



Sir David Attenborough
c/o World Society for the Protection of Animals
89 Albert Embankment
Vauxhall
London
SE1 7TP
United Kingdom

10 March 2004

Re: Your foreword to “Troubled Waters” and an invitation to join a whaling boat

Dear Sir David,

First of all, I wish to express my sincere admiration for your long and distinguished contribution to the documenting of natural history. Like millions of others around the world, I have always found your programmes fascinating, informative, and, as far I can tell, factually correct.

It was therefore with genuine surprise that I read your foreword to “Troubled Waters – A review of the welfare implications of modern whaling activities”. Could it be, I wondered, that you had relied on the report, with all its flaws and misinterpretations, in reaching your opinions? Or do you have first-hand experience of whaling that leads you to conclude that it cannot be conducted humanely, and is intolerable in civilised society?

In my view, modern whaling is both humane and environment-friendly, two standard measurements for assessing how “civilised” we are. Few, if any, animal welfare experts would contest the fact that free-range animals such as whales suffer far less than livestock raised on factory farms. Conservationists, meanwhile, endorse modern whaling as a sustainable and environment-friendly way of producing healthy food.

While I fully respect your right to hold different views, I feel that assertions that whaling is uncivilised and inhumane are simply inflammatory unless they are supported by first-hand experience. To this end, I invite you to join a Norwegian minke whaling boat this summer to witness how to kill a whale humanely at sea.

I am certain that once you have experienced a modern whaling operation first-hand, you will completely change your view about whether whaling is humane. You will also learn that a whaler is as civilised as the next man, and fully deserving of society's tolerance.

Yours sincerely,

Rune Frøvik
Secretary to the High North Alliance