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"Sink a Ship, Save a Whale"

**"Indiana Jones"-Like Environmentalist, Capt. Paul Watson,
To Speak at Illinois Wesleyan, April 12**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Newspapers have branded him a "swashbuckling pirate," "renegade environmentalist," and an "eco-warrior."

His business is "ecotage."

His methods involve ramming ships illegally poaching whales; painting seals with an indelible organic dye destroying their value to the commercial fur industry; chasing out of U.S. waters Japanese fishing vessels that use drift nets, which "incidentally" kill an estimated 100,000 marine mammals and one million sea birds each year; and trying to buy a 30-year-old, \$400,000, diesel-powered Russian submarine for high seas protests against the killing and maiming of marine life.

For these stunts, he has been described as a real-life Indiana Jones, the fictional 1930s archaeologist-adventurer portrayed by Harrison Ford in three Steven Spielberg films, including "Raiders of the Lost Ark."

Capt. Paul Watson--an environmentalist, founding director of the Greenpeace Foundation, and founder of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society--will speak at Illinois Wesleyan University, April 12 (Wednesday). His 7 p.m. presentation will be in the Main Lounge, Memorial Student Center, 104 E. University St., Bloomington. Watson's speech is open to the public and there is no admission charge.

Watson's address is entitled, "Sink a Ship, Save a Whale."

Todd Carlisle, an IWU sophomore psychology major from Naperville, Ill., said: "Capt. Watson will talk about his life and adventures--and what it means to be a main defender of marine animal life."

Carlisle--a member of IWU's Environmental Concerns Organization, a student group sponsoring Watson's appearance--added: "We reviewed a number of speakers and wanted someone to talk about ways to save the Earth and protect species, especially since the speaker would be on campus around Earth Day. We decided on Capt. Watson since he's fairly radical and would

(more)

Paul Watson to Speak at IWU/2

draw people."

Earth Day was first observed on April 22, 1970, to dramatize concerns about the dangers of environmental pollution.

A Sea Shepherd Conservation Society newsletter describes the organization this way: "We are a policing body charged with an awesome but essential task: the enforcement of international regulations against those nations and individuals engaged in the illegal slaughter of whales, dolphins and seals."

The group, which refers to itself as a "conservation navy," is supported by public donations.

Among its accomplishments are:

- Without causing or sustaining a single injury, the group is responsible for sending seven illegal whalers to the bottom of the sea.
- In 1979, *Sea Shepherd* under Watson's command tracked down the *Sierra*, a ship condemned by the International Whaling Commission for killing 25,000 whales, ramming it twice in waters off Portugal, forcing it into harbor for repairs, where she was scuttled and sunk at dockside.
- In 1982, the society negotiated a halt to the slaughter of dolphins on Japan's Iki Island. Prior to the agreement, fishermen killed an average of 5,000 dolphins annually.
- In 1987, the society's ship, *Divine Wind*, was successful in focusing attention on destructive deep sea drift net fishing, when the vessel chased Japanese drift net fishing boats out of U.S. waters in the vicinity of Alaska. The Sea Shepherd society claims the drift net fishery industry "sets 22,000 miles of nets each day, and 'incidentally' kills more than 100,000 marine mammals and one million sea birds each year."
- In 1990, in response to a national boycott of canned tuna called by Watson's organization and other groups, the three major tuna brands sold in the U.S. (StarKist, Bumble Bee, and Chicken of the Sea) announced they would no longer purchase tuna from those who use methods that kill dolphins in the process of harvesting tuna.

Watson founded the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society in 1977.

In a profile of Watson, writer Cole McFarland reported Watson

(more)

Paul Watson to Speak at IWU/3

founded Sea Shepherd because Greenpeace "wasn't sufficiently 'non-violently' aggressive for his tastes. Unlike Greenpeace, Watson says he doesn't just jump onto whaling ships for publicity. He sinks them."

Watson defends his "ecotage" techniques by defining them as non-violent, noting one life cannot be defended by the taking of another life, but, he adds, life can be defended by neutralizing the weapons of death.

One way Watson "neutralized the weapons of death" in 1975 was by sailing a dinghy between Russian harpooners' guns and a pod of sperm whales off the coast of Baja, Calif.

"Capt. Paul Watson, as he had done many times before," McFarland wrote, "placed his life between the killers and their hunted victims."

Watson, who was born in Toronto and raised in New Brunswick studied communications and media at Simon Fraser University, learned his seamanship in the Norwegian and Swedish merchant marine and the Canadian Coast Guard. He is the author of three books and a frequent lecturer in North America and Europe.

Editor's Note: To arrange interviews with Capt. Paul Watson, contact: Jodi F. Solomon Speakers Bureau, 325 Huntington Ave. #112, Boston, Mass.; 617/266-3450.