



Ms. Monika Griefahn
Director for Environment and Community
& Chief Sustainability Officer
AIDA Cruises

Wednesday 15 July 2015

Dear Ms. Griefahn,

My name is Anne Kämmerling and I am the Director of the German national chapter of Sea Shepherd - the world's leading direct-action marine wildlife conservation organization. Established in 1977, Sea Shepherd's mission is to end the destruction of habitat and slaughter of wildlife in the world's oceans in order to conserve and protect ecosystems and species.

Since the early 1980s, Sea Shepherd has been leading the opposition to the slaughter of pilot whales and other small cetaceans in the Faroe Islands, known as the grindadráp. This year, our crews have returned to the Faroe Islands for Sea Shepherd's sixth Pilot Whale Defense Campaign, *Operation Sleppid Grindini*.

I am writing to you today to follow-up on action taken by AIDA in 2013, in which a letter, signed by yourself, was sent to the Prime Minister of the Faroe Islands, Kaj Leo Johannesen, calling for an end to the grindadráp. Specifically, I refer to the below excerpt:

"Verschiedene unserer Gäste möchten, dass wir die Reiseroute ändern, weil sie den Walfang mit ihrer Reise nicht unterstützen wollen. Sie haben auch Sorge, dass ihre Kinder unabsichtlich Augenzeuge einer Wältötung werden. Im Namen von AIDA Cruises möchte ich unseren Wunsch äußern, dass Sie den Walfang auch im Interesse des Schutzes dieser Wildtiere stoppen. Andererseits möchten wir auch verhindern, dass unsere Gäste Walfleisch essen, das mit Schwermetallen oder PCB belastet ist und somit eine Gesundheitsgefährdung darstellt."

In addition to the concerns that you outlined in your letter to Prime Minister Johannesen, we would like to bring to your attention some changes to the sentiment and enforcement of the laws (called grindalógin) that govern the grindadráp, that we believe are of interest to AIDA.

On June 16, *Operation Sleppid Grindini* Land Team Leader, Rosie Kunneke, and Campaign Co-Leader, Ross McCall, met with authorities in the Faroe Islands including the Deputy Chief of Police, Chief Criminal Investigator and the Deputy Chief Prosecutor. In that meeting, Ms. Kunneke and Mr. McCall were informed that, under the parameters of the grindalógin, tourists visiting the Faroe Islands must report all sightings of whales and dolphins to local authorities, so that the cetaceans can be targeted for slaughter in the grindadráp.

Ms. Kunneke and Mr. McCall were also informed that visitors who do not abide by this law could face arrest and prosecution, with penalties of 25,000 Faroese króna or just over 3,000 euros, and two years imprisonment.

Thanks to public pressure initiated by Sea Shepherd, which has brought international attention to the implications of these laws for tourists and visitors to the archipelago, it appears as though fractions of Faroese parliament are calling for a revision of the grindalógin. However, at this point in time, authorities have provided no clear indication whether the law will be revised.

What is clear is that, as of today, the grindalógin states that any person who does not immediately report a sighting of whales to the district administrator (the sysselmand) is in breach of the law.

Despite your 2013 letter to Prime Minister Johannesen in which you, on behalf of AIDA, called for an end to the grindadráp, it is our understanding that AIDA continues to offer cruises to the Faroe Islands. It is Sea Shepherd's belief that, in order for this protest of words to have a tangible impact, cruises conducted by AIDA should be postponed to the Faroe Islands until the government of the Faroe Islands makes sincere efforts to ensure that this barbaric and unnecessary slaughter of marine wildlife is ended.

We believe this matter is even more pertinent now given the current uncertainty regarding the impact of the grindalógin on AIDA customers visiting the Faroe Islands. We believe that it is AIDA's responsibility to ensure that the company's customers are not dragged into this bloody tradition, as the grindalógin indicates they could be. We believe that the only way to guarantee this will not occur is for AIDA to immediately cease cruises to the Faroe Islands.

Ms. Griefahn, I do sincerely believe that AIDA and Sea Shepherd share the common goal of bringing about an end to the grindadráp. I implore you to ensure that you, as a representative of AIDA - a leader in the commercial cruise-liner industry and key stakeholder in the Faroese tourism industry - take this opportunity to use the considerable influence at your disposal and ensure that our common goal is realized.

With warmest regards,

Anne Kämmerling
Director,
Sea Shepherd Germany