

## Statement on behalf of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) in reference to the Japanese Association of Zoos and Aquariums' (JAZA) change in dolphin acquisition policy

WAZA has been engaging in dialogue with JAZA to stop the collection of animals from the Taiji drive fisheries for more than ten years. The drives have drawn international attention and criticism for the killing and capture of dolphins and WAZA joined other organizations in speaking out against the practice.

In May 2015, the Japanese Association of Zoos and Aquariums (JAZA) formally announced their decision to officially ban all members from acquiring dolphins from the Taiji dolphin drive fisheries.

To ensure a comprehensive outcome, WAZA requested and received a range of assurances about how the new JAZA policy would be implemented and monitored over time. These are summarised as:

- The Chair of JAZA formally advised all its members on 12 June 2015 of the decision to ban the acquisition of cetaceans captured in drive hunts, effective immediately. JAZA resolved to undertake all necessary actions if a member were found to violate this decision, including expulsion. Necessary changes to the bylaws are being made.
- The JAZA decision does not stop at the Taiji hunts; the ban is comprehensive across all similar fisheries.
- To achieve ongoing monitoring, JAZA will establish a registry for all individuals of all species held at its member institutions, including photographs for individual identification. Currently JAZA has the studbooks for bottlenose dolphin, Pacific white-sided dolphin, and finless porpoise.
- Every member of JAZA that enters the Association will provide a written oath to comply with the Association's rules and directions.

The corollary of these decisions produced an initiative to improve the husbandry and breeding expertise in JAZA member facilities, with a new task force committee to build member capacity to address improved husbandry and breeding practices for all dolphins and other cetaceans.