

Mr. Shigeyuki Yamamoto, President

Japanese Association of Zoos and Aquariums (JAZA)

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Dear Mr. Shigeyuki Yamamoto

Petition

Japan has many aquariums, and to attract customers, many of them offer dolphin shows or programs to touch or swim with dolphins. Most of the dolphins used in Japanese aquariums are procured through drive hunts, a capture method that is “unacceptable” by the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA). Dolphin drive hunting is considered “inhumane” and to go against WAZA’s Code of Ethics. Furthermore, WAZA has stated that the Association is “deeply concerned about this practice and is taking all action possible to help stop it.”

The Japanese Association of Zoos and Aquariums (JAZA) is an important member of WAZA. The Taiji Whale Museum, which procures and displays dolphins from the Taiji dolphin drive hunts, is a member of JAZA, and through this association, an affiliate of WAZA. Many other JAZA aquariums also have taken dolphins from Taiji, although this is clearly a breach of WAZA’s Code of Ethics. Regrettably, this unethical behavior has brought criticism from the global community, diminishing Japan’s international reputation. For example, the US Ambassador to Japan, Caroline Kennedy recently expressed her concern about the ‘inhumaneness’ of the Taiji dolphin drive hunt, indicating that the US Government is against the practice.

We request that JAZA enforce the Code of Ethics of WAZA and ensure that all JAZA aquariums stop procuring dolphins from the Taiji dolphin drive.

Sincerely,

(Name & Address)