

OPEN LETTER

June 14, 2007

To: Parks Board Commissioners, Mayor and Councillors

From: Peter Hamilton, Lifeforce Foundation

Vancouver Aquarium – Wild Animal Trafficker

While the public thinks that an expansion of the Vancouver Aquarium would provide more space for the existing captives, the truth is that more space means more captives. It also means an increase their lucrative trade in wildlife for entertainment under the guise of research.

The Vancouver Aquariums plans to send one male Steller sea lion and up to nine female Steller sea lions to the Mystic Aquarium in Connecticut.

Numerous endangered sea lions were captured by UBC researchers and taken from their moms when they were only two weeks old. Initially, the experiments were approved because the sea lions were to be returned to the wild. However, some were sent to a research lab in Alaska and a zoo in the Netherlands.

It appears that one of the greatest threats to these endangered sea lions is the aquarium and zoo industry. The Vancouver Aquarium traffics animals for financial profit from their entertainment business and for trade of other wildlife.

The Aquarium will exploit many other wildlife species including animals that the public have already voted against seeing caged in a Stanley Park Zoo. For example, river otters and beavers (see letter of May 30/07 - Otter Cruelty Not Part of Aquarium Public Process).

I urge the politicians who represent the City of Vancouver to act now to stop the cruelty associated with the wildlife trade by stopping the proposed Aquarium expansion.

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