



Leaks_3_HalWhitehead_160125

Jan 25, 2016

“A Nautilus Leak : Hal Whitehead”

Ned is making a big racket in the background, singing a sea shanty.

JULES

Hey folks, it's... *(To Ned)* Ned, will you quiet down? *(To camera)* It's Nautilus Leaks time!

Title card: Hal Whitehead, Professor of Marine Biology, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS.

JULES (CONT'D)

Hal, old pal, what's making noise in the whale world?

HAL

Us. Us humans. And what we're putting into the oceans. The chemicals, the plastics, the sounds are important. I study whales. And whales don't like noise.

JULES

(Still hearing Ned)

But whalers do, it seems.

HAL

A whale is an acoustic animal. Under the water, the best way to sense your environment, to best way to communicate with others is through sound. So, we put noise into that world, and suddenly that world becomes mistier and foggier. They can't find things, they can't talk to each other. And it makes it a lot harder for them to live their role in the ocean ecosystem

JULES

And what do we do that makes the most sound... besides Ned's singing?

HAL

Ships are noisy. They've got these great big engines, these great big propellers. And as they go through the ocean, they make a lot of noise. Just like the whales and dolphins, the navies of the world use sound, they use sound to find – say – submarines from opposing navies, to communicate with each other. And that sound can be incredibly loud. And sometimes – at least it seems to me – that sound's designed to be nasty. So when I listen to Navy sounds, ugh! And possibly, probably, almost certainly, the whales do the same.

JULES

(Seeing Ned walk in)

Speaking of nasty sounds, it's Ned Land. He's a harpoonist. Hal is a whale lover, so this should be interesting.

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NED

What's your favourite whale, Al?

JULES

Hal.

NED

Ta gueule.

HAL

There are two species I particularly love. The first is Sperm Whale. That's the Moby Dick whale, you know with great big forehead, dives so deep and isn't actually ferocious. And the 2nd is the Northern bottlenose whale. Another great deep diving, going down two kilometers and more under the ocean to find its food.

NED

I used to harpoon Sperm Whales, at least back in the good old days.

Jules shakes his head.

HAL

Well, sperm whales were the source of one of the worlds major industries. And the Quakers of Nantucket, who are featured in the book Moby Dick, they were the Exxon of that era. They were bringing oil to the industrial revolution and the people of the world. And so humans, going back 150-200 years, were really dependent on sperm whales.

NED

And on harpoonists!

HAL

But luckily we humans, we did something great, we got our act together in the 1970s, and we said: "let's stop killing whales".

NED

People are nuts.

JULES

Hal, we have to go before Ned really says something stupid. So, fellow New Atlantean

HAL/JULES

Mobilis in Mobili.

Static electricity to outro sequence.