

The Faroe Islands (Chain) is a part of the Danish Kingdom located between Norway and Iceland. Overtime the long finned pilot whales have been herded and killed among the bays of these islands. The organized community, using the whales as a source of food, has slaughter hundreds of whales every year. The issue raised is whether or not hunting these mammals are sustainable for the future. The Sea Shepard is a volunteer group, holding who oppose the Faroe islanders killing the long finned whales.

### **Faroe Islanders: for the Grind.**

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There is an economic relief in terms of sustainability, as the Faroe Island locals do not have to import things such as large amounts of meat supply. The locals depend on the sea as a reliable food source as there is little support from agricultural side. The community divide all meat evenly according to family size. This is considered to be sustainable as they try to use every bit of the whale meat, such as the ribs and blubber. This prevents large costs for the people, as they do not need to import unnecessary food sources this is very valuable in ways they provide self-sufficiently.

Another sustainable aspect from the Faroe islander's perspective is whaling or the Grind is a part of their culture and values tradition. Since the 11<sup>th</sup> century the people of Faroe Islands became dependent on whales as a food source in order to survive. Today it has become a tradition for the 50'000 people who live on the island. Back then it was a need to kill these whales for survival, now it is seen as a way for the community to be self-sufficient whilst keeping in touch with their roots. This shows they value the historic meaning of self-sufficiency from their ancestors.

### **Sea Shepard: Against the Grind.**

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The Sea Shepard lead them to take physical (confrontational) and non-physical actions. Their values were based on environmental concerns for the long-finned whale population.

The physical approach is where volunteers are put into groups such as watchers (who help identify pods located near bays) and the drivers (people out at sea who help drive the whales out before islanders reach them). This tactic physically prevents the locals from driving in and killing the whales. They also have been protesting and holding conferences where people can question their behaviour, within the island area. Non-physical approaches made are campaigns throughout Europe to bring the issue to make people aware of the unnecessary killings. They also use social media to campaign against the island.

Another personal value is from an activist from the Sea Shepard group, Present of France LE. She believes the population of the whales are at risk and that killing animals with a high conscience is wrong. Although these whales are not endangered in the future the whales could become endangered as they face risks caused by humans and the pollution/climate

change from the sea.

They believe by stopping the Grind it will let the whales grow in numbers. The people of Faroe would not be impacted massively as they live in a modern urbanized world where they can receive access to other food sources through importing goods.

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FM supports the Grind. He is a supervisor of the Grind. Being a supervisor he ensures that the grind only provide the people with what they need and that they don't kill every whale they see. He believes that this will ensure the whale population will remain sustainable for the future and that the values of culture and tradition are continued. He supervises that the kill is done humanely and numbers are efficient. On average 800 whales are killed a year for Faroe people out of a population around 800'000 pilot whales. He believes that the number of killings is sustainable enough to support the population of whales.

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My view is one of cultural and environmental sustainability, For example, if the Faroe Islanders can limit their whale catch to numbers to ensure that the species remains sustainable, that these people need to be able to continue with their traditional food practices and minimise the need for importing food.

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