

FACT SHEET

Background on Sea Shepherd Conservation Society in Connection with Request for Appeal to Supreme Court

About Sea Shepherd:

- Sea Shepherd Conservation Society is a U.S.-based non-profit marine conservation organization dedicated to defending, conserving, and protecting marine wildlife and ocean ecosystems. By safeguarding the biodiversity of our delicately balanced oceanic ecosystems, Sea Shepherd works to ensure their survival for future generations.
- Sea Shepherd was founded by Captain Paul Watson, a world-renowned leader in environmental issues and co-founder of Greenpeace. The organization was founded in 1977 in Vancouver BC, Canada, and was originally called the Earth Force Society. Sea Shepherd was formally incorporated in the United States in 1981 in the state of Oregon.
- Sea Shepherd's primary mandate is to work to uphold the law, conserve nature and preserve the environment, in accordance with the United Nations World Charter for Nature (adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1982) and other national and international authority.

Awards:

- In 1999, President George H. W. Bush bestowed upon Captain Paul Watson an inspirational "Daily Points of Light" Award.
- In 2000, Captain Watson was honored as one of Time Magazine's Top 20 Environmental Heroes of the 20th Century.
- In 2012, Captain Watson became the second person, after his hero Captain Jacques-Yves Cousteau, to be honored with the Jules Verne Award, dedicated to environmentalists and adventurers.

Legal Events Timeline:

- February 2012: A U.S. District Court judge in Washington state denies the Institute of Cetacean Research's (ICR's) request for a temporary injunction barring Sea Shepherd's activities in the Southern Ocean. The Japanese whaling group sought to prevent Sea Shepherd's defense fleet from protecting whales in the oceans surrounding Antarctica.
- October 2012: A panel of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals hears appeal from ICR.
- December 2012: The Ninth Circuit panel issues an injunction in favor of ICR against Sea Shepherd, barring it from performing activities to protect whales in the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary, including approaching ICR's vessels within 500 yards. In response to the

injunction, Sea Shepherd withdraws from the Operation Zero Tolerance whale-defense campaign.

- February 2013: The Ninth Circuit issues an opinion in support of its injunction, ruling that Sea Shepherd's activities are piracy. ICR asks the Ninth Circuit to hold Sea Shepherd in contempt because other foreign, independent entities that also use some form of the "Sea Shepherd" name came within 500 yards of ICR's vessels during Operation Zero Tolerance.
- May 2013: The Ninth Circuit rejects Sea Shepherd's petition for rehearing before the full court.
- January 2014: A Ninth Circuit Appellate Commissioner, following an eight-day trial on the merits of ICR's motion for contempt, recommends that the Ninth Circuit find that Sea Shepherd, founder Captain Paul Watson, its former board of directors, and its former administrative director had not violated the injunction and should not be held in contempt.
- March 2014: The International Court of Justice orders Japan to halt its whaling program, ruling that the country's decision to grant whale-killing permits violates international law because the whaling program does not qualify as scientific research.
- December 2014: The Ninth Circuit panel holds Sea Shepherd, Captain Watson, and the organization's former board of directors in contempt for violating the injunction, rejecting the Appellate Commissioner's recommendation.
- January 2015: The Ninth Circuit rejects Sea Shepherd's petition for a hearing before the full court.
- April 28, 2015: Sea Shepherd files a petition for a writ of certiorari, asking the U.S. Supreme Court to review the Ninth Circuit's contempt decision, arguing that the Ninth Circuit erred in issuing the injunction and in finding contempt.

Legal Materials:

- Claire Davis, a partner with Lane Powell, the law firm representing Sea Shepherd at the U.S. Supreme Court, is available to speak to the media about the case and its implications for businesses.
- A press release with further information on Sea Shepherd's involvement in this litigation is available here: www.seashepherd.org/sea-shepherd-conservation-society-takes-whale-wars-to-supreme-court-press-release.
- Sea Shepherd's April 28 petition for a writ of certiorari is available here: www.seashepherd.org/images/stories/news/2015/news-150428-1-SSCS_Petition_Certiorari_FINAL.PDF.