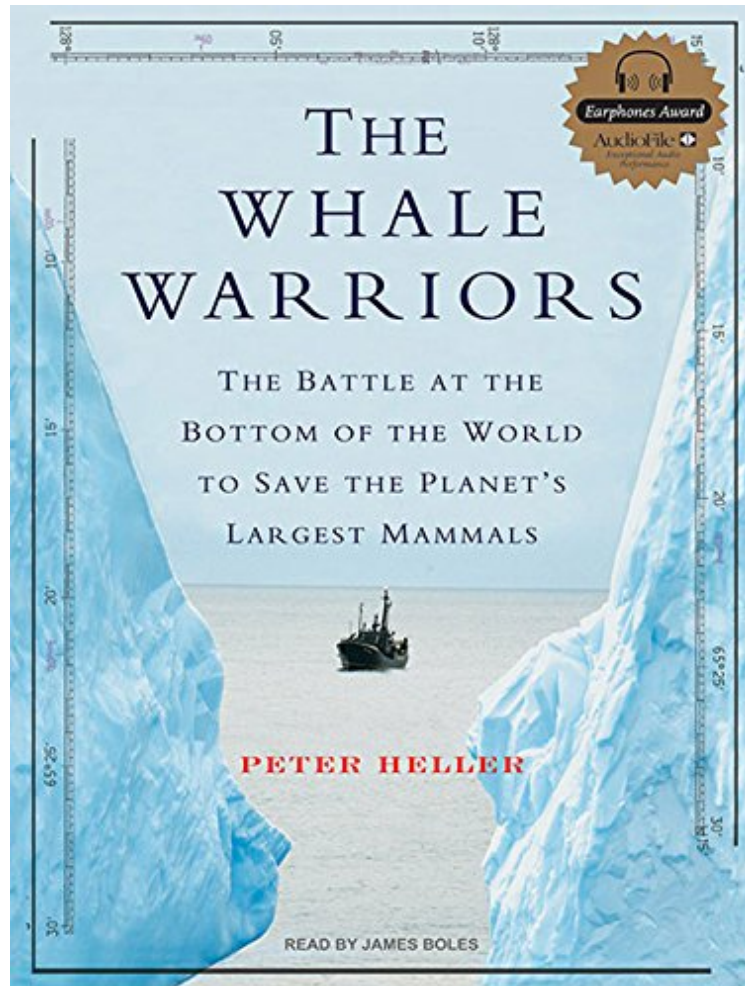


# The Whale Warriors: The Battle at the Bottom of the World to Save the Planet's Largest Mammals

Peter Heller

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**Peter Heller : The Whale Warriors: The Battle at the Bottom of the World to Save the Planet's Largest Mammals** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Whale Warriors: The Battle at the Bottom of the World to Save the Planet's Largest Mammals:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Dark Line in the Sea: No More Whaling! By G. C. Frantz Heller's book, The Whale Warriors, is much more graphic than the normal non-fiction work. I've long been an ardent supporter of environmental organizations, including Greenpeace. I guess I missed the transition when Greenpeace became more of a "suits" organization, and the real work of fighting whalers, striving to protect these incredible animals, had fallen to a more direct-action organization, Sea Shepherd. This is the story of a cruise by the organization's ship, the "Farley Mowat" into the dangerous waters of Antarctica in pursuit of the Japanese whaling fleet. Curious that much of the early

history of the United States is woven around the voyages of whaling ships and their crews, but in clear prose, Heller documents the atrocities committed against an ancient, sentient species. Read this story and you'll be clicking on the website for "Sea Shepherd," and pulling out your wallet for a donation. Or for Trumpistas, maybe selling slots on a whaling cruise. In any case, unless civilized nations ban together to eliminate this barbaric practice, whales, orangutans and many other sentient species will be bidding eternal farewell to our planet. 12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. This One Will Hook You! (Pun Intended) By Deanna Weber Prine The book's cover convinced me to pick it up, but Peter Heller's writing and the Sea Shepherds' story kept my attention from that point onward. I'm usually not drawn to non-fiction unless I'm researching a subject, and generally never adventure "true life" material. This book, however, has changed that for me. Heller combines just the right amount of prose with conversation, facts with perspective. He enters into the fray of the Sea Shepherds' world with enough hesitation to cajole the more timid into joining him and with enough enthusiasm and objectivity to keep the attention of those with fixed opinions (for or against) about the subject of whaling. It really isn't a one-sided show. During the course of the book, the author questions his own ideas about the Sea Shepherds' methods, Captain Watson's zeal, and the legality/morality of the two-month venture into the Antarctic seas. While obviously sympathetic toward the whales, he isn't overly sympathetic toward the protagonists who are there to protect the whales by (almost) any means necessary. There is just enough cynicism in his approach to allow you to decide the black and white for yourself. The reader is swept along for the ride with Heller on this adventure and what a ride! It was very hard to put down the book and I read late into the night. Through Heller, I felt as though I were a mute crew member on the Farley Mowat during that expedition--present to observe the often humorous, occasionally mundane, sometimes terrifying, but always interesting activities and perspectives that the motley crew of the Farley Mowat experience and offer during that two-month period of time. I know it may sound trite, but I was truly inspired by their enthusiasm and resolve. I know more about the whaling situation and what it really means to fight for their existence on this planet after reading *The Whale Warriors* than I have after years of getting Greenpeace updates or the occasional news report. It is tangible to me now, this fight for the whales--something that I have a visceral attachment to and not just a subjective ethical opinion about. I sincerely hope that the recent change in leadership in Australia (global warming's supposed to be the top issue now) helps to bring a backbone to the political stage there instead of just popular support for antiwhaling enforcement. After having mentioned Greenpeace, I should note some of the more interesting clashes weren't between the Sea Shepherds and the whalers, but with their fellow environmentalists. It is a subtle and charged situation, but it was eye-opening to see the exchanges between the Sea Shepherds and Greenpeace from the inside. All of this said, I heartily recommend this book for a wonderful and fluid reading experience. You will definitely come away with an opinion on the subject and you undoubtedly will enjoy yourself during the adventure. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Three Stars By A reader Interesting story. Ponderous writing.

In the tradition of *The Perfect Storm*, *The Whale Warriors* takes us on a hair-raising journey aboard a whale-saving pirate ship with a vigilante crew whose mission is to stop illegal Japanese whaling in the stormy remote seas off Antarctica. For two months, journalist Peter Heller rode aboard the vegan pirate ship *Farley Mowat* as it stalked its prey--a Japanese whaling fleet--through the storms and ice of Antarctica. The ship is black, flies under a jolly roger, and carries members of the Sea Shepherd Society, a radical environmental group who are willing to die to stop illegal whale hunting. The Sea Shepherd ship, led by the charismatic Captain Paul Watson--a modern-day anti-Ahab--takes extreme risks in defense of whales and ratchets up the stakes. The ship is almost sunk twice, once in a force gale. Heller re-creates a nail-biting showdown when Watson and the crew attempt to ram an enormous Japanese whaling ship on the high seas, trying to tear open its hull with a steel blade called a "can opener." The crews on board both ships know that there will be no assistance in this desolate part of the ocean. In thirty-five-foot seas, it is a deadly game of Antarctic chicken and a fast-paced, rollicking adventure in which the stakes cannot be higher.

From *Publishers Weekly* In late 2005, award-winning adventure writer Heller joined Paul Watson and his 44-person crew on their voyage to find and halt an illegal Japanese whaling fleet en route to the Antarctic sea. Watson, founder of Greenpeace in 1972, says he abruptly left in 1977 to start his current group, Sea Shepherd, because he wanted to take intervening action to enforce international laws; others say he was "ejected for grabbing a sealer's club and throwing it in the water." Either way, Watson is a controversial leader who compels "people to drop everything--jobs, loves, homes--and follow him to the ends of the earth"; one of Watson's all-volunteer staff says, "I don't want to die, of course... But if I die looking to save a whale, that would be OK." Heller's writing is energetic and bold, at times a swashbuckling adventure, at others a portrait of a determined eco-warrior, at others a heart-rending expose on the cruelty of whalers (who use explosive-tipped harpoons and electrocuting currents against the great animals). Shocking and repulsing, Heller's adventures will inspire many readers to agree that "If the oceans are dying in our time, and we kill them... we should have committed a crime so heinous we shall not ever be redeemed." Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From *Booklist* The Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, a radical environmental group, is led by Paul Watson, who pursues whaling ships with his ship *Farley Mowat*

and a crew of volunteers. Watson formed Sea Shepherd after he broke from Greenpeace, and the group is responsible for sinking eight whaling ships and ramming even more illegal fishing vessels without loss of life. Adventure writer Heller was invited to accompany Watson and crew during their 2005 campaign against the Japanese whaling fleet in Antarctica, and the result is this intimate and hair-raising eco-adventure. The Farley Mowat is armed with water cannons, a catapult (for flinging garbage), a reinforced bow for ramming, and a weapon known as the "can opener." After weeks of heavy seas, fog, iceberg dodging, and cat-and-mouse with both the whalers and with Greenpeace there is no love lost between Sea Shepherd and Greenpeace on Christmas Day, in a Force 8 gale, the Farley finally encounters the Japanese fleet. The reader rides the rush of adrenaline and understands their dedication and passion. Bent, Nancy "Heller's writing is energetic and bold, at times a swashbuckling adventure, at others a portrait of a determined eco-warrior, at others a heart-rending expose on the cruelty of whalers." ---Publishers Weekly