

DUBAI FUELS WILD DOLPHIN CAPTURES

PROTECT DOLPHINS – DO **NOT** VISIT DOLPHINARIUMS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

In October 2007, 28 dolphins captured from the wild population in Solomon Islands waters were imported to Dubai and are now currently being held at Atlantis Hotel Resort, which forms part of the Palm Jumeirah development.

- Both Dubai and the Solomon Islands are members of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora), and as such should adhere to their laws. However, in this case both countries have flouted one very important international law.
- Under CITES law no wild dolphin captures should be allowed until scientific surveys have been undertaken and reports produced to assess whether takes will be detrimental to the wild population. This was not done.
- Pleas to the authorities in Dubai regarding these captures have gone unheard. In fact Dubai is actively encouraging the continuance of these takes and possibly endangering the future of dolphins in the wild.
- The Solomon Islands plan to make way for more live dolphin exports to United Arab Emirates by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the United Arab Emirates Government.

It appears there is no shortage of willing customers for wild caught dolphins in Dubai. The owners of Creek Park/Marine World claim that their dolphins “are third generation dolphins that were born in artificial conditions and don’t know what it’s like to be in the wild” but the Marine Connection has conflicting evidence that challenges these claims.

- Three Black Sea bottlenose dolphins destined for Marine World that originated from Ukraine were exported from Turkey. According to information provided to the Marine Connection by CITES, these dolphins were also captured from the wild.
- Black Sea bottlenose dolphins are protected by several conventions and agreements. In 2002 a quota of zero was established for commercial export of live dolphins wild-captured in the Black Sea.

Dubai also has plans for other facilities that plan to house whales or dolphins, including Dubai Mall Oceanarium, Sea Village at Jebel Ali and Aquadunya at Dubailand. Tourism in Dubai is an important part of the government's strategy to maintain the flow of money into the emirate and determined efforts are being made to promote the country as more attractive tourist destination. As such the authorities should think twice about the impact that further imports of wild caught dolphins will have on the country's international reputation. Dubai wants to be seen on the world travel stage as an exemplary holiday destination, but how can it promote itself as such when it is taking for facilities in the country animals that were captured from the wild in the name of profit and entertainment?

Not so full of Eastern Promise!

Sadly, other areas in the Middle East – such as Bahrain, Ras al Khaimah and Abu Dhabi – are buying into the captive dolphin industry.

With all the development of captive marine mammal facilities within the Middle East, it might seem as though there were no other opportunity to view dolphins and whales except in captivity. This, however, is not the case.

- a third of all known cetacean species can be seen in natural surroundings in the Persian Gulf and Arabian Sea.
- it is possible to see a massive range of dolphins and whales year round in United Arab Emirates waters, including the Risso's dolphin, sperm whale, blue whale and the Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin.

If Dubai and other Middle Eastern countries truly wish to assist conservation of species we would hope that they would not support the escalation of captive cetaceans facilities, but instead promote seeing them in their natural habitat – and NOT support the taking of dolphins from the wild.

You don't have to touch dolphins to be touched by dolphins...



- Captive dolphins, despite constant protection and veterinary care, have an average lifespan of 5.3 years. In the wild a dolphin can live for up to 45 years
- Captures are stressful, dangerous and potentially fatal, as during captures and transfer dolphins may be injured and many animals die before reaching their destination
- Captures are often non-selective and female dolphins still lactating may be captured. Calves dependent upon their mothers' milk for survival in the wild will starve and die

If you genuinely have a love of dolphins and whales, you only have ONE choice. Please do not support keeping dolphins and whales in captivity by visiting these facilities.

By making this simple decision you are giving them a gift beyond measure: the choice to stay in the wild with their families and not face the misery of capture, captivity and early death.

Further information on the “Projects & Campaigns” section of our website
www.marineconnection.org



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