

## SPEAKING OUT AGAINST THE PHUKET DOLPHINARIUM

- By Bruce H. Crocker

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Phuket Wan Tourism News -

"OFFICIALS confirmed on Thursday that the Fisheries Department has approved the importation of a number of dolphins to the Nemo Dolphinarium on Phuket despite opposition from the holiday island's expat community\*\*. Any airline that flies in the dolphins is expected to face sanctions."

\*\* this writer suggests that the opposition to this facility is not limited to the "expat community" but also includes many Thai citizens as well.

Please note - The comments which follow are not intended to reflect on places whose PRIMARY purpose for existence is to rehabilitate the badly injured and/or sick cetaceans and return them to their ocean environment. I realize that in some cases, despite all efforts having been made to do so, some may not be able to be rehabilitated. Those few DO need a place of refuge and I commend those who are providing such refuge. My comments are directed at the USER and ABUSER who has no genuine purpose in mind except the exploitation of the cetacean for profit or self-gratification!

I, and other activists for cetacean freedom, are often asked –

" Why are you so against dolphinariums? Dolphins are fun to watch, see them smile and have fun! It's educational too....we get to learn about dolphins!...and besides, in the dolphinarium, the dolphins are safe and don't have to worry about predators."

My answer to that is

\*\* Because those tanks are nothing more than prisons! Prisons for dolphins! Prisons that, if a comparable structure were to be made for humans, they would be condemned outright as a structure which, as housing for even our most heinous criminal, would be considered to be a violation of their "human rights" because this would subject the occupant to cruel and unusual punishment!!\*\*



Figure 1a Filled tank identical to tank at the Phuket location



Figure 1b Empty Phuket pool with 5'7" man (to scale) standing in it



Figure 1c Phuket's tank with its intended occupants (minus the human of course)  
5 Bottlenose dolphins + 2 Fur Seals

- \*\* Because they really aren't smiling....that is just the way their jaw lines are formed...so that it looks like a smile.. In fact, depression is so common that medication similar to valium and other anti-anxiety medications are routinely prescribed!
- \*\* Because dolphinariums do not truly educate anyone, as the owner/operators would have you believe! Unless you call it educational to watch how a free spirit looks after having their spirit broken and being forced to simply "exist" in conditions totally alien to their natural habitat!
- \*\* Because, even considering those who were born in captivity, and thus never knew the freedom of their ancestors, they are not providing anything more than the ability for the ignorant or selfish viewer to say....."Ahhh, so that's what a live dolphin looks like!" And even in that, they would be wrong....for the dolphin born in captivity does not provide an accurate picture of the free and wild dolphin anymore than for you to watch a human child who was born and being raised in its mother's prison cell!!
- \*\* Because, the primary purpose (sole, in my opinion) of dolphinariums, dolphin shows, swim-with-dolphin shows is not to benefit we the public or the dolphin....it is intended to make a profit for the owner/operators who count on ignorant or selfish people to patronize their prisons!!
- \*\* Because, although a few claim to be carrying out conservation efforts' to benefit cetaceans, the majority, if not all, of those who make such claims, are actually contributing a lesser percentage of their net profit than SeaWorld who, admittedly, is carrying out animal conservation effort. but their actual monetary contribution to conservation efforts is, in my opinion, a sick joke!!  
But to form your own opinion, please see -  
<https://cetaceaninspiration.wordpress.com/2011/11/18/seaworld-and-conservation/>
- \*\* Because, insofar as being protected against predators, if that were to be a valid argument, than we would be justified in locking up the majority of our fellow citizens in prison cells, in order to "protect" them....so that they wouldn't have to worry about being killed in a traffic accident, robbery or any of the other countless "unnatural" causes of a premature death!

**Man's ability to cloak the unjustifiable with apparent justification  
is nothing less than absolutely incredible!!**

### AND FINALLY

- \*\* **Because I believe that while we have, for years, been searching outer space for non-human intelligence, it is actually right here on Earth in the form of our ocean neighbours, the cetacean!!**



Figure 2a Man's popular concept of "Non-Human Intelligence"  
The Extraterrestrial Human-Like Creature



Figure 2b Could the "Non-Human Intelligence  
looking at us  
We seek be right here on earth, in our oceans?  
and understanding



Figure 2c Could those two dolphins be  
with a degree of intelligence  
to which man has yet to evolve?

**Before you dismiss that last statement as impossible or unlikely, please consider the following known facts regarding the cetaceans in general and dolphins in particular, with respect to their abilities in the natural habitat, the OCEAN, to which they are uniquely and genetically so adapted.**

- \*\* They are a sentient creature, aware of themselves and others, conscious of the past, present and future with exceeding long memories.
- \*\* They feel pain and suffer just as do we, from both physical and mental stresses and/or harm.
- \*\* They have a highly organized and structured sense of family and society with concomitant highly developed loyalties as well as a tremendous attachment to, and need for both their society and family!
- \*\* They have a exceedingly complex language system, apparently even more complex than we humans, communicating with each other by means of what has recently been demonstrated to be a language, not of words like ours, but of 3-Dimensional pictures!
- \*\* They are strictly carnivorous predators, hunting their LIVE prey in the ocean using techniques that demonstrate an equal ability to that of the human animal, in planning and acting together cooperatively toward a successful realization of their plan!
- \*\* They have demonstrated an ability to use tools in their hunting and foraging activities.
- \*\* Their daily activities (Activities of Daily Living or ADLs, which are considered to be a RIGHT in all modern civilized human societies!) include swimming as many as 100 or more kilometers per day, hunting their live prey, diving to depths of 25 metres or more, leaping out of the water to regular heights of 3 - 5 metres, all the while socializing and playing in their pods (families) of, typically 10–30 members, but group size can vary due to a number of circumstances from as few as two individuals with as many as 1000 individuals having been sighted!.

AND

- \*\* The cetacean family, of which the dolphin is a member, evolved to their current form over 20,000,000 years ago! Man, did not evolve to its present form as "Homo sapiens" until less than 400,000 years ago!! Upon what supportable evidence can man justify his arrogant belief that he is the intellectual superior of the cetacean!!



Figure 2c One such indications of that possibility is their ability to send and receive 3-Dimensional pictures of what they have seen or are seeing to each other....just by 'thinking'



Figure 2d One dolphin sees the object and then sends a 3-dimensional image of what is seen to another dolphin (or dolphins)

Supportive reading for this conception of the cetacean can be found in the following articles:

<https://knowledgeutopia.wordpress.com/2014/08/28/the-cetacean-brain-and-hominid-perceptions-of-cetacean-intelligence/>

<http://www.onegreenplanet.org/animalsandnature/human-intelligence-versus-whales-and-dolphins>

<http://www.speakdolphin.com/researchItems.cfm?ID=6>



Keeping these facts in mind, look at these photos of dolphins and orcas in the wild:



AND THEN

Contrast these with photos of dolphins and orcas as captive slaves in the prisons which some humans consider to be suitable housing for these magnificent creatures.....housing from which there is no vacation or travel possible.....for this is their WORLD for the rest of their LIVES!!



By condemning the cetacean to such a life, I suggest that, if you accept the cetacean to be as scientific and observable evidence indicates, what is being done to them is no different than if the human animal were condemned, having committed no crime, to having to live in a studio apartment with no view of "LandWorld", no ability to escape the confines of that apartment nor any ability to communicate, let alone associate with their families or friends, but instead having to perform "mind-numbingly simple" tricks for a steady diet of MREs while being medicated with anti-depressants...and this FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES!!

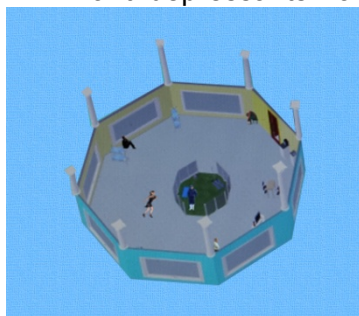


Figure 4a "Humanarium with its

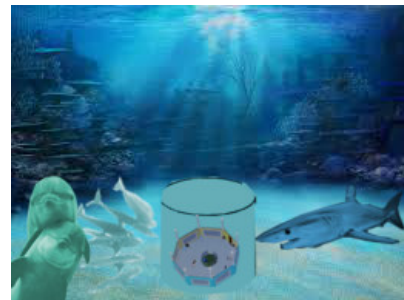


Figure 4b "Humanarium in position on sea

## ARMED WITH THE ABOVE INFORMATION

Is it possible for any reasonable, unbiased person to still conclude that the housing of cetaceans in such conditions does NOT inflict a monstrous cruelty upon any cetacean so imprisoned?

In Phuket, Thailand, such a cruelty is unfolding with the soon to open Nemo Dolphinarium-Phuket, or as it has been known, the Phuket Dolphinarium aka the Phuket Dolphin Prison!!

You saw the images at the beginning of this article! I would ask that you keep them in mind as you consider the following:

Thailand took a giant step forward, back in December of last year....less than 12 months ago....by enacting a momentous piece of legislation called the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and Welfare of Animals, 2014.

This Act, defines an “animal” under the Act, to include “any animal that is normally kept as a house animal.....or **an animal kept for public entertainment**.....or kept for any other purpose.”

and

It defines “cruelty” as to be “any action or no action that provides an animal **physical or mental suffering, pain, illness, disability**.....”

Under this Act, Section 17 states:

“Any person shall be prohibited from taking any action that provides any animal a cruelty with no reasonable cause”

with the penalty under Section 19 listed as

“Any person who violates Section 17 shall be imprisoned for not more than two years or fined not more than forty thousand baht, or both.”

Surely the housing seen and the life style being imposed constitutes a grievous “cruelty”? Was this Act, which was in existence prior to any approval as to the suitability of the Phuket Dolphinarium, even considered. If not, why not? If it was, on what sage advice did the approving agency base their decision that a circular tank, no more than 20 metres in diameter and less than 5 metres in depth, was a suitable lifetime WORLD for even one dolphin, let alone 5 of them, plus 3 Fur Seals?

I think that this approval has been the possible result of one of

- a) A lack of understanding of this new legislation (i.e. difficulty in the interpretation of its intent) ,
  - b) a failure to be provided with the necessary and complete information upon which to make a reasoned decision
  - c) being provided with misleading information by persons with ulterior motives
- OR d) any combination of those three.

The result of this approval may also lead to an undesirable view of Thailand being rife with corruption. Oft heard are jaundiced comments by many members of both Thai nationals and “expats and visitors” , in which it is asserted that “Money can buy anything and everything!” and

“The Law isn’t what counts here, it’s how much money you have”.

I am not totally naïve and I do realize that the custom of “tea money” exists to some extent, but I have thus far refused to accept “Money can buy anything and everything” as being “gospel” and completely accurate. One just has to look around and it can be seen that the current ruling military junta is acting to rid the country of corruption in both its civil servants and the general populace.

The Phuket Dolphinarium does nothing to enhance Phuket’s image, quite the opposite in my opinion! And while there may very well be, currently at least, a sizable number of prospective attendees for the intended spectacle, they are, by and large, those whom I am forced to consider as an ignorant and/or uncaring selfish and self-indulgent people, who have given the appearance in recent and past events of caring little for human rights, let alone animal rights! It is this group which the newly approved, and solely profit driven Phuket Dolphinarium is undoubtedly targeting through various travel agencies. I fervently hope and do anticipate that those numbers will steadily decrease as, even in their media-restricted countries, that the ignorance will be defeated and any persons who continue to support these dens of slavery will do so under a spotlight of public condemnation.

In the meantime, the approval of this dolphinarium in Phuket, has possibly placed Thailand as well as the Province of Phuket, in the unfortunate position of having become unwitting co-conspirators and/or “aiders & abettors” to what will, if allowed to continue, be a serious and continuing violation of the laws they themselves created. I hope a serious consideration is given to that issue!

**Footnote: As reported by the Phuket Forum on October 28<sup>th</sup> 2015**

***“ A report submitted by the Asia Director of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society “ has confirmed that the dolphins which have been imported for use in the Phuket Dolphinarium , are Wild Captures from the Taiji, Japan Cove of Hell. In addition the Fur Seals were captured in the wilds of Uruguay!! “***

<http://www.thephuketforum.net/Environment/Phuket-dolphin-park-link-to-Taiji-massacre-confirmed-Sea-Shepherd-video/34886/news/0#ad-image-0>

Can there be any question now, as to the absolute need for an oversight of the approvals that have led to the green light being given in favour of this place. This isn’t a matter of simply “some are in favour while others are not” anymore. It’s a question of possible unwitting violations of Thai law being committed by government agencies, resulting in a daily violation of that same Act. AND, if the evidence claimed by Sea Shepherd Conservation Society can be proven to exist, we have the further offence of a deliberate issuance of false information knowingly being provided in the applications that were required to be submitted by the Nemo Group to the responsible Thai government agencies in order to gain approvals!! You can’t get much more serious than this without murdering someone!!

NOW WE KNOW!!!



The Nemo Dolphinarium –Phuket

SUPPORTS



The Taiji Cove of Hell!!!

For further information, you are welcome to visit my video at <https://youtu.be/5hRz4hwxzfo>

What can you do? Refuse to buy tickets to this, or any other such place where live dolphin or orca shows are offered!! Tell your friends about the information which has been provided to you and which you can easily check for accuracy on the internet!! And.....

e-mail the following persons with your comments:

Director General of the Dept of Fisheries in Bangkok, Mr Niwat Sutemechaikul  
[niwatddgdof@gmail.com](mailto:niwatddgdof@gmail.com)

and

the Tourism Authority of Thailand at [webmaster@tourism.go.th](mailto:webmaster@tourism.go.th)

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