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From: Derek Baker <d.baker@seattleaquarium.org>

To: Alyne Fortgang <wpzelephants@yahoo.com>

Cc: rachel.acosta@seattle.gov <rachel.acosta@seattle.gov>

Sent: Saturday, March 7, 2020 at 02:48:19 PM PST

Subject: RE: Question about animals slated for Shark tank

Hi Alyne,

Thank you for also emailing. I did get your voicemail from late Wednesday and, unfortunately, have not yet been able to respond - it's been a busy week here as you can imagine with the Design Review Commission. Thank you for taking the time to weigh in at the Commission's meeting. We value community input and appreciate your time and concerns.

Our elasmobranch plan continues to be developed and no longer includes all eleven species that you mention in your email. For the species that will be included, our current plan is to acquire all sharks and rays for the Ocean Pavilion from human care. All the species within our plan are shallow reef species and thus are suitable for the Ocean Pavilion's exhibit size and design.

We do want to stress that from a conservation perspective there is a lot more involved than simply whether an animal is born in the wild or under human care. For example, Bowmouth Guitarfish are critically endangered and to bring these animals back from the brink of extinction will require innovative, coordinated and complex conservation action plans, including the need for managed breeding and reintroduction of animals born under human care back into the wild. In this case there could be a need to increase the genetic diversity of the population in order to breed and release these animals. If the need arose, any species brought in from the wild would follow sustainable sourcing rules and regulations of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, as well as U.S and international laws and treaties. Aquariums have the unique animal care, welfare, and breeding expertise and facilities required to support this critical conservation work.

It is also important to note that the Aquarium is not building a shark tank; it is building a complete, functioning reef ecosystem and the elasmobranchs selected are a critical part of that healthy ecosystem. They are also a critical part of the story from an educational and conservation perspective.

Thank you for your interest. We share your concern for wildlife and for our one world ocean. That is what drives us to be the best conservation organization we can be.

Sincerely,

Derek Baker