



Náttúruverndarsamtök Íslands

Iceland Nature Conservation Association

Mr. Paul Watson
Sea Shepherd
P.O. Box 2616
Friday Harbor
WA 98250 (USA)

Reykjavik, 18 May 2007

Dear Mr. Watson

Iceland Nature Conservation Association has learned that Sea Shepherd intends taking actions against whaling activities in Icelandic waters this summer. The INCA urges you not to do this as it will, at best, be meaningless. At worst, such actions will but strengthen Iceland's resolve to carry on its whaling activities in order to maintain a dying industry.

Please, keep in mind that further hunting of fin whales appears highly unlikely as there is no market for the meat. Likewise, the scientific hunt for minke whales will be largely over at the time of Farley Mowat's scheduled arrival.

It is our conviction that Sea Shepherd's action of sinking the two whaling boats in Reykjavik Harbour, in November 1986, prolonged the life of a dying industry. The Icelandic people view such actions with disgust and we similarly disapprove of criminal methods.

The INCA has for several years cooperated with the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) to highlight the futility of Icelandic whaling operations as well as promoting whale watching in Iceland. In the four years since Iceland resumed "scientific whaling" we have commissioned scientific and independent economic analyses in order to encourage debate within Iceland about the wisdom of whaling. There is a growing public recognition that further whaling is not beneficial to Iceland.

Ultimately only the people of Iceland through its parliament and government can decide to stop whaling. Hence, it will be counterproductive if Sea Shephard takes action against Icelandic whaling under the label of Ragnarök - "doom or destruction of the powers." The people of Iceland, as well as The Iceland Nature Conservation Association, will have no sympathy for such actions. It is not the way to promote the cause of conservation.

Respectfully yours,

Árni Finnsson, chairman of INCA.