

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between
GEORGIA AQUARIUM (GA)
Atlanta, Georgia

And
SEA RESEARCH FOUNDATION, INCORPORATED
d/b/a MYSTIC AQUARIUM (MA)
Mystic, Connecticut

WHEREAS, GA and MA have similar missions in marine conservation, research and education and have common goals to increase knowledge on the species in their care, especially threatened and endangered species, and contribute to their recovery in the wild.

WHEREAS, GA and MA both maintain beluga whales under professional care, they agree to cooperate to benefit the beluga whales in their care as well as belugas in the wild especially the recovery of endangered populations of belugas, through productive scientific research, animal care and husbandry, and education and outreach.

Now, THEREFORE, it is agreed by both Parties that the purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to facilitate cooperation and support scientific research, animal care and husbandry, and education and outreach with particular emphasis on beluga whales. Alternating between the institutions, at least one representative from each of the functional areas of research, husbandry, and education will meet at least once a year. It is expected that members representing these functional areas will meet and interact as necessary to carry out this cooperative mission. Each institution will assign an administrative contact to coordinate meetings, keep records, and facilitate interactions.

FURTHERMORE, it is agreed by both Parties that efforts will be made in the following areas of mutual, collaborative interest in the following manner:

Research

GA will support MA's beluga research program and therefore help to increase knowledge of beluga whales and assist in the recovery of endangered populations by training the belugas housed at GA for biological sampling and participation in MA's proposed research studies under the guidance of MA, in order to increase sample size for the research studies. All proposed research studies have been approved by MA's IACUC.

GA will support MA's beluga research program and therefore help to increase knowledge of beluga whales and assist in the recovery of endangered populations by collecting, processing, archiving and/or shipping biological samples to MA under the guidance of MA.

MA will maintain intellectual property and all rights to publish research on belugas set forth from MA's research program.

Georgia Aquarium will be acknowledged as a co-author or in the acknowledgements of proposed scientific manuscripts and presentations resulting from the collaborative research in accordance to the guidelines of scientific conduct and authorship and as agreed by both parties.

Georgia Aquarium, if named a co-author or acknowledged in a scientific manuscript to be submitted for publication resulting from the collaborative research will be given two weeks to review, comment and approve submission of the manuscript.

MA will maintain all rights to communicate the research from MA's research program through all media and outreach channels. GA will recognize MA as the research lead and obtain consent from MA before using messaging of the research in media and outreach channels.

Animal Care and Husbandry

GA and MA will collaborate to maintain the highest animal care and husbandry of the beluga whales in their care including moving whales between GA and MA for beluga health and social well-being.

GA and MA will consult on animal husbandry and care and animal training techniques, particularly in regards to training for MA's beluga whale research program.

GA and MA will provide professional development opportunities for animal care and husbandry staff through staff exchanges and visits.

GA and MA will consult on state-of-the-art equipment, life support and water quality, animal nutrition and clinical cases to optimize beluga health and well-being.

Education and Outreach

GA and MA will collaborate on education and outreach initiatives with specific focus on beluga whales.

GA and MA will provide learning opportunities and exchanges for undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral students with specific focus on beluga whale research, animal care and husbandry, and education.

GA and MA will work together on outreach to the public regarding beluga whales with specific emphasis on endangered populations of belugas to engage and call people to action in regards to protecting the whales' environment and from anthropogenic concerns regarding their recovery and sustainability.

Additional areas deemed by both Parties to be of mutual interest may be added to this list of activities, and additional cooperative agreements may be drawn up for individual projects or programs. It is understood that efforts should be aimed at building upon existing collaborations.

It is understood that such activities are dependent upon financial resources to be secured from either extra-mural or institutional sources.

BOTH PARTIES HEREBY reaffirm their existing commitment to conduct good faith efforts to complement, enhance, expand and constructively use the available resources and services for the benefit of the species and their conservation and recovery, the scientific community, and the general public.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF Officers of Georgia Aquarium and Sea Research Foundation, Incorporated affix their signatures this 27th day of Feb, 2019, to consummate this agreement.

For:

Georgia Aquarium
225 Baker Street, NW
Atlanta, GA 30313



Michael A. Leven,
Chairman & CEO



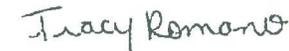
Gregory D. Bossart, Sr. VP,
Animal Health, Research &
Conservation

For:

Mystic Aquarium
55 Coogan Boulevard
Mystic, CT 06355



Stephen M. Coan, PhD
President & CEO



Tracy Romano, PhD
Vice President of Research