UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE 1315 East-West Highway Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

December 23, 2020

Stephen M. Coan, Ph.D. President and CEO Mystic Aquarium 55 Coogan Boulevard Mystic, CT 06355

Dear Dr. Coan:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has issued the enclosed minor amendment (No. 22629-01) to Permit No. 22629 to Mystic Aquarium for the importation of and scientific research on five captive-born beluga whales (*Delphinapterus leucas*).

The changes to specific Terms and Conditions are reflected in bold font. This includes amending Appendix 1. Table 1 of the permit to substitute three whales authorized for importation, as requested, and to clarify authorized methods for monitoring reproductive status as part of normal husbandry and preventing breeding in compliance with the approved breeding prevention plan.

The minor amendment is effective upon signature by the Office Director and valid through August 31, 2025. The minor amendment must be attached to Permit No. 22629.

Also enclosed are Marine Mammal Data Sheets (MMDS) for the three new whales authorized under the amendment. In accordance with Condition III, F.1.b of Permit No. 22629, upon completion of the importation from Canada, please complete the MMDS for each whale imported and submit them to the Permits and Conservation Division by email (NIMM.Inventory@noaa.gov).

Sincerely,

WIETING.DONNA. Digitally signed by WETING.DONNAS.1365710607 S.1365710607

Donna S. Wieting Director, Office of Protected Resources

Enclosures

cc w/ enclosures: Anna Barry, USFWS

Barbara Kohn, D.V.M., USDA/APHIS

Peter Thomas, Ph.D., MMC

Minor Amendment No. 22629-01 (attach to Permit No. 22629)

Permit No. 22629 is amended as follows in **bold font**.

Appendix 1: Tables Specifying the Kinds of Protected Species, Locations, and Manner of Taking

Table 1. Importation and captive maintenance of five beluga whales for over the duration of the permit. Importation from Marineland of Canada, Inc. (Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada) to Mystic Aquarium (Mystic, Connecticut) pursuant to MMPA Section 104 for scientific research (see Table 2). Captive maintenance pursuant to MMPA Section 112(c) (captive maintenance) and Section 104 (scientific research) at Mystic Aquarium. Transport from Mystic Aquarium to Georgia Aquarium (Atlanta, Georgia) under the same authorities for captive maintenance and scientific research if approved by the Office Director per Condition B.6.j. Captive maintenance includes husbandry, health assessments, and medical sampling; treatments as warranted by the attending veterinarian¹; and, humane euthanasia if warranted for medical reasons, and necropsy. Beluga whales may be displayed to the public incidental to research.

Species	Stock ² , ³ , ⁴	Origin	Current	Sex	No.	Activities Procedures	Details
			Life Stage		Animals		
Whale,	Offspring of dam Aurora (wild capture, Sea of	Captive	Juvenile; Born	Female	1	Import; Captive,	KHARABALI;
beluga	Okhotsk, Russia); sire Kodiak (wild capture, Sea of	born	07/20/14			maintain permanent;	NOA0010671
	Okhotsk, Russia)					Transport	

Mystic stated that that the information on the exact location of Russian origin of the parents "is not available and it is not possible to complete genetic testing prior to transport. We understand this will mean they are considered Depleted Status." For the purposes of the permit, as amended, NMFS considers all three substitute whales as depleted.

Minor Amendment No. 22629-01 Expiration Date: August 31, 2025

¹This includes reproductive monitoring (as described in Study 7 in the permit application and including **but not limited to** behavioral observations [video monitoring], biological sampling [blood, breath, **urine**, and vaginal swabs], and ultrasound) **and physical separation or other means (i.e., contraception if approved)** to prevent breeding **as described in the breeding prevention plan and conditionally approved by the Office Director**.

²NMFS considers the parents captured in the Sea of Okhotsk to be from the depleted Sakhalin Bay-Nikolaya Bay-Amur River Stock, and Kharabali and Havok are thus considered to be members of that depleted stock. For the purposes of this permit, NMFS is treating the whale Havana with mixed-stock parentage, as a member of the depleted stock. Whales Sahara and Jetta with unknown stock parentage are assumed to have sires from the Sea of Okhotsk Sakhalin Bay-Nikolaya Bay-Amur Rivers Stock and are also considered to be members of that depleted stock.

³The permit application stated that Andre was collected from the Barents Sea. However, there is evidence suggesting Andre may have been collected from the White Sea and that the Barents and White Sea populations may be of one stock.

⁴Parental stock data is according to Ceta-Base (https://www.cetabase.org/captive/cetacean/marineland-canada/).

Table 1. Importation and captive maintenance of five beluga whales for over the duration of the permit. Importation from Marineland of Canada, Inc. (Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada) to Mystic Aquarium (Mystic, Connecticut) pursuant to MMPA Section 104 for scientific research (see Table 2). Captive maintenance pursuant to MMPA Section 112(c) (captive maintenance) and Section 104 (scientific research) at Mystic Aquarium. Transport from Mystic Aquarium to Georgia Aquarium (Atlanta, Georgia) under the same authorities for captive maintenance and scientific research if approved by the Office Director per Condition B.6.j. Captive maintenance includes husbandry, health assessments, and medical sampling; treatments as warranted by the attending veterinarian¹; and, humane euthanasia if warranted for medical reasons, and necropsy. Beluga whales may be displayed to the public incidental to research.

Species	Stock ² , ³ , ⁴	Origin	Current	Sex	No.	Activities Procedures	Details
			Life Stage		Animals		
Whale,	Offspring of dam Acadia (wild capture, Sea of	Captive	Juvenile;	Female	1	Import; Captive,	SAHARA;
beluga	Okhotsk, Russia); potential sires: Andre (wild	born	Born			maintain permanent;	NOA0010683
	capture, Barents or White Sea, Russia), Kodiak or		7/23/14			Transport	
	Orion (wild capture, Sea of Okhotsk, Russia)						
Whale,	Offspring of dam Skyla (wild capture, Sea of	Captive	Juvenile;	Female	1	Import; Captive,	JETTA;
beluga	Okhotsk, Russia); potential sires: Andre (wild	born	Born			maintain permanent;	NOA0010684
	capture, Barents or White Sea, Russia), Kodiak,		7/17/14			Transport	
	Orion, or Tuktoyaktuk (wild capture, Sea of						
	Okhotsk, Russia)						
Whale,	Offspring of dam Secord (wild capture, Sea of	Captive	Juvenile;	Male	1	Import; Captive,	HAVOK;
beluga	Okhotsk, Russia); potential sires: Tuktoyaktuk or	born	Born			maintain permanent;	NOA0010685
	Orion (wild capture, Sea of Okhotsk, Russia)		8/10/15			Transport	
Whale,	Offspring of dam Kelowna (wild capture, Sea of	Captive	Juvenile; Born	Female	1	Import; Captive,	HAVANA;
beluga	Okhotsk, Russia); sire Andre (wild capture, Barents or	born	07/23/15			maintain permanent;	NOA0010675
	White Sea, Russia)					Transport	

			<u> </u>
MARINE MAMMAL	DATA SHEET		Form Approved by OMB No.
NOAA Animal ID: NOA001068	3	(Generated on: 2020-11-25)	0648-0084 Expires 11-30-2023 Page: 1 of 1
I. Animal-Specific:			
NOAA Identification No.	NOA0010683	Sex	FEMALE
Common Name	Beluga Whale	Scientific Name	Delphinapterus leucas
Birth Date	07-23-2014	Birth Date Certainty	ACTUAL
Captivity Date Permit No.	07-23-2014	Captive Origin Collector	BIRTH
Geographic Location	Lat: : ' ' ' / Lon: : ' ' '	Geographic Name	
Review Date	Lat. , Lon	Review Status	
Reviewer Comments/Notes			
I. Owner/Facility-Sp	ecific:		
Owner (Person or other Entir	y With Custody of the Marine Mammal)		
Facility (if different from Owi	ner)	Mystic Aquarium	
Custody Date			
Facility Date	L. L. O	M. F. OT 00055	
	lude Country for foreign facilities)	Mystic CT, 06355	
Animal Identification No. (as and/or (only one is required)			
Animal Name (assigned by fa		(Sahara)	
Purpose(s)	***	Scientific Research	
II Dianositian			
II. Disposition:			
eath Date			
eath Cause eath Cause Comment	0		
		🗔	
elease Date:	Permit No:	OR Unauthor	rized release/escape (reintroduction)
eographic Location:	Lat: : ' ' ' / Lon: : ' ' '	Geographic Name:	
ag number or description o	f other identifying markings:		
V. Animal Historical	Transfer/Transports:		

MARINE MAMMAL D	ATA SHEET			Form Approved by OMB No.			
NOAA Animal ID: NOA0010684		(Generated on: 2020-11-25)		0648-0084 Expires 11-30-2023 Page: 1 of 1			
I. Animal-Specific:							
NOAA Identification No.	NOA0010684	Sex	FEMALE				
Common Name	Beluga Whale	Scientific Name	Delphinapterus leucas				
Birth Date	07-17-2014	Birth Date Certainty	ACTUAL				
Captivity Date	07-17-2014	Captive Origin	BIRTH				
Permit No.		Collector					
Geographic Location	Lat: : ' ' ' / Lon: : ' ' '	Geographic Name					
Review Date		Review Status					
Reviewer Comments/Notes							
II. Owner/Facility-Spe	ecific:						
Owner (Person or other Entity	y With Custody of the Marine Mammal)						
Facility (if different from Own	er)	Mystic Aquarium					
Custody Date							
Facility Date							
City/State/Zip of Facility (incl	ude Country for foreign facilities)	Mystic CT, 06355					
Animal Identification No. (ass	signed by facility)						
and/or (only one is required)							
Animal Name (assigned by fa	cility)	(Jetta)					
Purpose(s)		Scientific Research					
III. Disposition:							
Death Date							
Death Cause	0						
Death Cause Comment							
Release Date:	Permit No:	OR Unautho	rized release/escape (reintroducti	on)			
Geographic Location:	Lat: : ' ' ' / Lon: : ' ' '	Geographic Name:	Geographic Name:				
Tag number or description of	other identifying markings:						
IV. Animal Historical	Transfer/Transports:						

MARINE MAMMAL DATA SHEET					Form Approved by OMB No.	
NOAA Animal ID: NOA001068	(Generated on: 2	2020-11-25)		0648-0084 Expires 11-30-2023 Page: 1 of 1		
L Aminost Conseition						
I. Animal-Specific:						
NOAA Identification No.	NOA0010685	Sex		MALE		
Common Name	Beluga Whale		tific Name	Delphinapterus leucas		
Birth Date Captivity Date	08-10-2015 08-10-2015		Date Certainty /e Origin	ACTUAL BIRTH		
Permit No.	00-10-2013	Capito		DIKIT		
Geographic Location	Lat: : ' ' ' / Lon: : ' ' '		aphic Name			
Review Date			w Status			
Reviewer Comments/Notes						
II Owner/Feeility Sp	a cifia.					
II. Owner/Facility-Sp						
	y With Custody of the Marine Mammal)					
Facility (if different from Own Custody Date	ner)	Mystic Aquarium				
Facility Date						
	lude Country for foreign facilities)	Mystic CT, 06355				
Animal Identification No. (as						
and/or (only one is required)						
Animal Name (assigned by fa	acility)	(Havok)				
Purpose(s)	Scientific Research					
III. Disposition:						
Death Date						
Death Cause	()					
Death Cause Comment						
Release Date:	Permit No:	OR	Unauthor	rized release/escape (reintroducti	on)	
Geographic Location:	Geog	Geographic Name:				
Tag number or description o	f other identifying markings:					
IV. Animal Historical	Transfer/Transports:					