

Help Stop Japan's Senseless Slaughter of Dolphins and Small Whales

It is a bloodbath, cruel and barbaric. Each year, the idyllic and peaceful setting of the village of Taiji in southern Japan is shattered by almost unspeakable cruelty as incredible pain and ultimate death is inflicted on defenseless dolphins.

– PAUL WATSON



Over 20,000 Dolphins & Small Whales Will Be Slaughtered



Each year, from October 1st through March 31st, in small towns across Japan, thousands of dolphins and small whales are confined and brutally killed.



FISHERMEN CAPTURE THESE INTELLIGENT MARINE MAMMALS

BY working in small boats, using sounding rods below the water's surface to interfere with the dolphin's sonar and navigational abilities. Once disoriented, whole families and pods of dolphins and small whales are driven into a shallow bay, which is then enclosed by a net stretched across the mouth of the bay. The fishermen usually injure a few of the captive dolphins with a spear thrust or a knife slash – dolphins will not abandon these wounded family members. Penned overnight, in the morning, they are mercilessly stabbed and hacked and they bleed to death, staining the water blood red. A few dolphins are kept alive and sold to dolphinariums, which number nearly fifty in Japan, while the rest are killed to be sold as meat (often mislabeled as whale meat) in markets and restaurants – a big business in Japan.

The Japanese Government is Poisoning Its Own Citizens

ALMOST ALL DOLPHIN MEAT SOLD IN STORES AND SERVED IN RESTAURANTS IS CONTAMINATED WITH POLLUTANTS SUCH AS MERCURY, METHYL MERCURY, CADMIUM, DDT, AND PCBS.



In 1999, scientists reported that in samples of meat from dolphins and small whales (the same kind slaughtered in Taiji):

- More than 91% of the samples exceeded the health limits for one or more pollutants.
- One sample had more than 1,600 times the maximum permitted amount of mercury.

The Dolphin Captivity Industry

THE JAPANESE DOLPHIN CAPTIVITY INDUSTRY, WITH ITS AQUARIUMS, WATER PARKS, AND "SWIM WITH THE DOLPHINS" PROGRAMS, WORKS WITH THE BUTCHERS and supports them with large sums of money for live dolphins.

HOW IT WORKS:

- The fishermen force the dolphins into the bay.
- The dolphins panic as nets close in forcing them into a confined space.
- The dolphins are dragged out of the water with ropes around their tails.
- Mothers and babies call out in distress as they are separated.
- The dolphins chosen for a life of captivity are moved on stretchers to cages next to the deafening roar of motor boats.
- Others become entangled in the nets and slowly drown as the trainers stand and watch.
- The rest are slaughtered and sold as meat.

Sea Shepherd is Working to Stop the Annual Brutal Killing

Sea Shepherd Conservation Society has been opposing the Japanese dolphin slaughter since 1981 when Captain Paul Watson successfully negotiated a decade-long cessation to the dolphin kills at Iki Island.



In 2003, crewmembers of Sea Shepherd's Taiji Dolphin Campaign filmed and photographed the slaughter in Taiji bay. The world, including many Japanese citizens, saw for the first time, the horrendous brutality of this slaughter of beautiful creatures. These horrible images shocked, stunned, and enraged many into action. Sea Shepherd crewmembers dove into the water and cut the holding nets to free 15 of the dolphins awaiting slaughter. These crewmembers spent 21 days in jail after being charged with "forceful interference with Japanese commerce." Another crew returned to Taiji in October of 2004, and successfully drove a pod of dolphins away from Taiji to save them. We intend to return again to confront the vicious killers and need your support.

Join us in our efforts to end this slaughter.

- **REWARD:** Sea Shepherd has an offer of \$10,000 to the person who can obtain the most graphic photographic evidence of the carnage, including still photographs and video footage.
- **PETITION:** Sea Shepherd is collecting signatures for an International Petition demanding that the Japanese government stop this slaughter. The Petition will be delivered to the Japanese Prime Minister and the Japanese Minister of Fisheries, as well as embassies and consulates around the world.
- **PROTEST:** Along with many other organizations, on October 8th, 2005, Sea Shepherd is participating in a worldwide day of protests to bring international pressure to bear on the Japanese to end this abhorrent killing.

Sea Shepherd Conservation Society is an international, non-profit, non-governmental marine wildlife and habitat conservation organization



Photo by Bob Talbot

Founded in August of 1977 by Captain Paul Watson, Sea Shepherd has over a quarter of a century of experience in opposing illegal whaling, sealing, and fishing operations, and has established itself as the leading marine, direct-action group in the world.

Sea Shepherd accomplishes its mission through investigation and documentation of violations and enforcement of the international treaties, laws, and conventions designed to protect the oceans. Sea Shepherd exposes these violations (often via the media), to educate the public and bring international pressure to bear on those responsible to stop these illegal, cruel acts.

Sea Shepherd operations have been successfully launched around the globe from

intercepting poachers in the Galapagos Islands to shutting down pirate whaling operations throughout the oceans; from blockading sealing ships to rescuing dolphins in Japan; from patrolling beaches to stop turtle poaching in the Caribbean to confiscating illegal driftnets and longlines worldwide.

Sea Shepherd continues to be on the front lines in the struggle to protect the oceans and diversity of marine wildlife, and we need your help.



SPECIES AT RISK

The Japanese fishermen are indiscriminate. They kill any species that approaches the coast. Sea Shepherd crew have witnessed the killing of:

Striped dolphins ▪ Bottlenose dolphins ▪ Pilot whales
False killer whales ▪ Melon-head whales ▪ Risso's dolphins

What You Can Do

- **VOICE** your outrage at this senseless practice: write and e-mail the Japanese officials who are responsible – their names and addresses and a draft letter are below.
- **SIGN** the Petition which is available on our website – get your friends, family and work colleagues to sign: www.seashepherd.org/taiji/taiji_petition.html
- **PARTICIPATE** in our international day of protest on October 8th, 2005 – bring everyone you know so that the Japanese government will understand that the world is watching and we will not stop until they halt this barbaric slaughter.
- **CONTRIBUTE** to Sea Shepherd and support our work to stop this killing.



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or http://www.mofa.go.jp/about/emb_cons/over/index.html

SAMPLE LETTER

Dear

I am outraged by the slaughter of dolphins and whales that takes place in Japan. The images of bloody red water clearly show the world that Japan has little respect for the state of the world's oceans.

Many scientific studies show that the oceans are in decline. We must take whatever actions are necessary to stop their over-exploitation and to protect the creatures that live in them. These dolphins do not belong to Japan. It is an unthinkable waste that they will likely end up as a meat product or deceptively sold as whale meat, polluted with toxic levels of mercury and cadmium, killing people that eat it.

In addition, the methods used to kill these animals are cruel. Driving the dolphins into a cove, confusing them with loud noises, and then spearing them, leaving them to slowly die is an inhumane method of fishing. This action is disgraceful and has caused much disappointment in the international community.

We demand that Japan permanently and immediately renounce and stop this slaughter.

Sincerely,

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS AND OTHER SEA SHEPHERD CAMPAIGNS AND HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT US, CONTACT:

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Sea Shepherd thanks Shalom Printing of Sherman Oaks, CA, and By Design, Friday Harbor, WA, for assistance in printing this brochure.

The photographs in this brochure have not been retouched – it is the blood of dolphins which turns the sea red.

☐ 10.00 ☐ 25.00 ☐ 50.00 ☐ 100.00 ☐ 250.00 ☐ other _____

Amount _____ in _____ (country) currency

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State/Prov: _____ Zip/Postal: _____ Country: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

☐ Enclosed check or ☐ Credit card number

Credit card number: _____ Exp: _____

Signature: _____

Send checks to: Sea Shepherd Conservation Society
PO Box 2616 • Friday Harbor, WA 98250 • USA

Thanks for
your support!