



Surprisingly Human

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**ANIMAL PLANET'S "WHALE WARS" RETURNS FOR THE ULTIMATE
BATTLE THAT MAY END THE ANTARCTIC
WHALING WAR FOREVER**

– Will The Sea Shepherds' Final Battle Begin on June 3rd? –

(New York, New York, April 27, 2011) – When the Japanese whale meat processing ship – the *Nisshin Maru* – turned around and set its course back to its home port in mid-February, Captain Paul Watson and the Sea Shepherds declared a cautious victory. Watson and his international conservationist group have been hell bent on stopping the whaling industry for nearly a decade, harassing them and making international headlines in the process. Perhaps the Sea Shepherds' tactics finally had taken their toll... The whalers' actions not only signaled a possible victory for the Sea Shepherds, it also meant hundreds of whales' lives in the Antarctic would be spared this year through an unprecedented cancellation of an entire nation's whale hunt. But was it a final victory or just a temporary conquest?

Animal Planet's Emmy-nominated **WHALE WARS** returns for a fourth captivating season beginning **Friday, June 3 at 9 PM** with 10 exhilarating episodes documenting the Sea Shepherds' dramatic campaign on the Antarctic high seas. The series has enthralled audiences who have witnessed the dangerous cat-and-mouse game at the far end of the globe between the Sea Shepherds and the whalers. For years, Captain Paul Watson and his Sea Shepherd Conservation Society crew have taken to the high seas in an attempt to stop Japanese ships from hunting whales in the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary. **WHALE WARS** documents the ongoing battles in the icy Antarctic waters as the conflict between Sea Shepherds and the whalers grows more intense with each engagement – each pushing the other to the limit to fight for their beliefs.

This new season is full of the drama that viewers have come to expect from the Sea Shepherds' campaigns, including new equipment in their arsenal -- a new vessel that's almost as fast but far bigger than the boat destroyed last year, a helicopter with a greater range, secret GPS devices, and more. Aside from the Sea Shepherds' new tactics, there are harrowing experiences unlike any viewers will have seen before, including a crew stranded overnight in freezing conditions and a tragic mayday call. **Captain Alex Corneliessen** joins the campaign to helm the *Bob Barker*, and **Captain Lockhart Maclean** takes command of the Sea Shepherds' newest small vessel, the *Gojira*.

As Watson has said, “In order to save the whales, people have to be willing to risk their lives.” And, before this campaign, when a reporter asked pointedly if he really couldn’t stop whaling, he vehemently responded, “We can’t stop whaling? That’s what they once said about slavery, but it was stopped. So yes, we can stop whaling.”

The third season of **WHALE WARS** averaged nearly 1.4 million viewers, 29% above the season two average. In 2009, the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences recognized **WHALE WARS** with a Television Academy Honor identifying it as “Television with a Conscience” for exploring issues of concern to society in a compelling, emotional, and insightful way. The series has been nominated for a Primetime Emmy® for Outstanding Cinematography in a Non-Fiction Series (twice) and Outstanding Picture Editing for a Non-Fiction Series. The first three seasons are available on DVD at AnimalPlanetstore.com.

Liz Bronstein is the executive producer for The Lizard Trading Company, and Jason Carey is the executive producer for Animal Planet. Charlie Foley is the vice president of development for Animal Planet.

Animal Planet Media (APM), a multi-media business unit of Discovery Communications, is the world's only entertainment brand that immerses viewers in the full range of life in the animal kingdom with rich, deep content via multiple platforms and offers animal lovers and pet owners access to a centralized online, television and mobile community for immersive, engaging, high-quality entertainment, information and enrichment. APM consists of the Animal Planet television network, available in more than 97 million homes in the US; online assets www.animalplanet.com, the ultimate online destination for all things animal; the 24/7 broadband channel, Animal Planet Beyond; Petfinder.com, the #1 pet-related Web property globally that facilitates pet adoption; and other media platforms including a robust Video-on-Demand (VOD) service; mobile content; and merchandising extensions.

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Editor’s Note: The name and images on the *Gojira* were chosen by Sea Shepherd and are in no way endorsed by Animal Planet, the producers, or any parties that hold rights to *Gojira* or *Godzilla*.