

Sustainable eNews

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IWMC
World Conservation Trust

Editorial: Another Landlocked Decision - Whales, Coal and Nukes in the Czech Republic

By Eugène Lapointe

On March 6, 2003, the Czech News Agency announced that Greenpeace Czech Republic is trying to persuade the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic that the Czech Republic should join the IWC. Because the Czech Republic is landlocked in the middle of Eastern Europe, the nation has never had any official interest in whales, whaling, whale cuisine, whale oil, or in saving whales from or for anything. So why now?

Perhaps part of the answer lies in the aspirations of Greenpeace in Eastern Europe. For years, Greenpeace has been an active voice for the environment in this extremely polluted region. The burning of soft coal, the industrial development of probably unsafe nuclear power plants, the thousands of unfiltered smoke stacks, untreated pools of industrial waste, and unregulated chemical hazards of all kinds spewed onto the landscape have all given the Czech Republic's people a pain in the countryside. Czech youth have begun to listen to and join Greenpeace Czech Republic in its efforts to make enough noise so that the post-Communist government might heed their demands. Greenpeace has become a force to be reckoned with because it is attracting young voters. The whaling issue can be seen as attractive to Czech youth, whose support will be another political plus for the NGO, as it strives to convince the government there that it represents the will of a growing young electorate.

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Meantime, Greenpeace International needs help in its anti-whaling campaign. The Like Minded side of the IWC needs more votes to prevent the passage of any form of the Revised Management Scheme, which would then lead to quotas and a lifting of the moratorium on commercial whaling. The IWC has become a market place for votes for both sides, and the Czech Republic is a possible additional vote for the Like Mindeds. The Czech parliament will soon decide - it shouldn't cost anything - Greenpeace will probably pay the entry fee of 20,000 pounds. The Czech Republic would lose nothing by joining the IWC, and might win at home by pleasing Greenpeace, which is a hero to its youth. At-home politics is what it's all about when activist NGOs get into the whaling issue.

The Czech Republic officials know that for them, this is not about whales. It is about reducing Greenpeace pressure and about pleasing their youth. The Like Minded nations will applaud the Czech Republic for joining with them, and possibly, some might

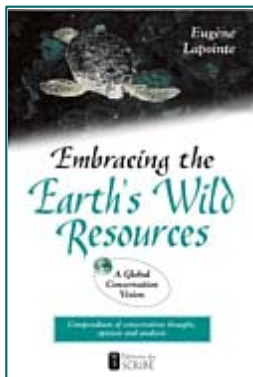
encourage development in the struggling Republic. Meanwhile, the Czech air, land and river water will continue to be as polluted as before, but Greenpeace Czech Republic will have gained strength in numbers through its whale inclusion campaign, so maybe some progress will be made in combating the heavy pollution levels. Or maybe not. Once again, the hypocrisy regarding concern over whale conservation in the IWC will continue as before, with one side making management decisions based on science, and the other, Like Minded, side making decisions based on the symbolism of strength in numbers. The Czech Republic can be expected to join in this charade, and only time will tell whether or not this sorry spectacle shall result in victory for whale conservation or merely in a show of strength for local Greenpeace and international Greenpeace supporters. Stay tuned for the outcome of this ongoing saga of votes counted and power demonstrated on the world stage. □

"Embracing the Earth's Wild Resources"

by Eugène Lapointe

Distributed by IWMC World Conservation Trust

Eugène Lapointe has written a Compendium of conservation thought, opinion and analysis under the title "Embracing the Earth's Wild Resources". This book covers a global conservation vision and takes a very broad-brush approach to explaining the state of conservation and what today passes for environmentalism.



The English version has just been published by the Éditions du Scribe, Sherbrooke, Canada. All distribution and sales will be handled by IWMC in our new online bookstore. Further details will soon be posted on IWMC.org in the new bookstore section.

The French and Spanish versions will also be released shortly - while the Japanese and Chinese versions are currently being translated. We shall keep you informed accordingly or you may visit www.iwmc.org for the most recent information. □

Time to Jump on Jeep (Again)

In a fit of corporate anxiety, the Daimler Chrysler people have decided to do something about their image. Jeep officials, worried that declining sales may be partly due to widespread "environmentalist" attacks on SUVs and criticism of those who buy them, have launched a unique warm and fuzzy defense. This corporate response is certainly rational; a television ad depicts an attention-getting scenario that surprisingly, becomes an "environmentally friendly" scene: A potential buyer might well identify with the male who drives a Jeep offroad onto what looks like sea ice, where a whitecoat harp seal pup lies by itself. But then the driver gets out, hoisting a spear-like implement, and is seen aiming it with vigor down towards the pup. But instead of a gory scene, the viewer then sees that the spear has made a breathe hole in the ice, so that the pup's mother can rejoin it. Such a good man to do this. The hero then gets back in his Jeep. He is not an environmental criminal after all. He is good. He drives a Jeep. Jeep is good.

Incidentally, the good man in the Jeep looks quite a lot like an Inuit person. (One might think that an Inuit person would kill even a pup for food, but then the surprise happens). It is likely that Daimler Chrysler-Jeep masterminds, believing that white urbanites regard Inuit people as "environmentally friendly, noble savages", decided to make subtle use of these *two* racial stereotypes to enhance the corporate image.

Never mind that the entire scene in the ad is bunk. Corporate wisdom is that potential Jeep buyers won't recognize anything amiss, and will feel good about buying the vehicle after all. This is the same tactic Jeep pulled a year ago when an ad depicted Jeep drivers "saving" whitetail deer from hunters. Jeep drivers were "environmentally correct" in the eyes of these ignoramuses, who were sure that their potential buyers would love the image. American hunters responded vigorously to that anti-hunting advertisement, and Jeep pulled it from television contract spots. But Americans are not seal hunters, and so now Jeep feels safe with their new spot.



Prove them wrong again. Write to Jeep headquarters and tell them that this seal savior ad is offensive for its racial stereotyping, and its stupid ice scene scenario. Point out that the Germans were instrumental in helping to ram through the EU Parliamentary decision to stop the harp seal hunt back in 1983, and since that time, seals, fish, seabirds, whales, and people have all suffered the disastrous consequences of ecosystem imbalance. □

Send your complaints about this latest offensive Jeep television ad to:

Bob Renaud, VP-PR
Daimler Chrysler Headquarters
1 Riverside Drive W.
Windsor, ON
N8Y 4R8T.
Phone 519.973.2000 or E-mail rar17@daimlerchrysler.com

"SEAL WARS" "Twenty-five Years on the Front Lines with the Harp Seals"

A book review by Janice S. Henke, Anthropologist

This 240-page book by Paul Watson was published in 2003 by Firefly Books, Inc., in the USA. Price on the cover is \$16.95. The 17 chapters are arranged more or less chronologically, from 1950 through 1999, and a recent photograph of the author appears on the front cover. Watson is shown on the sea ice, holding a whitecoat seal pup in the usual pose of one who wishes to be photographed "saving" a seal.

One might ask who might want to buy this book. Surely, few will make the decision on the basis of an attractive cover, because it is not. Perhaps those who have followed Watson's long career of unending attempts at media hype, and his multiple arrests for criminal behavior on the high seas, will wish to read his own version of the escapades when he was involved with ineffective protest of the harp seal hunt. Newfoundlanders and Magdalen Islanders who have a sound memory of Watson's days in their area, would be advised to take the book in small doses at a time, to keep their blood pressure under control. Since this reviewer was not present at any of the adventures described, I can only say that the descriptions, while colorful, do not resemble any Newfoundlanders, government officials, or Magdalen Islanders whom I met during my own observations of the seal hunt on the spring ice.

Watson's "Seal Wars" may have been produced as a prelude to a film, long rumored to be in the making, that will undoubtedly portray him as a hero environmentalist. The fictions that have surfaced in this book can be expected to be embellished even more in any

such production, including the tasteless accounts of his sexual exploits with a number of (unfortunately) named women.

Paul Watson's book will not appeal to those who deplore the social, economic and environmental impact caused by the International Fund for Animal Welfare, the only organization that influenced the European market for seal products. Today, Watson still makes noise about the increased quota for harp seals. He must chafe at the reality of a vastly renewed market for pelts, oil, and meat. His own actions meant nothing in the long run, and today, the harp seal herd has grown from 1.8 million to over 5 million animals. They are hungry, they are hurting each other, and fish of many species are showing the effects of over-predation. Watson's Sea Shepherd Conservation Society is a small time, ineffective outfit, whether its prey is sealers, whalers, fishermen, or scientists. His book reflects his ego and his insensitivity to the needs of people who wish to sustainably use their resources. He has justified his actions with claims of cruelty to seals, and the threat of extinction. Neither scenario has been found credible by anyone with even basic knowledge of the seal hunt or of seal population dynamics. Watson named his book "Seal Wars" - this writer's own 1985 choice for the title of a book that also describes the protests, the seals, and the sealers. Paul Watson's book will be judged by those who know the realities of seals and sealers, fisheries officers and protesters. Only they can fairly decide which version of the seal wars coincides with the truth. □

Zen and the Art of Hunting

by Paul W. Hansen
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It is autumn again. Like most of us, I must once again try to explain to my non-hunting friends why we hunt.

One group of friends with whom I recently had this conversation is the leaders of 30 of the nation's leading environmental groups -- the "green group," as it is called.

During a recent dinner, the discussion turned to the subject of the ancient practice of meditation. One person mentioning how she sat quietly for three hours and felt it was a beneficial experience. Of course, I could not resist: "When we hunt, we often sit quietly for three days!"

A few months later, I was asked to make an informal presentation to this group on something personal and important, as an icebreaker to a planning meeting. Remembering our conversation, this is what I said....

"I know a little about an ancient contemplative tradition, one that has been practiced on this continent and throughout much of the world for thousands of years.

If you would, join me for a minute in imagining the verdant North American continent, before the Europeans arrived. This is the world of the Labrador duck, sea mink, Carolina parakeet, the passenger pigeons that darkened the skies and the bison that covered the plains. Elk live east to Pennsylvania;

cougars and wolves live throughout the continent in great climax forests of mature trees.

Joining that world to ours for a moment, imagine with me a deeply spiritual tradition that is central to life in this world. At times, its pursuit is so fundamental and essential to life that of all of your friends and loved ones depend on it for their very existence, for their food.

Imagine rising well before dawn. In the early morning darkness we walk silently to a chosen place that is unimaginably revered and sacred, because it has been so integral to self-awareness and so responsible for the survival of our clan for many years. It is on a game trail, by a buffalo wallow, under a historic turkey roost, near a lake, or in a marsh blind by a staging ground for ducks. To you, the spot is as beautiful as any temple or any human made place, but even more powerful because it gives you and yours life itself.

We cover ourselves completely with clothing painted to look like our surroundings. We may sit for a long time, so we put a piece of our staple, venison jerky [at this point I pass out some deer jerky I made], in our mouth and let it sit there -- its taste as familiar as our own name. In our deep and absolute stillness and silence we become, in effect, invisible to the natural world around us.

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Oblivious to us, birds land on our feet and the tip of our weapon, squirrels scurry up and down the tree we sit against. The familiar symphony of avians, amphibians and mammals around us is deeply comforting. Our intimate knowledge of these sounds tells us much about those lives.

At times, we attempt to imitate this music, [at this point I use several game calls: turkey, cow elk, deer grunt, bull elk, duck, goose, crow, and a few of the group that closed their eyes almost jumped out of their skin]. This makes us even more a part of the natural scene around us, and even more profoundly invisible

to the creatures around us. Wild creatures come to us, and walk by just a few feet upwind. Often enough, one is taken with great skill, care and joy, to become our sustenance.

Today, the urgency of this practice is, obviously, long gone; but for some there is a connection that remains. Like many spiritual or religious pursuits, much of the practice has become lost, perverted, or even worse commercialized; but the ancient connection, and the beauty of it, is not yet entirely lost to many of us.” □

Politician nearly Seals his Fate

Jack Layton represents Newfoundland's New Democrat Party in Ottawa. The NDP has had a consistent policy of support for the annual seal hunt, because otherwise, it would find itself without a job. Imagine the surprise of Newfoundlanders when Jack Layton's office hired a new chief of staff named Richard Smith. This is the same Rick Smith who until recently, had been Canadian director of the International Fund for Animal Welfare's anti-seal hunt campaign. Imagine the chagrin of Mr. Layton when he discovered that such a stupid choice had been made

by his own people, and that he had approved it, not realizing that this Richard Smith in the NDP was worse than letting the fox have charge of the henhouse.



How on earth could an astute, in-touch politician make such an egregious error? The answer has to be that Mr. Layton is not a particularly astute politician, or he would have instantly recognized the lunacy of such an appointment. Also, his staff must themselves be far out of touch with the

needs and the reality of their constituents back on The Rock, or perhaps, they just considered it unimportant that this Richard Smith had until recently, been an active adversary of their constituents, causing them continuing stress and economic harm.

One would have to conclude that Mr. Layton and his entire staff were totally hoodwinked, because of their ignorance of the significance of Rick Smith in the world of Newfoundland's cultural heritage and economic welfare. We wish the Newfoundland sealers well in the coming days, as they prepare for the annual harp seal hunt. At least their representative in Ottawa can now rest assured that his staff will not further embarrass him, since Rick Smith is no longer employed there. Lesson learned, and maybe now a suitable and honest person will be found to carry out the duties of the chief of staff to Mr. Jack Layton, NDP rep for the people of Newfoundland. □

Introducing the IWMC Forum online

IWMC Forum

www.iwmc.org/sustain/IWMC-Forum

The IWMC Forum is a new department of [IWMC.org](http://www.iwmc.org) where friends and supporters of Sustainable Use can publish their articles and papers. Each contributor to this Forum will have their own home page with areas for a biography, email address, additional contact information and picture.

Invasive Species: 9 Part Series

By James M. Beers
Retired US Fish & Wildlife Service
Wildlife Biologist/Refuge Manager/Law Enforcement Agent

Premier Article - IWMC Forum Online

In the early 1970's the United States Federal government expanded it's authority over Endangered Species, inshore Marine Mammals and Animal Welfare at the direct expense of usurping state jurisdictions over these matters. This has led to conflicts with landowners and other private property owners and a broad spectrum of citizens from loggers and ranchers to pet owners, hunters, and recreationists. Public lands have been closed and businesses eliminated as a result of the expanded authorities and enforcement of these statutes.

Today a similar expansion of US Federal jurisdiction is being proposed to place "invasive" (or "non-native" or "exotic" depending on interpretations) species under Federal control. As with the Endangered Species Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Animal Welfare Act bureaucratic manipulations and influence from environmental and animal rights radicals can rightly be expected to utilize courts and regulations to create as much, if not more, problems (intended and unintended) for individuals and the nation. This series of nine articles published on www.iwmc.org/sustain/IWMC-Forum/JamesBeers examines the history, current activities, and likely future developments of this phenomenon from this perspective. □

Food Fight: Starving Africans held Hostage over US/EU Agribusiness Wars

By Janice Henke, Anthropologist

The more the world changes, thanks to an explosion of new technology, the more the affairs of humans stay the same. It used to be that agricultural people experimented with plant breeding, using a hit and miss method of hybridization until they happened upon new varieties that were either improved, or not.



This basic concept has been taken to new levels with techniques that, among other things, "inject" genes into plants that would never be a part of their DNA makeup without human manipulation. Thus, rice has been genetically modified to

supply vitamins that otherwise would never be available to those who eat it. Another example is modification of corn so that it is resistant to various bacterial and fungal diseases, or to cause it to be offensive to various insect pests.

Some genetic modification of food plants causes the plants to produce larger crops of seeds in a shorter time, or in conditions such as drought, that would have prevented crop germination in the "natural state" of the plant.

Naturally, some of those nations whose farmers are in competition with those whose crops are genetically modified, are opposed to the import and general increased use of such "GM" crops. The US has been developing, growing, and consuming GM foods for the last ten years. As a world drought appears to be on the horizon, some nations in Africa have found it impossible to grow the crops that have sustained them for centuries.

Sub-Saharan African nations are experiencing catastrophic drought and impending widespread starvation, to add to their other ills of extreme poverty and a ravaging AIDS epidemic. Under such conditions, it makes humane sense to send to those nations, surplus supplies of the same foods that have been safely consumed in the US for years. This food would be used to save lives and possibly, some would be used for seed crops. While the Vatican encourages such agricultural charity, the EU is adamantly opposed to the import into African nations of US crops that *might be* or actually are, genetically modified in any way. Is this eco-altruism, or "business as usual"?

Allegedly, EU authorities have told some African nations that if they allow the import of US crops for hunger alleviation, their foreign aid from the EU would be terminated. This may be why Zambia's dictator has refused US food aid - some of the products are GM. The US Trade Representative, Mr. Robert Zoellick, is quoted in the Washington Post; "it is immoral" that Africans are denied food because some "people have invented dangers about biotechnology". Mr. Zoellick calls the European perspective "anti-scientific" and this is perhaps at the heart of the matter. There has been a growing EU dispute with the US over GM foods, and some have perceived basic competitive concerns to be the reason why US imports to the EU or to its many markets, have been opposed. Business has trumped science in political decision making.

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Interestingly, Switzerland has recently announced that field tests of a certain strain of GM wheat have resulted in a "safe" designation for that product to be used in Switzerland. Of course, "Greenpeace is outraged", according to [Consumer Freedom.com](http://ConsumerFreedom.com), who report on this entire wrangle. The incident recalls the Swiss tradition of standing alone in Europe and being independent on yet another issue while the rest of the continent broils in its own vitriolic juices.

IWMC takes the position that practical experience and on-going science should be the bases for decisions of such great importance to human welfare and ecological safety. Starving people should be fed safe and

abundant foods without regard for the competitive and political realities among other nations. They should not be denied this basic human right while at the same time, they are attacked in the world press for "poaching" animals with which to feed themselves. We applaud Switzerland for standing alone in this EU food fight, and for using science, rather than political correctness, in making their own decisions. It may be that the WTO has to get into this "Food Fight" before starving Africans can get US food imports - perhaps the WTO can persuade Europeans to stop pressuring African leaders to refuse the food that can save their people and indirectly, can help to save some of their wildlife. □

Fundamentalism:

A Fundamentally Unethical Approach to Humane Alternatives in Science

All human beings who are a part of western civilization today, owe their lives to modern medicine, the development of aseptic surgical care, and the pharmaceutical industry. The loss of continuing scientific knowledge due to the cessation of scientific research would be a tragedy of immense proportion. This is the dominant view of the majority of people in the modern world. The cultural preference today is that people's lives should be given a higher priority than the lives of laboratory animals, although the treatment of animals used in medical and pharmaceutical exploration, should be as humane as possible, and those lives should not be wasted in redundant trials that would accomplish nothing. This is the ideal model of behavior towards such animals. Today, this model is labeled "ethical" by the medical community and by ordinary people who benefit from this system.

A tiny minority objects to any use of animals in any medical or other scientific research for human (or even animal) benefit. They market their abolitionist value system, however, with the use of a much different framework. Animal rights activists promote their agenda through claims that all laboratory animals are treated cruelly, in useless experiments that benefit no one. Because they demean the value of science, their campaigns attempt to put an end to animal testing for any reason. Sometimes, this attempt is backed with human death threats, as in the case of the activist campaign in Great Britain against the Huntingdon Laboratories. SHAC ("Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty") is a radical animal rights group that has posed such a severe threat to employees of this pharmaceutical firm, that many fear for their lives.

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Besides the crude and terrorist approach, animal rights fundamentalists also intend to adversely affect the stock value of firms that use animals, especially dogs, cats, and primates, in medical research. They have had some success in encouraging some investors to put their money into "socially ethical" (read that "politically correct, safe") firms that claim



to never involve animals in the development of their products. According to Jon Entine, writer for Ethical Corporation Magazine, such investment firms are treading worthless ground; he notes that the IPS Millennium Fund ranks in the bottom 1 percentile for performance over the past three years. The head of this fund recently remarked that he didn't care if a research institution should find a cure for cancer - if they used animals in that quest, he would not invest in them. Obviously, it is not particularly good business to restrict investment to firms only involved in "socially/politically correct" research. Animal rights fundamentalists even object to the use of animals in veterinary medicine drug trials and in the surgical training of future veterinarians.

Entine points out that originally, animal rights groups did have a beneficial effect on the behavior of those who use animals in medical research. Legislation since the 1980s has vastly improved animal welfare conditions throughout the scientific community. Since that time, however, terrorist threats to people and to the economic welfare of research firms have fallen flat. They are strategies with no beneficial or even significant impact.

We are left with the definite conclusion that animal rights fundamentalism, which is a model for "abolition with no compromise" is a failed strategy because it offends the value system of the wider society, and is obviously not accepted by more than a tiny, antisocial, anti-intellectual, minority. Animal rights fundamentalism is not accepted as the ethical path for mankind.

IWMC supports all ethical scientific research conducted for human and animal benefit. We deserve the best weapons available in our efforts to defeat disease and disability, and to elevate the condition of humanity. We believe that this can and is being accomplished in an ethical way with the necessary and humane use of animals. □

Subscriptions / Submissions

IWMC publishes the Sustainable eNews newsletter on a monthly basis as a free service to the sustainable use community. Please share it with others who may be interested in these issues. We welcome any short stories you might want to contribute and would like to remind you that archived copies of the Sustainable eNews are available online at:

www.iwmc.org/newsletter/newsletter.htm

Subscription requests or article submissions should be sent to: iwmc@iwmc.org
Please include your name, e-mail address and organization.

IWMC World Conservation Trust

A global voice for sustainable use of the earth's resources and the preservation of the cultures and traditions that depend upon them.