



Mr. Gerald Dick
Executive Director
WAZA
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via email: gerald.dick@waza.org

February 7, 2014

WAZA Members Involvement in the Dolphin Drive Hunts

Dear Mr. Dick:

We write on behalf of WDC, Whale and Dolphin Conservation and CSI, Cetacean Society International, along with the undersigned organizations representing millions of members and constituents worldwide. As you know, our groups have been in dialogue with the World Association of Zoos and Aquaria (WAZA) and other zoo associations for many years regarding the sourcing of dolphins from these hunts by member facilities. We write now specifically in response to the continuing association of JAZA-member facilities with the dolphin drive hunts in Taiji, and seek your immediate attention to our concerns.

We note that WAZA's most recent statement condemning the drive hunts¹ was issued on January 24th after an exceptionally large round-up and slaughter of bottlenose dolphins that prompted the attention of diplomats and the public worldwide. Since issuance of WAZA's more recent statement, another 157 individual dolphins of mixed species have been killed in Taiji, and 12 captured alive for captivity.² We note the extremely cruel methods utilized in the killing of dolphins in these hunts³, including the tortuous process involved in the chase and herding out at sea, to the driving into shallow coves where the dolphins may be held for days before slaughter.

Although this recent statement echoes the concerns of WAZA's original statement against the hunts issued in November 2004, it does little to enforce the ethical mandates that were issued to all WAZA members under the strong leadership of then-President Karen Sausman. This Code of Ethics, endorsed nearly eight years ago⁴, states that "Members must adhere to the WAZA Code of Ethics and Animal Welfare and ensure that they do not accept animals obtained by the use of methods which are inherently cruel. An example of such a practice is the catching of dolphins by the use of a method known as 'drive fishing.'"

WAZA's ethical policies were reaffirmed and clarified in 2006 by President Sausman who condemned the continuing association of JAZA members, specifically, who were sourcing from the drive hunts and stated⁵: "As members of WAZA, *it is in direct violation of the Code of Ethics and Animal Welfare, that*

¹ <http://www.waza.org/en/site/pressnews-events/news/waza-strongly-condemns-the-taiji-dolphin-drive-hunt>

² <http://www.ceta-base.com/drivefisheries.html>

³ <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/10888705.2013.768925>

⁴ http://uk.whales.org/sites/default/files/waza_2004_taipei_-_interpretation_code_ethics.pdf

⁵ http://uk.whales.org/sites/default/files/waza_sausman_colleagues_dolphins_june_1.pdf

they have signed, to accept dolphins collected by a drive fishery operation or to be in any way connected with dolphin drive activities.” Therefore, it is clear that any member of WAZA, including JAZA members that associate with the drive hunts in any way, are in violation of WAZA ethical policies and mandates.

Failure of existing policies

In various communiques to WDC and some of the organizations signed below, WAZA has indicated that it has continued to approach the drive hunt issue with deference to the cultural traditions of its members, and with a preference towards maintaining constructive dialogue with JAZA. You have stated through WAZA’s 2010 communique on ‘dolphin capture developments,’⁶ that “choosing a course of constructive engagement does not equate to condoning any particular practice, but to a need to work in partnership with other cultures.”

We note that this statement is in direct contradiction to WAZA’s own statements condemning the drive hunts and reprimanding JAZA member facilities for continuing to associate with them. We also note that this current approach has failed to produce any progress, including the ‘dolphin management protocol’⁷ which has not served to reduce the numbers of dolphins killed in these hunts, nor the numbers of individuals taken into captivity. JAZA members continue to acquire dolphins from the drive hunts. We note that the numbers of dolphins being taken by aquaria has only increased. Last year, at least 247 dolphins were taken into captivity, an amount that far surpasses any other in the past decade. This season, 155 individuals have been taken into captivity with still several months left in the drive hunt season.

Furthermore, we find WAZA’s recent statement disingenuous. You state that “While the Taiji drive fisheries do not involve any WAZA institutional members, the Association is deeply concerned about this practice and is taking all action possible to help stop it.” With due respect, the association is not taking all action possible, and your reference to institutional members is a technicality: although after the departure of the Nagoya Aquarium from direct membership with WAZA there may not be a JAZA institution that is also a direct member of WAZA, JAZA itself is a member of WAZA. As a result, all JAZA-member institutions that continue to take from the drive hunts are in violation of WAZA’s policies. How can WAZA allow JAZA to continue its membership?

JAZA facilities currently sourcing from the drive hunts

Based on a recent inventory of Japanese zoos and aquaria, conducted by Elsa Nature Conservancy with support from WDC, 37 of the 54 facilities that hold nearly 600 dolphins nationwide are JAZA members. This means that over 68% of all facilities that hold dolphins in Japan belong to JAZA.

More specifically, JAZA members that have verifiably sourced from the Taiji drive hunts most recently include *Taiji Whale Museum, Izu Mito Sea Paradise, Shinagawa Aquarium, Oita Marine Palace/Dolphin Island, Katsurahama Aquarium, Aomori Prefectural Asamushi Aquarium, and Suma Aqualife Park*. Note that it is extremely difficult to verify and track those facilities active in sourcing from the drive hunts. However, we have attached a list of aquaria belonging to JAZA with an indication of those who have historically and recently taken from the hunts.

Black mark on all WAZA member facilities

Furthermore, considering the adherence to ethical policies and guidelines, alongside the commitment to conservation and animal welfare, by other WAZA members, WAZA’s entire reputation and the reputation and standing of their membership worldwide is being sullied and dishonored by a relatively few institutions that continue to associate with the drive hunts. In addition, those members of JAZA that do

⁶ http://uk.whales.org/sites/default/files/waza_general_principles_and_jaza_dolphin_management_protocol.pdf

⁷ http://uk.whales.org/sites/default/files/waza_jaza_policy_2010final.pdf

not hold dolphins nor associate with the drive hunts should be equally as motivated to address the continuing violations by members of their own association, and should welcome the expedient redress of noncompliant members.

Our letter will be copied to all WAZA associate, affiliate and corporate members to encourage swift and decisive action to mitigate continuing abuses of WAZA ethical policies and guidelines. As long as JAZA remains a recognized member of WAZA in good standing, WAZA and all of its members worldwide remain affiliated with the drive hunts and vulnerable to tarnished reputations as a result.

Conclusion

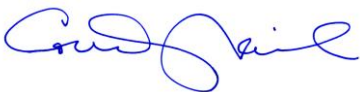
Contrary to your recent statement condemning the hunts, WAZA has not taken all actions possible to help stop the drive hunts. We ask that WAZA conduct an assessment of all member facilities to identify all aquaria that have directly acquired dolphins through the dolphin drive hunts, including those that have purchased or exchanged dolphins from other aquaria that have associated with the drive hunts.

Additionally, because of the failure of historic and recent statements condemning the hunts to deter JAZA members from sourcing from them, we ask that JAZA immediately be expelled from WAZA until all members comply with ethical policies and guidelines. The failure of WAZA to take such action not only solidifies the implicit endorsement of these activities by the association, but contradicts WAZA's own ethical policies as noted above.

Finally, we also request a face-to-face meeting with representatives of WAZA and our organizations to further discuss our concerns.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns. We look forward to your response.

Sincere regards,



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Programs and Campaigns Manager
Whale and Dolphin Conservation



William Rossiter
Executive Director, Advocacy, Science & Grants
Cetacean Society International

cc: Lee Ehmke, President, WAZA via kelly.lessard@state.mn.us
WAZA Membership
Shigeyuki Yamamoto, Chairman, JAZA, jaza@basil.ocn.ne.jp

On Behalf of:

Animal Alliance of Canada
Animal Alliance Environment Voters
Animal Asia Foundation
Animal Conservation and Welfare Foundation
Animal Defenders International
Animal Welfare Institute
BlueVoice.org
Born Free USA

Born Free Foundation, UK
Captive Dolphin Awareness Foundation
Care for the Wild International
CATCA Environmental and Wildlife Society
Centro de Conservacion Cetacea, Chile
Dolphin Connection
Dolphin Dance Project
Elsa Nature Conservancy, Japan
Ente Nazionale Protezione Animali, Italy
Environmental Investigation Agency
Fins and Fluke
Free Dolphins Belgium
Green Vegans
HelpAnimals, Japan
Humane Society of Canada
International Marine Mammal Project of Earth Island Institute
International Primate Protection League
Marine Connection, UK
No Whales in Captivity, Canada
NY4Whales
OceanCare, Switzerland
Orca Aware
Orca Conservancy
PEACE, Japan
Promar Equinac, Spain
Pro Wildlife, Germany
reEarth, Bahamas
Society for the Conservation of Marine Mammals, Denmark.
Society for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (GSM), Germany
Voice for Animals Humane Society, Canada
Voice for Zoo Animals, Japan
Voice of the Orca
Wild Earth Foundation, Argentina
Zoocheck Canada