

# Vancouver Aquarium Marine Science Centre

July 26, 2014

# Vancouver's Marine Science Centre



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- 58 years as Vancouver's marine science centre
- 1,500+ scientists, veterinarians, staff and volunteers – all deeply committed to conserving our oceans
- Not-for-profit organization that is self-supporting and financially contributes to Vancouver Park Board

# Our Mission

- Connected over 40 million visitors to critical ocean issues
- Lead award-winning, national conservation programs:
  - Ocean Wise™
  - Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup™
- Conduct original cetacean research which would be impossible in the wild
- Only [Marine Mammal Rescue Centre](#) and hospital in Canada

# Our Commitment

- We do not and will not capture whales and dolphins from the wild.
- We only care for animals born in human care or those that deemed unable to live in the wild.
- For a rescued animal to remain at the Aquarium it must be deemed non-releasable by an independent scientific body.
- Vancouver Aquarium applies the knowledge we learn for our animals.

# Marine Mammal Expertise

- We operate the only marine mammal rescue centre in Canada
- Rescue, Rehabilitation and Release
- Our professional team is the only one in Canada with expertise to conduct cetacean rescues

# Marine Mammal Expertise



# Accredited Aquarium Standards

- Vancouver Aquarium has been accredited by AZA since 1975, first aquarium to achieve accreditation.
- AZA/CAZA accreditation is recognized by local, state, provincial and federal officials as the gold standard in animal care.
- Accreditation requires compliance with formal US government facility and animal welfare standards
- Zoos and Aquariums, including Vancouver Aquarium, are often the only connection people have to wild animals and nature.



# Exceptional Animal Care Practices

- Vancouver Aquarium is accredited and exceeds high standards set by:
  - Association of Zoos and Aquariums
  - Canada's Accredited Zoos and Aquariums
  - Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums
- Vancouver's marine science centre is unique and its conservation-focused philosophy is unparalleled in North America

# Caring for Cetaceans

- Vancouver Aquarium cetaceans are vital to:
  - Education and inspiration
  - Animals are safe, secure and accessible
  - Opportunities to discover new knowledge
- By all behavioural measures, cetaceans at Vancouver Aquarium are healthy, engaged and display behavioural diversity

# Cetaceans in Human Care

- A tradition of excellence in cetacean research and care
- In our changing world, much of marine science still remains a mystery
- Cetaceans receive the finest veterinary attention and benefit from state-of-the-art medical technologies

# Saving Endangered Killer Whales



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# Canada's Marine Mammal Rescue Centre

- Each year, we rescue, rehabilitate and release up to 100 marine mammals back into their natural environment
- Without our hands-on learning with cetaceans, Canada will lose all future learning
- Last year's release of Levi, a harbour porpoise, was a marker for how far we've come as a rescue centre

# Protecting Canada's Beluga Whales

- Canada's Arctic is rapidly changing
- Skills development and transfer to research teams
- Decades of baseline medical data used as comparative for animal health in wild populations
- 12 years of studying beluga whale vocalization patterns between mom and calf now applied to wild populations



# Why research is important

- Research is founding mandate of Vancouver Aquarium
- Critical research is needed to understand what is taking place in the wild
- Cetaceans in aquariums provide the strict environmental controls that are required in research
- Financially impossible for researchers to maintain separate research facilities for cetaceans

Engage, Amaze, Inspire

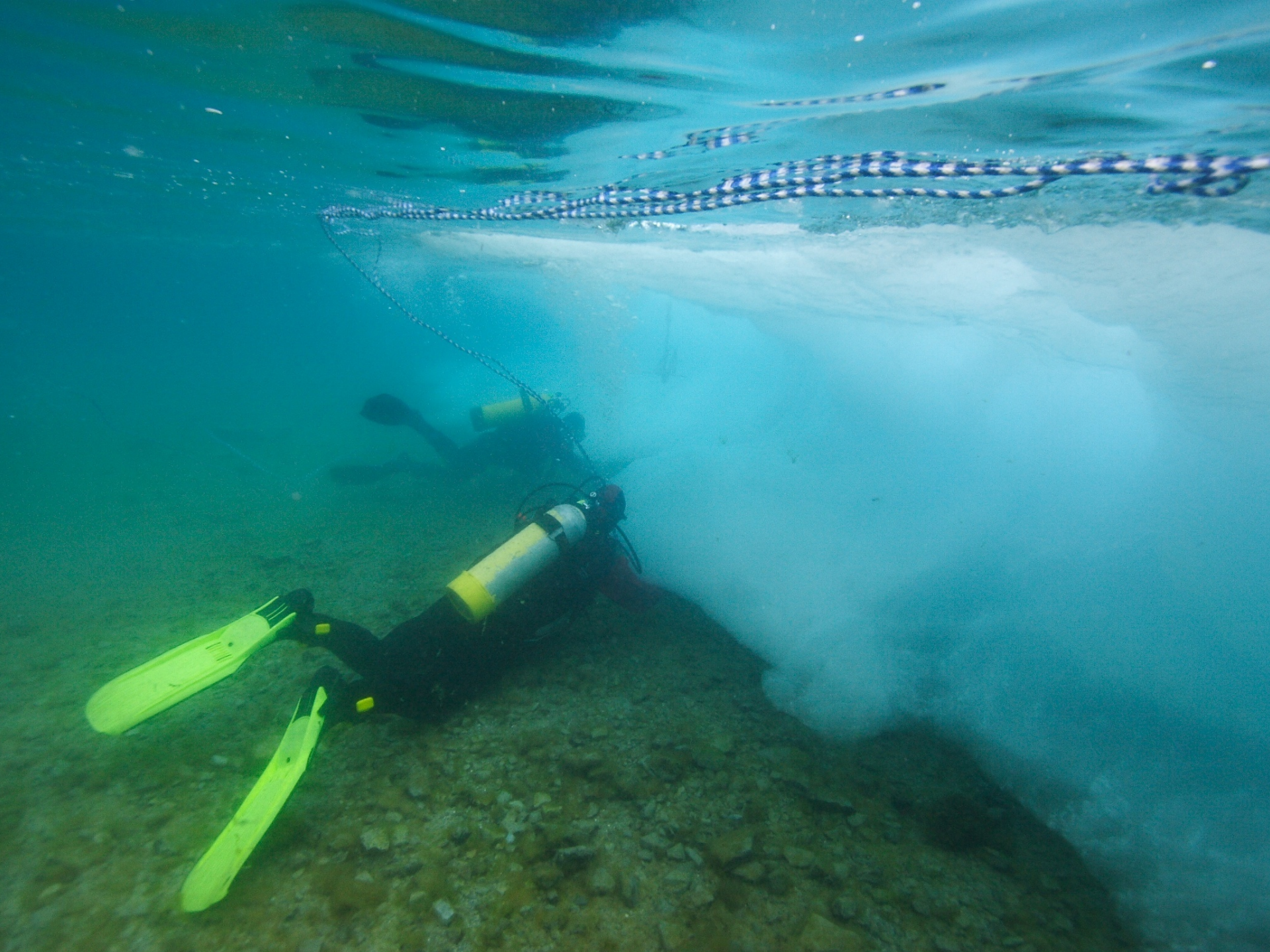




# Our Contributions to Vancouver









Questions?