

Mr. Eduardo Albor, CEO  
The Dolphin Company  
<https://thedolphinco.com/contact-us/>

Dear Mr. Albor,

I am writing to you today to request your support for a retirement plan for the orca, Lolita (Tokitae, Sk'aliChehl-tenaut).

The Sacred Lands Conservancy 501c3 dba Sacred Sea is an Indigenous (Lummi) led non-profit committed to promoting ancestral knowledge and practices for the protection and revitalization of the waters, culture, life, and sacred sites of the Salish Sea.

Together we can right the wrong of Sk'aliCh'elh-tenaut's capture, and safely and responsibly bring her home to the Salish Sea.

An overview of the Operational Plan: <https://sacredsea.org/xwlemi-tokw/>

For several years now and with ever increasing frequency and determination, demonstrations and informational protests continue to rock the entrance to the Miami Seaquarium. Awareness about Lolita is further amplified through social and mainstream media.

All of these factors are energizing each other in this post-Blackfish era of rejection of captivity for cetaceans.

The issue now is not whether the science and precedents support this plan.

Would Lolita be safer in the undersized display tank in Miami, or back in her home waters with human companionship and care?

Basic points below drafted by Orca Network to help clarify several issues:

**Essential points to make:**

1. There is no significant risk to Lolita in any stage of Orca Network's proposal for Lolita's retirement in her native waters.
  - a. Transport of orcas according to established protocols must be done professionally and cautiously, but is commonly done and has never resulted in serious health issues for orcas;
  - b. Immersion of captive marine mammals in their native waters is considered therapeutic in veterinary literature ("The general rule in maintaining marine mammals in captivity is to duplicate their natural environment as closely as possible." –The Merck Veterinary Manual);
  - c. After her initial immersion Lolita is likely to explore the seapen environs, with heightened energy and gradually improved metabolic strength, as demonstrated by Keiko upon immersion in Icelandic waters;

d. Her ability to catch and eat wild fish is likely to resume in a matter of weeks or months, again as demonstrated by Keiko.

2. A thorough examination will be conducted by a team of veterinarians and pathologists prior to transport to detect any potential communicable diseases. Assuming there are none, there will be no significant risk to any members of the Southern Resident Community as a result of Lolita's return to her native waters.

**Conclusion:** there is minimal risk of harm to Lolita or her family involved in returning her to her home waters.

3. Remaining in captivity will likely result in continuing mental and physical stresses and health issues.

a. Abundant evidence, including scientific publications, indicate that captivity increases mortality rates for orcas;

b. Due to her loneliness from living without the companionship of another orca for over three decades, and due to her exposure to the midday Miami sun, and the extremely small size of the tank that has been her only environs for over four decades, she is continually suffering as long as she remains in captivity;

c. Despite Lolita's unlikely good health at about 55 years of age, she is still subject to the adverse effects of captivity on her emotional, mental and physical health.

Remaining in captivity is likely to lead to real harm to Lolita. Given her relatively good health she is an excellent candidate for return to her native waters for retirement under human care in a seapen, and potentially for eventual full release.

**Conclusion: Tokitae can be safely and successfully returned to her home.**

- She's energetic, playful, creative.
- Her mental and physical health are good.
- She still has all her teeth.
- She knows how she was raised.
- She could still have 20-40 more years.
- Responds well to trust and affection.
- Transport is routine, not risky.
- Fear of failure is blocking her return.

A retirement and relocation of Lolita to a seaside sanctuary would be an incredible gesture that could return immense good will to The Dolphin Company.

Sincerely,