

EXTRA EXTRA!

READ ALL ABOUT IT

The man who tried to save the whales

This is an edited version of a story from
© BBC News (7/12/2024)

Anti-whaling activist Paul Watson has been released after five months in prison in Greenland.

Mr Watson, 74, was detained by police when his ship docked in Greenland last July.

Police had acted on an accusation from 2012 that he caused damage to a Japanese whaling ship during an encounter in Antarctic waters in February 2010.

Mr Watson, who is a Canadian-American citizen and featured in the reality TV show *Whale Wars*, had denied any wrongdoing.

"All the evidence shows that I wasn't even there when this offence supposedly took place," he said.

Whaling and eating whale meat have been heavily criticised by conservation groups, but officials in Japan argue that it is part of the country's culture and way of life.

Watson's lawyer Julie Stage said that Mr Watson was "obviously relieved" and "looking forward to reuniting with his wife and children".

The Japanese Government had asked Greenland to hand Mr Watson over so that he could face trial in Japan. As Greenland is a territory of Denmark,



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the decision on his extradition was made in Copenhagen. The government of Denmark decided to free him instead of handing him over.

Mr Watson's vessel, called the M/Y John Paul DeJoria, had been heading to the North Pacific with a crew of 26 volunteers on board, in a bid to intercept a new Japanese whaling ship when it docked to refuel in Greenland on 21 July.

At a previous hearing, Mr Watson told the court that the case was "about revenge for a television show that extremely embarrassed Japan in the eyes of the world".

He also added that his organisation was prepared to continue its anti-whaling activities.

For years, Mr Watson has been a controversial figure known for confrontations with whaling vessels at sea.

The campaigner is the former head of Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, which he left in 2022 to set up the Captain Paul Watson Foundation.

Japan withdrew from the International Whaling Commission and resumed commercial whaling in 2019, after a 30-year gap.

TRUE OR FALSE?

Not all news is based on truth. Do you think this story is based on true or false news?

Around 40,000 whales have been killed since commercial whaling was banned.



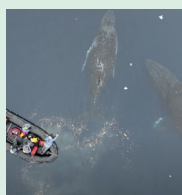
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Why the Whales Came by Michael Morpurgo
William Heinemann

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Watch [this report](#) on how whales are being affected by climate change.

This worksheet is available every weekday at 6:30am London time from <https://theday.co.uk/resources/news-detectives>.
For any feedback or help please contact buildthechange@theday.co.uk. Thank you.

Answer to Find the truth. True! Japan, Norway and Iceland have carried on whaling commercially. Learn more here.



CHECK YOUR FACTS

1

WHAT
is Watson's
controversial
method?

ANSWER:
Confrontations
with whaling
ships

WHO
is Paul
Watson?

ANSWER:
An
anti-whaling
activist

WHERE
was Watson
arrested?

ANSWER:
Greenland

WHEN
did Watson
set up his
organisation?

ANSWER:
2022

WHY
was Watson
arrested?

ANSWER:
For supposedly
damaging a
Japanese whaling
ship in 2010

HOW
do Japanese
officials defend
whaling?

ANSWER:
They say it is
part of their
culture

