

Luna Reunion

Lifeforce is part of a team of experts who will be helping Luna reunite with his family. Luna or L98 is four years old and has been living on his own off Vancouver Island for the past two years. The urgency to reunite him has been debated. The Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans decided that there would be a better chance to reunite him in the Spring.

Lifewatch Monitoring and Education Program

Lifeforce has been conducting a Boater Awareness program for 11 years. There will be an urgent need to monitor boaters and Luna when he is returned to local waters. There are numerous commercial and private boats that get too close to orcas. Our new 28' boat is equipped to stop boaters (caution lights, PA, siren, laser range finder and speed indicator etc.). The flashing amber arrow bar stops and directs boaters around orcas. We also have professional video and photographic equipment to document any harassment or inappropriate boat activities.

False Killer Whale Stops Interaction on Her Own

When dolphins are reunited with their own species they will stop interacting with humans. A False killer whale has stopped this type of rare behaviour even though this dolphin has not reunited with other pseudorcas.

In addition to Springer, who was successfully returned to the A pod and stopped interactions with humans, there is evidence that this lone dolphin has also stopped similar behaviours. For the past seven years this dolphin has actively pursued boats. Most of her life involved following boats. In 2003, the dolphin had stopped living off the Roberts Banks area and had been reported as far north as Alaska in May and June. Since this dolphin's return to waters near Vancouver in August, Lifeforce has observed a dramatic decrease in her boat following activity. While he or she may occasionally engage boats for a few minutes, in general she ignores boaters. In October, she has followed a tug boat in Puget Sound but it appears that this dolphin can break any habituation and/or opportunistic behaviour without any human intervention. (For other information see "Lone Dolphin Returns to Vancouver Waters", page 2.)

Background

For over two decades Lifeforce has been campaigning to protect these orcas. There are J pod, K pod and L pod in the endangered Southern Community. The Vancouver Aquarium and others captured 48 orcas from this population. In 1982 we helped stop the last capture attempt near Victoria, BC.

In the 90s Lifeforce started studying the behaviour and travel patterns of these orcas under a DFO research permit. In 2002, with knowledge gained from these studies, Lifeforce helped prevent harm to these orcas when seismic tests were conducted in the San Juan Islands (and Canada). Lifeforce advised researchers of the location of the orcas. The US scientists chose their daily test site(s) based on our reports. They greatly appreciated our assistance.

Luna Fund Donations Needed

The US and Canadian governments will make significant contributions but public donations are also needed. Lifeforce has volunteered our time and equipment but we still need some funds for operating costs. Donations can be made to The Luna Fund by mail at Lifeforce, Box 3117, Vancouver, BC V6B 3X6.



Peter Hamilton Photo

Lone Dolphin Returns to Vancouver Waters

In August, a lone False killer whale returned to waters around Vancouver, BC after travelling as far as Juneau, Alaska earlier this year. This member of the dolphin family had been spending summers in our waters since 1993. Local people have been sad that this dolphin, known as Wilma or Willy, had not been seen and might have died.

Since 1993, Liferforce Founder Peter Hamilton has been monitoring the health and behaviour of this False killer whale. Throughout the years, this marine mammal had repeatedly located our old boat and remained with us during our observation studies with her. Upon first contact, the dolphin immediately started following the new Liferforce boat in waters off Pt. Roberts.

Background

False killer whales are members of the dolphin family. These *Pseudorca crassidens* range in size from 5.5m - 6.1m for males and up to 4.9m for females. The body coloration is usually an overall black but this one has blotchy grey skin. In 1987 a pod of 12 was sighted in the Pacific Northwest when they are usually found in warmer waters. It is believed that while some died the others either died or left the area. This one remained for unknown reason(s).

The reason why this dolphin behaves in this manner is unknown. Other dolphins have been known to follow boats and ride the wake. Theories include seeking companionship, echelon swimming, enjoyment of wake riding with bubble massages and easier way to catch fish.

Liferforce False Killer Whale Study

This study will help understand why some dolphins follow boats and appear to interact with people. Information could lead to the development of methods to keep marine mammals away from dangers such as oil spills

Whale Watch Guidelines

Liferforce tries to educate people that they should follow the whale watching guidelines if they encounter this and other dolphins. The public must not approach any whale or dolphin. If this dolphin approaches people should maintain a slow, steady speed while maintaining a straight course. People must not drive at any dolphin. Liferforce promotes land based whale watching through our Orca Trails Program in which we advise Park Managers when orcas will pass their park.

West Edmonton Mall Update

Howard is the last remaining dolphin at the West Edmonton Mall. Three other adults and four babies have all died. The fate of Howard and the future of the "Dolphin Lagoon" exhibit is being decided by the mall owners, the Ghermezian Brothers' Triple Five Group. In the 90s, Liferforce had a post card campaign to free the original four dolphins. Please urge the owners to work with Liferforce to return Howard to his home in Florida waters.

Write to: Ghermezian Brothers at mail@triplefive.com or Suite 3000, 8882 - 170 Street, Edmonton, AB T5T 4M2

Marine Wildlife Monitoring and Enforcement Policy

Liferforce submitted a Discussion Paper "Marine Wildlife Monitoring and Enforcement Policy" to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO). DFO should be fully supported for its efforts to implement strong regulations. They are protecting whales for present and future generations to be able to appreciate and enjoy.

Liferforce had hoped that whale watch businesses would act responsibly and that they would help protect endangered species such as the Southern Orca Community. However, many of the companies do not adhere to the guidelines and this constitutes harassment. In addition, although the uncontrolled number of pleasure boats usually will adhere to guidelines when advised, there must be an increase in education programs to advise these non-commercial boaters.

Creating strong regulation and operation standards will be an important part of developing an Orca Recovery Program and creating Marine Protected Areas.

Monitoring

This year Liferforce documented numerous violations of the present Whale Watch Guidelines.

Liferforce videotaped approximately 128 minutes of boat behaviour that had a negative impact on the orcas. We also collected 72 photographs of violations of whale watch guidelines and have additional written records of approximately 36 boats.

In addition, Liferforce collected approximately 43 minutes of the behaviour of a solitary dolphin – a False killer whale. We also photographed new behaviours.



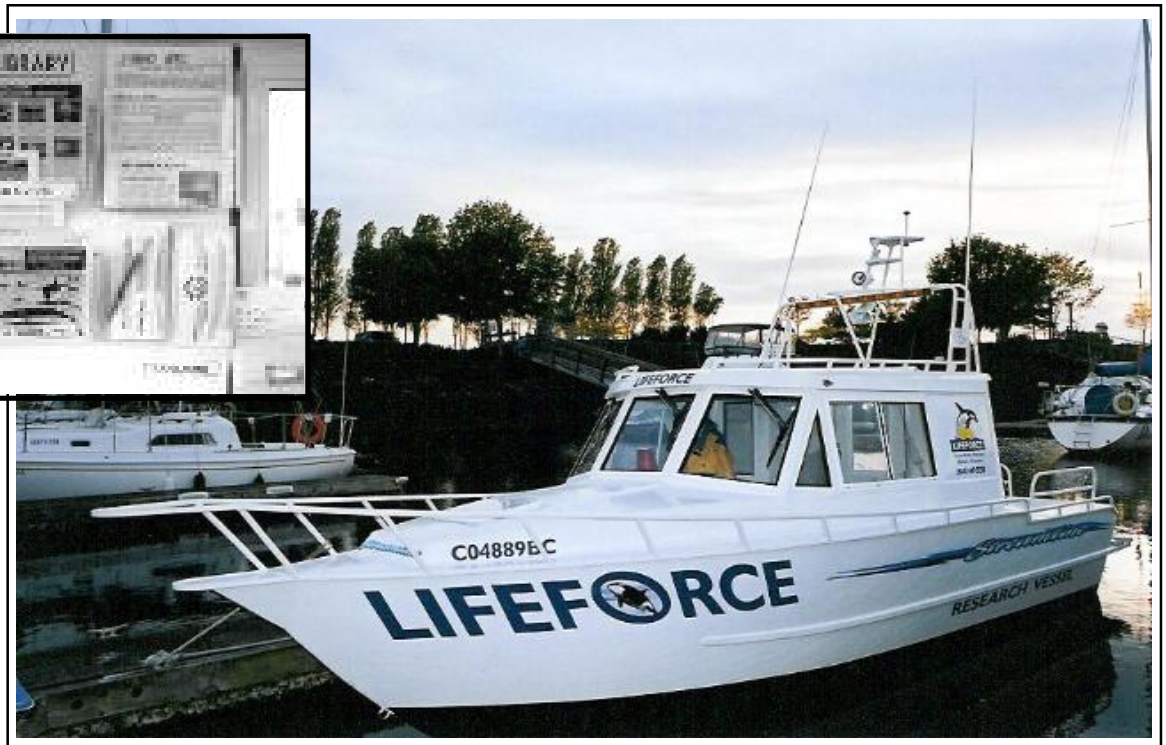
Peter Hamilton Photo

Liferforce volunteers watch False killer whale follow our new Streamline boat. The exception not the rule.

Lifeforce Launches New Boat to Protect Orcas



The onboard Eco Library provides free education materials about eco friendly boating practises and how people can take the pledge to be marine stewards.



Peter Hamilton Photos

This Summer, Lifeforce used a custom Streamline 28' boat to protect orcas and other marine wildlife in waters off Vancouver. "We were able to increase our Marine Life Programs which include monitoring boat traffic around Orcas (Lifewatch Boater Awareness Program) and promote land-based whale watching (Orca Trails Program)," stated Peter Hamilton, Marine Life Project leader. "We expanded our work that started in 1993 in order to stop the harassment of endangered Orcas that we have fought to be kept free. If the Orca Trails and Lifewatch Programs can save even a few, it will help ensure their future survival."

Background: Boater Harassment and Other Threats

Threats to the Southern Community such as dwindling food sources and environmental pollution will not be resolved immediately but we can immediately reduce some of the threats. By controlling the boat traffic we can immediately reduce noise pollution that interrupts their lives and causes stress that affects the immune systems. We can also stop collisions that could injure and kill orcas. Education programs that include monitoring and collecting data for the enactment of strong regulations are essential for their survival.

Lifeforce Boat Supporters

A major contributor of the custom aluminum boat has been Streamline Boats and Trailers of Maple Ridge, BC. The Streamliner owner and boat craftsman, Pawel Zakrzewski, wants to help protect whales and dolphins for present and future generations to enjoy. In addition, his boat designs are more efficient and help reduce the fuel waste that in turn help protect marine habitats and endangered marine life.

Other major boat sponsors are the Vancouver Foundation, Western Canada Wilderness Committee, Volvo Penta Canada and the Lifeforce Foundation. The Public Conservation Assistance Fund is also supporting the Lifewatch and Orca Trails Programs.

In addition, we have been collecting research and boat equipment for several years and have received funding from Endswell Foundation (for educational equipment and a great Arrow Bar lighting system (to direct boat traffic away from the orcas) and the Shell Environmental Fund (for Marine Wildlife Rescue Equipment and Research Equipment).

Shell's recent 2003 donation will provide us with a professional digital video camera and laser range finder (to determine exact distances between boats and orcas).

Media Boat Trips

The Media was invited to take a marine adventure on the boat to witness problems facing marine wildlife. Lifeforce tested new methods to stop boat harassment. (See Media Coverage page 6)

We are presently seeking other donations for additional equipment and operating costs under our Marine Life Program Boat Fund.

Open Letter: To Stop Dolphins in Captivity

July 20, 2003

Dear Vancouver Parks Board Commissioners:

In 1996 Lifeforce fought for the implementation of a Park Bylaw that would phase out the captivity of dolphins at the Vancouver Aquarium. The Aquarium has been given enough time to find other revenue sources. They have even been allowed to almost double their land use when they were given control of the fake salmon stream and the former polar bear area. This major expansion was done without public approval. Greedy financial interests must not continue to outweigh the rights of cetaceans.

The cycle of dolphin abuse must stop now. Captivity of these intelligent creatures results in lone dolphin situations used as a ploy to get more captives and pool expansions. This captive dolphin industry is dependent on capturing dolphins from the wild which threatens their survival. For example, 48 orcas were taken from the Southern Community which now numbers only 83 and is facing extinction.

The Aquarium must stop promoting speciesism - that our species can dominate and exploit other species. They must stop forcing dolphins to perform tricks on cue for food. The public has said "no" to wild animal acts in circuses and also says "no" to these cruel acts in aquatic circuses.

Please stop the further abuse and exploitation of cetaceans by immediately banning all further imports of dolphins into the Vancouver Aquarium.

For freedom,
Peter Hamilton

Lifeforce Marine Wildlife Rescue



Jack Kintner Photo

Lifeforce was busy this year helping marine wildlife such as seal pups. We assisted getting one pup to the Wolf Hollow Rehabilitation Center by air from Pt. Roberts to Friday Harbour.

Another Sea lion dies in UBC Experiments

In August, another Steller sea lion captured for experiments has died. A seven week old Steller sea lion pup died of pneumonia at the Vancouver Aquarium. Last year, another sea lion died as a result of improper sedation.

A total of 15 sea lion pups have been taken from their mothers in the wild.

Lifeforce requested that the experiments be suspended pending an independent review.

Lifeforce has opposed these experiments since 1993. Any results from studies in captivity cannot be extrapolated to complex wildlife ecology problems. The food-related energy costs of wild animals cannot be duplicated in captivity.

Following the experiments the sea lions were to be released. Instead, some were shipped to other zoos and research.

Hope Dies at Grouse Mountain Zoo

"Hope" was an endangered spotted owl who was captured as part of what the BC government called an "experimental capture and release program". She was kept over last winter at the Grouse Mountain animal compound. She was later released in April but was recaptured because she appeared to be doing poorly. She was taken to a Surrey shelter and died. Lifeforce inquiries to animal keeper Ken Macquisten were not answered. Why did she die?

Lifeforce Founder, Peter Hamilton, was quoted in the Vancouver Province. He said, "Capturing wild animals jeopardizes their chances for survival. It was a bizarre experiment."

Also, at this self-proclaimed "refuge for endangered wildlife" and ski resort, the two bears, left orphaned when their mother was shot by a hunter, were sent to another ski resort. The Kicking Horse Mountain Resort established the Kicking Horse Grizzly Bear Refuge just prior to getting the bears. They claim to be "a conservation, education and research centre," in Golden, BC.

Is this the beginning of Ski Resort Zoos with animal attractions and lots of tax write-offs for the zoo entrepreneurs?

Ducks Unlimited Gets Public Land for Free and for Hunting?

The BC government transferred 48 acres of land on Vancouver Island to the pro-hunting group Ducks Unlimited (DU). While they said that it would help ensure the wildlife benefits it will be left up to DU if there will be hunting.

Lifeforce was interviewed by Monday Magazine, Victoria, and said that the only animals that would be preserved would be stuffed trophies for the sports hunters. This deal is against mainstream public opinion opposed to hunting.

In addition there have been numerous radio ads promoting the hunting organizations BC Wildlife Federation (BCWF) and Ducks Unlimited. Vancouver Canucks hockey players are in the ads. BCWF has an "Outdoors-Woman" program that highlights rock climbing while down playing the killing.

An Upcoming Report: Primate Abuse in British Columbia

The International Primate Protection League has provided a grant to Lifeforce to prepare a report on the use and abuse of non-human primates in British Columbia. The report will look at the monkey pet industry, zoos, film industry, monkey acts and primates used in medical experiments.

It will be revealed in this report that the exploitation of primates is connected to current activities in other parts of Canada and the US. The exotic pet trade, with underground connections to zoos, is across all provincial borders. In order to reduce costs and/or avoid public scrutiny medical researchers work with colleagues in the US and other countries to conduct experiments on primates.

Present Animal Performance Bans enacted in BC with the help of Lifeforce and other organizations can be used as a model for protecting primates in other countries. Our plans for further restrictions through stronger bylaws and legislation will further protect primates and other wildlife.



Peter Hamilton Photo
The two Japanese Snow Monkeys rescued by Lifeforce in 1995.

GREAT NEWS:

A New National Park Reserve

The Gulf Islands National Park Reserve of Canada is the first new national park established under the Government of Canada's Action Plan to create ten new national parks and five marine conservation areas in next five years. Gulf Islands National Park Reserve of Canada was made possible, in large part, through lands purchased and donated since 1995 under the joint Canada-British Columbia Pacific Marine Heritage Legacy program. The goal of the park is to protect small island ecosystems, as well as representative examples of headlands, shorelines and uplands of larger islands.

We hope that the building of a natural gas pipeline across Georgia Strait will be stopped since it would harm marine ecosystems and signals the wrong energy future for Vancouver Island and BC.

Harmful Canadian Geological Studies Stopped

A geological survey that had the potential of injuring or killing marine wildlife was stopped by a lobby of environmental organizations. Underwater explosives and air guns would have been used in these seismic studies.

In response to our letter to Minister Herb Dhaliwal we were told that the project will not proceed in August 2003. If the project is submitted in the future we have been guaranteed that "all potential impacts on the environment, including those on marine mammals, will be identified. As part of any environmental assessment process, the public will be widely consulted and given the opportunity to express its concerns"

US Navy Sonar Experiments Restricted

A federal judge ruled that the Navy's plan to deploy a new high-intensity sonar system violates numerous federal environmental laws and could endanger whales, porpoises and fish. A U.S. Magistrate barred the Navy's planned around-the-world deployment and ordered the Navy to reduce the system's potential harm to marine mammals and fish by negotiating limits on its use with conservation groups who had sued over its deployment.

The sonar system, known as Surveillance Towed Array Sensor System Low Frequency Active sonar (or LFA), relies on extremely loud, low-frequency sound to detect submarines at great distances. According to the Navy's own studies, LFA generates sounds up to 140 decibels even more than 300 miles away from the sonar source.

In October, Judge Laporte granted a request by conservation groups for a temporary injunction to restrict deployment under the permit. Today's ruling orders the Navy to negotiate with NRDC and its co-plaintiffs on terms of a permanent injunction that would limit where, when and how the Navy can use LFA for testing and training. The injunction wouldn't prevent the Navy from using the system during war or "heightened threat conditions," as determined by the military.

News Update: A US legislative provision to alter the 30-year-old Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) was included in the Department of Defense bill for 2004, approved on 7 November by the House of Representatives. The measure, which may have a negative impact on marine mammals, is expected to win approval in the Senate to be signed into law by President George Bush.

First Russian Orca Capture - Two Dead

The first capture of a young female orca in Russia took place on September 26, 2003. She died within one month of being shipped to the Utrish Marine Station. This is a "dolphinarium" operating under the auspices of the Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution. Another orca died during the capture. It appears that Russia has put orcas on the market for \$1 million (US). The captors have permission from the Russian government to capture up to 9 more orcas in the Sea of Okhotsk area. We were hoping that we would one day see the end of orcas in captivity but this and other recent dolphin captures raises the probability that aquariums will attempt to expand and brainwash those who are not aware of the past abuses nor of the struggle to end the exploitation of cetaceans.

We need you to help prevent further orca captures in Russia by writing to:

Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, Email: president@gov.ru

THANK YOU

Lifeforce would like to thank Mr. Joe Cohen, Sony Canada, for not only getting our new video camera at a special price but for also donating two Sony Walkman Cassette Players. One of the Walkmans and an "Orca-stra" CD of vocalizations by J, K and L pods was our Raffle Prize at the Arts and Music Festival in Point Roberts this summer. We raised \$70 US which went towards boat gas for the Marine Life Programs. (The CD is available at www.LifeSounds.org)



Anne Carlson Photo

A young volunteer at the Lifeforce Raffle display outside of the Orca Center in Point Roberts, WA.

MEDIA COVERAGE

Media coverage about our Marine Life Programs included:

- * Bellingham Herald Front Page Story
- * Delta Optimist
- * All Point Bulletin (twice)
- * Point Roberts Marina Website
- * Shared Vision Magazine
- * Pacific Yachting

Vancouver City TV did a great 3 minute story about our Lifewatch program. To see it call us. Lifeforce also found our vivisection photos on several organizations' web sites. We hope that all organizations will ask us for permission and make a donation for using our copyrighted photos for their fundraising. This will help us continue to expose research atrocities. Other media coverage is referred to in the news stories in this newsletter.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- * To conduct fundraising activities for projects such as the Marine Life Programs and to stop vivisection, factory farming and the exploitation of animals for so-called "entertainment". We need volunteers for special event displays and for writing grant applications.
- * To help with various office chores such as bookkeeping.
- * To distribute Lifeforce Orca Field Guides and Whale watch Guidelines to marinas, boating organizations, schools and libraries.
- * To help with our Marine Life Programs. For example, we need whale spotters who we will train to help with our Lifewatch Boater Awareness Program. Free camping is provided.

Please Sign Me Up for a 2004 Lifeforce Membership/Donation

* Here is my Ocean Friends Membership to help conduct the Marine Life Programs:

\$75.00 Adult \$35.00 Children under 13

I WANT TO HELP BY JOINING/RENEWING AND/OR VOLUNTEERING
Membership is only:

\$10 Senior/Student \$15 Individual \$25 Family \$100 Business

Here is my Gift Membership of \$ _____ for _____

Here is my membership/donation of \$ _____ for _____

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ Prov/State _____ Postal/Zip Code _____

YOUR HEARTFELT BEQUESTS

If you want to help the Lifeforce Foundation continue our important work in the future you can leave us a gift in your will. You may wish to bequeath funds for a program of your choice or for the general work and perpetuity of Lifeforce. Program(s) could be given your name for your lasting legacy. Lifeforce is a registered nonprofit organization registered under the Society Act of British Columbia. Funds will be gratefully acknowledged. Lifeforce hopes that you will act now to make sure that your wishes will be carried out.

The Lifeforce email address is lifeforcesociety@hotmail.com

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