

Attachments can contain viruses that may harm your computer. Attachments may not display correctly.

Peterson, Janet

From: Jason Couse [Jason.Couse@noaa.gov] **Sent:** Thu 6/15/2006 1:49 PM
To: jmp50@atlanticbb.net; Peterson, Janet
Cc: Couse, Sonja; Jason.Couse@noaa.gov
Subject: NOAA Fisheries Enforcement Marine Mammal Loan Agreement[Scanned]
Attachments: WCSD loan.doc(107KB) baleen seizure news release.doc(31KB) Image010.jpg(47KB)
 Jason.Couse.vcf(426B)

Janet,

I apologize for not sending this yesterday, but I was flooded with cases that required my immediate attention.

Attached you will find an example copy of the loan agreement, a copy of the press release referencing the seizure of the items and a photograph including the baleen that is available for loan (the long pieces in the outside two rows are Bowhead, the medium length middle two rows are Humpback, and the smallest pieces in the center are Minke). Below you will find a website that has information about the different species of whales and a website for NOAA Fisheries Enforcement, Alaska Region.

In the loan agreement, we may need to have a point of contact for each school in the district that will possess the marine mammal parts. I am discussing that issue with our community outreach officer.

I will further discuss the items that are available for the loan program in more detail, when the school district has reached a decision of whether this is an educational resource the district is interested in utilizing. In general, however, the items include raw unpolished baleen and items crafted from Bowhead whales (*Balaena mysticetus*), Humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), and Minke whales (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*).

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/whales/species/Bowheadwhale.shtml>

<http://www.fakr.noaa.gov>

Thank you,
 Jason Couse



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

NOAA / National Marine Fisheries Service

Alaska Enforcement Division

222 West 7th Avenue, Box 10

Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7577

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE NATIONAL
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION**

and

JANNET PETERSON

C/O

WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

185 HOSPITAL DRIVE, WARREN, PA 16365

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), hereby agrees to loan to the Warren County School District, the items listed below, for the period of indefinitely, subject to the following terms and conditions:

Example

(12) Minke whale baleen (raw)

(12) Humpback whale baleen (raw)

(12) Bowhead whale baleen (raw)

(1) Baleen figure (carved and etched)

(1) Baleen figure (carved and etched)

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. JANNET PETERSON and the WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT, will assume responsibility for the item listed above, and will maintain the item at its premises.
2. JANNET PETERSON and the WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT, will not transfer the item to any other person or entity, or transfer location of the item out side of the school district, on a temporary basis or otherwise without the express written authorization of the NOAA administrator or a designee.
3. JANNET PETERSON and the WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT, will take all steps reasonably necessary to provide security for the item and protect it against theft or damage. In the event of theft or damage to the item, The WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT will be responsible for loss or repair.
4. JANNET PETERSON and the WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT will use the item solely for the purpose of public education.
5. All title and interest in the item will remain at all times with the United States, and NOAA may take possession of the item at any time.
6. JANNET PETERSON and the WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT understands that any violation of this Agreement by it may subject it to sanctions, including civil money penalties, under 15 CFR 904 subpart F.



7. This Agreement may be terminated at any time by either party by written notification to the other party. Upon termination, the item will be immediately returned to NOAA by certified mail or courier to:

NOAA Fisheries Enforcement
222 West 7th Ave
Anchorage, Alaska 99513

U.S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Warren County School District

By: **Jason L. Couse**
(Name)

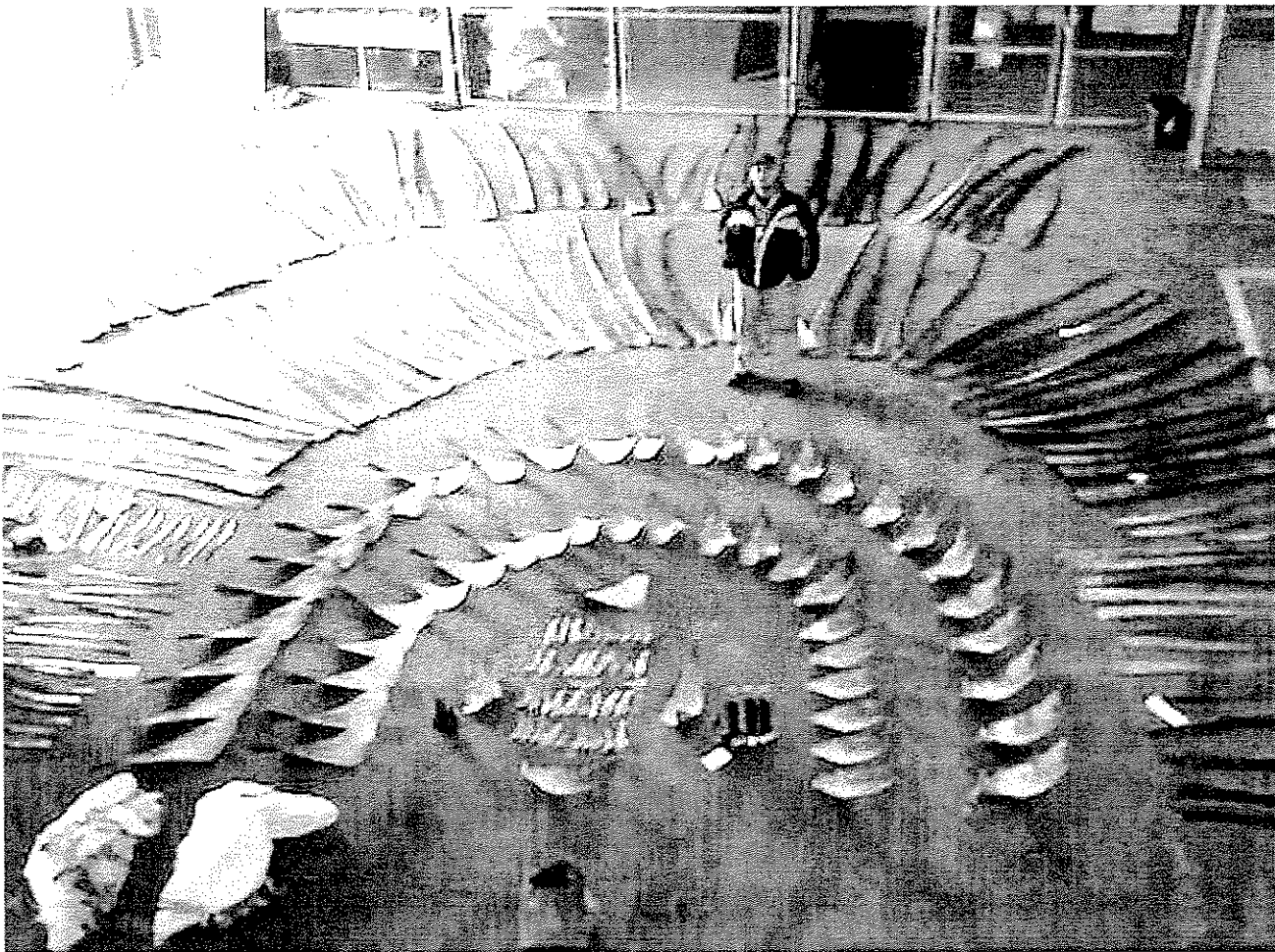
To: _____
(Name)

(Signature)

(Signature)

Special Agent – ID 2357 / Badge N213
(Title)

(Title)



Case Agent: Jason Couse

Federal Agents Seize Thousands of Pieces of Illegal Marine Mammal Parts from Anchorage, Alaska Gift Shop Owner

NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service seized thousands of pieces of illegal whale baleen from an Anchorage, Alaska gift shop owner for violations of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA).

The MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361) prohibits the sale of marine mammal products and parts, except when sold as Authentic Native Articles of Handicraft made by an Indian, Aleut, or Eskimo who resides in Alaska and dwells on the North Pacific Ocean or Arctic Ocean coast. The people involved in this investigation were all non-native individuals.

Three Federal search warrants were issued after an investigation of Agviq Creations, owned by Leo Gregoire of Anchorage, revealed the business was crafting and selling marine mammal products made mostly from baleen. On December 30, 2005, Federal Agents served search warrants at the Outhouse Creations kiosk in "The Mall At Sears," a residence in Anchorage and at a shop where the baleen was being crafted. During the search warrants, approximately 2,586 pieces of raw and crafted baleen and other marine mammal parts were seized.

On February ____, 2006, Mr. Gregoire and others involved in the business were served with Notices of Violation and Assessment (NOVAs) alleging violations of the Marine

Mammal Protection Act.

The investigation was initiated in November of 2005, when NOAA Special Agents observed employees of Agviq Creations selling products made from baleen. *"We take these issues very seriously and will continue to pursue individuals involved in the illegal trade of baleen," said Assistant Special Agent-in-Charge Kevin Heck, NOAA Fisheries OLE - Alaska Division.*

The NOAA Office of General Counsel in Juneau is prosecuting these cases. NOAA General Counsel, in cooperation with the Office of the United States Attorney in Anchorage, also intends to commence forfeiture proceedings against the seized items.

NOAA Fisheries is an agency of the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The Agency is dedicated to protecting and preserving our nation's living marine resources through scientific research, management, enforcement, and the conservation of marine mammals and other protected marine species. To learn more about NOAA Fisheries in Alaska, please visit our Web site at: www.fakr.noaa.gov. Violations can be reported to the NOAA OLE 24-hour hotline at 1-800-853-1964.