

GREENPEACE ACTIVISTS:
Concern: All commercial whaling should be outlawed.
We want to stop the historic and irresponsible depletion of species after species. “Greenpeace is committed to defending the health of the world’s oceans and the plants, animals and people that depend upon them,” according to the Greenpeace website.
Value/Moral: Greenpeace believes that humans have a moral responsibility to look after the environment and the animals in it responsibly.
Arguments:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●We don’t know how many minke whales there are. Japan might be using faulty figures. They use a 1990 estimate of the Antarctic minke population of 760,000. However, recent studies estimate far fewer. ●Whaling depleted the whale population enormously. “The blue whales of the Antarctic are at less than 1 percent of their original abundance,” even with 40 years of full protection on that particular species. Because of irresponsible whaling in the past, whale populations still need to recover... and the recovery is far slower than we anticipated. (See website for more details). ●Japan is unreliable. They say that they kill whales for science. They began killing 300 minkes a year, now it is up to 900... ●If Japan allowed commercial whaling, the 27- year ban on commercial whaling would be lifted (even if it was limited) and other countries like Norway and Iceland would quickly demand more and more whaling rights.
Notes:
Resources: Greenpeace. http://www.greenpeace.org/usa/campaigns/oceans

**JAPANESE INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION (IWC)
REPRESENTATIVES**

Concerns: Abashiri, Ayukawa, Wada and Taiji ought to be able to engage in small-scale commercial whaling. Ultimately, we want to regulate our own fishing practices (both with whales and fish). We do not want to be micromanaged by the IWC. We fight to be able to whale because we are also afraid that if we stop fighting the whaling battle, our fishing practices will come under attack.

Values/Morals: Whaling has been a tradition in Japan.

Arguments:

- Coastal communities in Japan have been whaling since the 16th century.
- We kill very few whales each year, and many of those for scientific research.
- We have submitted proposals for small-scale whaling year after year and been repeatedly ignored despite the obvious suffering the whaling ban has inflicted upon these whaling communities.
- Whaling is a part of local tradition, ritual, diet, and economics. The ban has caused cultural as well as economic damage.
- Whale meat has lots of vitamins and is low in calories. Today, however, whale meat is very expensive.
- Under our proposal individuals would need permits, could only take small boats, and could only register for one-day permits. The landing, processing, distribution and consumption of the meat will also be local.
- Why can indigenous people hunt whales when small communities in Japan can't?
- Whales eat fish and deplete the supply for fishermen.

Notes:

Resources: International Whaling Commission.

http://www.iwcoffice.org/_documents/commission/IWC59docs/59-24.pdf

http://www.iwcoffice.org/_documents/commission/IWC59docs/59-34.pdf

Greenpeace <http://www.greenpeace.org/usa/campaigns/oceans>

INUIT REPRESENTATIVE (ALASKA)
Concern: Native people who traditionally whaled should have the right to continue responsibly. Commercial whaling ought to be allowed if it is sustainable and regulated. We want to preserve our current right to whale in our communities. Japan has, on occasion, helped native people get subsistence whaling rights, hoping it might be a gateway decision for commercial whaling rights. We appreciate their support.
Values/Morals: “The only way we can keep our culture alive is by the trans-generational passage of our traditions. Whaling is a central part of who we are.” (From a BBC interview).
Arguments:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Unlike wealthy nations like Japan and Norway, our communities in the far north really do need the meat from whale-hunts. We live in small communities that can live off of nutritious whale meat. Shipping other meat to our communities is expensive. ● Our whaling is small-scale enough that it has not seemed to adversely impact bowhead whale populations. ● Japan has already scapegoated us, voting to ban our right to whale after their bid for commercial whaling was turned down. They make a fickle ally; we need their support to continue whaling. ● With Japan’s help we might be able to continue whaling. Otherwise environmentalists will demonize it, even though we believe the real danger comes from pollution, oil spills, etc.
Notes:
Resources: International Whaling Commission http://www.iwcoffice.org/conservation/aboriginal.htm
“Harpooned. Japan and the future of whaling.” By David McNeill http://www.zmag.org/content/showarticle.cfm?ItemID=13031
BBC News http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/6710613.stm

SEA SHEPERD
Position: “Sea Shepherd Conservation Society is opposed in principle to all whaling by any people, anywhere for any reason” (Sea Shepherd website). The mission of the organization is to ensure that illegal whaling is stopped whether Sea Sheperd uses legal or illegal means.
Value/Morals: Whales are possibly much more intelligent than human beings and have a right to life. “The slaughter of intelligent creatures is not justifiable on any grounds.” (Sea Shepherd website)
Arguments:
●Many whales have larger, more complex brains than humans do, indicating that they might be more intelligent. They also have complex social structures and what appears to be a language.
●Japan is using indigenous groups to open up commercial whaling.
●Whalers claim a historic right to kill whales. If it was wrong then, it is still wrong now.
●Whalers want whaling rights because they make a lot of money from whaling.
●Hunting whales is unnecessary. Most populations don’t need the meat.
●A tradition based around the unnecessary murder of animals is not a tradition worth maintaining.
●Killing in the name of science has not yet miraculously increased the number of healthy whales swimming in the oceans. What information do we gain from “scientific research?” Most people question Japan’s “scientific research” as a front for whaling.
Notes:
Resources: Sea Shepherd. http://www.seashepherd.org/whales/

