

Bribery Kills Whale Sanctuary

The fact that Japan buys the votes of small poor countries has long been a secret within the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). This year the practice garnered unusual public scrutiny at the Australia meeting of the IWC when Dominica's fisheries minister, Atherton Martin, suddenly resigned his post in protest. Dominica has voted in lockstep with Japan for years, along with five other Caribbean countries that receive financial assistance from Japan. But this year Dominica's government changed, and its cabinet voted to abstain from voting on the South Pacific Whale Sanctuary proposed by Australia and New Zealand. According to Mona-George Dill of the Dominica Conservation Association, a Japanese delegation came to the little Caribbean island and told the government that an abstention would be considered a "hostile act." Dominica's Prime Minister, Roosevelt Douglas, reversed the board cabinet's decision and directed his delegation to vote against the sanctuary. Atherton Martin decried "international extortion" and said that Japan is "undermining the viability of these economies in order to pursue her agenda internationally."

Mr. Martin's statement and resignation received extensive coverage in Australia because the Caribbean votes were pivotal in blocking the formation of a South Pacific Sanctuary. The sanctuary was supported by an overwhelming number of countries in the region.

The rules of both CITES and the IWC call for one country/one vote. But Japan now comes with at least eight, giving them a blocking minority of any major pro-whale initiative within the IWC. This year the pro-Japanese Caribbean bloc of six countries was boosted by the addition of Guinea (a small African country that has never had a whaling tradition.) But in every vote taken, Guinea sided with the Japanese. Zimbabwe and Morocco were present as observers and are expected to join the body on Japan's behalf next year. Both received foreign aid from Japan starting in 1998. 🐾

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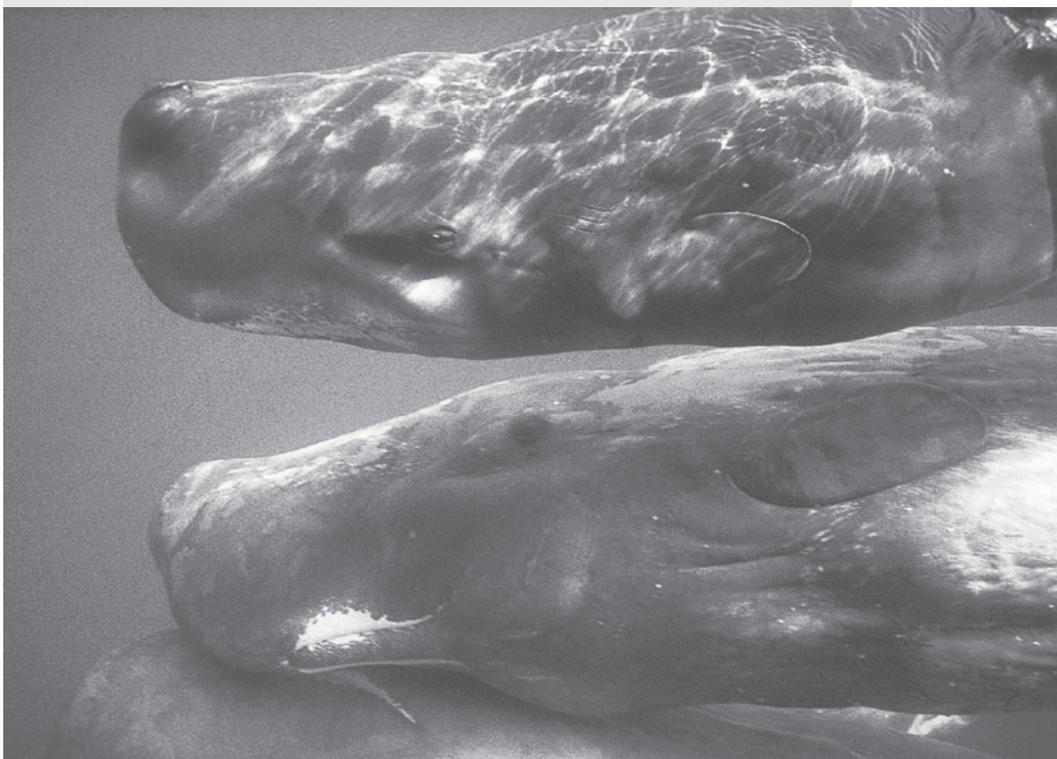
for, eleven against and four abstaining) demonstrated that Japan has finally bought off enough countries to stymie pro-whale initiatives in the IWC. Those voting against the sanctuary included Antigua/Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts/Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent/Grenadines, and a new Japanese recruit—Guinea. This makes seven poor and small countries that vote with Japan in trade for economic assistance (see article at right).

One surprise at this meeting was the willingness of some powerful organizations to push for the adoption of the RMS and the subsequent return to commercial whaling. *World Wildlife Fund* was one of the groups working behind the scenes to legitimize the outlaws and bring whaling "under control." The damage wrought by splitting the pro-whale camp can be seen in this quote from the July 5 *Christian Science Monitor*:

"Even some environmental groups have begun quietly saying that they would accept a resumption of commercial whaling under strict conditions. "We're never going to be promoting it," says Cassandra Phillips, a whale expert with the British-based World Wildlife Fund, "but we can see a situation where it might be allowable."

To counter this conciliation by some organizations, and to breathe life back into steadfast opposition to the expansion of whaling, AWI drafted an opening statement that doubled as a sign-on letter. Over two dozen major international organizations endorsed the following text:

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International Fund for Animal Welfare

Endangered sperm whales of Moby Dick fame were a favorite of whalers for decades but have been left in peace since 1987. Despite strong condemnation by the IWC, the US and Britain, Japan set sail on July 29 to kill ten in the North Pacific as part of its "research" whaling.

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Recognizing the massive global support for the complete protection of the world's whales, the undersigned groups attending the 52nd meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) wish to reaffirm our total opposition to the resumption of commercial whaling.

We therefore support:

—The adoption of the Global Whale Sanctuary as proposed by Australia in 1998, permanently banning all directed takes of whales up to the high-water mark of all seas, with the exception of truly subsistence aboriginal whaling necessary for human survival.

—The urgent international protection of small cetaceans.

—The recognition of whale watching, non-invasive research and educational programs as the optimum utilization of whales.

—The evolution of the IWC into a conservation body that undertakes an audit of all environmental and anthropogenic threats to cetaceans, including: the status of habitat and food sources, a detailed monitoring of the effects of global warming, ozone depletion, and toxic contamination, and a review of the effects of sound pollution in the seas.

We oppose:

—The development or adoption of any regime that lifts the current moratorium on commercial whaling. We specifically reject the concept that it is possible to conservatively and reliably count wild species of whales accurately enough to allow a directed take. Any regime based on such a method is fatally flawed.

A plan allowing the intentional killing of whales assumes a certainty as to how many whales there are, the nature and severity of all threats facing whales, and honesty on the part of the whalers reporting their kills. None of these elements exists. All that is really certain is that the threats are greater than ever before and increasing; and the countries pushing for an acceptance of commercial whaling are the same ones with a long history of falsifying catch records. The greed and managerial incompetence that pushed the great whales to near extinction are still alive and well within the IWC.

The moment cries out for taking stock of the damage we are doing to wild species of whales through toxics, dramatic climate and food regime changes, and the proliferation of loud sounds in the oceans. This is not the time to unleash the harpoons. 🐾



The *New York Times* wrote an editorial, August 15, 2000, "A Reprehensible Whale Hunt," which stated, "**Though minke whales are relatively plentiful, sperm and Bryde's whales were nearly wiped out in the 1980s, before they came under the protection of the moratorium. Japan's actions pose a threat to their survival.**"

ACTION

1. Refuse to buy Japanese products as long as the Japanese business community undermines the conservation work of treaty bodies such as the IWC and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

2. Convey your outrage over Japan's outlaw whaling and its reckless behavior as the leading international destroyer of wildlife and wild places. Tell the Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono that Japan's vote-buying strategy, in which tens of millions of dollars of fisheries aid was given to poor nations in return for their pro-whaling votes, is an outrageous subversion of international democracy and is reminiscent of Soviet control of puppet states around the world.

Letters should be addressed:

Foreign Minister Yohei Kono
Embassy of Japan
2520 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20008

3. Urge US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to do everything possible to block Japan's scheme to gain a Security Council seat. Japan is pressuring the international community to award it a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council. But Japan's flagrant violations of conservation treaties—and outrageous vote-buying practices—make it an outlaw nation unworthy of such a responsible position.

Letters should be addressed:

The Honorable Madeleine K. Albright
The Secretary of State
The Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

4. Demand full accountability from any group you support. Some groups, such as *World Wildlife Fund*, advertise themselves as wildlife protectors but are encouraging rapid adoption of the Revised Management Scheme (RMS). This will lead to renewed commercial whaling.

Brazen Japan Plans Further Whale Slaughter

Japan has ignited a firestorm of criticism by launching a new round of "scientific" whaling, this time targeting ten endangered sperm and fifty Brydes (pronounced "Brutus") whales in the North Pacific. Japan has ignored the International Whaling Commission's condemnation of any expansion of its "research" whaling that now kills over 400 minke whales yearly in the Southern Ocean Sanctuary; on July 29, four whaling ships embarked on a deadly mission and have already killed Brydes, sperm and minke whales, working towards their gruesome goal of 160 dead whales this year. Taking advantage of a loophole in the IWC, Japan need only call its whaling "scientific" to be legal technically, even though the whale meat is sold for food. But the ruse fools few. Sanae Shida, a Greenpeace spokeswoman in Tokyo, said, "If you need to research African elephants, that doesn't mean you kill and eat them."

Protests have been lodged at the highest levels of government by Britain, the United States and New Zealand. US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright met with Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono and asked him to either call back the ships or face economic sanctions. Japan responded belligerently, saying it has a right to kill the whales and that any sanctions would be in violation of the World Trade Organization (WTO). 🐾

The War in the Woods—A Personal Journey

Most of my work with AWI involves the protection of whales and dolphins, but for over twenty-five years I was a professional tree climber and arborist. Recently I was asked to help out some kids in Humboldt County, California who are trying to stop the cutting of the old-growth forests.

Five years ago I fought the cutting of another ancient forest after President Clinton had signed the Salvage Timber Rider, allowing the logging of wildlife preserves set aside as “refugias.” These had been preserved to spread their original flora and fauna eventually to the surrounding denuded hillsides. Rocky Brook was one of these refugias. I slept 100 feet up a cedar tree for three days and nights and was arrested blockading a logging road and leading 200 people into the area deemed off limits. On my third arrest, I was put in manacles and chains and sent to federal prison for violating the “forest closure law.” This law enables police to arrest anyone within a three mile radius of a logging site on grounds of “safety.” Eventually, we knocked down this law on the grounds that it violated my rights to speak, assemble and worship in a place I considered sacred. But Rocky Brook forest was clear-cut to the ground while I was in jail.

I thought I knew a little about the struggle to protect these forests.

Just back from a trip to the forests of Northern California, I realize that I knew nothing about the duration, intensity, difficulty and danger of the war over the woods now being waged from California to British Columbia.

I met a young climber named Bob in Arcata, about to hitchhike with many pounds of climbing gear to a huge threatened forest called Rainbow Ridge. Rainbow Ridge runs above the Mattole Valley, a remote and precious green swath along one of the few undammed rivers in California. Charles Hurwitz (the butcher of the Headwaters Forest who commandeered the Pacific Lumber Company through a hostile takeover ten years ago) also has claim to thousands of acres of ancient trees along Rainbow Ridge.

I gave Bob a ride down to the edge of the ridge, dropping him off at a gate stretched across a logging road. He hoisted his packs to hike five miles to a blockade where twenty kids have been camping in the snow since November 1, braving strong winds and heavy rain, stopping the trucks and loggers.

Bob was equipped to set up tree-sit platforms in the trees slated to be cut first, another seven miles from the blockade. Whereas Rocky Brook had been in a National Forest, all twelve miles of land

from the gate on is private property: hostile territory for anti-logging protesters. Many of the rights I took for granted in my fight do not apply here, and the police and loggers have on occasion been brutal in their protection of clear-cut logging. Just last year, a young *Earth First!* activist and tree climber named David (Gypsy) Chain was killed when a logger dropped a tree in his direction.

The people who live in the Mattole Valley have been fighting the threats to their corner of the world for over twenty years, including proposals to dam or divert the water and the ongoing decimation of the forests. When major logging actions begin, local folks (ranchers and farmers and schoolteachers) have been known to set up their own blockades to stop the loggers and police from heading up into the hills to battle the kids.

Court proceedings and deals made with the state and federal government give little hope for justice or the preservation of the forests. Habitat Conservation Plans approved for the Headwaters allow Maxxam (Charles Hurwitz’s mutation of the Pacific Lumber Company) to cut trees known to contain endangered species. These wink and nod deals actually override the Endangered Species Act, allowing the cutting of some areas if others are left alone. Charles Hurwitz bilked the American people out of over a billion dollars during the Savings and Loan debacle a decade ago and a just arrangement would be a debt for nature swap. We’ll let the guy off the hook for the billion dollars he owes taxpayers if he leaves all of the old trees alone to live for another thousand years.

Back home in Washington, I pulled out a videotape from the Headwaters Action Video Collective that I had bought from the Trees Foundation in Garberville. The film is entitled “Fire in the Eyes,” a reference, I thought, to the intensity and dedication of the kids involved. I sat down with my fourteen-year-old daughter Julia to watch the short film. Julia was a turtle at the WTO meeting in Seattle, and is a tree climber and avid young activist. The kids obstructing the logging are her tribe.

Within ten minutes both of us were in tears. Using police footage obtained through court discovery, the film showed the technique the Humboldt County Sheriff’s Office is using against young protesters. In one scene, protesters filed into the office of conservative lawmaker Frank Riggs in order to protest his facilitation of clear-cut logging. They brought in a stump and a bucket of sawdust, sat in a circle around the prop and joined their arms with lockboxes. Lockboxes are steel tubes that slide over the forearms of two adjacent people, with rebar welded on the inside. Each participant has a carabiner attached to their wrist with a rope that locks onto the rebar. Unless cut off, they can only release themselves. No amount of pulling will separate the protesters unless they choose to let go.

In “Fire in the Eyes,” police officers announce to the protesters that they have five minutes to disconnect or “chemical agents” would be used. Then, one officer bends back the head of a protester while another puts a Q-tip soaked in pepper spray into the corner of each eye. Nothing much happens for forty seconds or so while the police go to the next person. Then the pain begins. Excruciating, debilitating pain that makes the kids scream out. Still they do not release. One girl cries out for compassion, asking the officers if they don’t have

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*How strange and wonderful is our home, our earth,
With its swirling vaporous atmosphere,
Its flowing and frozen climbing creatures,
The croaking things with wings that hang on rocks
And soar through fog, the furry grass, the scaly seas...
How utterly rich and wild...
Yet some among us have the nerve,
The insolence, the brass, the gall to whine
About the limitations of our earthbound fate
And yearn for some more perfect world beyond the sky.
We are none of us good enough
For the world we have.*

—Edward Abbey

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daughters of their own. After another warning the police spray a canister of pepper spray directly into the eyes of each protester. In spite of the torture, the kids amazingly stayed locked together, even when the cops eventually pick up the entire circle and carry them out of the office.

The film ends with the devastating news that when the kids tortured by the police sued, the technique was upheld as acceptable use of force. A plea from the American Civil Liberties Union that the torture was prohibited under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was ignored. An appeal is pending.

The war over the woods in the northwest is one of the most intense, most dangerous efforts to protect animals' habitat (the trees and rivers on which they depend) in North America. Hundreds of people have mortgaged their homes, faced arrest, torture and death, and braved week after week either up in a tree or freezing in a road blockade. These folks need the rest of us.

The movie *Gandhi* has a scene where Indian men illegally gathering salt are beaten by British troops, one after another. Some believe that the British Empire died that day in India when Brits decided they couldn't stomach the degree of brutality that would be necessary to crush the drive for independence. Seeing the torture of kids trying to protect these forests makes me wonder how much repression Americans will tolerate.

Instead of being depressed over yet another natural tragedy of huge proportions unfolding, what stays with me from my short trip into the war zone of Northern California is hope. Kids in their teens and twenties are offering their lives to protect the last of the ancient forests. Even knowing they might be tortured or killed, they persevere.

This fight is not a passing fancy. North of my home stretches the largest intact temperate rainforest in the world. Five million acres of salmon, grizzlies, eagles and trees ten feet thick stretch along the western coast of British Columbia. Logging roads are slated to invade almost every pristine valley. For those who believe that a very important part of who we are depends on the existence of wildlife and wild places, and our refusal to acquiesce to its destruction, protecting these places may well be the fight of our lives. 🐾

Climbers erecting a tree-sit platform in a California redwood to prevent its cutting.



Tigger

Dolphins Win in Virginia Beach

The plan to expand the Virginia Marine Science Museum to include a new 55 million dollar dolphin tank has been pulled by the Virginia Beach City Council after a firestorm of protest over the last year.

AWI international coordinator Ben White and friend MacDonald Hawley traveled to Virginia Beach twice to speak at the request of *Dolphin Liberty*, the grassroots organization that coordinated opposition to the proposed dolphin tank. The visits became an issue when revealed that local police sent an undercover police officer to the meetings. When questioned by the press, the police chief explained that the group had invited people with "criminal backgrounds" to speak. The reference was to Mr. White, who has accumulated misdemeanor charges from non-violent interference to protect wildlife.

For some City Council members, this inappropriate surveillance of legal protest activity was the last straw. However, the primary reason for pulling the project was money. In the end, the public and the council were convinced the project was a very controversial frill they couldn't afford.

The aquarium expansion project was especially hard fought because of the precedent it would set. There have been no new captive dolphin tanks built in the United States for a decade. Many facilities such as the Great America Amusement Park and Knott's Berry Farm have stopped holding dolphins in captivity during this period. We hope that the idea of taking these highly sentient beings from their homes and families in order to entertain us is now seen by most reasonable people as unacceptable. 🐾

The London IWC Meeting

Every year, hundreds of well-educated, well-dressed, and well-paid government officials from about forty countries convene for the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and clash over how much whaling the world will allow. The group voted in 1982 to enact a moratorium on commercial whaling. Subsequently, work has been undertaken to develop a "Revised Management Scheme" (RMS) to regulate future whaling, while the Japanese-led whaling bloc has fought to overturn the ban.

One of its tactics is beginning to bear fruit: the recruiting of poor countries to join the IWC and vote for whaling in exchange for "economic assistance." This year the issue of vote-buying came completely out of the closet. New Zealand Minister of Conservation Sandra Lee and representatives from other South Pacific islands blasted it as illegal and threatened action in the United Nations. Japanese spokesman Misayuki Komatsu defended it as a normal part of international relations.

All eyes in London were on next year's meeting in Shimonoseki, a small whaling village in Japan. The Japanese delegation was overheard vowing to recruit eight more countries to vote its way next year. If accomplished, this would give Japan a clear majority and a good chance of knocking down the moratorium on commercial whaling.

Meanwhile, the whalers' strategy was to tie the meeting into procedural knots and then complain

to the media that the organization is hopelessly paralyzed.

After the meeting was opened by the new Chairman, Professor Bo Fernholm of Sweden, the UK Minister of the Environment, Elliot Morley, delivered the opening address, strongly supporting the non-lethal use of whales by whale-watching and vigorously opposing the re-opening of commercial whaling.

The first debate set the tone for the entire conference. Iceland was asking to rejoin the IWC after quitting in 1990, but it wanted to rejoin with a "reservation" to the commercial whaling moratorium agreed upon in 1982. In 1983 the Icelandic Parliament voted 29 to 28 to stop the country's commercial whaling, but the whaling lobby has been working ever since to persuade Iceland to go back to killing whales for profit, and finally it succeeded.

This issue prompted a ferocious battle with Japan and its paid supporters from the Caribbean thundering that the IWC did not have the legal right to stop Iceland from rejoining with a reservation. New Zealand Commissioner Jim McLay countered, arguing that accepting Iceland with its reservation could prove a disastrous precedent in many international treaty organizations. Any country disgruntled with a ruling could quit and rejoin minutes later with a reservation.

Eventually, it was very narrowly voted that Iceland could not rejoin with a reservation: the whalers lost the important vote by

a hairsbreadth. They left London determined to gain a majority by next year's meeting.

Norway declared that it plans to sell hundreds of tons of blubber to Japan, despite the high concentration of toxic chemicals and heavy metals, and despite a promise to the United States that it would refrain from such trade if the US chose not to enact sanctions against its continuing commercial whaling.

When asked by Austria whether the nutritional needs of the Makah Indians for Gray Whale meat have been ascertained (a precondition for granting an aboriginal whaling quota), the commissioner of the United States stated that a recent Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) adequately addressed the matter. However, the EIS did not.

Lastly, the revised management scheme was relegated to working groups under the auspices of the Netherlands. They will now meet in private (away from the big ears of non-governmental observers and media) and report to the commission next year. AWI joined 135 other groups in the Global Whale Alliance to weigh in against the completion of any RMS. We oppose any resumption of commercial whaling, and the RMS is a pseudo-scientific formula for whaling.

An extensive report commissioned by New Zealand and presented at the meeting shows that whale watching is now a **billion dollar** a year business worldwide, making far more money than whale killing ever did or would. It's time to give up the slaughter forever. 🐾



Reckless Abandon

The *Animal Welfare Institute's* (AWI) leadership in the fight against the Navy's Low Frequency Active sonar (LFA) is now in its fourth year. Ever since we organized volunteers to swim alongside the Navy test ship in February 1998 and block its blasting of humpback whales off Hawaii, we have explored every avenue to stop the planned deployment of this intensely loud sonar.

All indications are that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will grant a "small take authorization" for the Navy to begin using LFA in more than 80% of the world's oceans, even though the numbers of sea creatures affected are anything but small. The Navy's own Environmental Impact Statement predicts that more than 10% of some species could be harmed.

Intended to find almost silent diesel electric enemy submarines, LFA emits some of the loudest sounds ever created. The source level of the device is 240 decibels, a million times more intense than a jet plane on takeoff. Even the Navy agrees that this system is very loud. Our disagreement is on what effects the system will have on sea creatures worldwide and on the feasibility of using passive sonar instead. Rear Admiral Malcolm Fages testified last year before Congress that new Navy passive sonar is ten times more sensitive than previous

instruments and can find any enemy in the oceans. But the Navy still argues that LFA is irreplaceable.

Even though NMFS has done everything possible to grease the skids for the Navy's deployment of LFA, there is still one more review within the agency that might stop the project. This is the consideration of whether the device will cause any increased jeopardy to any endangered species or its habitat. In order to give a green light to LFA, there would have to be a no jeopardy finding.

To render a finding, NMFS officials are required to review all pertinent scientific research. AWI organized a massive search of data banks to find any studies into the effects of low frequency sound on marine mammals, fish, fish eggs, larvae, and other ocean creatures, and we found some very sobering information. Based on data in the literature and his own experiments, Mardi Hastings of Ohio State University suggested that the maximum safe level of sound that bony fish can be exposed to is 150 decibels (letter to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), dated March 23, 1992). Operating at 240 decibels, LFA sonar could spread sound louder than 150 decibels over many hundreds of thousands of square miles.

The Navy may be unconcerned about the dead whales it left behind in the Bahamas and the Canary Islands from testing of active sonar, but the specter of a massive fishery die-off should be of great concern to US fishing fleets and to our fishery dependent allies.

At the recent IWC meeting in London, AWI gave away t-shirts that said: "KILLING WHALES? We don't care-we're the US Navy." During a morning tea break, delegates discovered the boxes of shirts with a FREE sign attached. Within minutes every one was gone.

AWI's companion organization, the Society for Animal Protective Legislation, hopes Congress and government agencies and auditors will get involved to expose LFA's faulty technology, unsound science, and waste of taxpayer money. 🐾



STOP LFA
Low Frequency Active Sonar

Top photo: Monk seals are highly susceptible to threats, including LFA. (photo by Dr. McVey, NOAA).

We told you it was fraud... Now the Court agrees

On July 23rd, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco unanimously ruled that the Secretary of Commerce abused his discretion in 1999 when he declared that setting nets on dolphins to catch tuna did not constitute a “significant adverse impact” (even though more than seven million dolphins have died through this technique). Left unchallenged, the Secretary’s ruling would have allowed tuna caught by chasing dolphins to be sold as “dolphin safe,” gutting the definition of the label now found on every can of tuna sold in the United States.

The *Animal Welfare Institute* joined *Earth Island Institute* and other groups in a legal challenge arguing the Secretary’s ruling was arbitrary and capricious. The Court decision is just the latest victory in the tuna/dolphin battle.

By 1972, the numbers of dolphins dying in tuna nets could no longer be ignored. The American people demanded, and Congress enacted, the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Two decades later, the 1992 International Dolphin Conservation Act banned the US sale of tuna obtained by netting dolphins. But the Mexican fleet, still chasing dolphins off their coast, raised the flag of free trade and complained to the Clinton White House. A bill to allow setting on dolphins and defraud the public by changing the definition of the “dolphin safe” label, dubbed the “Dolphin Death Act,” was signed into law in 1997.

We are delighted the Court has blown the whistle on the Secretary’s ruling.

However...

The deadly effects of the Dolphin Death Act still linger. On August 8th, a National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) research vessel set sail to meet up with a contracted tuna boat and search out one of the highly beleaguered pods of dolphins.

Dolphins will be surrounded by nets and captured. A telemetry device will be bolted through their dorsal fins, blood will be taken, and the dolphins released. Then they will be caught again and again. Blood samples will be compared to see if stress-related hormones increase with repeated captures.

AWI has fought to stop this unnecessary and cruel experiment. Over two years ago, we presented an alternative proposal to NMFS, drafted with the help of Dr. Al Myrick. In our counter-proposal, only dolphins already involved in an ongoing tuna fishery would be studied. Only those found comatose in the nets would have blood taken. There would be no repeated captures or intentional stressing of dolphins.

Senior NMFS scientists reviewed our alternative and agreed with its point: the capture study would yield no new information and would be a huge waste of money. They recommended that the study be rejected.

At this point, Nina Young of the Center for Marine Conservation weighed in. (CMC, now called the *Ocean*

Conservancy, is one of the five groups that split from the environmental community, and common sense, and backed the Dolphin Death Act.) She convinced staffers in the offices of Congressmen Wayne Gilchrest (R, MD) and Randy “Duke” Cunningham (R, CA) to write to the scientists at NMFS and insist that they obey the letter of the Act that mandated a *capture, recapture* stress study. These letters bullied NMFS into directing the scientists to proceed. So now, the scientists are reluctantly conducting a multi-million dollar study to harm dolphins for no good reason.

A recent population abundance survey found the two hardest-hit populations—Northeast Offshore Spotted Dolphins and the Eastern Spinner Dolphins—have not recovered at all from years of pursuit.

The results of a necropsy study are chilling. Of nineteen dead dolphins dissected and studied, all show striations in their hearts caused by the tearing and subsequent mending of muscle from the stress of repeated captures.

The Court of Appeals has ruled that the Secretary of Commerce must issue a final ruling one way or another as to whether the chasing and netting of dolphins causes “significant adverse impact.” The Federal Government cannot just keep studying the matter. All of the evidence from the necropsies, the abundance surveys, and the literature search shows that the damage done to the dolphins is both significant and adverse, making the capture and recapture experiment not only cruel but also redundant. ♡



Despite laws to the contrary, dolphins are still being chased and caught in huge nets by foreign boats fishing for tuna and by US research vessels.



A whale threatened Kaikyo Messe, the venue of the 54th annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission in Shimonoseki, southwestern Japan, Friday, May 24, 2002. Ben White of the Animal Welfare Institute constructed this image of a sperm whale himself as a protest against Japanese and Norwegian attempts to resume commercial whaling. He was inside the whale on the final day of the IWC meeting.

Japan Stymied on Home Turf: IWC 2002

The combative tenor of the 54th annual conference of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) was set the day before the opening gavel struck on Monday, May 20 in the whaling city of Shimonoseki, Japan. Just off the bullet train from Tokyo, I was met by a huge and raucous demonstration of thousands of ultra-right Japanese nationalists circling the streets in 160 big, black busses with loudspeakers blaring from their roofs. In a deafening call-and-response, one speaker would shout through his microphone, then 159 others would shout into theirs. Advocating the full scale resumption of commercial whaling, the demonstrators played martial music from World War II days and chanted “Greenpeace Go Home.” The group embraces modern Shinto and believes that the Emperor of Japan is a deity. Ironically, Old Shinto is an ancient religion that believes that streams and forests and, presumably, whales are sacred.

As it turned out, irony was the one constant of a topsy-turvy week. I never would have thought that a pivotal meeting in a whaling center would result in:

JAPAN

- failing to win a resumption of commercial whaling through the adoption of a toothless “revised management scheme”;
- blocking whaling by opposing the US/Russian proposal for an aboriginal subsistence quota of bowhead whales for the Inuits;
- failing to win acceptance of its bid, submitted every year since 1984, to allow four coastal towns to take 50 minke whales a year in a commercial hunt - Japan said it would allow the hunting anyway under the heading of “scientific whaling”;
- failing to win a simple majority in its annual request for a secret ballot to hide its bought votes, despite its recruitment of four new countries to vote its way this year (Benin, Gabon, Mongolia, and Palau);
- failing in its effort to force the acceptance of Iceland into the commission (Iceland is insisting that it be able to join with a reservation on the moratorium on commercial whaling, even though it voted for the moratorium before quitting the IWC ten years ago);

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- succeeding in blocking the adoption of a new South Pacific Sanctuary, a success tempered by the adoption of sanctuaries by New Zealand, Australia, and other Pacific nations within their own waters (extending 200 miles); and

UNITED STATES

- losing, in the most dramatic IWC slap at the country since 1972, the Alaskan Inuit bowhead quota - aboriginal subsistence whaling quotas are almost always agreed to by consensus (this time the bowhead quota was held hostage by the Japanese linkage with its own perennially rejected request for a commercial coastal whaling allotment of 50 minke whales; its message was 100% political jousting: if we don't get what we want, you don't get what you want);
- giving in on the hotly contested issue of increasing St. Vincent/Grenadine's annual quota of humpback whales from two to four, despite its repeated illegal slaughter of mother and calf pairs (a deal struck in a private commissioner's meeting appeared to give St. Vincent its quota if the US and Russia got their bowhead quota, but once the St. Vincent quota was approved, the whalers reneged);
- seeing its two primary skeletons in the closet - Makah whaling and low frequency active (LFA) sonar - openly questioned in the plenary. Mexican commissioner Andres Rosental, who emerged at this conference as the whales' strongest champion, objected both to the Makah being granted whaling rights without demonstrating nutritional need and to the joining of the US and Russian request to take gray whales, avoiding the Makah quota passing muster on its own. The safety of LFA was brought up by the members of the scientific committee and their concerns passed on by their chairwoman. In response, alternate US commissioner Mike Tillman gave a deadpan reading of a statement attesting that the effect of LFA on marine mammals will be minimal.

THE CONSEQUENCES

Even though the IWC has long been derided justifiably as the whalers' club, its mandate is actually both to conserve whales and to facilitate whaling, a mandate that could be argued is self-contradictory. Those wanting whales protected are looking, as always, beyond the 48-member IWC to the meeting this fall of the 158-member Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). The concern is that if the IWC is seen to be losing its grasp on its ability to regulate and control ("allow") whaling, then CITES could step in to approve the "down listing" and trade of certain species of whale. Indeed, over the past several years the increasingly combative Japanese delegation appears to follow a strategy of tying the IWC in knots so it can then go to CITES and say that the IWC isn't working.

This year, with the Japanese intransigence at the meeting being so dramatic, the argument will be easier to make at CITES that it is the Japanese who are obstructing progress within the IWC, and that they

should not be rewarded by superceding the responsibilities of the IWC and allowing whale meat trade while there is a commercial moratorium in place.

The issue that might make the whole argument on whaling moot is the increasing awareness in Japan that much whale meat and almost all dolphin meat (often labeled as whale meat) is contaminated heavily with mercury and other heavy metals. Having suffered a disastrous bout of mercury contamination in Minamata Bay in the 1970s, Japanese consumers are very concerned with food safety. For the first time, 30% of the whale meat obtained through Japan's "research whaling" went unsold last year. An April poll published in the *Asahi Shimbun* newspaper reported that only four percent of those polled ate whale meat "sometimes." The same paper headlined an article, "Changing Tastes May Sink Whaling Fleet," pointing out that despite the posturing and arguing within the IWC, if the Japanese people stop buying whale meat, the industry will collapse.

Just a month before the conference, the Japanese government took the unprecedented step of ruling that the meat from five sperm whales could not be sold as human food because it contained 1.47 parts per million of mercury, more than three times the legal limit. To dramatize this action, I made a fifteen-foot tall, sperm whale costume. Working with the Japanese group Safety First! I was able to get a permit to walk my whale to the front of the IWC venue on the last day of the conference. One side of the whale read "WARNING MERCURY," and on the other side was the Japanese translation (the four kangi literally said "Silver-Water-Crises-Rough Adventure"). As I approached the conference center inside the costume, the crowd of media peeled away from the entrance and surrounded me. One of the photographs wound up on page two of the May 28 *New York Times*, illustrating an article entitled "Yuk, No More Stomach for Whales."

One critical outstanding question remains: Will the US allow the Alaskan Inuit whalers to go after bowhead whales next spring even if the IWC has not given its permission? 🐾



Japan Remains Determined to Kill Whales

In a predictable move that would bring CITES directly into conflict with the International Whaling Commission (IWC), Japan has proposed that most of the northern hemisphere population of Minke whales (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*) and the western North Pacific population of Bryde's whales (*Balaenoptera edeni*) be down-listed from Appendix I to Appendix II, enabling international trade under certain conditions.

Norway presently kills around 400 Minke whales a year under a reservation to the IWC moratorium on commercial whaling. It has just begun selling the meat to Iceland and would like to sell to Japan. Japan is increasing its "scientific whaling" kill of Minke whales in the North Pacific this year from 100 to 150.

This is the fourth CITES meeting in a row where Japan has presented these two whale down-listing proposals. They were rejected at the three previous meetings. With strong opposition by the Secretariat of CITES, it is expected that they will fail

again. Japan wants to evade the current moratorium on commercial whaling within the IWC by circumventing the rule through another forum. To its credit, CITES has seen the ploy for what it is and has refused to take the bait, despite a lot of thundering rhetoric. Instead, CITES has held that it is the IWC that has the principal responsibility for whales and whaling, and that the trade in whale meat from species protected by the IWC moratorium on commercial whaling should be prohibited.

The current estimates of northern hemisphere populations of Minke whales include approximately 25,000 in the Sea of Okhotsk; 112,000 in the Northeast Atlantic; and 28,000 in the Central North Atlantic.

Bryde's (pronounced brutus) whales are not as well known but are considered a depleted species, having been hunted relentlessly by commercial whalers prior to the IWC moratorium. Japan has been killing 93 Bryde's whales a year over the last two years as part of its "scientific whaling"

in the North Pacific and selling the meat domestically. One concern is that this species of whale tends to accrue in population very slowly, with each female producing, at best, one calf every two years.

Part of the argument within CITES concerns the "Revised Management Scheme" (RMS) that is working its way slowly through the IWC. The RMS is a calculation intended to include all available information about whales and produce a number of individuals that can die at the point of a harpoon each year without collapsing the population. Many groups, such as AWI, and the strongest whale-defending nations, such as Australia, want no RMS at all because it is merely a plot to pave the way for the resumption of commercial whaling. Japan is arguing for a very lax RMS, with the weakest possible international oversight on anti-cheating controls such as DNA databases, which track the geographical origin and species of whale meat sold.

Japan complains that the moratorium on commercial whaling was to last only until a new killing scheme (the RMS) was completed, and that CITES should take the reins because the IWC is broken. But a careful reading of the moratorium on commercial whaling the IWC adopted in 1982 shows that a comprehensive assessment was to be conducted on the *effects of the moratorium* in order to demonstrate whether any of the depleted whale populations have responded to less killing. This assessment has not been done. 🐾

Sardines fly into the air as a Bryde's whale and common dolphins lunge through a baitball during the "Sardine Run" in South Africa.



©2002 Doug Perrine/SeaPic.com

Green Turtle Farm Seeks Registration as Captive Breeder

Backing the international trend toward increasing protection for sea turtles and infuriating their own citizens, the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is petitioning CITES to register one Cayman Island turtle farm as an approved captive breeding facility for green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*), thus enabling legal export and international sale of green turtle shells, despite the green turtle's Appendix I listing under CITES. A similar proposal to CITES failed in 1985.

The Cayman Turtle Farm (CTF) started out in 1968 with 208 wild caught turtles and 500,000 eggs taken from five different countries of the Caribbean. From the beginning, the CTF was a commercial operation, producing turtle carapaces (dorsal shells), oil, meat, and cosmetics. The business almost folded in 1978 when the US banned the importation of all turtle products. But right up to the present, the farm has sold shells and trinkets to tourists, with helpful instructions from the staff on avoiding US customs agents. Besides learning how to smuggle endangered species, the avid tourist can also, according to the farm's current web site, sample turtle soup and sandwiches in its snack bar.

In a recent dramatization of the grim reality of this park, one of our colleagues received a letter from a woman who just returned from a Carnival Cruise tour that visited the Cayman Turtle Farm. She wrote: "It is horrible! The cruise line led us to believe that it was an endangered species program which released the turtles back into the sea but it was definitely not that. They only release between 10-15% of those turtles ac-

cording to our guide. The rest are processed for meat, shells, etc. The conditions they are kept in are terrible, just big dirty tanks and the turtles are all trying to climb over each other to get out. It made me sick."

Readers wishing to contact Carnival Cruise Lines to object to this tourist destination can write to: 3655 Northwest 97th Avenue, Miami, Florida 33178-2428. 🐾



Peter Bennett and Ursula Keuper-Bennett/turtles.org

At Cayman Turtle Farm, green turtles live packed cheek-to-jowl.

Captures Tip the Balance for the Black Sea Dolphins

Widely exploited for meat and oil for decades, the Black Sea subspecies of bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus ponticus*) has been proposed for increased protection by the former Soviet state of Georgia. Changing the dolphins' CITES listing as requested from Appendix II to Appendix I would ban all commercial trade.

Even after hunting dolphins for food was banned in the former USSR, Bulgaria, and Romania in the 1960s and in Turkey in the early 1980s, the dolphins continued to

suffer as incidental victims in fisheries from diseases spread by increasing pollution and immune deficiencies and through the occasional intentional roundup and slaughter. Add to these threats the extensive development of coastal areas and the depletion of the prey species of the dolphins, we see a population unable to tolerate the pressure that came along over the last ten years from aquariums and amusement parks taking live specimens for public display. Out of 120 individuals known to have been captured and sold internationally, 52 are known to

be dead. This number doesn't include the additional 25-50 caught yearly to supply the oceanaria in countries surrounding the Black Sea.

Recognizing the threat of these ongoing captures, an international treaty organization of the region (Agreement on the Conservation of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Areas-ACCOBAMS) has backed the increased CITES protection as a way to curtail the international traffic in the dolphins. AWI wholeheartedly agrees. 🐾



In the wild, orcas never leave their mothers; photo by Center for Whale Research.

Keiko's Long Journey to Freedom

Keiko, probably the most famous whale in the world, is in the headlines again. You know the story: ripped from his family in Iceland's waters at the age of two by the greedy marine circus industry, Keiko spent the next 17 years in prison-like concrete tanks in Canada and Mexico until he was fictionally freed in the hit movie "Free Willy."

In 1994, Earth Island Institute founded the Free Willy Keiko Foundation and the debilitated orca was flown to a specially-built recovery pool in Oregon in 1996. After years of care to get him back to health and vitality, in 1999 Keiko was flown to his home off the coast of Iceland. There he lived in a pen while being reintroduced to the open sea and pods of orcas that feed in the area each summer.

This July Keiko's guardians led him out to sea where he quickly bonded with several pods of orcas. By early August the whales were heading east with the herring schools. A small transmitter fixed to Keiko's back showed that he was swimming up to 90 miles a day and diving deep to feed.

Apparently enjoying his freedom, Keiko kept swimming east all August—nearly 1,000 miles—until he arrived at the coast of Norway. There, one day, he came upon a small fishing boat heading into a fjord. Keiko followed. At the small town of Halså in central Norway, he was welcomed with open arms. Children swam with him. Thousands of Norwegians drove to the fjord to see the friendly whale. The press arrived in droves.

Some Norwegians were not so happy, however. The ruthless whalers who defy the international ban on commercial whaling don't want to see public sympathy for marine mammals. One whaler said Keiko should be turned into meatballs. But children across Norway and around the world sent out a cry to protect the whale. The Norwegian government, imagining a public relations disaster if Keiko was mistreated or killed, quickly imposed a 50-meter protective zone around Keiko and agreed to work with the Free Willy Keiko Foundation.

There are even some signs that the Norwegian government understands

the growing opposition to the captivity of whales, at least this whale. In a letter to Florida Senator Bob Graham opposing the Miami Seaquarium's bizarre request to go capture Keiko, the Norwegian ambassador to the US wrote: "In principle we are skeptical to keeping huge animals like whales in captivity. In Norway there is no tradition for that. Also, we regard it as problematic in an animal welfare perspective to send the whale on the long voyage from Norway to Florida. At the moment the whale has a freedom that makes it possible for him to make choices. He is not in conditions that will stress him.

"However, we do not doubt that Keiko would get good support in Miami, but it would be a great step back to put him in an aquarium again.

"Finally, I would like to assure you that the people in Halså are now very much attached to Keiko, and would not like to see him depart."

So it appears that Keiko will winter off the Norwegian coast, swimming free at last. 🐾

Loving Whales to Death?

If you want to buy a sweatshirt with an orca whale on it, Friday Harbor, Washington is the place. Or an orca drink holder, wind chime, beer, hat, pair of socks, flag, blanket, wine glass, towel, pair of tennis shoes, or belly bag. Every summer the population of San Juan Island more than doubles with tourists coming with the hopes of glimpsing one of three resident families of orca whales. The orcas hunt for salmon up and down the Haro Straights, the deep passage alongside San Juan island.

Despite all of the attention, or perhaps because of it, the orcas are suffering. In the last six years the population has declined from one hundred to eighty, while the number of whale-watch companies that follow these whales has increased from twenty to

eighty. A new study by Dr. David Bain asserts that the boats are so numerous and so loud in critical frequencies that 90-95% of the whales' echolocation is blocked. A group called Orca Relief believes that this research provides the missing piece to the orcas' decline: boat noise makes it difficult for the orcas to find the fewer salmon available, forcing them to rely on their fat reserves, which are heavily contaminated with PCBs and other toxic chemicals.

Whale-watch operators are unhappy at being labeled villains. Many use their boats to promote the love of wildlife, offering what many groups such as ours have touted as one income-generating alternative to whaling. They ask, what about the big tankers that make far more noise? What about lawns that

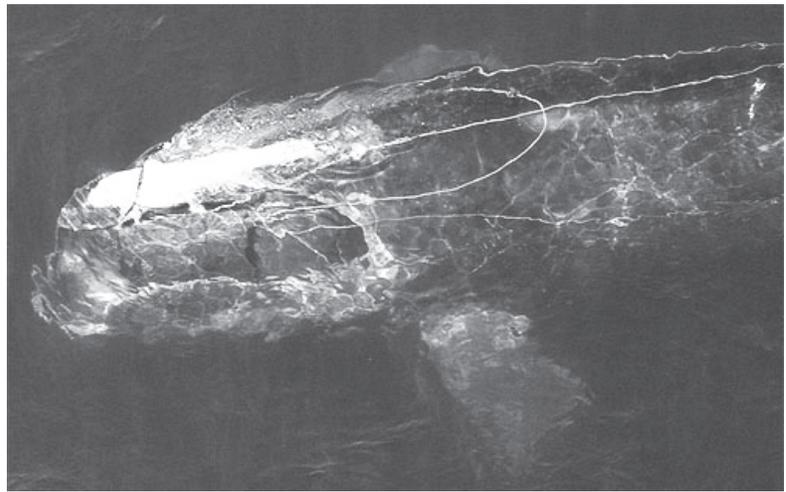
dribble toxic herbicides every day into orca habitat? What about dams that block salmon runs and deforestation that silts them up?

AWI is working with those who have studied the whales the longest to outline a solution to the orca decline that the community can support. Besides pushing for a local ordinance banning the sale of the most harmful pesticides, we are asking that the whale-watch industry voluntarily limit their numbers, their reach and their hours, and to prohibit the especially noisy and polluting two stroke engines. Everyone agrees on just one thing—that there must be a way to save these magical whales so they can continue to exist in real life, not just as images of what once was. 🐾

Fishing Runs Afoul of Right Whales

The year 2002 has been a bad one for the North Atlantic right whale, the most endangered great whale living off the eastern seaboard of the United States and Canada. Once targeted as the "right" whale to kill because of its valuable oil and tendency to float once harpooned, this creature has suffered from frequent ship strikes and from becoming snarled in fishing gear. There are thought to be no more than 300 individuals in this population of whales.

Over the summer, at least eight right whales have become tangled in fishing nets. One was released recently with the help of a network established from Florida to the Bay of Fundy by the Center for Coastal Studies (CCS), but seven more remain. Five are considered in poor condition and little is known about the other two. They do not have locator beacons attached to the netting they are dragging. These



Right whale #1424 was first spotted entangled off the Florida coast in February and last seen when this picture was taken in June.

floating devices not only help to find the whales but sometimes provide just enough pull to peel the netting from them.

Snarled right whales are hard to rescue. According to Scott Landry, spokesman for the rescue team of CCS, the whales are very difficult to find, ranging over a thousand miles.

Once encountered by a team, the whales tend to be unwilling participants and can be aggressive.

In addition to these seven, three right whales have been found dead so far this year. Unless fishing techniques change in the vast waters inhabited by these ancient beings, their future appears bleak. 🐾

NMFS Gives Permission to Navy to Deploy Low Frequency Active Sonar

On July 14, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) granted the Navy its long sought exemption to the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) moratorium on the harassment and killing of marine mammals. This “small take authorization” allows the Navy to deploy the intensely loud low frequency active sonar (LFA) and kill untold numbers of marine creatures without being prosecuted under the guise of protecting our shores from enemy submarines. The Navy’s own Environmental Impact Statement, estimates the device could “take” over ten percent *per year* of certain populations of marine mammals, including blue whales.

Stopping LFA has been a major AWI campaign since we organized swimmers to block its testing on calving and mating humpback whales off Hawaii in 1998. During the tests, the maximum level of sound used was 155 decibels. Even at this level, a human swimmer was injured and the whales left the area, prompting whale-watching businesses to sue for lost profit. The operational level of the deployed LFA is over ten million times louder than the test.

AWI held a press conference in April of 2000 to tell of Navy exercises the month before that killed seventeen individuals of five different species of whales and dolphins in the Bahamas. The Navy issued a denial it was responsible for the “acoustic event” that blew out the creatures’ ears (CAT scans showed ear hemorrhages leading to brain hemorrhages). After a year of denial, the Navy finally admitted responsibility but blamed a mid-range active sonar it was using at the time. The main difference between mid and low range active sonar is that the low frequency sonar goes much farther with less loss of power.

Over the last few years, every legal avenue pursued in challenging this insane device has been sabotaged. We testified at public hearings held by NMFS in San Diego, CA and Silver Spring, MD that LFA is a violation of the harassment section of the MMPA. The military responded by trying to weaken the MMPA drastically by changing the definition of harassment.

New Military Exercises Cause Whale Strandings

In a tragic illustration of the danger presented by active sonars such as LFA, we just received news of yet another mass stranding of beaked whales, this time in the Canary Islands. As of September 24, 12 beaked whales of three species (*Ziphius cavirostris*, *Mesoplodon densirostris*, and *Mesoplodon europaeus*) have stranded on the islands of Lanzarote and Fuerteventura during a huge NATO exercise involving many ships and submarines. The Government of Canary Islands has asked NATO to stop all military maneuvers in the area. 🐾

ACTIVE SONAR'S WORLD TOUR

Whales Stranded by Military Exercises

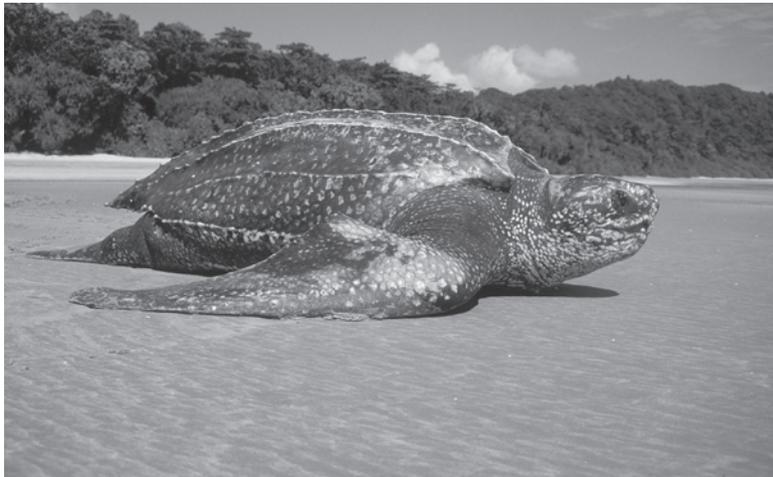
1974	<i>Bonaire</i>	4	Cuvier's beaked whales
1985	<i>Canary Islands</i>	12	Goose-beaked whales
		1	Gervais' beaked whale
1986	<i>Canary Islands</i>	4	Goose-beaked whales
		1	Gervais' beaked whale
1988	<i>Canary Islands</i>	3	Goose-beaked whales
		1	Northern bottle-nosed whale
		2	Pygmy sperm whales
1989	<i>Canary Islands</i>	3	Gervais' beaked whales
		2	deBlainsville dense-beaked whales
		19	Goose-beaked whales
1996	<i>Greece</i>	12	Cuvier's beaked whales
2000	<i>Bahamas</i>	9	Cuvier's beaked whales
		3	deBlainsville dense-beaked whales
		1	Gervais' beaked whale
		2	Beaked whales of unknown species
		2	Minke whales
		1	Spotted dolphin
2001	<i>Florida</i>	2	Beaked whales of unknown species

LFA
Low Frequency Active Sonar
Coming Soon to an Ocean Near You
Unless You Stop it.

We petitioned individual states to oppose this device under the Coastal Zone Management Act. California refused to give the Navy permission to use LFA in their waters. Maine first agreed then revoked permission. Now the Bush administration is challenging the Coastal Zone Management Act reauthorization in Congress.

When the Natural Resources Defense Council announced it was suing to stop LFA and other active sonar devices under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Bush Administration stated that NEPA does not apply beyond the three-mile territorial limit of the USA. NMFS was overruled in its assertion that this most basic environmental law extends to 200 miles from our coast.

The deployment of LFA may be the greatest violation of the precautionary principle ever concocted. The device has the potential to cause death in any ocean creature within reach with air passages—not only whales and dolphins but fish, fish eggs, larvae, and turtles. AWI was the first and only group to block use of this device physically. We will continue working on land and, if necessary, on the high seas, to protect ocean creatures from this unnecessary and catastrophic sonic bombardment. 🐾



Kartik Shanker and Meera Anna Oommen

Saving the crashing population of leatherback turtles presents the IAC with its first major challenge.

Nine Countries Meet to Save Sea Turtles

With a pace as deliberate as that of the creatures it is aiming to protect, the Inter-American Convention for the Conservation and Protection of Sea Turtles (IAC) was launched from August 6-8 in San José, Costa Rica. Eight countries in Latin America plus the United States met in the first conference of the parties. Even though these first days were filled with the mind-numbing tedium of the Articles of Procedure, which will govern the functioning of the body, the group's avowed agenda is ambitious. It aims to halt trade in sea turtle parts, protect their nesting beaches, and tackle the political dynamite of rampant overfishing with highly deleterious methods.

Itching to contribute to the meeting in some way, I worked with Todd Steiner of the Sea Turtle Restoration Project and his Costa Rican colleague Randall Arauz to present our own wish-list of projects that we believe the IAC must address in order to turn

the tide of the imminent demise of the sea turtles. Governmental associates at the meeting surprisingly warmly received our presentation (see sidebar).

Todd and Randall also worked with Costa Rica on the first resolution to be brought to the table. It calls for immediate crisis measures to stop the crash of the leatherback turtle population in the Pacific Ocean. The largest nesting colony in the world, located in Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia, has almost totally collapsed, as have huge nesting colonies in Mexico and Costa Rica. Reasons for the collapse include rampant mortality from long-line and swordfish fisheries, the popularity of turtle eggs for human consumption, and the slaughter of nesting females on Mexican beaches.

The result of the meeting was a new turtle protection convention with countries promising to listen to activists and enact strong laws. We shall see now if they can move fast enough to catch the declining sea turtles. 🐾

NGO Recommendations to the New Sea Turtle Convention

The Parties to the convention should:

- Make decisions based solely on what will benefit sea turtles, regardless of the effects of these decisions on international trade.
- Amend the convention to allow decisions to be made by either simple majority or 2/3 majority instead of the present consensus requirement in order to avoid inaction when dead-locked.
- Support CITES in continuous opposition to all international trade in sea turtle products.
- Urge ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).
- Support a moratorium on pelagic long-line fishing in the Eastern Pacific.
- Begin on-board monitoring of long-line fisheries.
- Strengthen enforcement measures, including confiscation of pirate vessels.
- Begin unannounced inspections to verify TEDs (turtle excluder devices) compliance on shrimp vessels.
- Forbid the use of and traffic in leatherback turtle eggs.
- Identify the ten most important nesting sites for each species and ensure their protection.
- Identify critical marine habitats for each species.
- Control the discharge of intense levels of sound, ban military training exercises, oil exploration and drilling in critical habitats. 🐾