

Complaint: OMSA 16/010
Complainant: G. Knox
Media: Whale Oil Beef Hooked
Publication: "Cats Have Killed More Dolphins than McDonalds ever has by buying Hoki".
Publication date: 26 May 2016
Link: <http://www.whaleoil.co.nz/2016/05/cats-killed-dolphins-mcdonalds-ever-buying-hoki/>
Ruling Date: 31 May 2016
Outcome: No Grounds to Proceed

The Complainant, G. Knox said: "Racist terminology. Cameron refers to a group of 'kraut eco-terrorists'. Having previously attached German Dr Mass in another blog alleging non-existent lies. Just moderation of language to avoid racist terminology."

The Chairman considered the relevant provision of the OMSA Code of Standards could be Part C Standard 6 Discrimination and Denigration.

The Chairman accepted the Complainant was offended by the term "Kraut" in reference to German people.

The Chairman considered in the context of the article in its entirety and the nature of the website the term "Kraut" in relation to German environmentalists was satirical and unlikely to encourage discrimination against or denigration of, German people.

Accordingly, the Chairman ruled the content subject to complaint met the requirements of Standard 6, there was no breach of the Code of Standards and therefore, no grounds for the complaint to proceed.

Chairman's Ruling: No Grounds to Proceed

Content: CATS HAVE KILLED MORE DOLPHINS THAN MCDONALD'S EVER HAS BY BUYING HOKI by Cameron Slater on May 26, 2016 at 1:30pm

This week we have seen a jihad opened up on the New Zealand fishing industry by a group of Kraut eco-terrorists.

They claim they are trying to save Maui dolphins and have fingered McDonalds as contributing to their deaths because they buy NZ Hoki. Nevermind that NZ Hoki is caught in regions far from the littoral environs that Maui dolphins inhabit, they are just attacking an industry and a multi-national company based on lies and mis-truths.

In their bid to save Maui dolphins they have attacked industries and companies that actually have nothing to do with the Maui dolphins and attacking them and destroying their businesses won't save a single Maui dolphin.

A better approach would have been for them to attack cat owners. Because one of the major killers of Hector's and Maui dolphins is cats...or rather a disease that is caused by cats. A recent 2013 study found that toxoplasmosis is a rather large factor in the deaths of Maui and Hector's dolphins.

Hector's dolphins (*Cephalorhynchus hectori*) are a small endangered coastal species that are endemic to New Zealand. Anthropogenic factors, particularly accidental capture in fishing nets, are believed to be the biggest threat to survival of this species. The role of infectious disease as a cause of mortality has not previously been well investigated. This study investigates *Toxoplasma gondii* infection in Hector's dolphins, finding that **7 of 28 (25%) dolphins examined died due to disseminated toxoplasmosis, including 2 of 3 Maui's dolphins, a critically endangered sub-species. A further 10 dolphins had one or more tissues that were positive for the presence of *T. gondii* DNA using PCR.** Genotyping revealed that 7 of 8 successfully amplified isolates were an atypical Type II genotype. Fatal cases had necrotising and haemorrhagic lesions in the lung (n=7), lymph nodes (n=6), liver (n=4) and adrenals (n=3). Tachyzoites and tissue cysts were present in other organs including the brain (n=5), heart (n=1), stomach (n=1) and uterus (n=1) with minimal associated inflammatory response. One dolphin had a marked suppurative metritis in the presence of numerous intra-epithelial tachyzoites. No dolphins had underlying morbillivirus infection. **This study provides the first evidence that infectious agents could be important in the population decline of this species,** and highlights the need for further research into the route of entry of *T. gondii* organisms into the marine environment worldwide.

So, not fishing, or hoki fishing, but rather it is cats that are killing the dolphins.

I searched for other studies that confirm the transmission of land based mammalian disease to sea living mammals and found two studies which confirm this occurrence.

A report from July 2005 on the effects of toxoplasmosis on Southern Sea Otters in the California bay areas and another report from 2010 into how the disease gets from land into the sea and how it affects sea mammals.

Save the Bay in San Francisco has the following recommendations on their website:

Pet Waste

Left on the ground, pet waste can wash into storm drains that flow directly into the Bay, degrading water quality with high levels of bacteria, threatening public health, and making Bay animals sick.

What can you do?

- Always pick up your pet's waste – even in your own backyard – and throw the bagged waste in the trash.
- Try biodegradable bags.
- Keep dogs out of streams and stream banks.
- Don't flush or compost you cat's waste.

Did you know?

- A parasite common in cat feces has been linked to serious disease in sea otters.
- Cat waste outdoors, in sewage systems or compost can wash the parasite into streams, where it can eventually reach the ocean.
- Bacteria from pet waste can make swimmers sick at beaches many miles away.
- This bacterial can also harm Bay fish and wildlife.
- Marina Lagoon in San Mateo, Windsurfer Circle at Candlestick Point, and Baker Beach in San Francisco (where Logos Creek flows into the Bay) all received poor grades from Heal The Bay's 2014 Beach Report Card.

So, it seems that cat waste, and cats of course have a large and scientifically proven lethal or debilitating effect on sea mammals. We have two overseas studies that support this, an environmental lobby group in San Francisco making recommendations to limit pet waste entering the coastal environment and a New Zealand research project that reckons that up to 25% of Maui and Hector's dolphin deaths are cat related.

It would appear that lying about the role of McDonalds in killing the Maui dolphins is a deliberate and malicious attack on an industry when they would be better served getting on-board with Gareth Morgan's cat killing programme.

In fact in 2014 Gareth Morgan's outfit highlighted this exact problem and Fairfax reported on it.

A cat-borne disease that might be killing endangered dolphins has now been found in kiwi.

Toxoplasmosis, which has been linked to schizophrenia and suicide in humans, is thought to enter the marine food chain through cat faeces washed from land through the sewer system, or from feral cats living near estuaries.

Now researcher Dr Wendi Roe, of Massey University's Infectious Diseases Research Centre, who has been tracking the disease, has reported finding two kaka, a kiwi and a kereru infected with the disease.

Earlier this year, the Morgan Foundation – funded by cat control lobbyist Gareth Morgan – released research saying about 40 per cent of New Zealanders were infected with toxoplasmosis, and linking it to afflictions including schizophrenia, impaired memory and suicidal thoughts.

Foundation spokesman Geoff Simmons has applauded the Massey study and said the pathogen's effects on humans was "all the more reason" to more rigorously manage cats. Between 2007 and 2011, Roe's team found about **25 per cent of a sample of Hector's dolphin deaths were likely to have been caused by toxoplasmosis. Two of three critically endangered Maui's dolphins were also found to have died from the parasite.**

Roe presented her research in a talk entitled "From cat poo to kai moana" yesterday, and said not enough study had been done on toxoplasmosis' effects on ecology and on humans. Further testing of dolphins which died of other causes – mainly collisions with boats or becoming tangled in set nets – showed **61 per cent were also infected with the pathogen, which can cause death, still births or lower fertility.**

The parasite is usually dormant in humans but can pose a risk in pregnant women and those with low immunity, especially people undergoing chemotherapy.

Roe is a cat lover, but has decided, as proposed by Morgan, not to replace her recently deceased cat.

Instead of attacking McDonalds and Hoki fishers perhaps these ratbag eco-terrorists might like to go after the real dolphin killers...cats.

-Fairfax, Save the Bay