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To: Various

Subject: The Sea Shepherd Conservation Society Rejects Any Accusation of Promoting Violence

The Sea Shepherd Conservation Society Rejects Any Accusation of Promoting Violence
The Society Disassociates Itself from Remarks by Dr. Jerry Vlasak

In an interview with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation on April 19th, Dr. Jerry Vlasak made comments about supporting violence against sealers. These comments were his own personal views. He said they were his personal views and he stated that these views were not endorsed or condoned by the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society. The C.B.C. edited out the comments about Sea Shepherd not condoning these views.

Dr. Vlasak was also frustrated that he had been arrested for taking a picture of a sealer and the sealer who violently assaulted him was not charged despite video documentation of the assault. His concern is that violence is supported by sealers against seal defenders.

When he made these comments, Dr. Jerry Vlasak was a director of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society. The comments made by Dr. Vlasak do not represent the policy of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society. The Sea Shepherd Conservation Society disassociates itself from these views.

It has been the policy of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society to operate as a non-violent organization from the day the organization was founded in August 1977. No Sea Shepherd crewmember, volunteer or field activist has ever caused an injury to any human being during any Sea Shepherd campaign or voyage. No Sea Shepherd crewmember, volunteer or field activist has ever been arrested and/or charged with any violent crime. The Sea Shepherd Conservation Society does not condone nor advocate any act of violence to any person for any reason at any time. The Sea Shepherd Conservation Society does not allow meat or fish to be served onboard Sea Shepherd vessels as the killing of animals for food is a form of violence which we do not condone.

The record of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society demonstrates 28 years of non-violent actions in defense of marine wildlife conservation. The only acts of violence this years during the seal campaign were the violent assaults on our crew and other groups by sealers and the horrific mass slaughter of the seals. There was not one incident of violence directed at the sealers by any member of the Sea Shepherd crew.

Seven members of the Sea Shepherd crew were violently assaulted on March 31st, 2005 by Canadian sealers. The assault was documented on video in detail and presented to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police as evidence.

The policy of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society is to expel any crewmember or field activist who commits an act of violence. Dr. Jerry Vlasak's views will be presented to the Sea Shepherd Board of Directors so that the Board may decide on if Dr. Vlasak should be asked to resign from the Board.