



NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE



**For Immediate Release
Office of the Director
September 11, 2007**

Statement from the Director

Subject: Hogarth Denounces Unauthorized Hunt of Gray Whale by Members of Makah Tribe

"We are continuing our investigation of the episode for possible violations of the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Whaling Convention Act. Our enforcement agents are in Neah Bay interviewing witnesses, including those who first reported the activity, interviewing tribal members and gathering evidence. The Makah cannot legally hunt gray whales without first getting a federal waiver of the MMPA and authorization under the Whaling Convention Act. NOAA is deeply committed that federal laws are fully complied with, with respect to any proposed hunt. We shall investigate and pursue this matter to the full extent of the law."

**William T. Hogarth, Ph.D.
Director of NOAA Fisheries Service and
Commissioner to the International Whaling Commission**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT SCOTT SMULLEN AT (202) 482-6090

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