

**September 11, 2007**

**News Release**

**Re: Whale Murderers Should be Fined and Jailed**

“The five Makahs who violently murdered a grey whale should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law, “ stated Peter Hamilton, Lifeforce Director, “Their cruelty caused a slow, agonizing death of a sentient whale. It was a blatant crime against nature.”

Under the US Marine Mammal Protection Act a criminal prosecution includes a fine of up to \$20,000 and/or imprisonment for up to one year. “Federal law must be enforced. Each whale murderer must not pay a penny less or spend a day less in jail,” added Hamilton.

The whale killers have shown no remorse. Although the Makah council said they were not supporting this illegal kill it may only be a ploy to try to protect future whaling plans. The Makahs and other First Nations tribes want to start full time whaling.

Lifeforce is a Vancouver based ecology organization that was formed in 1981 to protect people, animals and the environment. Lifeforce has opposed all previous whaling plans by the Makahs and others.

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