

Mr. Barry Thom, Regional Administrator
Attn: Steve Stone
NMFS, West Coast Region
1201 NE Lloyd Boulevard, Suite 1100
Portland, OR 97232

May 3, 2019

Dear Mr. Thom and Mr. Stone:

This letter addresses Hearing Docket Number 19-NMFS-0001

I am unable to attend the August 12, 2019 hearing regarding the MMPA waiver and regulations allowing the Makah tribe to resume hunting of Pacific Grey Whales, so I ask that this letter be read into evidence for the hearing.

I strongly object to this proposal. This hunt is not needed for sustenance; if the tribe had depended on whale meat for sustenance for their survival, they would have starved in the gap between the last (strongly protested) whale hunt and this proposed hunt.

If this hunt is needed for "cultural relevance", then I would ask the Tribe to consider the following: Since whales were last hunted world-wide, with no regulation, there has been a surfeit of research demonstrating the intelligence and sentience of whales, and there has been world-wide support to stop killing them and enjoy their existence instead. They were hunted so heavily in the past partly because those killing them thought of them as mere animals, unintelligent and unworthy of respect as beings like themselves. It was not so very long ago that some unenlightened people felt the same way about other people, those that they felt were unlike themselves, believing that obliterating them was their "right." Does the Tribe wish to act like these unenlightened people?

I would urge them to find other ways to display and respect their culture that does not involve killing other sentient beings.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Plombon

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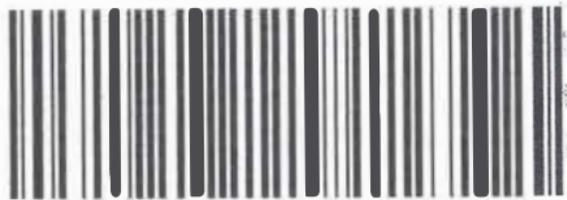
Jennifer Plombon

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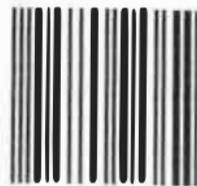


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