



ORCALAB

October 16, 2012

To whom it may concern:

Comments regarding Morgan the orca being held at Loro Paeque

We have reviewed the documentation provided by Dr. Ingrid Visser regarding Morgan the orca's present situation at Loro Parque, and wish to provide the following comments:

1. Morgan is clearly being harassed and pursued aggressively by the other orcas at Loro Parque..
2. While some "rake marks" are commonly seen on the bodies of wild orcas, the extent of them on Morgan's body is most unusual, and very worrying.
3. The "ramming" of Morgan by other orcas described by Dr. Visser is a great concern. Quite possibly she is sustaining internal injuries as a result.
4. The persistent attempts by one of the male orcas to mate with Morgan amounts to sexual abuse. Morgan is well below an age at which she would be ready to mate, were she in the wild.

Our conclusion is that Morgan's situation at Loro Parque is precarious at best, and quite possibly very dangerous to her health. She should be immediately separated from the other orcas to protect her from further injury and abuse.

The best outcome for Morgan would be to remove her from Loro Parque altogether, and put her into a rehabilitation program that would eventually give her an opportunity to rejoin her kin in the wild.

Sincerely yours,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature, on the left, is 'Paul Spong' and is underlined. The second signature, on the right, is 'Helena Symonds'.

Paul Spong, Ph.D. and Helena Symonds
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