Whaling is wrong

To most, standing on a boat, sun shining on your face, water splashing everywhere and wind blowing through your hair, this would seem like a good day. Unfortunately for this group of people the sea is not blue like normal, but is red instead. Painted red by the Japanese whaling that is destroying the whale population, using unnecessary resources and forcing volunteer groups to take action against it.

New Zealand’s East Coast is a great place to see whales in their native habitat. Some towns, like Kaikoura, even live on the money produced from the tourists coming to see the whales. Whale watching is really popular in NZ. This could be because people know that whaling is reducing their numbers and endangering many species. It is still not known if some species, will recover even after years of protection. Blue whales are less than one percent of their original numbers, despite 40 years of protection. The West Pacific grey whale is the most endangered in the world with just over 100 remaining. Tests have shown that humpback whales could have numbered 1.5 million prior to whaling. Now their number sits around 20,000. This clearly shows that whales are on the brink of extinction and something needs to be done about it, starting with the destruction of the whaling industry.

In our modern 21st century lives we have so much technology on hand to do whatever we want. So why do we need to use whale parts to make things that we could use from other material, that isn’t endangered? Whale meat, is used as food, it tastes like beef so why couldn’t you just eat beef? Whale blubber is cooked until rendered to oil and then made into various items including perfume, soap, make up, wax and grease. There are plenty of other ways to produce these products that do not waste precious resources. Whale bones are boiled down to make glue or ground up for fertiliser, which again has been made many other ways that don’t include whale parts in them. Is it now time to explore other resources to replace the use of whale remains?

So, what about those who are doing something to stop Japanese whaling? On January 7th 2010 The Ady Gil, formerly the Earthrace boat, was attacked by a Japanese whaling vessel. It had stopped well out of the path of the Japanese boat. It was quite a surprise when the crew onboard saw them turn in the direction they were in and accelerate. They sounded the alarm but could not evade the Japanese boat, crashing into the Ady Gil and destroying it. The estimated financial loss from the sinking was $1.5 million. This shows how much volunteer services do to deter the Japanese whaling. Another ship involved is the MV Steve Irwin, named after the crocodile hunter. This ship is involved with the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society. This is a larger ship than the Ady Gil and therefore is slower, but still does a lot to stop whaling ships. What’s needed are more willing people to show their objection by signing up as crew on boats such as these.

So as you can see, Japanese whaling is depleting the whale population, using unnecessary resources and forcing volunteer groups to take action against it. Whaling should be banned because it is wrong to do for any reasons. It is time to enforce a total ban on whaling and save our whales.