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

August 1, 2018

### **Statement**

#### **Alliance Calls on Thomas Cook Group To Rescind Decision To Deny Customers the Choice To Visit Accredited Parks that Care for Killer Whales**

The Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums urges the Thomas Cook Group to retract and reassess its decision to no longer include visits SeaWorld and Loro Parque in its travel packages. The decision denies customers a choice and the opportunity to experience two of the world's leading marine mammal facilities that care for killer whales and use their expertise, facilities and resources to help protect killer whales in the wild.

Both AMMPA-accredited institutions meet and exceed the highest animal care standards in the world and provide significant contributions to education, rescue and rehabilitation, and research efforts to conserve killer whales and other marine mammals in the wild.

“The conservation of animals inspires the professionals at these outstanding organizations to dedicate their lives to providing the best care of marine mammals both at their organizations and in the wild,” said Alliance President and CEO Kathleen Dezio. “Their work makes possible the opportunities for millions of visitors to learn more about and come face-to-face with marine mammals at zoos, aquariums, and marine parks each year. The connections visitors make at our member facilities, along with the information they receive on how we all can help conserve these animals and their marine habitats, is inspiring the next generation of animal champions.”

Contrary to allegations by animal rights groups that protested and lobbied Thomas Cook to stop selling tickets to these world-renowned zoological institutions, science shows that marine mammals in accredited facilities thrive and live as long as or, in many cases, much longer than their counterparts in the wild. They receive high quality, nutritious food, regular and preventative veterinary care by licensed professionals, and exercise and play in ways that are mentally and physically beneficial.

The Alliance is the preeminent trade association and accrediting body for zoos, aquariums, and marine parks throughout the world that exhibit marine mammals. Our 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. Its accredited institutions in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Europe, Asia, and the Caribbean collectively possess the largest body of marine mammal experience and expertise in the world.

[AMMPA/IMATA letter to Thomas Cook](#)

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