



The Blessing of the Fishing Fleet 20 YEARS 1989 - 2009

The Event

In 1989 a group of volunteers from the Portuguese Community decided to bring to Cape Town an old Portuguese tradition of blessing the fishing boats to ask for an abundant fishing season that starts in September/October. That was the beginning of the first «Blessing of the Fishing Fleet Festival» in Cape Town, held at the Elbow Shed at V&A Waterfront. It later became the greatest event annually organized by the Portuguese Community. The Festival is preceded by a dinner where the King and Queen of the Sea are selected as well as the Fishing Boat of Honor (the Boat which carries the statue of Our Lady of Fatima sailing around Cape Town harbor).

The Blessing of the Fishing Fleet is also a fundraising event. The proceeds raised during the event including sponsorships go to the Portuguese Cultural and Welfare Centre of Cape Town. The Portuguese Welfare is the controlled mode we created to help those in need in our community.

The Festival has grown very popular in our community and has therefore attracted lots of advertising opportunities at our Festival. You are most welcome to attend the event and [advertise](#) with us.

The Religious background

The Background of the «Blessing of the Fishing Fleet Festival» is mainly religious. Once a year the Portuguese Community comes to the dockside to thank God for his blessings, to pray for the fishermen and to bless the season. We know the hardships endured and the dangerous conditions of working on the sea. Jesus Christ has certainly a great familiarity with the fishermen having called most of his apostles from this trade. He used their boats as a platform to preach the Good News, to bring about miraculous catches and calm stormy weather.

The Portuguese Culture is deeply built on the Catholic Faith. Saint Peter, a fisherman, is carried on the boat together with Mary, Jesus' Mother. The procession is preceded by the Mass. An anchor of flowers is also blessed and thrown in the sea: it is our prayer for the men who died in the sea. God is part of our lives and our work and his protection is most important for everyone. Plea for blessing and Thanks to God builds the religious atmosphere in the Festival. The happiness and serenity that follow comes often from the sure hope of being home again after the fishing season with fish in the boat and lots of stories to tell...

DONATED WHALE FOETUSES IN BOTTLES BY:

Mrs Hancke

Mr Matheson

Mrs Hancke



“What YOU do not KNOW is being kept secret behind CLOSED DOORS”

How to Torture and Kill a Whale



What you'll need:

- A 'de-clawed' warship with bloodthirsty crew
- Grenade Harpoons
- High Powered Rifle



Method:

- Find a whale nursery and select a target
- Harass target with ship, so herding it away from the other whales
- Launch several grenade harpoons at its head to kill it 'humanely'
- Watch it try to swim with a bleeding, broken body
- Listen to screams of agony
- Finish it off with high powered rifle loaded with tank piercing rounds

Every year, hundreds of whales are killed in this fashion. Whalers would have us believe that the use of grenade harpoons is necessary to kill the whale instantly and without too much distress. They claim that a grenade harpoon is launched at the whale's head to stun it or knock it unconscious, thereby causing it to drown and die relatively peacefully. But this is very rarely the case, especially for the small Minke whale.

The Minke whale is mainly hunted and killed to be used for human consumption. These whales are shot in the head, so as not to contaminate the rest of the body with the shrapnel or other toxic components of the grenade, making it unfit for humans. If the body does take too much damage, the whale will then be used for fertilizer, petfood and oil for most expensive pharmaceuticals and industrial use.

The reality is that whales are moving targets, swimming at various speeds and angles in relation to the whaling boat, being fired upon from a moving platform. Also, the explosive payload of the grenade harpoons used to kill Minke is smaller than those used on other whales to avoid collateral damage to the body. As a result, a single grenade harpoon is insufficient to kill or even stun it the whale must then be dragged by the ship till it drowns as launching more grenades at it runs the risk of damaging to the whale's body. Even so, a fairly small percentage of undamaged Minke flesh actually makes it to the dinner table.

Also, let's not forget these creatures are highly intelligent mammals. They cry in agony from the pain and wounds. Their anguish is also evident on what remains of their faces. Their cries and moans can be heard even above the sound of crashing waves and roaring diesel engines, impossible to block out. Blood spurts from their mouths and open wounds, gurgling and hissing from its throat and fluke as they slowly and horribly drown in their own blood and entrails while trying to tear free from the rope harpoons lodged in their bodies. At the same time, they desperately try to fight for life, try to keep their battered heads above water to gulp air, their big eyes staring in horror, blinking not unlike wounded humans, with the knowledge that they're about to die.

If you think the Minke has it bad, the fate of the Fin and Humpback whales, who are killed specifically for oil, fertilizer and pet food, is even grimmer. Because their meat is unfit for human consumption, whalers don't even pretend to try to kill them 'humanely'. Grenade harpoons with greater explosive payloads are randomly fired at these whales: spine, stomach, side or head, it makes no difference to the whalers. Once the grenades have done the job of sufficiently crippling the whales, high powered rifles, not unlike those used to hunt elephants or penetrate tank armour, are used to finish them off. Several rounds are fired at the head as they continue to drag whales until they eventually die...

If the general public were to see cows, sheep or elephants being tied to a bakkie, dragged around and shot at random to suffer as they slowly die, the outrage would be heard around the globe. Don't whales deserve the same? After all, they are also mammals, they travel in herds, mothers nurse their young and they are self aware. Cruel and inhumane has the same meaning, no matter what you kill. [Video Clips and Pictures of Whale Torture](#)

http://www.madmermaids.com/whales_intelligence.html

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-512826/Harpooned-bloody-mother-whale-baby-dragged-factory-ship-Barbaric-No-research-says-Japan.html>

“Portuguese Fishing Festival, Whaling Foetuses in bottles and Killing Secrets of Whales” Email info@whalemark.org.za