

# Sustainable eNews

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Promoting Sustainable Use

August 2004



**IWMC**  
**World Conservation Trust**

**Convention on International Trade in Endangered  
Species of Wild Fauna and Flora COP13, Bangkok  
(Thailand), 2-14 October 2004**



**I**WMC recommendations on Proposals and Documents submitted for consideration at the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES (COP13) to be held in Bangkok, from 2 to 14 October 2004 are available in English, French and Spanish on IWMC's web site: [www.iwmc.org](http://www.iwmc.org)

**L**es recommandations de l'IWMC sur les propositions d'amendements et les documents soumis pour consideration par la Conférence des Parties à la CITES (CdP13), qui se tiendra à Bangkok du 2 au 14 octobre 2004, sont maintenant disponibles en anglais, français et espagnol sur le site IWMC: [www.iwmc.org](http://www.iwmc.org)

**L**as recomendaciones de IWMC sobre las propuestas y los documentos presentados a la Conferencia de las Partes en la CITES (COP13), que se reunirá del 2 al 14 de octubre de 2004 en Bangkok, están disponibles en inglés, francés y español en la página web: [www.iwmc.org](http://www.iwmc.org)

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## Editorial: A Tragedy in California

by Nils (Stolpe)

Garden State Seafood Association/FishNet USA

Last Sunday we lost a colleague. Randall Fry, a lobbyist for the California branch of the Recreational Fishing Alliance, was killed by what was estimated by an eyewitness to be a 16 to 18 foot great white shark while diving for abalone north of Fort Bragg, California. While we in the commercial fishing industry have had more than a few disagreements with the Recreational Fishing Alliance, Mr. Fry's primary interest, like ours, was maintaining his constituent's access to productive fisheries in a healthy ocean environment. We are saddened by his death and extend to his family and friends our deepest sympathy.

As much as we are saddened by his death, however, we are outraged by the reaction of the California Department of Fish and Game to it. In a press release dated August 18 titled "Shark Attack Serves as Reminder of How to Minimize the Risk," the Department's "shark expert," Dr. Robert Lea, said "It may be a case of mistaken identity or it may be investigatory or territorial behavior, the shark's primary prey are marine mammals, and if you happen to look like one, from a shark's perspective, and you are near the surface, you're at risk." Later in the release in "White shark facts" the Department explains that "white sharks play a crucial role in the marine ecosystem by helping to suppress pinniped (seals and sea lions) populations." And in their "tips on how to avoid a shark encounter" swimmers are warned to avoid areas in or near those "frequented by sea lions, harbor seals, and elephant seals, near their rookeries, or near the mouths of rivers

where the animals concentrate looking for fish."

This from a government that has forced bathers from beaches, boaters from marinas, and fishermen from fisheries so that their activities wouldn't interfere with those of the ever-expanding and completely protected (from human interference) seal and sea lion populations.



What about the human population? Year by year more of us are migrating to the coastline. Every year there are more people spending more time swimming and diving in and boating on the ocean. And every year there are more protected seals and sea lions occupying more and more of that same ocean, and more and more white sharks feeding on the increasing number of seals and sea lions. If these conditions are allowed to continue, human tragedies such as the one that befell Mr. Fry are bound to increase. And how does the California Department of Fish and Game handle this? By suggesting that when in the ocean we stay away from seals. And, of course, we're supposed to stay away from the surface, hug the bottom, and not do anything that will make a white shark mistake us for a seal. These are difficult to do if you are a member of an air-breathing species that bears a superficial resemblance to a seal or a sea lion (Of course, we probably don't have to emphasize here that sharks aren't anywhere near being the brightest creatures in the ocean and, as seemingly countless television shows have demonstrated, are likely to mistake just about anything they bump into for food.)

What are our coastal waters for? Are they protected playgrounds for sharks and seals, where humans can only trespass at their own risk and on the terms of the sharks and seals, or are they areas being managed to allow people the most and the safest access possible to natural resources that belong to all of us? We know what the will of the California Department of Fish and Game is. What we don't know is what the will of the people is. Is an ever-increasing number of swimmers, boaters and fishermen going to be exposed to an ever-increasing risk of shark attack in an ever-decreasing area of the ocean because our

government's priority is to maximize the population of seals, sea lions and sharks everywhere? Are we going to continue to be forced by governmental edict to give up access to resources that centuries of law guarantee belong to all of us because a small handful of well funded animal rights activists have decided that some creatures have more rights than we do, or are we going to move back to a public policy that lets us use our coastal waters free from the fear that we might be looking or acting like some primordial beast's dinner?

Visit the New Jersey Fishing website at <http://www.fishingnj.org>

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## DDT, Life and Death Eco-Imperialism may have set a deadly precedent

**B**eliefs that have been held for a lifetime die hard. When they are not justified, it doesn't matter that they were based on bad information, or even that they have been proven to be based on false premises. If we have believed them for years, we resist new information that would change those beliefs. Such was the case with the germ theory of disease. For generations, many people believed that disease was caused by sinful behavior, or by "night vapors", by the gods, or by witches. Thousands of people were unimpressed with the invention of the microscope and subsequent discoveries that bacteria and later, viruses, were the cause of common diseases. It was extremely difficult to convince society that childhood immunizations should be carried out in every community before youngsters entered school. Acceptance of the facts of modern medical knowledge was slow, and suspicion was very difficult to overcome. Today, most of the

western world accepts the information that "germs" cause disease and that there are nearly foolproof ways to prevent the common ailments that once killed millions.

Enter the discovery of the substance, DDT, which is an extremely efficient pesticide that kills mosquitoes, lice, flies, and common crop pests. This substance was used for years to control insects that kill and sicken people and that destroy millions of acres of fruit and vegetables. It was found to be especially effective against those mosquitoes that carry malaria. However, although DDT was not found to be harmful to people, or to fish and wildlife, especially birds, it was banned in the US in 1972, and production was halted around the world. Now there is an effort to restore the use of this chemical pesticide in campaigns against malaria in southern Africa.



Anyone who doubts that DDT is a good thing shall visit [junkscience.com](http://junkscience.com), and read Steven Milloy's detailed history of the tactics of those who collaborated to ban the production and use of this substance. It appears possible that the world was cleverly hoodwinked into believing that DDT was responsible for a

administrative law judge that DDT did not cause the problems claimed by those who wanted it banned. Steven Milloy, an associate of Dr. Edwards, has now entered all this information on his website, [junkscience.com](http://junkscience.com), for the world to consider. He includes one last quote, from the Santa Ana Register, April 25,



silent spring that never was a reality. For example, it has been shown that the pesticide is not correlated with cancer in people, nor with egg thinning and population depletion in birds, nor with increased mutation rates in any species. When used at the recommended doses it does not cause widespread resistance in mosquito populations, and it does not sicken people who are exposed to it or who ingest it when it is residual on foods. On the contrary, it is the most effective insecticide known to man and it could save millions of lives in countries where malaria kills people every day. The proper education about its use and especially, about use of DDT inside residences, would prevent mosquito-borne disease and death.

Those who were instrumental in the original DDT ban in the US were EPA administrator William Ruckelshaus, the National Audubon Society, and the Environmental Defense Fund, with which Ruckelshaus was affiliated and for which he was a fund raiser. A bright light has recently been shone on this information since the death in July of Dr. J. Gordon Edwards, an entomologist and professor at San Jose University. His research and testimony before the EPA administrative hearings in 1971 led to a ruling by an

1972: "After reversing the EPA hearing examiner's decision, Ruckelshaus refused to release materials upon which his ban was based. Ruckelshaus rebuffed USDA efforts to obtain those materials through the Freedom of Information Act, claiming that they were just "internal memos." Scientists were therefore prevented from refuting the false allegations in the Ruckelshaus "Opinion and Order on DDT." The ban was based on Ruckelshaus' preference, not on scientific data, which he ordered suppressed. He apparently wished to enhance the power of the environmental movement to influence government policy. He succeeded, but not admirably.

We urge all who are concerned about the scourge of malaria, and the possibility that it may be controlled in southern Africa if DDT is reinstated as a public health measure, to read these materials for themselves. It appears that a boon to mankind was banned by one whose power and disregard for human life made this possible.

Governments and policy makers on all levels shall carefully consider the evidence, and to make life and death decisions about malaria control based on the best available scientific knowledge. The time has come to correct a myth based on disregard for humanity.

## The Central African Republic New Hope for People and Their Wildlife

Jennifer Hile, of the National Geographic Channel, reports that there is a very promising new factor in the Central African Republic that should cut down on wildlife poaching in the near future. Up through the 1980s, hordes of Sudanese, using military weapons and traveling on horseback, exterminated all the rhinos and most of the elephants, then turned to small game until it was depleted to the point of unprofitability. The poaching had been carried out because there were markets in North Africa for the ivory and bushmeat. Finally, poachers come in smaller numbers to take the remaining game and to terrorize and rob local people. The Central African Republic government has had too few resources to attend to the crimes against its people and wildlife in the remote



Chinko River Basin, and so it appeared that there was no hope for the region.

Happily, now there is someone who can make things right again. Joe Blatz, an American, has been given the CAR government's blessing to train and arm the local population.

Now they will be able to defend both themselves and their wild resources. Blatz is a co-founder of the Central African Wildlife Trust, or CAWT, an organization based in Millwood, Virginia. He has experience in this field; in 1989 he helped train over 700 Tanzanians to deter (read repel and kill) poachers in that country. The operation there was such a success that he left it as soon as the local people were handling poachers on their own. The IUCN noted Blatz' victory for wildlife there, and in 1996 asked him to

assess the similar problem in the Central African Republic, where he now has been given the go-ahead to train a local anti-poaching brigade in a similar manner.

Joe Blatz will set up a school, a medical center, and a "home guard" of men who will protect their village and range out into the bush on anti-poaching patrols. They will have guns and trucks, and Blatz is training them in paramilitary tactics and modern communication techniques. He is confident that these people, oppressed for centuries by gangs of Arab raiders, can now learn to protect themselves and their native territory, so that their game resources can recover.

It has been noted that the Chinko River basin is an extremely rich habitat for the diverse African wildlife that poachers have nearly eliminated. Once poaching is deterred, the elephants, rhinos, hippos, and small game should be able to recover here. An ongoing crime against people and nature can and will be halted, thanks to the CAR government, the IUCN, the Central African Wildlife Trust, and not least, thanks to Joe Blatz, a man with an unusual name who is endowed with unusual vision and courage. He is a man who is making a difference.

IWMC congratulates all who have participated in this endeavor, and congratulates the National Geographic Society for bringing this story to light on August 11, this year, in a televised feature about the world's most dangerous jobs. Finally, we have some good news about the poaching saga in Africa, and about ways it is being addressed in a practical, down to earth manner.

## Recognizing Political Tactics in the Animal Rights Movement

Those of us who advocate science based and socially responsible wildlife management often wonder just where our opponents are going with their various anti-use campaigns.

Here are some concepts that may be applied to various animal rights, environmentalist, or combination-goal organizations as we decide just how effective they may be in stifling our activities.

Some organizations market to their donor base by claiming that they will be effective in putting an end to practices they define as cruel. Their method of “putting an end to things” is a lobby approach that lets legislators know how effective they can be in influencing the electorate about animal issues. Lawmakers worry that they may well be vilified if they refuse to support proposed legislation that would ban certain animal use activities. It used to be that animal activists relied on mainstream media to voice their complaints and concerns. That wasn’t entirely satisfactory, since newspapers and magazines have their own constituent concerns, and those did not often coincide with a radical approach to animal issues. That was back in the time “BC” or “before computers”.

Today, every animal rights and environmentalist organization has its own website, where it controls the message, the delivery of that message, and can include quality photographs and videotape of animal use situations. There is no overall editorial function that tempers the message if it is exaggerated or downright untruthful. The organization’s position on a wide array of animal issues can be presented in any way its

leaders wish, with no dissenting information displayed at all. Naïve individuals, including children and young adults, are targeted, as are mature adults who have abundant money to donate to many causes. Sites often have “hit counters” that purport to be a record of the number of people who review the material. Number of hits may not be a real reflection of number of people interested in site information, but the figures, combined with “contact us” feedback information, are often used to convince public officials that their constituency is heavily laden with those who are influenced by animal activism. In addition, activist websites often encourage viewers to write to their own legislators, either on paper or online, to voice opinions about animal use practices. Of course, links to each legislator’s own e-mail or website are given to facilitate electorate activism.

It is not only possible but common for legislators to be targeted if they do not comply with animal rights demands for new laws and new penalties for those who commit animal abuses, as defined by activist groups. An example of extremely sophisticated use of this system of persuasion for legislators is the behavior of the HSUS. Wayne Pacelle, new head of this 8 million member organization, is well versed in the tactics of legislator intimidation. His record over the past ten years includes legislative victories in many states on issues ranging from hunting and trapping, to confinement standards for domestic stock.. Dan Oldenburg, writer for the Washington Post, featured Pacelle in his August 9 column, calling him “The Vegan in the Henhouse”.



IWMC urges all advocates of continued, ethical animal use and wildlife management to become familiar with the tactics and the websites of the enemy. With that knowledge, those in our culture who recognize the urgent need to take action to protect our activities and to maintain rational ecosystem management, must become proactive to the extent that our own messages are professionally portrayed on our own websites. We must never stop communicating with mainstream media in order to encourage those

outlets to discuss animal use issues, and we must make sure that our own legislators know that we are observing their behavior, and evaluating their job performance. The world has changed. If the media is the message, then we all must do our utmost to portray our goals, our values, and our beliefs in a straightforward manner that reaches the maximum possible audience. Only then will we also be effective in advocating and defending our sustainable and ethical use of animals and the environment.

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## Silly Arguments and Political Realities in the South Pacific

New Zealand and Australia are both known to be successful in attracting tourists to their beaches, reefs, and whale watch tours. Both nations argue vigorously that all whales are rare and deserving of complete protection. They deny any necessity to manage any cetacean numbers for either ecological or cultural reasons. Both nations' leaders feel secure in maintaining their anti-whaling stance at the IWC, and this has become a badge of nationalism, and a symbol of power, for each of them. Both expend much effort in persuading small island nations to echo their concerns. There is a cultural war in the south Pacific over whether or not whaling anywhere would harm tourism for local businesses.

There is apparently no domestic political stimulus for these nations to change this position, and indeed, both domestic tourism forces and environmentalist groups would object if government policy on whaling should change. However, a leading argument posed by each in opposition to whaling is that if the IWC should reverse the 18-year moratorium, the result would inevitably harm the stocks of whales upon which their tourism depends. Many cetaceans breed in the warm

waters of the south Atlantic and south Pacific, including in the waters surrounding New Zealand and Australia. In the winter months the animals migrate to the Antarctic to feed on krill off the ice shelves of the southern ocean. It is there that Japan will be hunting increased numbers of minke whales in a regulated manner once the moratorium is lifted.



The main target for Japanese whalers has been and is expected to remain, minke whales. These animals are extremely abundant in the southern ocean, and blue, humpback and fin whales, which are some of the whale watch favorites of the New Zealand and Australian tourist trade, would absolutely not be targeted. They are too rare to be included in the catch quotas of the Revised Management Procedure. Similarly, the southern right whale would not be a targeted species. A DNA registry of all animals taken will be an efficient form of oversight for a renewed commercial whale fishery, and the registry, in conjunction with an international inspection system, will suffice to quell any suspicion that rare species could be secretly taken.

The tone of New Zealand and Australian arguments against any resumption of commercial hunting for minke whales is disrespectful, because it implies that species other than minke would be taken. This allegation is entirely unjustified. The suggestion that whale watch tourism could not be successfully conducted concurrently with a resumption of legal minke whaling in the Antarctic, is ridiculous. If New Zealand and Australia are concerned that minkes would become rare in their own waters due to the renewed commercial fishery for them, then that also is ridiculous, because the annual quota would not be over 2,000 animals from the Antarctic, where they go to feed in numbers up to 750,000.

IWMC, and a growing number of respected marine scientists, assert that resumption of commercial whaling under the auspices of the IWC Revised Management Procedure and Revised Management Scheme will have

absolutely no adverse impact on whale watching in the southern Atlantic and southern Pacific oceans. In fact, a few decades of consistent minke harvest in the southern ocean may well result in an increase in blue and fin whales because of the decreased competition between them and minkes for krill resources. It is really time that the scare tactics of pseudo-environmentalism be quelled throughout the southern hemisphere, because this behavior serves no one well. Whaling and whale watching are not mutually exclusive, even when they are conducted in the same waters, as the Norwegians have demonstrated. No one reasonably expects that whaling would be conducted in the EEZ of either Australia or New Zealand. These two beautiful nations should reassure their citizens that “their” whales will be safe both at home and during their winter feeding forays into the southern ocean.

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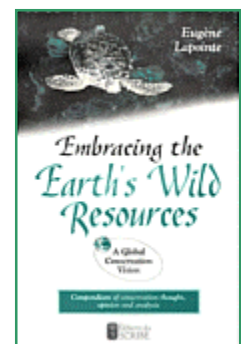
After defining conservation, in his book Mr. Lapointe pulls no punches as he challenges the protectionist orthodoxy of the modern environmentalist movement and, through a series of detailed examples, exposes the modus operandi of groups such as WWF, Greenpeace and PETA.

### Embracing the Earth's Wild Resources

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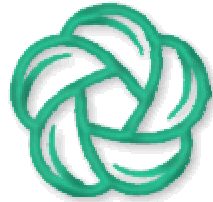
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A global voice for sustainable use of the earth's resources and the preservation of the cultures and traditions that depend upon them.



### **IWMC Mission**

- To promote Sustainable Use of wild resources - terrestrial and aquatic - as a conservation mechanism.
- To re-establish the fundamental link between all components of nature, including man.
- To develop better understanding, respect and tolerance towards cultures and values of all nations and social groups in their relation with nature.
- To protect the Sovereign Rights of Independent States in their conservation efforts.