

March 7, 2007

Re: In Luna's Memory Lifeforce Donates 5000 Orca Field Guides

In spite of everything being in place to reunite Luna with his family he died a tragic death on March 10, 2006. Luna was ripped apart by a huge boat propeller. This was an excruciating death. Luna did not die in peace. Such a death was predictable and preventable. This was evident in view of a previous boat collision with Luna resulting in approximately ten propeller cuts. Where were the people paid to monitor him and boats?

Lifeforce called for an "Orca Inquest" to find out why Luna was not saved. We hoped that a full review of this tragedy would help protect other endangered orcas and solitary dolphins. However it appears that nothing has been done and it could happen again.

"There is no policy to protect such lone orcas. There isn't even an official Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) Marine Wildlife Response Team for such emergencies and stranding," stated Peter Hamilton, "In addition, the government has not released an Orca Recovery Plan in which critical habitats are designated. For most of the year, the Southern Community of orcas continue to be harassed by private and commercial boats all day long."

Luna's horrible death must not be in vain. In order to protect the endangered orcas the Governments must:

1. Immediately create No Whale Watch Zones on the water.
2. Promote Lifeforce's Orca Trails land-based whale watching.
3. Immediately create a joint Canada/US emergency response team and provide funding to keep orcas away from environmental hazards.
4. Immediate provide sufficient funds to enforcement agencies to monitor boat traffic.
5. Conduct a Luna Inquest.

In memory of Luna and other marine life harassed and hit by boats, Lifeforce will donate 5000 Orca Field Guides to boaters through marinas and others to raise public awareness of the need to operate boats responsibly when near orcas and other marine wildlife. Phone numbers are provided to report sightings, stranding and harassment.

"If it stops one death or injury from a boat propeller then it is worth the effort," Hamilton added, "Orcas and other whales have been hit by boats. Some have died. We must not sit by and let the death toll rise."

The public can also download the Orca Field Guide and Whale Watch Guidelines on line at www.lifeforcefoundation.org. For further information: Peter Hamilton 604-649-5258 or lifeforcesociety@hotmail.com