

# NO BIODOME BELUGAS

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## BACKGROUND

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By Stephanie Brown & Holly Penfound

March 1995



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Beluga Logo Design  
*Annelise K. Sorg*  
Coalition For No Whales in Captivity, Period

Beluga Illustration  
*Stephen Aikenhead*

## *What the experts say...*

# About whales in captivity

*I feel called upon to publicly oppose the capture and display of belugas in the Biodôme. I strongly urge you to reconsider your decision, and find another way to educate the public about the great St. Lawrence ecosystem.*

• **Jean-Michel Cousteau** (Oceanographer, Cousteau Society)

*The very idea of capturing beluga whales for public display by the Biodôme, or any other organization anywhere, is an abomination which should be resisted by all and every available means. We have tortured more than enough sentient creatures for human profit. For God's sake, let us call a halt!*

• **Farley Mowat** (Author/Naturalist)

*Oceanaria have no realistic function for species preservation.*

• **Dr. Hal Whitehead** (Whale Biologist, Dalhousie University, Halifax)

*I find it unconscionable that Canada permits captures to take place in such an important part of the beluga habitat as the Churchill River.....These are social, acoustic animals that need a far richer environment than can ever be provided amidst the poverty of captivity. Displays of live marine mammals...are backward, not forward-looking.*

• **Dr. Paul Spong** (Marine Mammals Scientist, Orcalab)

*When a targeted individual is chased to exhaustion, one of the capture team then leaps onto the animal's back, ties it and rides it until it submits.*

• **Mark Berman** (Earth Island Institute)

*The main purpose of education is to convey the truth about a situation. Will the Biodôme let its visitors know that these belugas have been ruthlessly ripped from complex social units in the wild? Will visitors be told of the possible physical, emotional and psychological devastation caused by this enforced separation?*

• **Kim Wood** (The Born Free Foundation)

*The only 'need' to display belugas is derived from the prospect of high-dollar returns. No empirically grounded, cause-effect related, scientifically based, and peer-reviewed study has ever proved that there are any significant education or conservation 'benefits' derived from marine mammal captivity.*

• **Rick Spill** (Society for Animal Protective Legislation)

## *Belugas and the Biodôme...*

# Executive Summary

The Biodôme of Montréal, Québec (Canada), a multi-environmental science and zoological centre, opened in June 1992 in conjunction with the city's 350th anniversary. The Biodôme was constructed at a cost of \$58 million in the former Olympic Velodrome. It is now operated by the City of Montréal.

In 1993 Biodôme officials announced plans to consider displaying five beluga whales in its St. Lawrence River exhibit "for reasons of conservation, education and research", despite protests from animal protection organizations and citizens. The whales would be wild caught from the Churchill River estuary in Manitoba, or transferred from other aquaria. Biodôme officials and local politicians promised that the final decision to acquire belugas would be made with full public participation.

The Minister of the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) currently has sole authority for the issuance of permits for the capture of whales, for any reason, from Canadian waters.

A 1992 announcement by then-DFO Minister John Crosbie put an end to the exportation of belugas caught in Canada to foreign aquaria; however, the door was left open for Canadian facilities to still capture and display beluga whales, despite the fact that no legislated standards exist for the care and housing of captive whales in Canadian aquaria. Only one facility, the Vancouver Public Aquarium, currently exhibits belugas in Canada.

Another option being considered by the Biodôme is the development of a marine mammal rescue centre. This plan would receive considerable public support as a positive alternative to displaying belugas captured or bred for display purposes.

Increasingly, marine mammal scientists, wildlife conservation and animal welfare organizations, as well as the general public, are expressing their opposition to the capture and display of marine mammals for the following reasons:

- *the detrimental effects of captivity on the well-being of cetaceans (whales, dolphins and porpoises)*

- *the negative educational value of displaying whales in captivity*
- *the lack of any tangible contribution to the conservation of wild beluga populations through captive breeding programs*
- *the negative consequences on the remaining family grouping of removing healthy individuals from wild populations*
- *the dubious benefits of scientific studies on whales in captivity*
- *the appalling survival record of belugas in captivity*
- *the availability of alternatives to live animal displays*
- *the high dollar costs of capture, confinement and maintenance of beluga whales*
- *the ethical concerns about capturing and confining intelligent, sentient, highly social animals such as whales*

In a surprise move on March 28, 1995, the Biodôme of Montréal announced it would "postpone the acquisition of beluga whales for its St. Lawrence Marine Ecosystem indefinitely, whether through capture or purchase from other institutions".<sup>1</sup> Reasons cited for the decision reflected an understanding of some of the concerns raised by animal protectionists, as follows:

- *The Biodôme's philosophy is to showcase nature using a systemic approach (hence the presentation of ecosystems) and not by displaying "star" species. The obvious attraction power of the beluga today would likely overshadow the systemic message of the St. Lawrence marine ecosystem for the public.*
- *Fisheries and Oceans Canada has given a mandate to the Canadian Association of Zoological Parks and Aquaria (CAZPA) to develop guidelines for keeping cetaceans in captivity. This document entitled "Baseline Standards for Captive Marine Mammals in Canada", produced by CAZPA, has made it clear that the Biodôme's current*

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<sup>1</sup>Josée Bédard, spokesperson for the Biodôme of Montréal, in a Press Release dated March 28, 1995.

facilities are not suitable for keeping belugas permanently. In particular, its isolation tank (which sits next to the large tank in the St. Lawrence marine ecosystem and is not visible to the public) is too small to accommodate an adult male beluga, which would need to be housed there several months should the female become pregnant and give birth. To obtain a capture (or acquisition) permit, the Biodôme must be able to provide appropriate conditions to house a breeding pair.

- The Biodôme believes it is important to keep in mind the opinions voiced strongly and vigorously by groups whose environmental goals in the end match its own.

Thus, the Biodôme is closing its file on the belugas indefinitely. The only option that might be considered is to temporarily accommodate a beluga or other marine mammal sent to the Biodôme as part of a rescue operation or a short-term collaboration with national and international programs to preserve the genetic pool of cetaceans in captivity. In such cases, the animals would not be on display to the public. For the time being, however, the Biodôme prefers to focus its efforts on developing its ecosystems and facilities.

## **What about...**

# **The Biodôme's original plans for belugas?**

Following the establishment of an in-house staff committee to review the issue of belugas in captivity, in 1993 the Biodôme made the following announcement in its *Report from the Biodôme Ad Hoc Committee on Belugas*<sup>2</sup>, indicating that it would be:

- *giving the beluga a more tangible presence in the Biodôme, notably through audiovisual presentations at Environment Place*
- *postponing the decision for or against the acquisition of belugas for at least two years*
- *developing the Centre de sauvetage des mammifères marins du Québec (Québec Marine Mammal Rescue Centre) for the time being, and to do the minor work needed for the proper operation of the bassins (pools) and the safeguard of marine mammals.*

*The ad hoc committee hopes that the Biodôme will be able to acquire the belugas before the very symbol of the St. Lawrence marine ecosystem disappears entirely from our waters, as is already the case with the walrus, the polar bear, the great auk, and other species.*

*The ad hoc committee feels, however, that this action is premature at the moment, since the Biodôme must first strengthen its own development.*

*Moreover, as previously recommended, it is important to actively use the time prior to any decision to make the public aware of the precarious status of the beluga population in the St. Lawrence and to develop the Biodôme's reputation through the operation of the Centre de sauvetage des mammifères marins du Québec.*

*Lastly, should the acquisition of belugas become a reality, the ad hoc committee sincerely hopes that the entire operation is pursued with the utmost professionalism, the support of the general public, and the collaboration of organizations devoted to the protection of animals.*

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<sup>2</sup>Translation from the French, provided by the Biodôme, in *Report from the Biodôme Ad Hoc Committee on Belugas*, May 13, 1993.



*What it will cost...*

## Proposed budget to capture five belugas and maintain them for 1 year

### ESTIMATED EXPENSES REQUIRED (CDN. \$ 1993)<sup>3</sup>

#### *Acquisition*

PR before acquisition	175,000.00
PR during acquisition	109,000.00
Legal costs	30,000.00 <sup>4</sup>
Physical adjustments	217,500.00
Reserve for fish	200,000.00
Place for birds	5,000.00
Education and museology adjustment	200,000.00
Research program	25,000.00
Development of personnel	60,000.00
Capture	250,000.00
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,271,500.00</b>

#### *Daily Management*

Personnel for belugas	200,000.00
Personnel/communications	140,000.00
Food	40,000.00
Veterinary consultant	30,000.00
Veterinary materials	10,000.00
Diving equipment	10,000.00
Conferences	5,000.00
PR	20,000.00
Legal costs	10,000.00
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>465,000.00</b>

**TOTAL** **\$1,736,500.00**

<sup>3</sup>Report from the Biodôme Ad Hoc Committee on Belugas, May 13, 1993, p. 19

<sup>4</sup>Based on the experience of the Vancouver Public Aquarium

*What about...*

## The Beluga (*Delphinapterus leucas. Odonticeti*)?

Also known as the white whale, the beluga<sup>5</sup> is primarily an Arctic species, although one population is found off Alaska's south-central coast, and another in the St. Lawrence River. Of Canada's seven populations, five are either endangered, threatened or vulnerable. Even critically endangered populations of belugas are hunted by native people. The International Whaling Commission has criticized Canada for its management of this species.

Belugas are warm-blooded air-breathing mammals adapted to life in cold (down to -2 degree C) Arctic waters. In the Arctic summer, belugas convene by the hundreds to feed in the rivers, and the pregnant cows give birth in warm shallow waters. The various populations of belugas are distinguished on the basis of their summer distribution.

The colour and the absence of a dorsal fin are the main distinguishing features as indicated in both the scientific name *Delphinapterus leucas*, literally "the white dolphin without a wing", or the English translation "the white whale".

Belugas have a well-developed sense of hearing and refined echolocation capabilities. They have one of the most varied repertoires of any whale. Beluga sounds are high-pitched resonant whistles and squeals, varied with ticking and clucking sounds. Early whalers who heard the sounds of belugas through the hulls of their ships called them sea canaries.

At present, apart from subsistence hunting, other potential threats include habitat loss from shore development, degradation by toxic chemical contamination or hydrographic modifications (temperature, salinity, etc.), disturbance by commercial shipping, ice breaking and whale watching activities, and capture by the aquarium industry.

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<sup>5</sup>Sources: Anne Doncaster, *Marine Mammals in Canada*, International Wildlife Coalition, 1994; "Underwater World: The Beluga", DFO, undated; and Erich Hoyt, *The Whales of Canada*, Camden House Publishing, 1984.

*What about...*

## **The welfare of whales in captivity?**

The quality of life experienced by belugas in captivity is difficult to assess; however, the fact that their captive environment is radically different from, and sterile in comparison to, the natural environment of beluga whales provides insight into the effects of captivity on their well-being. For a large, migratory species which normally travels long distances in the wild, there is no question that aquaria tanks are small and confining.

This makes it impossible for belugas to pursue many of their natural activities such as the daily regime of food acquisition. In the wild, searching for food occupies a major part of each day. For captive belugas, this activity is substantially reduced or removed altogether, and the animal is left with little to do.

While stress is natural for all animals, excessive levels experienced by captive cetaceans may lead to the development of aberrant behaviours such as stereotypic swimming patterns, as well as an assortment of physical conditions including ulcers, breakdown of the immune system, and even death.

Possible causes of stress and suffering in captive whales include separation from family, social isolation, movement from an established social environment to one with a new social order, poor nutrition, overcrowding, badly designed enclosures, poor water quality, noise, excessive lighting and boredom, to name a few. (Not even "minimum" standards are legislated under Canadian law for the care and housing of captive whales. Although the Canadian Association of Zoological Parks and Aquaria [CAZPA] may be developing standards, their influence will be constrained by the voluntary, self-monitoring nature of these industry-established "guidelines".)

While no one is able to read a whale's "thoughts", it is logical to assume that the physical, psychological and social deprivation caused by confinement in aquaria and the removal of natural activities have profound detrimental consequences on the well-being of cetaceans in captivity.

*What about...*

## **The negative educational value of whales in captivity?**

**E**ducation is used as a rationale for the public display of cetaceans, and is a reason used by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans for allowing the live-capture of cetaceans.

Despite a presumed educational benefit for visitors to aquaria and marine parks, concerns persist that captive cetaceans are not behaviourally normal, and therefore their educational value is limited at best. Animals kept in tanks only a few times their size or participating in circus-type performances could, in fact, be considered educationally counter-productive.

Whales and dolphins in captivity are unable to exhibit a substantial portion of their natural behavioural repertoire. They are hindered by lack of space, variety of habitat, and appropriate social structure. As a result, members of the public may be exposed to animals that physically resemble their wild counterparts, but are mere shells of their relatives from a psychological and social perspective. Unfortunately, most casual observers will be unable to recognize signs of boredom, frustration and stress.

Further, there is little available data supporting the marine park and aquaria hypothesis that the display of whales and dolphins contributes to conservation education of the public.

Certainly, high quality video and film presentations and a variety of other educational materials and activities have the ability to convey a conservation message more effectively and positively than the display of live animals.

At a symposium on whales in captivity sponsored by the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies, whale researcher Dr. Hal Whitehead noted, "Captive whales probably have little or maybe negative educational value, especially where they are held close to areas where wild whales can be seen."<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup>Dr. Hal Whitehead, in his paper for *Whales in Captivity: Right or Wrong? Proceedings of a symposium*, Canadian Federation of Humane Societies, Ottawa, Ontario, April 25, 1990, page 63.

*What about...*

## **Conservation?**

Captive breeding for conservation purposes can, in specialized situations, be a useful adjunct to field conservation programs; therefore it may seem a powerful justification for keeping animals in captivity.

However, captive breeding does not replace conservation in the field. It is a slow, risky, resource-consuming process. It is generally accepted that only a handful of the world's endangered species may benefit.

Captive breeding means more than the successful production of offspring. Its purpose is to produce a self-sustaining, viable, genetically healthy population that is capable of outlasting the wild population of the same species. Ideally, it should survive to perpetuity. That requires the ability to build, within a reasonable time frame, a sufficient number of animals in the captive population. That in turn necessitates the availability of substantial numbers of animals, or if individual institutions can keep only a small breeding stock, the ability to transport animals among institutions frequently to prevent inbreeding.

What makes a species likely to benefit from captive breeding? First, a small animal is better than a larger one as it requires less space. Second, a species with a rapid maturation time and large brood size will give better results than one with a long maturation time and small brood size. A prolific breeder is better than one with a poor track record of breeding in captivity.

It would be difficult to come up with a less likely candidate for a successful captive breeding program than a whale. Space requirements needed for a viable captive breeding program of belugas, and difficulty in transporting them from aquarium to aquarium to avoid inbreeding, are daunting tasks.

Even if captive breeding were a viable strategy for saving some species of whales, the question then arises, which whale? The belugas in Hudson Bay are regarded as a fairly healthy population. There are more suitable species such as the Chinese river dolphin or the Gulf of California porpoise, whose entire habitats are being rapidly degraded and whose populations are dropping. If there is a need for captive breeding of whales -- which is doubtful at best -- there are better candidates than belugas.

Keeping belugas in captivity is unlikely to assist in their conservation. Given that 30 animals, or 44% of captured Hudson Bay belugas are dead, how long will it be before the program breaks even in terms of adding *to* and not subtracting *from* the total beluga population? (See pages 12 - 14).

If the beluga capture program is really intended as an attempt to conserve belugas through captive breeding, it ranks as one of the most unmitigated disasters in zoo and aquarium history.

If future captive breeding programs continue to result in a net loss in captive beluga numbers, there will be strong pressure on marine parks and aquaria to replace those that die with wild stock. Few institutions can afford to let the huge capital outlay required for the display of whales go to waste. An exhibit that is supposed to help conserve belugas has a good chance of becoming an engine for catching more wild belugas on a regular basis.

Conservation is *not* a valid justification for the capture and confinement of beluga whales.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup>Dr. Ronald Orenstein, *The Thin Line: Zoos, Animal Organizations and Conservation*, adapted from a lecture given at the 1990 Conference of the Canadian Association of Zoological Parks and Aquaria (CAZPA), September 1990.

*What about...*

## **The questionable benefit of scientific research on whales in captivity?**

Scientific research has been presented as a rationale for keeping captive cetaceans in marine parks and aquaria, yet relatively few facilities engage in organized research programs. The scientific contributions of the small number of institutions that do, seem insignificant when compared to the better zoological parks, their terrestrial counterparts.

The majority of captive cetacean research has centred on communication, cognition and physiology. While some interesting data have resulted, their benefit to wild cetacean populations is dubious. Research studies of natural behaviours, such as hunting, feeding, foraging, swimming patterns and movement, social interaction, and many other important areas, are difficult or impossible to pursue in captivity.

The marine habitats occupied by wild cetaceans cannot be successfully compressed into the space available in aquaria. As well, when animals are forced to live physically and behaviourally distorted lives in social environments that almost never exist in nature, one has to question the usefulness of conducting research of any kind.

The scientific contribution of the marine park and aquarium industry is questionable at best. It appears that the industry has applied a veneer of science to justify its continued use of cetaceans for purposes of human entertainment and profit.

*What about...*

## Canada's beluga capture record?

The Churchill River estuary in Manitoba has been the capture site of most belugas in captivity, worldwide. The animals are captured when the whales enter the warm estuary waters to calve and nurse their young.

The capture is a rough, crude process, with the whales being chased into shallow water by men in small boats. Young juvenile whales, or "teenagers", are preferred. Once corralled, the targeted beluga is lassoed, and then manhandled when the captors jump into the water to secure their catch, or ride the animal rodeo-style. If the age or sex of the beluga does not fit the requirements of the marine park or aquarium, the animal is released. The effects of the chase and capture on released animals are unknown. Similarly, increasing concerns are being raised about the negative consequences of removing healthy individuals from wild populations.

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### Belugas live-captured in the Churchill River Estuary, Manitoba by aquaria in North America, Germany and Japan since 1967<sup>8</sup>:

1967: 2 (females)

New York Aquarium -- **deceased** 1975

New York Aquarium -- **deceased** 1974

1969: 2 (females)

Zoo Duisburg, W. Germany -- **deceased** 1984

Zoo Duisburg, W. Germany -- still on display

1973: 4 (one male, three females)

Sea World -- still on display

Sea World -- **deceased** 1985

Sea World -- **deceased** 1979

Sea World -- **deceased** 1973

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<sup>8</sup>"Beluga Live-Capture Program 1967-91", Department of Fisheries and Oceans, September 19, 1991.



- 1975: 5 (four males, one female)  
Mystic Marine Life -- **deceased** 1983  
Mystic Marine Life -- **deceased** 1973  
Zoo Duisburg, W. Germany -- on display  
New York Aquarium -- **deceased** 1993  
New York Aquarium -- **deceased** 1986
- 1976: 6 (one male, five females)  
Mystic Marine Life -- **deceased** 1982  
Vancouver Public Aquarium -- **deceased** 1985  
Vancouver Public Aquarium -- on display  
Kamogawa Sea World, Japan -- **deceased** 1983  
Kamogawa Sea World, Japan -- **deceased** 1989  
Kamogawa Sea World, Japan -- **deceased** 1988
- 1977: 5 (three males, two females)  
Minnesota Zool. Garden -- **deceased** 1990  
Minnesota Zool. Garden -- **deceased** 1989  
U.S. Naval Ocean Systems -- **deceased** 1985  
U.S. Naval Ocean Systems -- in research U.S. Naval  
Ocean Systems -- in research
- 1979: 6 (two males, four females)  
Sea World, San Diego -- on display  
Sea World, San Diego -- **deceased** 1981  
Sea World, San Diego -- **deceased** 1986  
Sea World, San Diego -- **deceased** 1987  
Sea World, San Diego -- on display  
Sea World, San Diego -- **deceased** 1981
- 1980: 3 (females)  
U.S. Naval Ocean Systems -- **deceased** 1984  
U.S. Naval Ocean Systems -- **deceased** 1982  
U.S. Naval Ocean Systems -- in research
- 1984: 8 (three males, five females)  
Pt. Defiance Aq, Tacoma, WA -- on display  
Pt. Defiance Aq, Tacoma, WA -- on display  
Pt. Defiance Aq, Tacoma, WA -- on display  
New York Aquarium -- on display  
New York Aquarium -- on display  
New York Aquarium -- **deceased** 1985  
Mystic Marine Life -- on display  
Mystic Marine Life -- **deceased** 1984

- 1985: 6 (five females, one male)  
 Mystic Marine Life -- on display  
 Mystic Marine Life -- on display  
 Baltimore National Aquarium -- **deceased** 1991  
 Baltimore National Aquarium -- **deceased** 1989  
 Vancouver Public Aquarium -- on display  
 Vancouver Public Aquarium -- **deceased** 1990
- 1987: 7 (three males, four females)  
 Sea World, San Diego -- on display  
 Sea World, San Diego -- on display  
 Sea World, San Diego -- on display  
 Sea World, San Diego -- on display  
 New York Aquarium -- on display  
 Baltimore National Aquarium -- on display  
 Baltimore National Aquarium -- on display
- 1988: 5 (one male, four females)  
 Sea World -- on display  
 San Antonio -- on display  
 San Antonio -- on display  
 San Antonio -- on display  
 Kamogawa Sea World, Japan -- on display
- 1989: 2 (females)  
 Shedd Aquarium, Chicago -- on display  
 Shedd Aquarium, Chicago -- on display
- 1990: 3 (one female, two males)  
 Vancouver Public Aquarium -- on display  
 Vancouver Public Aquarium -- on display  
 Vancouver Public Aquarium -- on display
- 1992: 4 (two males, two females)  
 Shedd Aquarium, Chicago -- **deceased** 1992  
 Shedd Aquarium, Chicago -- on display  
 Shedd Aquarium, Chicago -- **deceased** 1992  
 Shedd Aquarium, Chicago -- on display

**Total: 68**

**Number of belugas now dead: 30**

**Percentage of belugas now dead: 44%**

*What about...*

## **Alternatives to keeping marine mammals in captivity?**

Throughout the world, a number of marine parks and aquaria operate successfully without displaying live cetaceans. New Zealand's Kelly Tarlton's Aquarium, the Aquarium of the Americas in New Orleans, the Tennessee Aquarium in Chattanooga, the Parc Oceanique Cousteau in Paris, France, and the Monterey Bay Aquarium in Monterey, California are five examples.

In addition to an increasing number of captive facilities choosing not to display live cetaceans, other alternatives to live display are in use or being developed.

The Worldlife Centre, a revolutionary zoo-museum facility where the only live animal will be human, is in the developmental stage in Great Britain. Visitors will experience wildlife through live satellite links to animals in the wild, and special areas such as the "sensorium", a computer-generated three-dimensional virtual reality world where the experiences of animals such as bats and spiders will be re-created. A wildlife library of laser discs will provide text, sound and animated pictures for visitors, while other display technologies will round out the most comprehensive alternative zoological experience to date.

In addition to developing technologies, a number of alternatives to live display are currently in use. IMAX has developed a new stereoscopic film technology that seems to pull viewers into the screen. They have also developed a system of synchronized screens placed above and below the audience, which creates the impression of being *in* the film. The ability to convey a conservation message to the general public through film is unparalleled when compared to the average time most visitors spend viewing a live animal exhibit in a marine park or aquarium.

Less expensive and more traditional types of displays also offer an alternative to the live display of cetaceans. Robotic "animatronic" displays such as the successful *Dinamation* dinosaur exhibit, large-scale models, museum-style interactive displays, interpretive programming, and many other materials and activities have been used effectively in place of live animal exhibits.

Both high-tech and low-tech alternatives to the display of live animals exist. They can be affordable and popular strategies for educating the public and providing a stimulating and entertaining experience for visitors, with none of the problems which accompany the display of live animals.

Another positive alternative to the acquisition of belugas captured or bred for display purposes would be an option put forward by the Biodôme itself for consideration: to develop the Centre de Sauvetage des Mammifères Marins du Québec (Québec Marine Mammal Rescue Centre). Considering the proximity of the Biodôme to a major aquatic ecosystem -- one in which the well-being of marine life contained therein has been devastated by pollution -- a marine mammal rescue centre, in conjunction with a strong conservation-education programme, would be a laudable, and useful, humanitarian pursuit.

# Say thanks for No belugas in the Biodôme...

- Please write to the following officials expressing appreciation and support for keeping belugas permanently out of the Biodôme of Montréal:

Mayor Pierre Bourque  
and Members of Council  
Ville de Montréal  
275, rue Notre-Dame Est  
Montréal, PQ, H2Y 1C6  
Telephone (514) 872-3101    Fax (514) 872-3124

M. Camille Chouinard, Director General  
The Biodôme of Montréal  
4777, Av. Pierre-de-Coubertin  
Montréal, PQ, H1V 1B3  
Telephone (514) 868-3000    Fax (514) 868-3065

- Write to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans asking him to include Canadian Aquaria in Canada's current ban on the capture of beluga whales in Canadian waters for export to other countries.

The Honourable Brian Tobin  
Minister, Fisheries and Oceans  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6  
(No postage is required)  
Telephone (613) 996-5509    Fax (613) 996-9632

## For further information...

### ***Marine Mammals in Canada: The Need for Legislation***

Anne Doncaster, International Wildlife Coalition, 117 pages, 1994

*Available for \$12 from IWC, PO Box 461, Port Credit Postal Station, Mississauga, ON L5G 4M1 or phone (905) 274-0633*

### ***Canada's Beluga Capture Programme***

Anne Doncaster, International Wildlife Coalition, 17 pages, 1992

*Available for \$3 from IWC, PO Box 461, Port Credit Postal Station, Mississauga, ON L5G 4M1 or phone (905) 274-0633*

### ***WhaleKind*** (newsletter)

Stephanie Brown, Editor, Canadian Federation of Humane Societies, 6 - 8 pages, every six months

*Available free (but please enclose self-addressed stamped envelope) from Canadian Federation of Humane Societies, Suite 102, 30 Concourse Gate, Nepean, ON K2E 7V7 or phone (613) 224-8072*

### ***Whales in Captivity: Right or Wrong?*** (Proceedings of a symposium)

Canadian Federation of Humane Societies, 171 pages, 1990

*Available for \$20 from CFHS, Suite 102, 30 Concourse Gate, Nepean, ON K2E 7V7 or phone (613) 224-8072*