

Join *Heroes'* cheerleader  
**HAYDEN  
PANETTIERE**  
to cheer for whales

**IN A DC RALLY**

Thousands of whales are killed needlessly every year by Japan, Norway and Iceland, despite facing escalating threats from climate change, entrapment in fishing gear, ocean noise, ship strikes, overfishing of prey species, and other human causes. We are holding a rally for the whales to let the US officials know that as the chair of the International Whaling Commission, the United States must use its position to lead the world in conserving whales and their habitats.

Hayden Panettiere, spokesperson for the Save the Whales Again! Campaign and whale activist, will lead the rally during her trip to the nation's Capital, where she will meet with US policymakers and the public to rally support for this cause.



**Animal Welfare  
Institute**



**Sunday  
January 27, 2008  
1-3 p.m.  
DUPONT CIRCLE**

**JOIN US  
AND SAY  
"NO" TO  
COMMERCIAL  
WHALING!**

**The United States was once a world leader in protecting whales from commercial slaughter.**

In 1972, our country led the effort to institute a moratorium on commercial whaling. In 1982, the **International Whaling Commission**—the governing body of whaling activities—banned this cruel industry. Since that time, many tens of thousands of whales have been saved from slaughter; however, another **25,000 whales have been killed by Japanese, Norwegian and Icelandic whalers** for commercial gain by exploiting loopholes in the whaling Convention. The three countries also work actively to reverse the ban on commercial whaling.

Over the past half-decade, US leadership on whale issues has significantly declined—contrary to the wishes of the majority of the American public, which statistics show opposes a return to commercial whaling. The official US voice of opposition against the pro-whaling factions is not only becoming silent, but there is great concern that the United States may be appeasing the whalers by negotiating for some measure of commercial whaling.

Whales already face an uncertain future without a return to commercial whaling, due to threats such as climate change (which can alter migration routes, breeding patterns, and prey abundance), ship strikes, entanglement and entrapment in fishing gear, over-fishing of prey species, and chemical and noise pollution. Most whale populations have yet to recover from the over-exploitation of whaling in the past, and some may never recover. **Any return to whaling for profit could tip the balance against many whales and lead to their extinction.**



### **The United States must stand up to whalers and pro-whaling countries by:**

- Publicly restating its strong commitment to maintaining the ban on the commercial whaling.
- Using all diplomatic mechanisms to recapture a solid voting majority in favor of whale conservation within the IWC.
- Pursuing all legal, diplomatic and administrative means available to end commercial whaling, including special permit whaling.
- Opposing deals with any nation that would lead to IWC-sanctioned commercial whale hunting.
- Supporting the permanent protection of whale populations through the establishment of whale sanctuaries, including support for the creation of a South Atlantic whale sanctuary.
- Opposing efforts by whaling nations to re-establish international trade in whale products.