

Announcing the 9th year of **Operation Bloody Fjords!**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Neptune's Pirates UK Continues its Campaign Against Grindadráp in the Faroe Islands

Since 2016, Neptune's Pirates UK (the new name of Sea Shepherd UK) has been steadfast in its mission to document and expose the cruel and unnecessary Grindadráp drive hunts of pilot whales and other dolphins in the Danish Faroe Islands. Over the past eight years, our UK charity has funded and coordinated over 200 crew members, videographers, and drone pilots to meticulously document every aspect of these hunts, shedding light on the brutality inflicted upon these intelligent marine mammals.



In our ninth consecutive year working on this issue, Neptune's Pirates UK is transitioning into a new phase of direct action: a hard-hitting publicity initiative and the production of a new documentary film. This initiative aims to exert both internal and international pressure on the Faroese Government to finally bring an end to their barbaric dolphin hunts.

Throughout our extensive documentation efforts, our dedicated crew on Operation Bloody Fjords have endured numerous challenges, including witnessing:

- 55 long-finned pilot whale grindadráp hunts
- 4 Atlantic white-sided dolphin hunts, including the largest single massacre of dolphins (1428 killed) recorded in human history on September 12, 2021
- 4 mixed-species dolphin drive hunts
- 1 Bottlenose dolphin hunt, the equal largest in documented Faroese history at 100 killed
- 5 strandings of Northern Bottlenose Whales where the animals were killed and butchered
- 4 pilot whale tagging events which resulted in one or more members of the pod being killed

In total, our documentation reveals that the Faroese have taken 5241 lives, including 3362 pilot whales, 1690 Atlantic white-sided dolphins, 101 bottlenose dolphins, and 21 northern bottlenose whales. Despite widespread condemnation and mounting evidence of the extreme cruelty and environmental consequences of these hunts, there is no indication that the Faroese Government intends to cease these practices.

We have all the videos and photos the world's media ever needs. Now it's time to change tactics.

Continues...

Neptune's Pirates UK is Captain Paul Watson Foundation UK

Formerly known as 'Sea Shepherd UK'

Charity Commission registration number: 1110501

Registered Address: 27 Old Gloucester Street, London, WC1N 3AX, United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0)300 111 0501 Email: media@neptunespirates.uk

Website: neptunespirates.uk





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“For eight years, our crew have steadfastly stood quietly by and documented the grindadráp. In that time, we have seen no trends to show that Faroese opinions are changing or the number of dolphins being killed is reducing. That’s why our strategic approach is changing. It’s time to stop the grind.”
Rob Read, Chief Operating Officer

Neptune’s Pirates UK is now shifting its focus to targeting the Faroe Islands’ two most lucrative industries - aquaculture and tourism. Our strategic approach includes determined crew members returning to the islands for the ninth year, engaging in direct-action to save cetacean lives, orchestrating media initiatives with stunts at various locations, and releasing a new documentary film this summer.

As Neptune’s Pirates UK embarks on this new phase of activism, we call on the international community to stand with us in condemning the grindadráp and advocating for the protection of marine life in the Faroe Islands and the North Atlantic.

ENDS

For media inquiries, please contact:

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Watch for the campaign media releases over the coming weeks on our website –

www.neptunespirates.uk including our new **press section**

If you can – please help support our campaign by donating to our charity at:

<https://www.neptunespirates.uk/donate> Neptune’s Pirates UK

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NOTES TO EDITORS

About NEPTUNES PIRATES UK

Captain Paul Watson Foundation UK is an established, fully independent marine conservation charity, founded in 2005 previously under the name *Sea Shepherd UK*.

We operate under the working name Neptune's Pirates UK and are dedicated to our founder Captain Paul Watson's unique and highly successful non-violent direct-action philosophy to saving marine wildlife.

Neptune's Pirates UK has always been fiercely independent and today operate a fleet of 6 boats in the UK and have been managing active marine conservation campaigns since 2014.

Our clients are marine animals, not humans. Our investigations are followed by physical action and/or legal intervention. We will never be subject to restrictive agreements with governments. Our media and opinions will never be censored. Our crew travel where needed, even if they are unwelcome in the country or location where we operate.

Website: www.neptunespirates.uk

Contact: media@neptunespirates.uk

About the Grindadráp hunts:

Every year in the Faroe Islands around 1,150 small cetaceans, primarily long finned pilot whales and Atlantic white-sided dolphins are killed in drive hunts called **grindadráp** in Faroese. The 'grind' as the hunts are commonly called, can happen at any time at any one of the 26 designated killing bays around the islands, with most of the hunts statistically occurring between June and September.

The grindadráp has no season, no quota, weak regulation, and is totally unnecessary. The hunts are also indiscriminate with entire pods being killed including pregnant mothers and young calves.

The grind would be totally illegal under UK, USA, Danish and European Union legislation, because in the EU (including the Kingdom of Denmark, of which the Faroe Islands is a part) it is not only illegal to kill dolphins - but illegal even to harass, stress or chase any cetaceans.

The Senior Veterinarian at the Faroe Veterinary Service calculated the average duration of killing during grindadráp hunts at 12.7 minutes, but our crew often record killing at grindadráp hunts taking well over 20 minutes. Speakers at the 2024 NAMMCO AGM confirmed the drive itself, ahead of the killing, was extremely stressful and caused extended suffering.

In 2008, an article in the New Scientist told how Faroese chief medical officers had categorised whale meat as unsafe for human consumption because of high mercury content. They detailed how mercury poisoning could trigger a range of ailments including foetal neural development, high blood pressure, circulatory problems, and possible infertility.

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