

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Bridget Stratton, PCI
(312) 558-1770

VANCOUVER AQUARIUM'S DECISION TO DISCONTINUE PUBLIC DISPLAY OF DOLPHINS AND WHALES A LOSS FOR VISITORS, SCIENCE AND CONSERVATION

“While we support our member, Vancouver Aquarium, in the difficult business decision they made today to discontinue the public display of whales and dolphins at their facility, we are tremendously saddened that this will end future scientific research with cetaceans at this prestigious institution and deny future generations the opportunity to see, learn about, and be inspired by cetaceans up close and in person,” said Kathleen Dezio, AMMPA President and CEO. “We applaud the aquarium for its commitment to continuing its critical conservation and rescue and rehabilitation work with cetaceans and other marine animals and urge the Vancouver Park Board to support rather than impede that life-saving work lest this decision deteriorate the aquarium’s expertise, resources and ability to continue to perform this important work over time.”

A world-renowned zoological institution, Vancouver Aquarium is an accredited and active member of AMMPA and as such has demonstrated in accreditation inspections over the years that it meets or exceeds our rigorous Standards & Guidelines covering a range of areas from animal husbandry, animal training, and water and environmental quality to education, scientific research, breeding, transportation and more. These standards, based on the expertise of thousands of veterinarians, animal care specialists, operations personnel, management and scientists throughout the world, are meant to optimize the physical health of and environmental conditions for individual marine mammals in each facility’s care and maximize their educational and scientific impact.

AMMPA-accredited facilities also must make available multiple levels of learning opportunities for the public on the marine mammals exhibited in their facilities, their ecosystem and wildlife conservation. These educational efforts and the inspirational experiences visitors have at Vancouver Aquarium have helped foster an appreciation for these animals and the threats they face in the wild.

AMMPA member facilities are also required to conduct or support scientific research and/or conservation projects related to marine mammals. Vancouver Aquarium’s important work in these areas is well known and has distinguished it as a world-class aquarium. Marine mammals in the wild today are threatened at unprecedented levels from pollution, ship strikes, entanglement in fishing debris, novel diseases, and prey scarcity, and Vancouver Aquarium’s scientific research on marine mammals and ocean conservation is needed now more than ever.

An international organization dedicated to conservation through public display, education, and research.



Like many AMMPA facilities, Vancouver Aquarium also employs its resources and marine mammal expertise to help rescue and rehabilitate sick or injured marine animals in the wild. The aquarium gained this expertise through its study of and experience with the marine mammals it exhibits.

AMMPA is the international trade association and accrediting body for zoos, aquariums and marine parks that exhibit marine mammals. Its mission is to support the highest standards of care for marine mammals and to contribute to their conservation in the wild through public education, scientific research, and the rescue and rehabilitation of sick and injured animals in the wild.

###