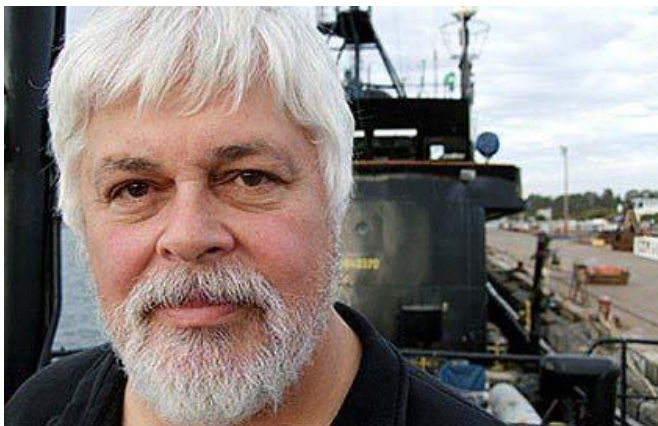


## Sea Shepherd Conservation Society - Defending Oceans and the Wild Lives that Depend on Them by E.M. Fay

In a recent presentation, **Peter Hammarstedt of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society** said he would follow **Captain Paul Watson** to the ends of the Earth - forever.

It is not surprising that Capt. Watson inspires this kind of loyalty as he is the founder of Sea Shepherd Conservation Society and one of the founders of Greenpeace. He has done more to save the wild beings of the sea than any other single person alive today. Perhaps only the late Jacques Cousteau did as much to bring to international attention the plight of all endangered ocean life.

Among their often dangerous activities, Sea Shepherd's dedicated ocean-going crews have worked to defend whales from the mass slaughter inflicted upon them by Japan, Norway, and Denmark, sometimes even within waters designated as "sanctuaries" for wildlife; they have fought against the inordinate cruelty inflicted upon those gentle, super-sentient beings, dolphins, by the Japanese fishermen when they trap them en masse and hack them to pieces (as depicted so shockingly in the Oscar-winning film, "The Cove"); and they have tried to stop the illegal shark-finning operations and extreme exploitation of sea turtles by Costa Rica.



Captain Paul Watson

Their gallant efforts are not appreciated by the governments of the countries that recklessly plunder the seas for commercial gain. Despite the certain knowledge that they are killing off species at an unsustainable rate, Japanese fishing fleets and fleets of other countries continue their bloodthirsty practices. When Sea Shepherd sends their own ships out to confront the despoilers of the oceans, they are met with violence and questionable legal prosecution.

In Frankfurt on May 13<sup>th</sup> of this year, Captain Watson was arrested, on a decade-old warrant issued by Costa Rica in retaliation for trying to stop shark-

finning poachers at the request of the Guatemalan government. He was detained in Germany for 70 days, but fortunately, the attempt to extradite him to Costa Rica was thwarted when he forfeited bail. As of early August he was in an undisclosed location. Interpol has issued a "red alert" to its member nations with regard to the Costa Rican warrant. (A red alert is not itself an arrest warrant, and member nations are not compelled to abide by it.)

The original charge was "violation of ship traffic," now changed to the equally spurious "causing a danger of drowning or of an air disaster." This, because of the use of a water cannon, which did not threaten the lives of anyone, and was only employed by Captain Watson to dissuade the shark poachers.

Costa Rica was likely colluding with fellow rogue nation, Japan, in this bogus case against the leader of Sea Shepherd. As **Susan Hartland**, Administrative Director of SSCS, said, "Costa Rica has been acting as a puppet for Japan throughout this case and we expect that to continue. Japan is driving this effort in retaliation for our successful campaigns to stop them from whaling in the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary. **We've cost them millions of dollars and exposed their shame to the world because of their refusal to stop the slaughter of whales in an established sanctuary under the lie and loophole of 'research.'**"

Japan tried to get Interpol to issue a red notice against Watson on their behalf, as well, but "Interpol recognized their attempts as politically motivated, so they were forced to settle for a

'blue' notice instead," Hartland said. "Japan tried to extradite him, they have brought suit against us in the US, they have harassed and arrested Sea Shepherd crew members, and charged them with benign or bogus offenses when they've had the chance."

**Hartland concluded that none of this harassment will stop Sea Shepherd from returning to Antarctica with their ships and dauntless crews "of committed and passionate volunteers to shut down the Japanese whaling fleet."**

**Sea Shepherd's noble mission is to protect, conserve, and defend the oceans and the wild beings that live in and around them.** They operate under the United Nations World Charter for Nature, and act legally against illegal whaling operations and other gruesome crimes against nature. Unfortunately, the importance of conservation means nothing to giant commercial fishing and whaling operations as they mercilessly loot the oceans of their living treasures and trash their wild habitat. Despite all that has happened to stop his efforts, Capt. Watson said on his website: "I am most honored to have served this cause to protect our oceans, for the one most basic of truths is this: If the oceans die, we die! It is as simple as that and, thus, to me, there is no cause more important."

Knowing full well that his name on the Interpol "blue list" was a product of Japan's political machinations, Captain Watson issued this pithy statement:

**"Give me my name on a blue list, the red list, the black list, or the death list, for it is preferable to the I-don't-give-a-crap list."**

**We urge our readers not be on the last list. Please help by visiting:**

**<http://www.seashepherd.org> and make a donation today!**

## What you can do

Please write to the embassies of any nation that still hunts whales and dolphins, or exploits any wildlife. Tell them that you will not buy any of their exported products or visit their country as tourists unless they ban such barbaric practices.

**Embassy of Japan:**

2520 Massachusetts Avenue Northwest Washington, DC 20008  
(202) 238-6700

**Embassy of Costa Rica**

Embassy of Costa Rica in United States  
2114 S Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20008  
(202) 234-2945 and (202) 234-2946

**Embassy of Norway**

2720 34th Street Northwest Washington, DC 20008  
(202) 333-6000

**Embassy of Denmark**

3200 Whitehaven Street Northwest Washington, DC 20008  
(202) 234-4300