one of those is respect for the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and the rule of law. The MMPA prohibits intentional taking of marine mammals, and imposes a heavy burden on anyone seeking a waiver of these protections. In requesting a waiver of MMPA protections for Eastern North Pacific (ENP) gray whales, NOAA Fisheries has failed to meet this heavy burden of proof under the MMPA – a burden that can only be satisfied on the basis of the best available science.

Although a waiver is being sought as to the ENP gray whales, other smaller populations of gray whales are intermingled with them. One such group is the summer resident gray whales (a/k/a the Pacific Coast Feeding Group) of which there are only 243 individuals that are enjoyed by whale watchers every year in Washington and Oregon. The other group is the endangered Western North Pacific (WNP) gray whales that are protected under the Endangered Species Act. The extreme risks to these smaller populations from the proposed Makah hunt – including the inability of the hunters to distinguish them from ENP gray whales – further supports denial of the MMPA waiver.

A third reason for opposing the hunt is the present Unusual Mortality Event (UME) declared by NOAA Fisheries for gray whales earlier this year. Over 200 gray whales have washed up dead along the Pacific Coast this year. Given that most whales sink when they die, the actual number of dead whales is likely closer to 5,400. While the precise cause of the UME has not been determined, the evidence collected so far strongly suggests that the gray whales are starving to death. Accordingly, the proposed hunt will only add yet one more stressor on struggling gray whale populations in the Pacific."

This week, Sea Shepherd Legal attorney Brett Sommermeyer was featured in a KIRO7 interview regarding the Makah application to resume whale hunting. View the story on [here](https://www.kiro7.com/news/local/friday-at-5-30-federal-hearing-could-pave-way-for-tribal-whale-hunt/1003877062) (<https://www.kiro7.com/news/local/friday-at-5-30-federal-hearing-could-pave-way-for-tribal-whale-hunt/1003877062>).



Captain Paul Watson
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Captain Paul Watson
September 12, 2018 ·

THE POLITICALLY CORRECT MURDER OF WHALES

Commentary by Captain Paul Watson

One thousand whales will die because of a vote amongst a group of arrogant humans today in Florianopolis, Brazil

The vote was on so called indigenous whaling. In other words a slaughter quota for the Inuit, the Yupik, possibly the Makah, some Greenlanders and a few bogus aboriginal groups in the Caribbean.

Bogus?

Well the Aboriginal people of the Caribbean were the Caribs and they were wiped out by the Spanish colonizers. Thus, the people wanting to kill Humpbacks and pilot whales in Bequi, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and St. Lucia have no indigenous "rights" to slaughter whales at all.

Not that anyone has a right to murder a highly intelligent, self-aware, socially complex sentient being like a whale.

The position of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society is that no one should have the "right" to kill whales anywhere for any reason.

Killing whales is plain and simply – murder!

The Japanese, Icelanders, Norwegians and Danes and Faroese are mass murderers and the killing of whales by indigenous cultures is also an act of murder.

I make no apologies for this position. We have been called racist for opposing the murder of whales but we are not motivated by racism. We don't care what the color or the culture is of the hand that fires the harpoon. There is no justification for the mass murder of whales.

Racism is allowing one group to have special rights to commit murder based on culture and race.

We oppose whaling by the Japanese but also by the white Europeans of Iceland, Denmark and Norway.

Our passion and our loyalty is to the nation of whales and we will not betray them for any cultural justification.

I would like to salute the 7 nations that had the courage to vote against indigenous whaling.

- Argentina
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- Panama
- Uruguay

58 nations voted to slaughter whales in a proposal led by the United States

3.9 **3.9 out of 5** · Based on the opinion of 214 people

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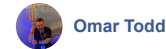
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distant continent to kill whales.

Japan has denied the indigenous Ainu people the right to whale and hunt but they have no problem backing indigenous peoples in the USA, Canada and Greenland to kill whales.

Perhaps the United States believes they can absolve the guilt of genocide by allowing the slaughter of whales so that the whales must die for their colonial sins.

It all reeks of self-serving hypocrisy.

Denmark will now try to convince the world that the slaughter in the Faroes is indigenous.

Will the Makah once again try to kill whales just to prove then have the right to do so? They have no subsistence necessity and nothing in their culture justifies killing a whale with a .50 caliber recoilless rifle.

How many more Humpbacks must die in Greenland to provide fad foodie meals for bored tourists?

How many 100 to 200 year-old Bowheads must die in the Arctic by people using explosive harpoons, motor boats, and sonar?

Sea Shepherd's position on Aboriginal whaling may be controversial but it is consistent. We have always opposed the murder of whales and we always will by anyone, for any reason, anywhere.

INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION				Voting right suspended				TOTAL			
Yes	No	Abs	N/P	Yes	No	Abs	N/P	Yes	No	Abs	N/P
Not present											
TOTAL 58 7 5 0											
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA				BRUNAI, REP. OF				NORWAY			
ARGENTINA				GRENADA				OMAN			
AUSTRALIA				GUINEA-BISSAU				PALAU, REPUBLIC OF			
AUSTRIA				GUINEA, REP. OF				PANAMA			
BELGIUM				ICELAND				PERU			
BELIZE				INDIA				POLAND			
BENIN				IRELAND				PORTUGAL			
BRAZIL				ISRAEL				ROMANIA			
BURUNDI				JAPAN				RUSSIAN FEDERATION			
CAMBODIA				KENYA				SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS			
CAMBODIA				KIRIBATI				SAINT LUCIA			
CAMBODIA				KOREA, REPUBLIC OF				SAINT VINCENT & THE GRENADINES			
CAMBODIA				LAOS				SAD TOME & PRINCIPE			
CAMBODIA				LIBERIA, REPUBLIC OF				SENEGAL			
CAMBODIA				LUXEMBOURG				SLOVAK REPUBLIC			
CAMBODIA				MADEIRA				SLOVENIA			
CAMBODIA				MARSHALL ISLANDS, REP.				SOLOMON ISLANDS			
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Rhonda Ives Oh I am just heart broken... humans don't deserve to share the planet with these gentle giants

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Kay Farley Always ashamed of being Australian. This is typical. Thank you Captain Watson you are one of the few humans that represents our species in the best possible way.

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Jude O'Connor Ashamed to be British Just proves it is all about money, trade agreements etc with no concern whatsoever for our planet and the creatures that have just as much right to live on it as we do - more so, in fact...

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