

12 July – emails

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 1:39 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Whale, Plimmerton

Hey [REDACTED]

Thanks so much for picking this up.
I have a doccm link here with all the updates so far.

I've responded and logged all the queries that we have had from yesterday up until now (just pending on one more).

Will see you in the CIMS meeting soon and feel free to give me a call if you need.

Thanks again [REDACTED]

Ngā mihi nui,

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 4:02 pm
To: [REDACTED]; <Media@doc.govt.nz>; Social Media <socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>; Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: [REDACTED]@parliament.govt.nz; [REDACTED]@parliament.govt.nz; [REDACTED]@parliament.govt.nz; [REDACTED]@parliament.govt.nz
Subject: Stranded orca response
Importance: High

Hi all,

Just confirming that we're all on the same page following various meetings and conversations.

There is now a CIMS structure of the stranded orca calf. All comms must be signed off by the Incident Controller [REDACTED]. Ian Angus is the official spokesperson.

[REDACTED] is putting together an update after 4.30 which will need to be put on our social media channels asap upon signoff.

We will send through the confirmed statement and media lines once approved.

[REDACTED] will use that update to respond to after-hours media queries.

[REDACTED] will put together another update for later this evening for the plan over night and when the next update will be. This needs to go on social channels asap upon sign off.

Ian Angus will be available for media interviews in the morning.

From: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 23 July 2021 9:32 pm
To: Kirsty Prior <kprior@doc.govt.nz>; [redacted] Webteam
[redacted] Media
<Media@doc.govt.nz>; [redacted] Social Media
<socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>; Reg Kemper <rkemper@doc.govt.nz>; Elizabeth Heeg <eheeg@doc.govt.nz>; Kristopher Ramm <kramm@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: orca died

Sorry – got media all over me asking for confirmation and statement. So no – Reg has draft he’s sharing with iwi and Ingrid.

From: Kirsty Prior <kprior@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 23 July 2021 9:20 pm
To: [redacted] Webteam [redacted]
[redacted] Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [redacted]
[redacted] Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>; Social Media
<socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>; Reg Kemper <rkemper@doc.govt.nz>; Elizabeth Heeg <eheeg@doc.govt.nz>; Kristopher Ramm <kramm@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: orca died

Hi,

Can we wait until morning please for the MR. Request from iwi.

Kirsty

Operations Manager Aotea

On 23/07/2021 9:16 pm, Social Media <socialmedia@doc.govt.nz> wrote:
Kia ora Bronwyn,

I’ll get a post up ASAP.

Cheers,
[redacted]

From: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 23 July 2021 9:13 PM
To: Social Media <socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>; [redacted]
[redacted] Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [redacted] Webteam
[redacted]
Cc: Reg Kemper <rkemper@doc.govt.nz>; Kirsty Prior <kprior@doc.govt.nz>; Elizabeth Heeg <eheeg@doc.govt.nz>; Kristopher Ramm <kramm@doc.govt.nz>; Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: orca died

Hi team

The orca has died. I've got a draft release with Reg and the team for sign off but can social media start working up a post real quick. It has been announced on social media a few minutes go.

Draft

Baby Toa loses fight for survival

Despite a massive community effort to save the baby orca known as Toa, the abandoned calf has tonight died in the sea pea at Plimmerton Boating club.

The condition of the juvenile orca that stranded 13 days ago began to deteriorate about 5pm, sinking and remaining on the seabed.

DOC spokesperson says the many DOC staff, Orca Research Trust/Whale Rescue, local iwi Ngāti Toa Rangatira, and the local community threw everything at trying to save him.

"We were always aware that the longer he was in captivity, away from his mother, the more likely it was that his health would deteriorate.

"Toa passed quickly, surrounded by love with his last days made as comfortable as possible.

"Throughout this entire effort, we've all been united in wanting to do what's best for the orca. Finding and reuniting him with his pod was still our goal as we headed into the weekend.

It was always a long shot that we would be able to successfully reunite Toa with his pod. The odds were against us - there's no worldwide precedent for an unweaned orca calf being taken into human care and later repatriated to a pod.

Nevertheless, this calf had captured hearts and no one wanted to believe that he didn't have a fighting chance despite the hand fate had dealt him.

Planning is now underway to give the community that provided such aroha to this young orca an opportunity to farewell Toa and recognise the very special place he made in the short time he was with us.

ENDS

Last Sunday (11 July), the orca calf was stranded on rocks near Plimmerton, north of Wellington. Less than 2.5m long, it is thought to be 2 to 6 months old.

The operation to care for the orca calf was led by DOC with support from Orca Research Trust/Whale Rescue Trust, local iwi Ngāti Toa Rangatira, and the local community.

Whale-Rescue.org

From: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>

Sent: Friday, 23 July 2021 8:43 pm

To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; Reg Kemper <rkemper@doc.govt.nz>; Kristopher Ramm <kramm@doc.govt.nz>; Elizabeth Heeg <eheeg@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>; Kirsty Prior <kprior@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: Draft orca statements

Hi

Reg has advised me that things aren't looking good at the moment so I've had a first cut at some statements. Let me know what the situation is. Heads up [REDACTED], might need a bit of help here. We will need a spokesperson – not Reg, but someone who can talk in detail about care of Toa. I know Ian's exhausted but it's important we are able to maintain the trust that's been built by having subject matter expert talking with compassion about this as we enter the final stages.

Thanks

Bronwyn

23 July 2021

Draft releases

Orca dead

Baby Toa loses fight for survival

Despite a massive community effort to save the baby orca known as Toa, the abandoned calf has tonight died in the sea near Plimmerton Boating club.

The condition of the juvenile orca that stranded 13 days ago began to deteriorate about 5pm, sinking and remaining on the seabed.

Ian Angus, DOC's marine species manager says the many DOC staff, Orca Research Trust/Whale Rescue, local iwi Ngāti Toa Rangatira, and the local community threw everything at trying to save him.

"We were always aware that the longer he was in captivity, away from his mother, the more likely it was that his health would deteriorate.

"Toa passed quickly, surrounded by love with his last days made as comfortable as possible.

"Throughout this entire effort, we've all been united in wanting to do what's best for the orca. Finding and reuniting him with his pod was still our goal as we headed into the weekend.

It was always a long shot that we would be able to successfully reunite Toa with his pod. The odds were against us - there's no worldwide precedent for an unweaned orca calf being taken into human care and later repatriated to a pod.

Nevertheless, this calf had captured hearts and no one wanted to believe that he didn't have a fighting chance despite the hand fate had dealt him.

Planning is now underway to give the community that provided such aroha to this young orca an opportunity to farewell Toa and recognise the very special place he made in the short time he was with us.

ENDS

Last Sunday (11 July), the orca calf was stranded on rocks near Plimmerton, north of Wellington. Less than 2.5m long, it is thought to be 2 to 6 months old.

The operation to care for the orca calf was led by DOC with support from Orca Research Trust/Whale Rescue Trust, local iwi Ngāti Toa Rangatira, and the local community.

Health Deteriorating.

“Unfortunately the orca known as Toa is now beginning to exhibit signs of distress/health issues/welfare issues. The teams involved are now looking at some hard calls.

“Ultimately we need to do what’s in Toa’s best interests. We’re working with experts from around the world to help inform the decision making on what the best course of action could be and we’ll continue to monitor the situation.”

The orca has been stranded since xx. The calf - estimated to be between two and six months old – was stranded on rocks near Plimmerton, north of Wellington. An ongoing operation to care for the orca calf is being led by DOC with support from Orca Research Trust/Whale Rescue, local iwi Ngāti Toa Rangatira, and the local community.

Euthanasia – N.B this version approved by Ingrid and Ngati Toa last weekend

The health of the orca calf stranded at Porirua has deteriorated and officials have made the difficult call to euthanise.

Ian Angus DOC’s Marine Species Manager says despite the best efforts of the many DOC staff, Orca Research Trust/Whale Rescue Trust, local iwi Ngāti Toa Rangatira, and the local community, expert veterinary advice was that the orca had begun to suffer. “Despite every effort, including advice from experts around the world, the orca’s health took a turn for the worst”.

Although there have been two sightings we were unable to ascertain who they were and a release back to them would have prolonged his suffering.

We have had to make this heartbreaking decision with his health rapidly deteriorating, this was deemed to be the kindest action.

We will continue to treat Toa with the dignity and respect he deserves. Appropriate arrangements are being made with local iwi.

We’d like to thank every one who has volunteered their time and efforts to saving Toa and everyone who has followed his journey.

The orca had been stranded since last Sunday. The calf - estimated to be between four and six months old – was stranded on rocks near Plimmerton, north of Wellington.

From: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>

Sent: Friday, 23 July 2021 4:13 pm

To: [REDACTED]

Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Orca update - 4.30pm, Friday July 23

Hi

Looks good – just noting that we will probably be asked how we plan to keep track of the pod overnight if we do find it this afternoon.

Cheers

Bronwyn

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, 23 July 2021 3:38 pm

To: [REDACTED]

Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Cc: [REDACTED]

Bronwyn

Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]

Subject: Orca update - 4.30pm, Friday July 23

Kia ora,

Draft update below and attached for sign off.



Department of
Conservation
Media release
Te Pūnaha Matatini

23 July 2021

Orca update – 4.30pm Friday, 23 July 2021

A reported sighting of an orca pod on the Kapiti Coast is being investigated by air and sea, while the orca calf remains stable at the Plimmerton Boating Club.

Department of Conservation (DOC) Marine Species Manager Ian Angus says two aircraft are searching from the air and a DOC boat is on the water in response to the reported sighting south of Raumati.

“If the boat is able to find a pod, we will take photographs that can be used to identify whether it is the one that the orca calf came from, based on the unique markings on the orca.”

“However, if it is the right pod, we will not be able to reunite the orca calf today, given the limited amount of daylight left and the intricacies of the operation.”

He says search efforts will continue in the morning, to take advantage of a fine weather window currently forecast to last until Sunday.

Any sightings of orca around the country should be reported to DOC HOT 0800 362 468 or via marinemammals@doc.govt.nz. If the pod is in the lower North Island or Marlborough region this would give the best chance of successful reunification.

The focus is still to reunite the orca calf with its pod, which has now been in care for 12 days.

The calf continues to do well in the sea pen and is making use of the extra space compared to the temporary pool.

Ian Angus says decisions are being made with the orca calf's wellbeing and health as a priority, and a range of scenarios are being planned for.

The Plimmerton Boating Club site remains closed to the public to reduce stress for the orca calf.

Last Sunday (11 July), the orca calf was stranded on rocks near Plimmerton, north of Wellington. Less than 2.5m long, it is thought to be 2 to 6 months old.

An ongoing operation to care for the orca calf is being led by DOC with support from Orca Research Trust/Whale Rescue Trust, local iwi Ngāti Toa Rangatira, and the local community.

DOC, veterinarians, and Whale Rescue/Orca Research Trust are receiving regular advice from international orca experts and veterinarians – information proving vital as decisions are made.

–Ends–

Contacts

media@doc.govt.nz

Ngā mihi,

[Redacted]

Eastern South Island Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapā
Christchurch | Ōtautahi

[Redacted]

www.doc.govt.nz

From: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 23 July 2021 2:29 pm
To: [REDACTED]; Michael Sparrow <msparrow@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Orca Toa King Salmon Oil - Story

Hi Team

We responded to King Salmon earlier in the week – advising them to talk directly with the zoo. We have heaps of businesses helping out and to begin shouting out to one, risks missing out and alienating other businesses so we're going to stay away from that.

Thanks

Bronwyn

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 20 July 2021 11:28 am
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Orca Toa King Salmon Oil - Story

Kia ora [REDACTED]

I understand the salmon oil is being used in the feeding and this is greatly appreciated – so if you want to post something about that on your social media that will be fine.

Wellington Zoo is going to be giving the vets an instructional about how to make up the food mix onsite later today, so I suggest you get in touch with the Zoo. They should be able to give you more information about how the food is mixed etc to include in your post.

Hope that helps!

Ngā mihi

[REDACTED]
Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapā, Lower North Island Region
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

[REDACTED]
Conservation House, 18 Manners Street, Wellington 6011

Kia piki te oranga o te ao tūroa, i roto i te ngātahitanga, ki Aotearoa.
To work with others to increase the value of conservation for New Zealanders.
www.doc.govt.nz

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 12:47 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Orca Toa King Salmon Oil - Story

Hi [REDACTED]

I hope you are well!

I am from New Zealand King Salmon, and work on Omega Plus in the marketing team. Frank has passed on your details as he thought you would be able to assist.

We have donated some King Salmon Oil for baby orca Toa. We think it is fantastic that it is being used to help with the recovery and would love to share this story on our social channels.

Firstly, I want to check to make sure it is ok that we share this? Secondly, it would be awesome to get some more context if possible, so we can share the correct info!

Feel free to give me a quick call if easier 😊

Many thanks,



6 Mitchelson Street, Auckland, 1051
www.omegaplus.co.nz

 Omegaplusnz  OmegaPlusNZ



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From: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>

Sent: Friday, 23 July 2021 10:37 am

To: [REDACTED]

Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; Kirsty Prior <kprior@doc.govt.nz>; Elizabeth Heeg <eheeg@doc.govt.nz>

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Draft Orca update - July 23, 11am

If you can find her and do it next 10 minutes otherwise we will FYI the trust.

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, 23 July 2021 10:35 am

To: [REDACTED] Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; Kirsty Prior <kprior@doc.govt.nz>; Elizabeth Heeg <eheeg@doc.govt.nz>

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Draft Orca update - July 23, 11am

I'm just trying to do that.

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, 23 July 2021 10:34 am

To: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED] Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; Kirsty Prior <kprior@doc.govt.nz>; Elizabeth Heeg <eheeg@doc.govt.nz>

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Draft Orca update - July 23, 11am

Sounds good. Does it need to go past Ingrid?

Ngā mihi,

[REDACTED]
Eastern South Island Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapā
Christchurch | Ōtautahi

www.doc.govt.nz



From: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>

Sent: Friday, 23 July 2021 10:34 am

To: [REDACTED]

Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; Kirsty Prior <kprior@doc.govt.nz>; Elizabeth Heeg

<eheeg@doc.govt.nz>

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: Draft Orca update - July 23, 11am

Thanks [redacted] – let's go with it [redacted] in Ian's name.

From: [redacted]

Sent: Friday, 23 July 2021 10:29 am

To: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>; [redacted]

Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; Kirsty Prior <kprior@doc.govt.nz>; Elizabeth Heeg

<eheeg@doc.govt.nz>

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: Draft Orca update - July 23, 11am

Kirsty has reviewed this and was happy with the release but not happy in this instance to be spokesperson. I have spoken to Ian and he is happy to around again.

From: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>

Sent: Friday, 23 July 2021 10:18 am

To: [redacted]

Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; Kirsty Prior <kprior@doc.govt.nz>; Elizabeth Heeg

<eheeg@doc.govt.nz>

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: Draft Orca update - July 23, 11am

Hi

I think for this one – it should be Kirsty Prior sign off as it is talking about current plan for operational steps. [redacted], can you check if Kirsty happy to sign this off – if not, Elizabeth.

Cheers

Bronwyn

From: [redacted]

Sent: Friday, 23 July 2021 9:56 am

To: [redacted] Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Cc: [redacted] Bronwyn

Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>; [redacted]

Subject: Draft Orca update - July 23, 11am

Kia ora,

Draft update below and attached for sign off.



23 July 2021

Orca update – 11am Friday, 23 July 2021

The orca calf at Plimmerton Boating Club is responding well to being back in the sea pen, while efforts to find the stranded calf's pod will ramp up through a fine weather window.

Department of Conservation (DOC) Ian Angus says the transfer of the orca calf back into the sea pen on Thursday night went smoothly.

“As soon as the calf was back in the sea, he started calling and zooming around the pen.”

Water quality tests came back showing there is no issues with contamination and it is safe to swim in.

Ian Angus says plans to increase the search efforts are being pulled together, to make the most of a fine weather window forecast to last until Sunday.

“We remain focused on trying to find the orca calf's pod. Our efforts will be focused on the lower half of the North Island and upper half of the South Island.

“However, we are still calling for people to report any sightings from anywhere in the country, as New Zealand orca can travel up to 160km a day.

“Reports with photos or video are particularly helpful, as we can identify the calf's pod by the unique markings on the orca.”

Ian Angus says all decisions are still being made based on the health and wellbeing of the calf, and we are planning thoroughly for a range of options.

The Plimmerton Boating Club site remains closed to the public to reduce stress for the orca calf.

Last Sunday (11 July), the orca calf was stranded on rocks near Plimmerton, north of Wellington. Less than 3m long, it is thought to be 3 to 6 months old.

An ongoing operation to care for the orca calf is being led by DOC with support from Orca Research Trust/Whale Rescue Trust, local iwi Ngāti Toa Rangatira, and the local community.

DOC, veterinarians, and Whale Rescue/Orca Research Trust are receiving regular advice from international orca experts and veterinarians – information proving vital as decisions are made.

–Ends–

Contacts

media@doc.govt.nz

Ngā mihi,

[REDACTED]
Eastern South Island Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapā
Christchurch | Ōtautahi

[REDACTED]
www.doc.govt.nz



From: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>

Sent: Thursday, 22 July 2021 3:02 pm

To: Jack Mace <jmace@doc.govt.nz>; Elizabeth Heeg <eheeg@doc.govt.nz>; Kirsty Prior <kprior@doc.govt.nz>; Kevin OConnor <koconnor@doc.govt.nz>; Sarah Owen <sarahowen@doc.govt.nz>; Reg Kemper <rkemper@doc.govt.nz>

Cc: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]

Subject: Orca Calf communications approach 21 July 2021

Hi

Latest version of the comms plan – will be adapted as we learn more and the operation evolves.

DRAFT

21 July 2021

Orca calf stranding at Plimmerton - communications approach

Purpose:

To support DOC's Plimmerton Orca operation by ensuring there is good public understanding and acceptance for the decisions, made with expert advice, about the most humane solution for the abandoned and stranded orca calf.

Context:

The orca – estimated to be only a few months old – stranded on rocks at Hongoeka north of Plimmerton mid-afternoon on Sunday 11 July 2021.

The Department of Conservation (DOC) – lead government agency in marine mammal stranding situations – is working with the Orca Rescue Trust, local iwi Ngāti Toa Rangatira, World Wildlife Fund, Fire and Rescue NZ and volunteers to save the animal.

The focus remains on caring for the orca and returning it to its pod. It is dynamic and complex situation involving multiple parties and an ever changing environment with a range of different views on what is best for this orca calf.

It is an un-weaned calf which is now 10 days (as at 21 July) away from its mother and pod, in a small enclosed space being hand fed.

There are ethical and welfare issues that need to be addressed in the coming days as DOC consults national and international experts for advice on next steps.

DOC Response:

A DOC Orca Coordinating Group led by Jack Mace, is coordinating DOC's response, working with two teams, a Technical Advisory Group led by Elizabeth Heeg and an Operational Team led by Kirsty Prior, and based onsite at Plimmerton Boating Club. Jack is

also being supported by Sarah Owen as Chief Advisor and Bronwyn Saunders as communications manager.

Single point accountability with leader-led arrangements is in place with Biodiversity Deputy Director General Kevin O'Conner as the decision maker, supported by Jack as team lead with strong communications and updated operational and technical guidance developed as needed with subject matter experts.

The team is overseeing operations onsite, managing the welfare of the orca under Marine Mammal legislative obligations, consulting widely with partners including vets, and national and international experts. This includes scenario and logistics planning and standing up the necessary resources to assist with reunification and other future plans.

The team is working closely with Orca Research Trust and Ngāti Toa Rangatira. As time moves on without locating the natal pod, or a pod with a lactating orca – the chances of successfully returning the orca calf to the wild reduces significantly.

The technical advisory group will develop detailed scenario planning and advice on next steps. This options paper will be shared with Whale Rescue and Ngati Toa and their views/advice incorporated into the final briefing for the DDG to consider as part of any decisions.

Communications Approach

Using media and DOC digital channels and working with our partners, DOC will provide regular daily updates on the orca operation.

CEU taskforce

DOC's Customer Engagement Unit (CEU) has established an Orca taskforce which is meeting twice daily to task assign and liaise on content and communications.

As the operation has become established, actions to date have focused on media management, with twice daily updates and interviews on request with SME from DOC's marine team.

This includes an onsite communications and media advisor to liaise with IMT and technical experts to get clearance on media statements and messaging, as well as facilitate media interview and access.

Content has been focused on the health of the orca calf, operational logistics, the plan for its future, public health and safety and request for orca pod sightings.

Media

Mainstream media is the key channel – with the content being pushed out across DOC, and other partner digital channels including the Orca Research Trust and Project Jonah.

The supply of regularly updated information and advice to media along with access to the Plimmerton site and experts for interview, has seen lower than expected social media engagement/commentary.

This reinforces the need to keep media actively supported to tell the story which includes preparing people for the worst-case scenario.

Emotion

Marine mammal stories are hugely emotive and this story in particular tugs at peoples' heartstrings.

People will want to have confidence that DOC and its partners have done everything they can possibly do for the orca calf. That every decision is made in the best interests of the calf.

There will be disagreement about what the best thing is. Our role is to ensure people have the facts from a wide variety of experts, that we are transparent about our decision making and we can stand by the evidence for those decisions.

Evidence

Our content needs to be evidence based and presented with compassion.

As risky and difficult decisions are made, we need to be upfront and open on the reasons, and risks associated with our actions.

It is important that people understand that any decision on the orca calf's future is being made with expert advice about what is most humane given the hand it has been dealt.

Media spokespeople

DOC Technical Advisors:

- Ian Angus: [REDACTED] iangus@doc.govt.nz
- Kirstie Knowles: [REDACTED] kknowles@doc.govt.nz
- Kris Ramm: [REDACTED] kramm@doc.govt.nz
- Elizabeth Heeg (Director): [REDACTED] eheeg@doc.govt.nz

DOC Operations:

Kirsty Prior [REDACTED] kprior@doc.govt.nz
(SPA – Lead Strategic Coordinating Group) Jack Mace [REDACTED] jmace@doc.govt.nz

Orca Research Trust and Whale Rescue

Dr Ingrid N. Visser – Founder & Principal Scientist of the Orca Research Trust, regarded as one of the world's leading authority on Orca is onsite and leading the care and welfare of the orca calf with advice and support from vets and marine experts – Phone [REDACTED].

Science Media Centre

We are collaborating with the Science Media Centre to widen the story to include the voices of national and international experts on marine mammals, animal welfare and ethics. This will also assist media with access to science and subject matter experts on marine mammal stranding.

A data base has been established to provide contact details for experts

The injection of new voices about the future welfare of the orca has resulted in some public confusion about the current plan for reunification. We are reinforcing that at this stage the plan remains in place to try and locate the orca's pod and reunite it.

Communications Rhythm

- CIMS/IMT onsite operational meeting – 8.30am daily
- CEU Orca Communications meeting – 10am and 3.30pm (weekdays)
- DOC twice daily updates to media and digital channels – 11am and 4.30pm (weekdays)
- DOC Orca Coordination Group – 5pm daily (weekdays)

Key Messages and FAQs

21 July 2021

- DOC's goal remains unchanged in that we are continuing to work closely with Ingrid Visser and her Orca Trust to keep the calf healthy, and are searching for the orca pod to try and reunite the calf.
- There is planning underway for all scenarios – any decisions made in the future will be with expert national and international advice and based on what is in the best interests of the orca calf.
- DOC's technical advisory group, made up of national experts are working through health and welfare animal ethics including legal requirements under New Zealand's Marine Mammals Act. They are also consulting with international experts.
- DOC's operational team is focused on the detail and logistics of whether reunification is viable. This must take into account the possibility that even if the orca calf's pod is located, what happens if the calf is not accepted back by the pod. Can the calf be reloaded back onboard a boat? Would it be acceptable to leave the calf to fend for itself in open sea?
- An options paper examining all the scenarios is being worked through the technical and operations teams.
- The Science Media Centre yesterday released some animal welfare and ethics experts' views which raises important issues about how best to ensure the most humane outcome for this calf.
- [SCM Ethics reaction to Toa](#) article is what is sparking peoples' concern but there is no change to DOC's plan to seek reunification at this stage.
- Bad weather till at least Friday morning means the orca calf remains in the pool which is not ideal.

- DOC staff with Ingrid's team, local iwi and volunteers are working tirelessly around the clock to do their very best for the orca calf.
- There's a give a little page for Ingrid's group. https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/rescue-of-baby-orca-toa-nz-orca-research-trust?ref=home&ref_code=trending
- People wanting the most up to date factual information should follow DOC's social media and web pages.
- Refer all media queries to media@doc.govt.nz. All media responses must be worked through with Bronwyn and the duty media advisor.

Key Stakeholder/Partner relations

Liaising over planning and issues with DOC partners and key stakeholders is critical during the orca response.

- local iwi Ngāti Toa Rangatira: [REDACTED]
- Orca Research Trust: Dr Ingrid Visser [REDACTED] [ingrid](#) [REDACTED]

Internal Communications

The twice daily updates are being published on DOC's intranet and staff should use this information to respond to inquiries.

Key messages have also been provided to the call centre and other staff answering calls but they've been advised that the DOC website contains the latest factual information.

Internal Communications is being briefed in and will refine approach to ensure staff are well informed and the operations/tag teams' information is coordinated.

Minister Communications

The Minister of Conservation is being regularly briefed and updated by the Operations Director Jack Mace.

In addition:

- A daily update on any changes or key issues is provided daily. For any significant changes we will contact the Minister's office directly.
- Status report updates are being provided weekly.

Orca FAQ

1. Where has this orca calf come from?

We think this calf has come from one of the pods known to live around New Zealand's coastlines. It is estimated that there are between 100 and 200 individual orca living around New Zealand coasts. Other populations of orca are known to pass through New Zealand waters, but we don't believe this calf is from one of those groups.

2. What do we know about this calf?

It is an infant calf between 2.5m and 3m long. Initial estimates were that it was between four and six months old however advice from international experts, based on its skin colour,

suggest it might be as young as three months. Like most mammals of this age, baby orca are totally reliant on their mothers for sustenance and survival.

3. How long can it survive without its mother?

A calf this age depends on its mother for food and protection. Orca calves are weaned between 12 and 24 months old. Young male orca will stick with a pod for several years and once reaching sexual maturity they may stay, or leave to form their own family pods.

4. How are you keeping it alive without its mother?

Until recently the orca calf was fed via a tube – primarily electrolytes to hydrate it. Tube feeding can cause discomfort and this calf has been distressed during that procedure.

The calf is now being bottled fed with a specially designed teat and apron – to mimic as close as possible an orca udder. It is being fed four litres every four hours of a special whale brew made by Wellington Zoo, a mixture including herring and salmon oil.

The orca has lacerations, and has been through a fair bit of trauma but is in a stable condition. It is believed that mother orca will stop lactating after 30 days if it not regularly feeding its young.

5. How long can you keep it alive for?

Unweaned orca calves have been known to survive for around 20 days – but that doesn't mean it's the best thing for the animal. We will know after a week of supported nutrition whether there is any significant deterioration in the animal's welfare. Vets are regularly checking the calf's condition and vital signs. Our focus is the welfare of this animal. We need to consider what is best for the calf and we don't want it to suffer unnecessarily.

6. What is colic and why did the orca calf get it?

Colic is in essence a form of crying, a form of unexplained distress. You see it in babies and it can be linked to unexplained distress around feeding. Because this calf is not being fed by its mother we can't really explain what is happening, although we noticed that once the calf passed a bowel motion its distress seemed to ease, so we assume the pressure on his stomach eased too.

7. What's the plan?

The main objective continues to be on keeping the calf alive and reuniting it with its pod. If weather conditions allow, we will keep searching and are appealing for any sightings of orca pods.

Significant planning is underway to return the calf, should the pod be found. DOC is currently working through a number of potential scenarios, alongside Ngati Toa and the Orca Research/Whale Rescue Trust, and with input from national and international experts.

8. What are your chances of success?

It is a really long shot and, while hopeful, we are being realistic about the chances of success. The odds are against us - as far as we're aware, there's no precedent for an orca calf this age being repatriated to a pod.

A juvenile orca, known as Springer that was fully weaned, was successfully reunited with its pod in Canada some years ago but it was a different environment with a much more mature orca.

A factor for us to consider is the welfare of the orca calf and whether it is in its best interests for reunification to occur if it is suffering or the trip is going to cause extreme distress.

9. What are the chances of his pod coming back for him?

Evidence shows a pod will stick around when they know a member is stranded/in distress, but there are limits to all of that. There have been sightings of a pod which may be this calf's pod, but weather conditions mean these reports aren't fully verified. We are continuing to appeal to the public to report any sightings.

10. How long will you keep searching before another option is implemented?

There are no hard timelines or dates. We are assessing the situation daily and updating approaches and plans accordingly.

11. Can it be rehomed somewhere? Surely there's somewhere in New Zealand able to take it?

There is no facility in New Zealand capable of receiving this animal – there isn't a tank or pool big enough. Orca are intelligent, social, curious and exploratory animals known to swim long distances. Even if there was a facility that could take it, this wouldn't be in the best interests of the animal.

12. So will it have to be euthanised?

We are planning for a range of scenarios. Nothing has been ruled out at this stage including euthanasia if it is determined by the experts to be the most humane option in the best interests of the calf.

It is a very challenging and complex situation and we have to do what's best for the animal.

The calf's welfare has been declining since it was separated from its mother and while it is currently stable, it has suffered trauma and supplementary feeding may not be enough to keep it healthy.

We are trying to keep it in as good a health as we can – but it's not a long-term solution, and will not keep it alive indefinitely.

We have to plan for alternatives. Any decisions made will be made based on expert advice and what is in the best interests of the animal.

13. What are the alternatives?

We are dealing with the unknown – best case is that we can find his pod and reunite the calf with its mother.

Or find an orca pod with a lactating female and hope that the calf would be accepted by that pod. Lactating female orcas have been known to 'adopt' calves, but there is a risk it would be rejected.

Other options may include relocating to a purpose build sea pen in calmer waters. This would be expensive, logistically complex and may not be in the calf's best interests. It would be a lonely captive experience where it would need to be hand-fed for many more months.

While we are doing all we can to save this orca, the reality is that it may be in its best interests to be euthanised if we cannot maintain its health and it cannot be returned to its pod.

There is planning underway for all scenarios – any decisions made in the future will be with expert national and international advice and based on what is in the best interests of the orca calf.

DOC's technical advisory group, made up of national and international experts are working through health and welfare animal ethics including legal requirements under New Zealand's Marine Mammals Act.

DOC's operational team is focused on the detail and logistics of whether reunification is viable. This must take into account the possibility that even if the orca calf's pod is located, what happens if the calf is not accepted back by the pod. Can the calf be reloaded back onboard a boat? Would it be acceptable to leave the calf to fend for itself in open sea?

An options paper examining all the scenarios is being worked through the technical and operations teams.

The Science Media Centre has released some animal welfare and ethics experts' views which raises important issues about how best to ensure the most humane outcome for this calf.

14. Who will make the decision on what happens to this orca calf?

The Department of Conservation has the responsibility for the welfare of animals under the Marine Mammals Protection Act. The decision on the calf's future will be made by DOC's organisational lead (either DDG Biodiversity or LNI Regional Operations Director) at site, after consulting with international and national orca experts.

We understand that the plight of this orca has touched many New Zealanders, especially those on the ground that have dedicated their time to helping to care for it. We know there's a huge emotional investment by the public, but we need to keep the interests of the animal at the forefront.

15. What is the operation costing?

We haven't done any calculations yet but a budget of \$50K has been established for DOC's operations to cover accommodation, gear, transport etc. This doesn't include staffing costs.

Iwi and the Whale Rescue Trust will have their own costs. Support from the community and business has been immense and welcome. A huge thanks also to FENZ and their volunteer brigade who continue to make a massive contribution to helping on the site.

DOC staff numbers are constantly changing. We have a rotating shift of operational and technical staff supporting the operation.

16. Who is DOC working with to inform the decision making around this calf?

Our advisory group includes around 12 national and international vets, including from Vancouver Marine Aquarium and SeaWorld who have had a range of experience in raising near natal orca. We are also closely working with iwi and veterinary experts are on site at all times.

17. How long do orca live for in the wild?

Orca in wild populations have been known to live for 60-80 years.

18. Why do the handlers have to wear masks?

19. DOC's usual practise is not to intervene in the lives and welfare of wild animals - why was this case different?

DOC regularly provides welfare and rescue support for injured or distressed wildlife. This case is no different in that we responded to the stranding of a very young orca calf. The Orca Research Trust was also involved. This is unique in that it is a baby orca that is still being weaned and it has now been supported for more than 9 days in an enclosed area which will be New Zealand's longest marine mammal stranding response for an individual animal.

20. If another whale of this age was stranded in similar circumstances next month, would anything be done differently? Does this set a precedent for intervention?

It is impossible to say whether things would be done differently. We are learning from this current operation and there are no easy solutions. Our goal is to maintain the orca's health while we look to locate its pod and try to return the calf to its mother. Every stranding is different but the one thing that does remain the same, is that any decisions are made in the best interests of the stranded animal/s.

21. Have you thought about playing his vocalisations under water to attract the pod back?

22. What will you tell people in relation to the various scenarios?

Sea pen return

The juvenile orca stranded at Porirua will return/has returned to the sea pen following an improvement in weather.

The orca calf, estimated to be between four and six months old, was moved to a temporary pool on Thursday evening due to bad weather making his ongoing care dangerous for both the calf and the staff and volunteers looking after him.

With the weather now more settled, the focus returns to searching for his missing pod.

The orca's health continues to be stable.

The calf has now been away from his pod for over a week after becoming stranded on rocks near Plimmerton, north of Wellington. An ongoing operation to care for the orca calf is being led by DOC with support from Orca Research Trust/Whale Rescue Trust, local iwi Ngāti Toa Rangatira, and the local community.

Pod sightings can be reported to:

Orca health declining

The condition of the juvenile orca stranded at Porirua has sadly begun to deteriorate and helpers are assessing the next steps.

Ian Angus, DOC's marine species manager says despite the best efforts of the many DOC staff, Orca Research Trust/Whale Rescue Trust, local iwi Ngāti Toa Rangatira, and the local community, expert veterinary advice is that the orca's health is beginning to suffer.

"Throughout this entire effort, we've all been united in wanting to do what's best for the orca. Finding and reuniting him with his pod is still our goal, however our priority has always been the welfare of the orca. The longer he is in captivity, away from his mum, the more likely it is that his health will deteriorate.

“Unfortunately the orca was now beginning to exhibit signs of distress/health issues/welfare issues. With the weather not expected to clear until Monday/Tuesday, the teams involved were now looking at some hard calls.

“Ultimately we need to do what’s in the orca’s best interests. We’re working with experts from around the world to help inform the decision making on what the best course of action could be and we’ll continue to monitor the situation.”

On Thursday the orca was moved to a temporary pool due to increasingly bad weather making his care unsafe for the orca and the helpers.

The orca has been stranded since last Sunday. The calf - estimated to be between four and six months old – was stranded on rocks near Plimmerton, north of Wellington. An ongoing operation to care for the orca calf is being led by DOC with support from Orca Research Trust/Whale Rescue Trust, local iwi Ngāti Toa Rangatira, and the local community.

Euthanasia

The health of the juvenile orca stranded at Porirua has rapidly deteriorated and officials have made the difficult call to euthanise.

Ian Angus DOC’s marine species manager says despite the best efforts of the many DOC staff, Orca Research Trust/Whale Rescue Trust, local iwi Ngāti Toa Rangatira, and the local community, expert veterinary advice was that the orca had begun to suffer.

“Despite every effort, including advice from experts around the world, the orca’s health took a turn for the worst. With the weather not expected to improve until Monday/Tuesday, and the orca in clear distress/unwell/suffering, we have ultimately made the heartbreaking decision to put him down. With a reunion with his missing pod looking increasingly unlikely, and his health rapidly deteriorating, this was deemed to be the kindest action.

We’d like to thank every one who has volunteered their time and efforts to saving Toa and everyone who has followed his journey.

The orca had been stranded since last Sunday. The calf - estimated to be between four and six months old – was stranded on rocks near Plimmerton, north of Wellington. An ongoing operation to care for the orca calf was being led by DOC with support from Orca Research Trust/Whale Rescue Trust, local iwi Ngāti Toa Rangatira, and the local community.

From: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>

Sent: Thursday, 22 July 2021 10:02 am

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: morning orca update 22 July - draft

Some suggestions – and we are removing mention of health concerns as these have improved over past day – was closed eye etc. Please remember to copy and paste into body of the email, easier for those working off phones etc.

Orca update – 10.30am, Thursday 22 July 2021

There was no change overnight for the orca calf at Plimmerton Boating Club, with the next steps to be determined by the weather forecast.

Department of Conservation (DOC) Marine Species Manager Ian Angus says the orca calf fed and rested well overnight and remains stable

“We are looking at the feeding regime to make sure the orca calf is getting the right food and consulting with international orca experts about the species nutritional needs.”

He says the orca calf’s welfare is assessed daily with decisions being made based on what is best for the animal. A range of scenarios are being planned for.

“Whether the orca calf will remain in the temporary pool or move back to a sea pen today will be determined after a detailed assessment of the weather forecast.” **We want to minimise moving of the calf as any transfer is stressful for it.**

Any sightings of orca around the country should be reported to DOC HOT 0800 362 468 or via marinemammals@doc.govt.nz. If the pod is in the lower north island or Marlborough region this would give the best chance of successful reunification.

“We remain focused on trying to find the specific pod the orca calf has come from. This can be verified based on markings on the orca, so any photos or video that people can provide alongside reported sightings are extremely helpful.”

A DOC boat is out searching, but as orca pods have been recorded moving up to 160km a day, reported sightings from boaties and the public remain valuable as it provides the information needed to do a detailed search.

Ian Angus says reported sightings are being actively gathered and validated before a decision is made whether to investigate further. Boats or planes are being used to investigate where possible.

The Plimmerton Boating Club site remains closed to the public to reduce stress for the orca calf.

Last Sunday (11 July), the orca calf was stranded on rocks near Plimmerton, north of Wellington. An ongoing operation to care for the orca calf is being led by DOC with support from Orca Research Trust/Whale Rescue Trust, local iwi Ngāti Toa Rangatira, and the local community.

DOC, veterinarians, and Whale Rescue/Orca Research Trust are receiving regular advice from international orca experts and veterinarians – information proving vital as decisions are made.

–Ends–

Contacts

media@doc.govt.nz

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 22 July 2021 9:55 am
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: morning orca update 22 July - draft

Kia ora,

Draft update attached – couple of points for clarification highlighted.

Ngā mihi,

[REDACTED]
Eastern South Island Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapā
Christchurch | Ōtautahi
[REDACTED]

www.doc.govt.nz



From: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 21 July 2021 6:00 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; Jack Mace <jmace@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Stranded Juvenile Orca Update 21 July Afternoon

Hi [REDACTED]

Nice to talk to you earlier. Please find below and attached the latest update which has just gone out to media. I've added your details to the distribution list and you should receive updates late morning and late afternoon. All of our updates are published on the DOC website as well.

Please don't hesitate to get in contact if you have any questions or issues. media@doc.govt.nz is monitored after hours and we're pretty quick at responding. My details are below.

Cheers

Bronwyn

Hei konā mai

Bronwyn Saunders
Media and Communications Manager

Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*
M: +[REDACTED]

Kia piki te oranga o te ao tūroa, i roto i te ngātahitanga, ki Aotearoa.
To work with others to increase the value of conservation for New Zealanders.

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Attached and below, please find the most recent update about the orca calf .

Date: 21 July 2021 - 4.15pm

The predicted persistence of poor weather has meant that there will be no change for the orca calf being cared for at Plimmerton Boating Club and it is likely to remain in the temporary pool for at least another day. The young orca has now been in our care for 10 days.

The Department of Conservation (DOC) Marine Species Manager, Ian Angus, says the veterinarians have done their regular health assessments and some of the previous health issues are no longer a cause for concern.

“While the calf remains in the temporary pool, people are reminded that the welfare of the calf is uppermost, and the public are advised to stay away so that staff and volunteers can focus on looking after the calf. Weather conditions are continually being reassessed,” Ian Angus says.

“We want to minimise the potential for stress for the calf and with poor weather predicted until at least Friday, we have to be disciplined in our approach to managing the calf,” he says.

Any sightings of orca around the country should be reported to DOC HOT 0800 362 468 or via marinemammals@doc.govt.nz. If the pod is in the lower north island or Marlborough region, this would give the best chance of successful reunification.

“Our focus now is on finding the specific pod the orca calf has come from. We will try to verify the pod based on the markings of the orca, so any photographs people can provide with reported sightings will help immensely.

“We are still planning for a range of scenarios. While the orca’s health is still stable, we are also being realistic as we consider the ongoing welfare of this animal – that has to be our number one concern.”

Veterinarians are onsite day and night and continue to carry out health checks on the animal.

The site remains closed to the public to reduce stress for the orca calf.

Last Sunday (11 July), the orca calf was stranded on rocks near Plimmerton, north of Wellington. An ongoing operation to care for the orca calf is being led by DOC with support from Orca Research Trust/Whale Rescue Trust, local iwi Ngāti Toa Rangatira, and the local community.

DOC, veterinarians, and Whale Rescue/Orca Research Trust are receiving regular advice from international orca experts and veterinarians – information proving vital as decisions are made.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 21 July 2021 11:07 am
To: [REDACTED] >
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; Jack Mace <jmace@doc.govt.nz>; Elizabeth Heeg <eheeg@doc.govt.nz>; Sarah Owen <sarahowen@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: orca comms - advice for call and admin staff

Hi [REDACTED]

We are doing twice daily updates during the week and these are on the DOC website/facebook – call staff should use this to respond to any questions. Late morning and afternoon. We're also doing regular media interviews.

- DOC's goal remains unchanged in that we are continuing to work closely with Ingrid Visser and her Orca Trust to keep the calf healthy, searching for the orca pod to try and reunite the calf.
- There is planning underway for all scenarios – any decisions made in the future will be with expert national and international advice and based on what is in the best interests of the orca calf.
- The Science Media Centre yesterday released some animal welfare and ethics experts' views and this has raised questions about how best to ensure the most humane outcome for this calf. This is what is sparking peoples' concern but there is no change to DOC's plan to seek reunification at this stage.
- We have some bad weather which means the orca calf remains in the pool which is not ideal.
- DOC staff with Ingrid's team, local iwi and volunteers are working tirelessly around the clock to do their very best for the orca calf.
- There's a give a little page for Ingrid's group. https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/rescue-of-baby-orca-toa-nz-orca-research-trust?ref=home&ref_code=trending
- People wanting the most up to date factual information should follow our social media and web pages.

Hope this helps with the calls and other inquiries.

Cheers

Bronwyn

From: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 21 July 2021 10:26 am
To: [REDACTED] Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Questions re Toa

Hi [REDACTED]

A little more detail from one of my colleagues around at that time was that it was monitored in-situ in the harbour from July 19 to August 2, then put in a para pool from August 3 until it died on August 6.

The response was effectively July 19 – August 6.

Cheers
Bronwyn

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@stuff.co.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 21 July 2021 8:54 am
To: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Questions re Toa

Hi Bronwyn,

Can I please clarify something - you say "This is unique in that it is a baby orca that is still being weaned and it has now been supported for more than 9 days in an enclosed area which will be New Zealand's longest marine mammal stranding response for an individual animal."

However a previous orca was kept for 20 days: <https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/82889751/tauranga-harbour-orca-dies-despite-rescuers-best-efforts>

Is there a distinction between the two?

Thanks!

[REDACTED]
Reporter (she/her)

stuff



Neighbourly

THE DOMINION POST

Stuff, Level 7, Spark Central, 42-52 Willis Street

PO Box 2595, Wellington 6140

On Tue, Jul 20, 2021 at 3:00 PM Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

Here's a response to your questions.

Please attribute the answers to Department of Conservation's Lower North Island Operations Director Jack Mace.

-DOC's usual practise is not to intervene in the lives and welfare of wild animals - why was this case different?

DOC regularly provides welfare and rescue support for injured or distressed wildlife. This case is no different in that we responded to the stranding of a very young orca calf. The Orca Research Trust was also involved. This is unique in that it is a baby orca that is still being weaned and it has now been supported for more than 9 days in an enclosed area which will be New Zealand's longest marine mammal stranding response for an individual animal.

-If another whale of this age was stranded in similar circumstances next month, would anything be done differently? Does Toa set a new precedent for intervention, or has he shown us that it can often get us in too deep?

It is impossible to say whether things would be done differently. We are learning from this current operation and there are no easy solutions. Our goal is to maintain the orca's health while we look to locate its pod and try to return the calf to its mother. Every stranding is different but the one thing that does remain the same, is that any decisions are made in the best interests of the stranded animal/s.

-What are the odds, now, that a reuniting of Toa and his pod will be successful if they are located?

It is a really long shot and, while hopeful, we are being realistic about the chances of success.

-Has euthanasia been discussed, and how much would Toa's welfare have to decline to to make this the best option?

We are planning for a range of scenarios. Nothing has been ruled out at this stage including euthanasia if it is determined by the experts to be the most humane option in the best interests of the calf.

-Roughly how many hours of DOC staff's time has been dedicated to work surrounding the orca calf?

We've had staff working around the clock since the Orca calf stranded on Sunday 4 July. At any one time we probably have about 20 staff across a range of disciplines working on this operation, but it is impossible to say as we deploy resources each day depending on what is needed. It is also important to note that there have been many iwi and rescue trust volunteers as well as FENZ volunteer brigade and other Plimmerton community members who have also made a huge contribution to the operation.

From: [REDACTED]@stuff.co.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 20 July 2021 1:17 pm
To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Questions re Toa

Hi media team, hope you're all well. I have some questions I'd love to have answered please!

-DOC's usual practise is not to intervene in the lives and welfare of wild animals - why was this case different?

-If another whale of this age was stranded in similar circumstances next month, would anything be done differently? Does Toa set a new precedent for intervention, or has he shown us that it can often get us in too deep?

-What are the odds, now, that a reuniting of Toa and his pod will be successful if they are located?

-Has euthanasia been discussed, and how much would Toa's welfare have to decline to to make this the best option?

-Roughly how many hours of DOC staff's time has been dedicated to work surrounding the orca calf?

My deadline is 3pm please. If some questions are unable to be answered in time, please do send me back as much as you can by the deadline.

Thanks heaps!


Reporter (she/her)

E 



Stuff, Level 7, Spark Central, 42-52 Willis Street

PO Box 2595, Wellington 6140 

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From: Bronwyn Saunders <bbsaunders@doc.govt.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, 21 July 2021 9:59 am

To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED] Social Media
<socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>; Webteam [REDACTED]

Subject: orca comms

Hi

Here's what Jack is after and the beginning of the comms approach which I need to find time between meetings and keeping across coverage to complete. Starting point for today's meeting. Main issue will be resourcing over coming days.

Cheers

Bronwyn

Media, comms and information :

- management of the public face of the information including external comms plan and
- internal comms and
- forward planning of public perception,
- on site media and MOC updates.
- Getting people prepared for scenarios.
- Manages the flow of information and how this works.

Communications Approach Plimmerton Orca calf

Purpose:

To support DOC's Plimmerton Orca operation by ensuring there is good public understanding and acceptance for the decisions, made with expert advice, about the most humane solution for the abandoned and stranded orca calf.

Latest context

The latest information is that while the calf is relatively stable, it has health issues including eye infection, colic and an ulcer near its blowhole as well as cuts and lacerations.

It is an un-weaned 3 month old which is now 10 days away from its mother and pod, in a small enclosed space being hand fed.

There are ethical and welfare issues that need to be addressed in the coming days as DOC consults national and international experts for advice on next steps.

Approach:

CEU taskforce

A jointed CEU taskforce is established and meeting twice daily to task assign and liaise on content across DOC channels.

As the operation has become established, actions to date have focused on media management, with twice daily updates and interviews with SME on request.

This includes an onsite communications and media advisor to liaise with IMT and technical experts to get clearance on media statements and messaging, as well as facilitate media interview and access.

Content has been focused on the health of the orca calf, operational logistics, the plan for its future, public health and safety and request for orca pod sightings.

Media

Mainstream media is the key channel – with the content being pushed out across DOC, and other partner digital channels including the Orca Research Trust and Project Jonah.

The supply of regularly updated information and advice to media along with access to the Plimmerton site and experts for interview, has seen lower than expected social media engagement/commentary.

This reinforces the need to keep media actively supported to tell the story which includes preparing people for the worst case scenario.

Emotion

Marine mammal stories are hugely emotive and this story in particular tugs at peoples' heartstrings.

People will want to have confidence that DOC and its partners have done everything they can possibly do for the orca calf. That every decision is made in the best interests of the calf.

There will be disagreement about what the best thing is. Our role is to ensure people have the facts from a wide variety of experts, that we are transparent about our decision making and we can stand by the evidence for those decisions.

Evidence

Our content needs to be evidence based and presented with compassion.

As risky and difficult decisions are made, we need to be upfront and open on the reasons, and risks associated with our actions.

It is important that people understand that any decision on the orca calf's future is being made with expert advice about what is most humane given the hand it has been dealt.

Science Media Centre

We are collaborating with the Science Media Centre to grow a data base of national and international experts on marine mammals, animal welfare and ethics to assist media with the science and subject matter experts on marine mammal stranding.

We will work with the technical advisory group to finalised a list of experts and their contact details to share through the SMC and with media.

Collateral/Content

Twice daily updates to media/digital channels - We will provide written updated weekdays mid morning and mid afternoon to align with the news cycle.

A DOC spokesperson, either technical or operational - provided for interviews daily, managed through the onsite media liaison advisor or the duty media advisor. Where possible onsite but can also do phone/video interviews.

Questions and Answers fact sheets - An FAQ and a reactive question and answer that captures current and future scenario planning as well as facts and figures.

Subject matter experts – Database of marine mammal, animal welfare and ethics experts to provide a broad range of science based information.

From: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 21 July 2021 9:30 am
To: [REDACTED]@stuff.co.nz; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Questions re Toa

Hi [REDACTED]

I'm advised the difference is the time enclosed. The Tauranga calf spent almost 20 days free-swimming in the harbour, hanging out near a mooring buoy. It was being monitored for part of that time while at sea, but only at the very end was it captured and taken into care in a pool. It was already in poor health at that stage and died within a few days.

Cheers
Bronwyn

From: [REDACTED]@stuff.co.nz
Sent: Wednesday, 21 July 2021 8:54 am
To: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Questions re Toa

Hi Bronwyn,

Can I please clarify something - you say "This is unique in that it is a baby orca that is still being weaned and it has now been supported for more than 9 days in an enclosed area which will be New Zealand's longest marine mammal stranding response for an individual animal."

However a previous orca was kept for 20 days: <https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/82889751/tauranga-harbour-orca-dies-despite-rescuers-best-efforts>

Is there a distinction between the two?

Thanks!

[REDACTED]
Reporter (she/her)

stuff  Neighbourly

THE DOMINION POST

Stuff, Level 7, Spark Central, 42-52 Willis Street

PO Box 2595, Wellington 6140 

On Tue, Jul 20, 2021 at 3:00 PM Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

Here's a response to your questions.

Please attribute the answers to Department of Conservation's Lower North Island Operations Director Jack Mace.

-DOC's usual practise is not to intervene in the lives and welfare of wild animals - why was this case different?

DOC regularly provides welfare and rescue support for injured or distressed wildlife. This case is no different in that we responded to the stranding of a very young orca calf. The Orca Research Trust was also involved. This is unique in that it is a baby orca that is still being weaned and it has now been supported for more than 9 days in an enclosed area which will be New Zealand's longest marine mammal stranding response for an individual animal.

-If another whale of this age was stranded in similar circumstances next month, would anything be done differently? Does Toa set a new precedent for intervention, or has he shown us that it can often get us in too deep?

It is impossible to say whether things would be done differently. We are learning from this current operation and there are no easy solutions. Our goal is to maintain the orca's health while we look to locate its pod and try to return the calf to its mother. Every stranding is different but the one thing that does remain the same, is that any decisions are made in the best interests of the stranded animal/s.

-What are the odds, now, that a reuniting of Toa and his pod will be successful if they are located?

It is a really long shot and, while hopeful, we are being realistic about the chances of success.

-Has euthanasia been discussed, and how much would Toa's welfare have to decline to to make this the best option?

We are planning for a range of scenarios. Nothing has been ruled out at this stage including euthanasia if it is determined by the experts to be the most humane option in the best interests of the calf.

-Roughly how many hours of DOC staff's time has been dedicated to work surrounding the orca calf?

We've had staff working around the clock since the Orca calf stranded on Sunday 4 July. At any one time we probably have about 20 staff across a range of disciplines working on this operation, but it is

impossible to say as we deploy resources each day depending on what is needed. It is also important to note that there have been many iwi and rescue trust volunteers as well as FENZ volunteer brigade and other Plimmerton community members who have also made a huge contribution to the operation.

From: [REDACTED]@stuff.co.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 20 July 2021 1:17 pm

To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: Questions re Toa

Hi media team, hope you're all well. I have some questions I'd love to have answered please!

-DOC's usual practise is not to intervene in the lives and welfare of wild animals - why was this case different?

-If another whale of this age was stranded in similar circumstances next month, would anything be done differently? Does Toa set a new precedent for intervention, or has he shown us that it can often get us in too deep?

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-Roughly how many hours of DOC staff's time has been dedicated to work surrounding the orca calf?

My deadline is 3pm please. If some questions are unable to be answered in time, please do send me back as much as you can by the deadline.

Thanks heaps!


Reporter (she/her)


stuff  Neighbourly

THE DOMINION POST

Stuff, Level 7, Spark Central, 42-52 Willis Street

PO Box 2595, Wellington 6140 

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From: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, 21 July 2021 9:28 am

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED] Media
<Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: [REDACTED]

Without a new spokesperson – is Ian able to do this last few. He holds all the context and is messaging sounded good at the meeting for where we are currently. Also include some info about issues that the vets are addressing. Talk at 10

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, 21 July 2021 9:21 am

To: [REDACTED] Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED] Media
<Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] let's have a quick chat after this so I can see if there's any info you're missing.

Bronwyn, be good to hear your thoughts about what things to include in the meeting re talking about vets, health, the scenarios as well. Maybe something for our comms meeting.

We also urgently need to get a new spokesperson agreed. I don't think Ian should do any more interviews if we can avoid it.

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, 21 July 2021 9:16 am

To: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]; Media
<Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: [REDACTED]

I can do this morning but I desperately need to get back to MOP stuff as soon as possible

From: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, 21 July 2021 9:15 am

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]; Media
<Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: [REDACTED]

Hi – we should be okay today as we still in holding pattern.

■■■■■ will do morning and let's see who is available this afternoon to do later update.
thanks

From: ■■■■■
Sent: Wednesday, 21 July 2021 9:11 am
To: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>
Subject:

Do you want me to do anything re Orca today? Otherwise I'll get cracking with the MOC visit for next week

From: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 20 July 2021 3:06 pm

To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@stuff.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@stuff.co.nz)>

Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Questions re Toa

Thanks [REDACTED] – yes pretty busy so bear with us.

From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@stuff.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@stuff.co.nz)>

Sent: Tuesday, 20 July 2021 3:03 pm

To: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>

Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Questions re Toa

Hi Bronwyn, thank you so much - I appreciate that was a quick turnaround.

Thanks again, hope you guys are doing well - I can imagine you guys in the office are just as run off your feet as those on-site!

[REDACTED]
Reporter (she/her)

stuff



Neighbourly

THE DOMINION POST

Stuff, Level 7, Spark Central, 42-52 Willis Street

PO Box 2595, Wellington 6140

On Tue, Jul 20, 2021 at 3:00 PM Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

Here's a response to your questions.

Please attribute the answers to Department of Conservation's Lower North Island Operations Director Jack Mace.

-DOC's usual practise is not to intervene in the lives and welfare of wild animals - why was this case different?

DOC regularly provides welfare and rescue support for injured or distressed wildlife. This case is no different in that we responded to the stranding of a very young orca calf. The Orca Research Trust

was also involved. This is unique in that it is a baby orca that is still being weaned and it has now been supported for more than 9 days in an enclosed area which will be New Zealand's longest marine mammal stranding response for an individual animal.

-If another whale of this age was stranded in similar circumstances next month, would anything be done differently? Does Toa set a new precedent for intervention, or has he shown us that it can often get us in too deep?

It is impossible to say whether things would be done differently. We are learning from this current operation and there are no easy solutions. Our goal is to maintain the orca's health while we look to locate its pod and try to return the calf to its mother. Every stranding is different but the one thing that does remain the same, is that any decisions are made in the best interests of the stranded animal/s.

-What are the odds, now, that a reuniting of Toa and his pod will be successful if they are located?

It is a really long shot and, while hopeful, we are being realistic about the chances of success.

-Has euthanasia been discussed, and how much would Toa's welfare have to decline to to make this the best option?

We are planning for a range of scenarios. Nothing has been ruled out at this stage including euthanasia if it is determined by the experts to be the most humane option in the best interests of the calf.

-Roughly how many hours of DOC staff's time has been dedicated to work surrounding the orca calf?

We've had staff working around the clock since the Orca calf stranded on Sunday 4 July. At any one time we probably have about 20 staff across a range of disciplines working on this operation, but it is impossible to say as we deploy resources each day depending on what is needed. It is also important to note that there have been many iwi and rescue trust volunteers as well as FENZ volunteer brigade and other Plimmerton community members who have also made a huge contribution to the operation.

From: [REDACTED]@stuff.co.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 20 July 2021 1:17 pm

To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: Questions re Toa

Hi media team, hope you're all well. I have some questions I'd love to have answered please!

-DOC's usual practise is not to intervene in the lives and welfare of wild animals - why was this case different?

-If another whale of this age was stranded in similar circumstances next month, would anything be done differently? Does Toa set a new precedent for intervention, or has he shown us that it can often get us in too deep?

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-Roughly how many hours of DOC staff's time has been dedicated to work surrounding the orca calf?

My deadline is 3pm please. If some questions are unable to be answered in time, please do send me back as much as you can by the deadline.

Thanks heaps!

[REDACTED]
Reporter (she/her)

[REDACTED]

stuff

 Neighbourly

THE DOMINION POST

Stuff, Level 7, Spark Central, 42-52 Willis Street

PO Box 2595, Wellington 6140



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From: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 20 July 2021 12:47 pm
To: Jack Mace <jmace@doc.govt.nz>; Elizabeth Heeg <eheeg@doc.govt.nz>; Sarah Owen <sarahowen@doc.govt.nz>; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
<iangus@doc.govt.nz> Ian Angus
Cc: Kirstie Knowles <kknowles@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: [Test] The ethics of caring for Toa - Expert Reaction

Hi
Just a heads up that the Science Media Centre will be distributing this afternoon. Great to have more voices in the mix.
Cheers
Bronwyn

From: Science Media Centre (NZ) <smc@sciencemediacentre.co.nz>
Sent: 20 July 2021 12:28
To: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: [Test] The ethics of caring for Toa - Expert Reaction



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

[REDACTED]
Media Advisor

[REDACTED]
smc@sciencemediacentre.co.nz

The ethics of caring for Toa - Expert Reaction

An intensive search for the pod of the stranded baby orca - named Toa - has continued daily [for the past ten days](#).

The young orca calf has been cared for around-the-clock by Department of Conservation (DOC) staff and volunteers since becoming separated from his mother at Plimmerton, north of Wellington, on Sunday 11 July. It's reported the cost to taxpayers of looking after Toa is estimated at **about \$10,000 so far**, not accounting for DOC staffing costs.

The SMC asked experts to comment on ethical considerations in this evolving situation. Feel free to use these comments in your reporting or follow up with the contact details provided.

Massey University, comments:

[@massey.ac.nz](mailto:massey@massey.ac.nz)

"The situation for Toa was always very fragile from the moment he became separated from his pod. With every day that has passed, his circumstance has become more complex and concerning.

"At less than 3 months old (body length 2.15m), his foetal folds and non-erupted teeth demonstrate his true infancy. We need to keep this in mind when we discuss Toa's fate and welfare since he is a new-born, a mammal totally dependent upon

his mother for nutrition and his pod for the development of critical life skills. While excellent veterinary care has enabled Toa's health to stabilise in the interim, the question must be asked, how long can he remain stable in the current situation? Furthermore, what welfare costs can we ethically justify in the context of his diminishing long-term prognosis?

"Understandably, the New Zealand public, caregivers and supporters focus efforts on possible pod reunification for Toa. Finding his natal pod has proven a huge challenge but that of course is only part of the problem. There are no guarantees that even if Toa's natal pod could be located, and a safe translocation were possible, that Toa himself would be accepted or even survive the process. Balancing the welfare needs of Toa throughout all decision making is an unenviable task. What should remain at the forefront of our actions is his immediate welfare and long-term chance of survival.

"Internationally-recognised practice for separated cetaceans this young is either lifelong human care or euthanasia. Notably, this is based on clear scientific rationale around welfare and survival outcomes. New Zealand has no captive or rehabilitation facility that could support Toa. Of course, we all crave a Disney happy ending, but what matters most here is not our understandable human sentiment and emotion, but notably the viability and welfare of Toa."

No conflict of interest.

 The Bioethics Centre, University of Otago

 [@otago.ac.nz](mailto: [redacted]@otago.ac.nz)

"The stranding of an orca such as Toa raises many issues. Why intervene in this case, when the lives and welfare of wild animals are usually regarded as their own business? Should we find out how to improve the welfare of wild animals and more routinely intervene in their lives if we have reason to believe we can benefit them?

We will set these aside to focus on this one case, although it will be useful to reflect in time on what our treatment of Toa might mean for our ethical obligations toward wild animals generally.

"Toa faced a painful death if not helped. Humane killing, by a veterinarian and DOC, could have limited and ended that pain, but premature death, even if painless, is also bad for Toa, to the extent that it would deprive him of a good life that he might otherwise lead. Toa's pod and his mother, presumably within the pod, will likely also be distressed, given the strong maternal and social bonds they are capable of.

"The help provided by Orca Research Trust/Whale Rescue Trust, local iwi Ngāti Toa Rangatira, and the local community, offers the possibility of a better outcome. However, it is uncertain quite what life Toa might lead as a result of this help. Everyone involved is devoting huge effort to maximising the chance of a good life for Toa, ideally reunited with his pod.

"But there is a lot of uncertainty about how successful this may be, and what options may need to be explored if it is unsuccessful. Throughout, it has been, and continues to be, a time-critical situation. This means that those involved cannot usually spend a lot of time enumerating options, assessing their likelihood of success, and weighing the different reasons for and against. They must make decisions under conditions of uncertainty by necessity. There will likely continue to be difficult - and risky - decisions to make, and actions to take. However, as long as decisions are guided primarily by what is best for the welfare of Toa, these risks are likely better than the certain bad outcome that was the only alternative in this case."

No conflict of interest.

████████████████████ SPCA, comments:

████████████████████ [@spca.nz](https://twitter.com/spca_nz)

"SPCA is extremely concerned about the welfare of Toa. The young, vulnerable calf has experienced considerable stress and trauma since his stranding on the 11th of July. Body lacerations, being separated from his mother and pod, being tube-fed, regular veterinary assessments, being surrounded by people, and being transported to a pool are all animal welfare compromises. Orca strandings are well-known to be highly emotional situations for rescuers, particularly when young animals are involved.

"While reuniting Toa with his pod would be the best outcome and one we all hope for, if this does not happen very soon, challenging ethical decisions using a robust ethical framework will need to be made by the Department of Conservation, and it is critical that the best welfare outcome for Toa is at the core of all decisions.

"Everyone involved in the rescue and care of Toa - as well as many New Zealanders - are heavily invested in Toa's plight, but he is too young to survive in the wild alone and animal welfare science has clearly demonstrated that we cannot meet the welfare needs, or provide a good life, for orca in captivity due to their complex social, physical and behavioural needs.

"SPCA understands that this is an incredibly challenging and complex situation for Toa and everyone involved, and urges that the best welfare outcome for Toa is the priority."

No conflict of interest.

████████████████████, Professor in Human-Animal Studies and Co-Director of the NZ Centre for Human-Animal Studies, University of Canterbury, comments:

 @canterbury.ac.nz

"As a Professor of Human-Animal Studies I often write about the paradoxical ways that people understand and treat different species. This is nowhere more evident than when whale calves are rescued and so much money, time and emotion is invested in their wellbeing and reunion with their mothers and pods.

"This is commendable of course. But at the same time bobby calves – also infants who miss the mothers they are taken from – are slaughtered within days of birth or confined in veal crates to produce so-called gourmet cuisine. There is no difference between the whale calf and the bovine calf other than human reverence for one and human oppression of the other. Both feel pain and suffer, both want to live, both dearly miss their mothers and wider families. This is a tricky conversation about speciesism that most New Zealanders avoid.

"We call ourselves animal lovers here, but in reality we reserve our love, compassion and empathy for 'extraordinary species' like whales which we can celebrate 'saving'. Most Kiwis forget or dismiss those other calves who are also sentient and intelligent beings – who we actively hurt and kill each day."

No conflict of interest declared.

More information

For more information, or to follow up with relevant experts, please contact the Science Media Centre on (04) 499 5476 or smc@sciencemediacentre.co.nz

Note to editors

The Science Media Centre (NZ) is an independent source of expert comment and information for journalists

covering science and technology in New Zealand. Our aim is to promote accurate, evidence-based reporting on science and technology by helping the media work more closely with the scientific community. The SMC (NZ) is an independent centre established by the Royal Society Te Apārangi with funding from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment. The views expressed in this SMC Expert reaction are those of the individuals and organisations indicated and do not reflect the views of the SMC or its employees. For further information about the Centre, or to offer feedback, please email us at smc@sciencemediacentre.co.nz.

Our mailing address is:

PO BOX 598, Wellington 6140, New Zealand.

[unsubscribe from this list](#)

From: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 20 July 2021 10:12 am

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: orca reunite

Strategy

17 July 2021

Operation Reunite

Purpose

To support the successful reunification of orca calf with its pod while ensuring the story is told through media and other channels without hindering the operation.

Context

If the orca calf's pod is located and a reunification effort is made, DOC needs to ensure that media is enabled to cover the story which has captured hearts and minds the world over.

The operation will be logistically challenging and complex. Health and safety, limited places on any vessel, and the need for crew to be focused on the mission means any media presence needs to be carefully managed.

Strategy

DOC has a longstanding MOU and with NHNZ who have reached out to film any efforts. It is recommended that in the operational and technical planning, that space is made for the inclusion of an NHNZ crew of two members.

DOC's media and communications team will liaise with [REDACTED], and agree that film captured during the operation will be shared with DOC and other free to air media outlets to meet breaking news cycles.

We're currently waiting for weather to clear and have recent sightings of an orca pod near Kapiti. It is important that any planning of a reunification effort includes accommodating media. Using a professional experienced wildlife film team willing to share footage will minimise disruption and distraction for the operational team.

If agreed, the media and comms team will begin working with Kirsty to set up and have crew of stand-by.

Hi [REDACTED] media team,

Following up on our conversation yesterday. As discussed, we are currently producing a documentary television project about whale and dolphin strandings and would like to include a story

about the rescue efforts currently underway at Plimmerton. Our production is intended for broadcast both domestically and internationally.

Should a potential reunion between Toa and his family take place we'd like to request that our professional film crew be granted a place on the boat. In exchange for this access we would happily agree to extend our existing MOU (see attached) to cover any footage they film during the reunion – the MOU includes provision for DOC to freely use the footage for the non-commercial purposes of informing the public about conservation and sub-license excerpts to “free to air” television broadcasters for one-off short form stories in news/current affairs programmes. We have a history of sharing footage in this way and it's been a mutually beneficial relationship. We can share the footage immediately, on whatever schedule and format that best suits the needs of your team. If requested we can also offer the services of one of our professional video editors to compile a highlight reel for immediate distribution.

We understand that there is significant media interest in this story and hope that the provision within our MOU will satisfy all parties. We are New Zealand's premium natural history television producers – regularly producing wildlife documentaries for high profile broadcasters such as National Geographic and Discovery Channel, and our crew is equipped with much better cameras than most videographers and news teams – shooting in full 4K resolution. We aren't rushing to a deadline, take pride in our professionalism, are extremely sensitive to the wellbeing of wildlife, and the quality of all our work is held in the highest regard. We believe that we are the best team to record this extraordinary situation and share this story with a global audience. This sort of coverage will be an invaluable asset to your team, both in fulfilling your immediate communication needs and also as a long-term educational resource.

Our crew members [REDACTED] (producer/director) and [REDACTED] (cinematographer) are now both in Plimmerton.

Tamara, please could you add me to the news update emails.

Many thanks



[REDACTED] | **Line Producer /
Senior Production Manager**

a: NHNZ Worldwide | 5 Melville St | Dunedin, NZ

e: [REDACTED]@nhnz.tv | **w:** www.nhnz.tv



From: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>

Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 1:44 pm

To: [REDACTED]; Sarah Owen <sarahowen@doc.govt.nz>

Cc: [REDACTED] Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Plimmerton orca QA July 2021 - DOC-6720197

Thanks [REDACTED] – agree that we are not going into detail on scenarios at this stage. It is a reactive Q and A and really to help people starting thinking about language if and when we need to.

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 1:43 pm

To: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>; Sarah Owen <sarahowen@doc.govt.nz>

Cc: [REDACTED] Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Plimmerton orca QA July 2021 - DOC-6720197

Hey Bron – not sure if the Q&A got signed off yet or not, but as for the second-to-last Q&A about the scenario, at this stage we are not wanting to introduce that much detail and in this way.

Let me know if this Q&A needs to continue to be chased up and I'll work on this with Sarah/the wider team later on.

Also, I worked with [REDACTED] on some very basic talking points for MOC. She is not planning to do an interview, it would just be if she was asked some questions, so they are quite general.

I will also confirm as soon as I have some more clarity on a time the relocation is likely to happen. In the meantime, media who are keen could be added to a list. I know that Stuff are already waiting outside the site as they've txt me.

From: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>

Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 12:18 pm

To: Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>; Jack Mace <jmace@doc.govt.nz>; Sarah Owen <sarahowen@doc.govt.nz>; Kirstie Knowles <kknowles@doc.govt.nz>; Elizabeth Heeg <eheeg@doc.govt.nz>

Cc: [REDACTED]; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Plimmerton orca QA July 2021 - DOC-6720197

Sure thing.

Cheers

Bronwyn

On 19/07/2021 12:12 pm, Elizabeth Heeg <eheeg@doc.govt.nz> wrote:

Thanks Bronwyn, happy for this to have Ian's alterations but I'm keen to maintain joint sign out with Jack please.

Thanks
E

From: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>

Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 12:09 pm

To: Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>; Jack Mace <jmace@doc.govt.nz>; Elizabeth Heeg <eheeg@doc.govt.nz>; Kirstie Knowles <kknowles@doc.govt.nz>; Sarah Owen <sarahowen@doc.govt.nz>

Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]

Subject: Plimmerton orca QA July 2021 - DOC-6720197

Hi

It would be good to get approval/amendment for this reactive Q and A – I've made some amendments since initial draft on Friday. Ian/Jack for sign off I think. I know the Minister's office are after some bullet points and this might be a good way of briefing her if we can agreement before her visit 1.30-2pm.

Thanks

Bronwyn

19 July 2021

Orca Q&A

Where has this orca calf come from?

We think this calf has come from one of the pods known to live around New Zealand's coastlines. It is estimated that there are between 100 and 200 individual orca resident around New Zealand coasts.

Other populations of orca are known to pass through New Zealand waters, but we don't believe this calf is from one of those groups.

How big is it?

It is between 2.5m and 3m long.

How old is it?

It is an infant calf – initial estimated were that it was between four and six months old however advice from international experts, that based on its skin colour it may be as young as three months. Like most mammals of this age, baby orca are totally reliant on their mothers for sustenance and survival.

How long can it survive without its mother?

Juvenile orcas' dependence on their mothers changes over time. For a calf this age, its mother is its essential food source – it doesn't yet know how to feed itself. Orca calves are weaned between 12 and 24 months old. It's also dependent on its mother for protection.

Young male orca will stick with a pod for several years and once reaching sexual maturity they may stay, or leave to form their own family pods.

How would it be kept alive without its mother?

It has until recently been fed via a tube – primarily electrolytes to hydrate it, and based on the advice we receive, that may be altered to include other products and nutrients to feed it.

Feeding a mammal via a tube can cause discomfort and this calf has been distressed during that procedure.

The orca calf is now being bottled fed with a specially designed teat and apron – to mimic as close as possible an orca udder.

It is being fed four litres every four hours of a special whale brew made by Wellington Zoo, a mixture including herring and salmon oil.

The orca has lacerations, and has been through a fair bit of trauma but is in a stable condition.

It is believed that mother orca will stop lactating after 30 days if it not regularly feeding its young.

What's the plan then?

The main objective is keeping the calf alive and reuniting it with its pod – weather conditions allowing, we will be searching for its pod. We're appealing for any sightings of orca pods.

Our focus is the welfare of this calf. But if its welfare continues to deteriorate, we will need to consider what's best for the animal. We certainly don't want it to suffer unnecessarily.

Reuniting it with pod would need significant planning, a boat or or helicopter, and it's not something that has ever been done successfully in NZ.

As far as we're aware, there's no precedent for an orca calf this age being repatriated to a pod.

A juvenile orca, known as Springer that was fully weaned, was successfully reunited with its pod in Canada some years ago but it was a different environment with a much more mature orca.

A factor for us to consider is the welfare of the orca calf and whether it is in its best interests for reunification to occur if it is suffering or the trip is going to cause extreme distress.

How long can you keep it alive for?

An unweaned orca calf can survive for 20 days – but that doesn't mean it's the best thing for the animal.

Once we get beyond a week of supported nutrition, it will become more evident if there is significant deterioration in the animal's welfare.

It's really important to understand keeping the orca alive and stable, and what's best for the animal, are two different discussions.

What are the chances of his pod coming back for him?

Evidence shows a pod will stick around when they know a member is stranded/in distress, but there are limits to all of that. There have been sighting of a pod which may be this calf's pod but weather conditions mean these reports aren't fully verified. We are continuing to appeal to the public to report any sightings.

Can it be rehomed somewhere? Surely there's somewhere in New Zealand able to take it?

There is no facility in New Zealand capable of receiving this animal – there isn't a tank or pool big enough. Orca are curious and exploratory animals known to swim long distances. He'd need a high-specification modern aquarium and there isn't one of those in New Zealand.

So he might not make it then?

We need to be prepared for this. It is a very challenging and complex situation and we have to do what's best for the animal.

The calf's welfare has been declining since it was separated from its mother and while it is currently stable, it has suffered trauma and supplementary feeding may not be enough to keep it healthy.

What we're doing is intended to keep it in as good a health as we can – but it's not a long-term solution, and will not keep it alive indefinitely.

We're having to plan for alternatives. Any decisions made will be made based on expert advice and what is in the best interests of the animal.

What are the alternatives?

We are dealing with the unknown – best case is that we can find his pod and reunite the calf with its mother.

Or find an orca pod with a lactating female and hope that the calf would be accepted by that pod.

Other options may include relocating to a purpose build sea pen in calmer waters. This would be expensive, logistically complex and may not be in the calf's best interests. It would be a lonely captive experience where it would need to be hand-fed for many more months.

While we are doing all we can to save this orca, the reality is that it may be in its best interests to be euthanised if we cannot maintain its health and it cannot be returned to its pod.

What is the operation costing?

We haven't done any calculations yet but a budget of \$50K has been established for DOC's operations to cover accommodation, gear, transport etc. This doesn't include staffing costs.

Iwi and the Whale Rescue Trust will have their own costs. Support from the community and business has been immense and welcome. A huge thanks also to FENZ and their volunteer brigade who continue to make a massive contribution to helping on the site.

DOC staff numbers are constantly changing. We have a rotating shift of operational and technical staff supporting the operation.

From: Bronwyn Saunders <bssaunders@doc.govt.nz>

Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 11:36 am

To: Kirstie Knowles <kknowles@doc.govt.nz>; Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>; Sarah Owen <sarahowen@doc.govt.nz>; Jack Mace <jmace@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Elizabeth Heeg <eheeg@doc.govt.nz>

Cc: [REDACTED]

Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: Technical international experts

Hi

We're keen to involve the Science Media centre in assisting media and others on animal welfare and ethics as part of the orca operation. Can we please get a list and contact details of vets/experts that we've been consulting with who would be willing to talk to media about the issues that need to be considered. Keen to have wider voices than just DOC and Ingrid in this space.

I've pulled together a list of contacts involved with the Canadian reunification of Springer many years ago and your advice on these as potential media spokespeople would be welcome as well.

Thanks

Bronwyn

Researchers/rescuer Springer orca

<https://www.noaa.gov/stories/saving-springer-part-2-going-public-to-rescue-creature-in-distress>

<https://www.whaleresearch.com/ourpeople>

[REDACTED] Centre for Whale Research

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Marine consultant microbiologist/vet

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] retired Zoological Operations at SeaWorld

From: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>

Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 10:53 am

To: Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>; Sarah Owen <sarahowen@doc.govt.nz>; Dave Smith <dwsmith@doc.govt.nz>

Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Midday live cross - orca

Hi

Ian, just to advise that we have declined interviews with all media though newshub were scheduled to interview Ingrid on site at 10.30am. TVNZ is on its way to do a live cross for their midday bulletin. They are aware that Ian is busy in meetings so while they may ask for interview when they arrive – they know its unlikely.

[REDACTED] is on her way and going via the photo supplies shop to pick up the swatches. She probably won't be there before midday but shouldn't be too much later.

[REDACTED] is putting out the latest update right now.

Cheers

Bronwyn

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 10:46 am

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: Re: Midday live cross - orca

Hey [REDACTED],

We're already on our way as we didn't get a response, so I'll just have a chat to Ian when we arrive.

I was told last week that some filming could be arranged for media, we won't be in the way. Just doing a live cross on the side.

Cheers,

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, July 19, 2021 10:44:11 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Midday live cross - orca

Hi [REDACTED],

It's unlikely we'll be able to facilitate this for midday today due to prior commitments. However, we are aiming to have the next general update out before midday, I'll include you to the list.

Thanks

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 10:15 am
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Midday live cross - orca

Hey [REDACTED],

Any update on this yet?

Cheers,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 9:59 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Midday live cross - orca

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Thanks for your email.

I'll pass on your request now, though it's unlikely I'll be able to confirm for you by 10.15, I'll try to get back to you asap.

Can you please send through an outline of the questions in advance and the best contact number to reach you on.

Thanks

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 9:56 am
To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Midday live cross - orca

Good morning,

We'd like to update the public through a Midday live cross about Toa with him in the background swimming in the pool.

Could you let me know if this will be possible by 10:15am for planning purposes?

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Wellington Breakfast Reporter

[REDACTED]



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From: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>

Sent: Friday, 16 July 2021 12:11 pm

To: [REDACTED] Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>; Jack Mace <jmace@doc.govt.nz>; Dave Smith <dwsmith@doc.govt.nz>

Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]

Subject: Plimmerton orca QA July 2021 - DOC-6720197

Hi team

We've got a draft Questions and Answer fact sheet we are wanting to get cleared and approved. It requires sign off from both technical and operational leads. Media are beginning to ask about costs and staffing numbers. Jeff and I have attempted to answer the questions but need help on numbers and accuracy checks. Jess, if you can liaise with team onsite to get this across the line, it will help relieve comms pressure over the weekend.

Thanks

Bronwyn

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz>

Sent: Friday, 16 July 2021 11:22 am

To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: 1 News media query

Kia ora,

Thank you for the latest update on the orca calf in Plimmerton.

Can you please outline what all the options being considered by the Department of Conservation are?

Can you please also let me know what financial cost the Department of Conservation has spent on this operation so far? From when DOC first arrived on the scene on Sunday 11 July to this Friday 16 July morning please. Also, can you please share the number of staff that have been involved in this operation to this point.

Can I please request to have this information by 2pm.

Thank you.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

1 News

[REDACTED]

16 July 2021

Orca Q&A

Where has this orca calf come from?

We think this calf has come from one of the pods known to live around New Zealand's coastlines. It is estimated that there are between 100 and 200 individual orca resident around New Zealand coasts.

Other populations of orca are known to pass through New Zealand waters, but we don't believe this calf is from one of those groups.

How big is it?

We're not sure of his weight, but he's between 2.5m and 3m long.

How old is it?

It's an infant calf – he's estimated to be between four and six months old. Like most mammals of this age, baby orca are totally reliant on their mothers for sustenance and survival.

How long can it survive without its mother?

Juvenile orcas' dependence on their mothers changes over time. For a calf this age, its mother is its essential food source – it doesn't yet know how to feed itself. Orca calves are weaned between 12 and 24 months old. It's also dependent on its mother for protection.

Young male orca will stick with a pod for several years and once reaching sexual maturity they may stay, or leave to form their own family pods.

How would it be kept alive without its mother?

It's been fed via a tube – primarily electrolytes to hydrate it, and based on the advice we receive, that may be altered to include other products and nutrients to feed it.

To feed an animal like this a tube needs to be inserted all the way to the stomach. It's not dangerous, but it's difficult, not pleasant for the calf.

Feeding a mammal via a tube can cause discomfort and this calf has been distressed during that procedure.

It is being fed four litres every four hours of a special whale brew made by Wellington Zoo, a mixture including herring and salmon oil.

The orca has lacerations, and has been through a fair bit of trauma but is in a stable condition.

What's the plan then?

The main objective is keeping the calf alive and reuniting it with its pod – weather conditions allowing, we will be searching for its pod. We're appealing for any sightings of orca pods.

Our focus is the welfare of this calf. But if its welfare continues to deteriorate, we will need to consider what's best for the animal. We certainly don't want it to suffer unnecessarily.

Reuniting him with pod would need significant planning, a boat or or helicopter, and it's not something that has ever been done successfully in NZ.

As far as we're aware, there's no precedent for an orca calf this age being repatriated to a pod.

A juvenile orca, known as Springer that was fully weaned, was successfully reunited with its pod in Canada some years ago but it was a different environment with a much more mature orca.

A factor for us to consider is the welfare of the orca calf and whether it is in its best interests for reunification to occur if it is suffering or the trip is going to cause extreme distress.

How long can you keep it alive for?

An unweaned orca calf can survive for 20 days – but that doesn't mean it's the best thing for the animal.

Once we get beyond a week of supported nutrition, it will become more evident if there is significant deterioration in the animal's welfare.

It's really important to understand keeping the orca alive and stable, and what's best for the animal, are two different discussions.

What are the chances of his pod coming back for him?

Evidence shows a pod will stick around when they know a member is stranded/in distress, but there are limits to all of that. The pod he belongs to appears to have moved off, and that makes it very difficult – so the chance they'll come back is pretty small.

Can it be rehomed somewhere? Surely there's somewhere in New Zealand able to take it?

There is no facility in New Zealand capable of receiving this animal – there isn't a tank or pool big enough. Orca are curious and exploratory animals known to swim long distances. He'd need a high-specification modern aquarium and there isn't one of those in New Zealand.

So he might not make it then?

We need to be prepared for this. It's a very challenging and complex situation and we have to do what's best for the animal.

The calf's welfare has been declining since it was separated from its mother and while it is currently stable, it has suffered trauma and supplementary feeding may not be enough to keep it healthy.

What we're doing is intended to keep it in as good a health as we can – but it's not a long-term solution, and will not keep it alive indefinitely.

We're having to plan for alternatives.

What are the alternatives?

We are dealing with the unknown – best case is that we can find his pod and reunite the calf with its mother.

Or find an orca pod with a lactating female and hope that the calf would be accepted by that pod.

Other options may include relocating to a purpose build sea pen in calmer waters. This would be expensive, logistically complex and may not be in the calf's best interests. It would be a lonely captive experience where it would need to be hand-fed for many more months.

While we are doing all we can to save this orca, the reality is that it may be in its best interests to be euthanised if we cannot maintain its health and it cannot be returned to its pod.

What is the operation costing?

We haven't done any calculations yet but a budget of \$100,000 has been established for DOC's operations to cover accommodation, gear, transport etc. This doesn't include staffing costs.

Iwi and the Whale Rescue Trust will have their own costs. Support from the community and business has been immense and welcome. A huge thanks also to FENZ and their volunteer brigade who continue to make a massive contribution to helping on the site.

DOC staff numbers are constantly changing. We have approximately XX onsite, with many backstaff supporting with advice, research and communications. We are also spelling technical and operations staff who have been doing long hours under trying conditions.

From: Bronwyn Saunders <basaunders@doc.govt.nz>

Sent: Friday, 16 July 2021 9:17 am

To: [REDACTED]@stuff.co.nz; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]@stuff.co.nz; Vicki Connor <vconnor@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Keeping Stuff and The Dominion Post in the loop

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for your email. You will appreciate that this is a complex operation and we are doing our best to support all media including Stuff with the story telling of Toa. I'm advised that the decision to move the orca calf was made after 7pm though there had been much discussion before then.

We have limited media staff available this week (lots of people on leave for school holidays) and are not doing updates at night. [REDACTED], our on-site comms advisor is doing 12 hour days. We are also providing interviews/and access throughout the day where we can.

We are being directed by our operational and technical staff with their focus on the wellbeing of the calf, and health and safety of numerous workers, volunteers and the general public.

I acknowledge your disappointment and we will try to accommodate media needs however we'd also appreciate a little give and take recognising that this operation could go on for many more days.

Hei konā mai

Bronwyn Saunders

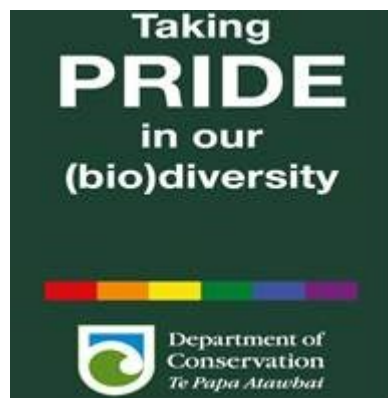
Media and Communications Manager

Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

Kia piki te oranga o te ao tūroa, i roto i te ngātahitanga, ki Aotearoa.

To work with others to increase the value of conservation for New Zealanders.

www.doc.govt.nz



From: [REDACTED] [stuff.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@stuff.co.nz)>
Sent: Friday, 16 July 2021 8:52 am
To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] [@stuff.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@stuff.co.nz)>
Subject: Keeping Stuff and The Dominion Post in the loop

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Firstly thank you for the updates you've been providing on Toa, in the face of huge public interest in this story. *Stuff* and *The Dominion Post* have been an integral part of telling the tale of Toa, garnering public support and encouraging New Zealanders to help find Toa's pod.

So I was disappointed to hear this morning that you moved Toa shortly after we left the site at 7pm, having told our journalists that DoC had no specific plans to do so. This may have been a snap decision, although we have been told this was planned since 5pm, but you also did not update us once you had moved Toa. The move happened well within time for our print deadline and, of course, our website never sleeps..

Stuff has always had a very good working relationship with DoC so this is very disappointing to say the least. Can you please tell me why we were not alerted?

Ngā mihi
[REDACTED]

--
[REDACTED]

Chief News Director - Wellington

[REDACTED]
Stuff Ltd, Level 7, Spark Central, 42-52 Willis St, Wellington, New Zealand
PO Box 2595, Wellington, 6140



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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 24 July 2021 9:19 am
To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]@discovery.com>
Subject: Newshub - Toa

Hey [REDACTED]

Ian will be available after 10am. Give me a call when you are here.

[REDACTED]
Team Lead Communications
[REDACTED]

On 24/07/2021 9:17 am, [REDACTED]@discovery.com> wrote:
Morning team,

Just wondering when Ian might be available for an on camera interview at Plimmerton this morning following the passing of Toa?

We're keen to come down and have a chat about last night and catch any of the pack down still happening.

In terms of Toa's burial site is DOC or the Iwi allowing filming of that too? And is there a best contact for that Iwi/Marae?

Cheers

--

[REDACTED] **NEWS AND SPORTS REPORTER NEWSHUB**

PLEASE NOTE: DUE TO THE SEPARATION OF THREE FROM MEDIAWORKS, MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS CHANGING TO [REDACTED]@DISCOVERY.COM

NEWS DISCOVERY NZ [REDACTED] [DISCOVERYCORPORATE.CO.NZ](https://www.discoverycorporate.co.nz)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 24 July 2021 8:27 am
To: [REDACTED]@stuff.co.nz>; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Interview request

Hey [REDACTED]

I will get Ian to call you shortly.

Ngā manaakitanga

[REDACTED]
Team Lead Communications | Kaimanatū Tuku Whakapā
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*
[REDACTED]

After Hours Media Support: email media@doc.govt.nz

From: [REDACTED]@stuff.co.nz
Sent: Saturday, 24 July 2021 8:18 am
To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: [REDACTED]@stuff.co.nz
Subject: Interview request

Hi,

Am I able to get an interview regarding Toa please?

There is huge interest in this story, so it would be great to get this as soon as possible.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

--

[REDACTED]
Senior Reporter

[REDACTED]@stuff.co.nz
Level 7, Spark Central, 42-52 Willis St, Te Aro, Wellington 6021, New Zealand
PO Box 3740, Wellington 6140, New Zealand

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 24 July 2021 8:15 am
To: [REDACTED]@discovery.com>
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: URGENT - newshub radio phone interview

Thanks [REDACTED]

He will call you shortly

Ngā manaakitanga

[REDACTED]
Team Lead Communications | Kaimanatū Tuku Whakapā
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

After Hours Media Support: email media@doc.govt.nz

From: [REDACTED]@discovery.com>
Sent: Saturday, 24 July 2021 8:10 am
To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: URGENT - newshub radio phone interview

Morena,

Newshub is saddened to hear the news that Toa has died.

I would like to interview Ian Angus as soon as he is available.

Please can he call me on [REDACTED]

--

[REDACTED] **JOURNALIST**

NEWS DISCOVERY NZ [REDACTED] DISCOVERYCORPORATE.CO.NZ

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 24 July 2021 7:15 am
To: [REDACTED]; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Toa - Ian Angus

Hey [REDACTED]

You have spoken to Ian and have all you need?

Ngā manaakitanga

[REDACTED]
Team Lead Communications | Kaimanatū Tuku Whakapā
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

After Hours Media Support: email media@doc.govt.nz

From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@rnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@rnz.co.nz)>
Sent: Saturday, 24 July 2021 6:09 am
To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Toa - Ian Angus

Morena,

I'm a reporter with RNZ following up the death of Toa. I am hoping to speak with Ian Angus this morning. In a media release sent to my colleague [REDACTED], you mentioned he would be available from 6.30am.

I understand he's probably got a few interviews lined up, but as close to 6.30am as possible would be great please. Will only need a few minutes on pre-record for our news bulletins.

Happy to call him, or he can ring the direct dial below.

Thank you

Reporter
Radio New Zealand News | 171 Hobson Street
PO Box 2209 | Auckland | New Zealand 1140

Web: www.rnz.co.nz



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 24 July 2021 7:15 am
To: [REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Toa - query

Hey [REDACTED]

You have spoken to Ian. You have everything you need?

Ngā manaakitanga

[REDACTED]
Team Lead Communications | Kaimanatū Tuku Whakapā
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

After Hours Media Support: email media@doc.govt.nz

From: [REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz
Sent: Saturday, 24 July 2021 6:21 am
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Toa - query

Thanks [REDACTED]

What will happen to his body?

And, will there be any type of memorial service?

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 24, 2021 6:09:00 AM

To: [REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Toa - query

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of TVNZ. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Morena

We can confirm he passed away naturally.

Statement on DOC website with more details.

[REDACTED]
Team Lead Communications
[REDACTED]

On 24/07/2021 5:27 am, [REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz wrote:
Good morning,

Could you please either confirm or deny if Toa was euthanised, or did he pass away naturally?

Kind regards,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 24 July 2021 6:09 am
To: [REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Toa - query

Morena

We can confirm he passed away naturally.

Statement on DOC website with more details.

[REDACTED]
Team Lead Communications
[REDACTED]

On 24/07/2021 5:27 am, [REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz wrote:
Good morning,

Could you please either confirm or deny if Toa was euthanised, or did he pass away naturally?

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 11 July 2021 7:40 pm
To: [REDACTED] Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Whale, Plimmerton

Thanks Laura

[REDACTED]
Team Lead Communications
[REDACTED]

On 11/07/2021 7:39 pm, [REDACTED] wrote:
It will be on the trailer out of the water overnight.

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 11, 2021 7:34:47 PM
To: [REDACTED] Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Whale, Plimmerton

Quick question is the orca on shore in the trailer or in the water?

On the news it appeared it had been put vack in the water but corralled?

[REDACTED]
Team Lead Communications
[REDACTED]

On 11/07/2021 7:31 pm, [REDACTED] wrote:
Thanks for chatting with me – updated statement below

Please attribute to DOC Marine Species Manager, Ian Angus:

The Department of Conservation (DOC), Whale-Rescue.org and Project Jonah have been on site at Plimmerton beach this evening to assist in the stranding of a juvenile orca.

Whale-rescue.org is leading the response and the DOC marine team is on hand to support and supply technical advice.

This evening we, alongside the rescue team had attempted to locate the baby orcas pod to return it safely to its family. Unfortunately we were not successful in locating the pod.

Overnight, to keep the calf safe, the rescue team have loaded the calf onto a trailer where it will be kept onshore, actively monitored by Whale-rescue.org and kept moist and cool overnight. This is a common practice for beached orcas separated from their pod. The method allows a safer and more active monitoring process that prevents the calf from being continuously beached.

DOC will reconvene with the search team tomorrow to continue to monitor the calf, ensure it is safe and help locate their pod. To help assist us in finding their pod DOC is asking anyone in the Wellington region, who are out enjoying the moana to please report any sightings of orcas directly to 0800 DOC HOT.

Ngā mihi nui,

[REDACTED]
Marketing Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapātairanga
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

[REDACTED]
Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland Office
Bledisloe House, 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1010
Conservation leadership for our nature/*Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa*
After Hours Media Support: Phone: +64 4 496 1911 / media@doc.govt.nz

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 11 July 2021 7:04 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Whale, Plimmerton

Any word on this from your end, guys?

[REDACTED]
On Sun, Jul 11, 2021 at 5:39 PM [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@stuff.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@stuff.co.nz)> wrote:

Thanks [REDACTED]

let me know.. have heard after a search for the pod the whale has been brought in due to the dark and search will resume tomorrow?

is this correct? and people are being urged to keep an eye out for the pod?

[REDACTED]
On Sun, Jul 11, 2021 at 5:05 PM [REDACTED] wrote:

Kia ora [REDACTED],

Yes DOC is at the scene responding to the incident.

Once I get some more information from the team responding I will let you know.

Will be in touch shortly.

Cheers

[REDACTED]
Marketing Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapātairanga
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

[REDACTED]
Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland Office

Bledisloe House, 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1010
Conservation leadership for our nature/*Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa*
After Hours Media Support: Phone: [+64 4 496 1911](tel:+6444961911) / media@doc.govt.nz

From: [REDACTED] [@stuff.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@stuff.co.nz)>

Sent: Sunday, July 11, 2021 5:00:59 PM

To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: Whale, Plimmerton

Hi all,

Apparently there is an orca stranded near Plimmerton. Do you have any details about this? I've been told you have been made aware of the situation and are helping...

[REDACTED]

--

[REDACTED] (he/him)
Arts and culture reporter

E [REDACTED] [@stuff.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@stuff.co.nz) | M [REDACTED]
Stuff Ltd, Level 7, Spark Central 42-52 Willis Street, Wellington, 6011, New Zealand

stuff  Neighbourly **THE DOMINION POST**

NOT FOR PUBLICATION:

- Orca is showing signs of deteriorating condition, vets are going to try rehydrate it with electrolytes around 4-4.30pm
- Orca is in water near boat jetty – confined to an area by fencing.
- People are in the water with it, we're trying to determine if it can swim on its own.
- Goal at this stage is to find the pod and return the calf to it
- DOC has a boat out looking for the pod
- The welfare of the animal is the utmost importance.
- There are around 100 people on site, mostly bystanders with their kids.
- DOC needs people to stay back so teams can focus on the orca and to ensure people are safe.
- DOC is leading the operation, with support from Whale Rescue and volunteers.

Ngā mihi,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Communication Advisor – Hauraki, Waikato, Taranaki
Department of Conservation
Regional Office
Rostrevor St
Hamilton
[REDACTED]

Unite
against
COVID-19



From: Robyn Orchard <rorchard@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 4:30 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Orca update MR - V1

[REDACTED]
Thanks for taking this over...I had a quick squizz looking good but paragraph 4 appears to have a couple of words missing 😊

Ngā manaakitanga

[REDACTED]
Team Lead Communications | Kaimanatū Tuku Whakapā
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*
[REDACTED]

After Hours Media Support: email media@doc.govt.nz

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 4:23 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Orca update MR - V1

[REDACTED]

Will ring [REDACTED] now to see what the vets say.

[REDACTED]
Communication Advisor – Hauraki, Waikato, Taranaki
Department of Conservation
Regional Office
Rostrevor St
Hamilton
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 4:40 pm
To: [REDACTED] Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Interview request (pre-record) about baby orca

Kia ora team,

Another interview request here.

Ngā mihi nui,

[REDACTED]
Marketing Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapātairanga
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*
[REDACTED]
Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland Office
Bledisloe House, 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1010

Conservation leadership for our nature/*Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa*

After Hours Media Support: Phone: +64 4 496 1911 / media@doc.govt.nz



From: [REDACTED] [@nzme.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz)

Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 4:32 pm

To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: Interview request (pre-record) about baby orca

Kia ora,

Would I be able to speak with someone about the baby orca in Wellington?

It would be a prerecord for our morning news bulletins on Tuesday morning, looking at what the possible scenarios are going forward (what action is/could be taken if the family isn't located, or what is done to reunite it with its family if located).

Let me know if something can be lined up.

I'm in the newsroom until midnight and can be called on [REDACTED]

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (he/him)
Multimedia Journalist | Newstalk ZB

M: [REDACTED] P: [REDACTED]
E: [REDACTED] [@nzme.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz)

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 4:44 pm

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: FW: Orca update

Hey team,

I can respond to this one once we have a statement ready.

I Herb got a call this afternoon and I let him know we should have some more information to go public roughly around this time.

Ngā mihi nui,

[REDACTED]
Marketing Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapātairanga
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

[REDACTED]
Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland Office
Bledisloe House, 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1010

Conservation leadership for our nature/*Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa*

After Hours Media Support: Phone: +64 4 496 1911 / media@doc.govt.nz



From: News <News@rnz.co.nz>

Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 4:41 pm

To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: Orca update

Hi,

Can you please send through the latest on the orca in Plimmerton.

I was told it would go up on your social media channels at 4.30.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Wellington Bureau Chief

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 5:07 pm

To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Running list of media queries on orca

Hi team,

Pulling together all the outstanding requests here:

Name	Outlet	Contact	When	Completed?
[REDACTED]	Morning Report RNZ	Morningreport@rnz.co.nz [REDACTED]	7.25am Tuesday	
[REDACTED]	RNZ News	[REDACTED] news@rnz.co.nz	Request for updated statement 4.30pm Monday	
[REDACTED]	NZME (Newstalk ZB)	[REDACTED] @nzme.co.nz	Pre-record for morning bulletins. He's there till midnight tonight	

[REDACTED] can you please send these people the media release?

[REDACTED], I'll respond to them and say we'll come back to them when we can. I've told [REDACTED] that since you're on duty that you and I can work with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on the vets update for later. [REDACTED] can stand down once media release has gone out and pick it back up in the morning.

Cheers

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 5:13 pm
To: [REDACTED]@parliament.govt.nz; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@parliament.govt.nz; [REDACTED]@parliament.govt.nz; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@parliament.govt.nz
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Media release - update on stranded juvenile orca in Porirua

FYI – this has just been sent out.

Cheers

[REDACTED]



12 July 2021

Update on stranded juvenile orca in Porirua

Efforts to save a juvenile orca stranded in Porirua, near Wellington have continued today, with the animal returned to the water near where it was found.

The orca – estimated to be only a few months old – stranded on rocks at Hongoeka north of Plimmerton mid-afternoon on Sunday 11 July.

The Department of Conservation (DOC) - lead government agency in marine mammal stranding situations - is working with Orca Rescue Trust and volunteers to save the animal.

Ian Angus, DOC's Marine Species Manager, says the focus remains on caring for the orca and returning it to its pod.

“We’re urging anyone who sees a pod of orca off the coast of Wellington or Kapiti to share that information with us via 0800 DOC HOT,” he says.

“We have a DOC boat out looking for the pod, but other sightings can help us get this calf back to its family. The welfare of this animal is our top priority.”

Ian Angus says DOC is liaising with specialist veterinarians for the calf, which may include administering electrolytes to rehydrate it.

The calf is in the water in a fenced-off area near a jetty, and DOC is urging the public to stay well clear.

“We appreciate people care about these animals and want to help, but the best way they can assist right now is to give us space to focus on this calf. We also want to keep its stress levels as low as possible.

DOC staff and volunteers will resume the search for the pod at first light.

–Ends–

Contacts

media@doc.govt.nz

Media please note: Sunrise is around 7.40 tomorrow so we don't expect to have any further updates prior to 8.30am.

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 5:43 pm

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED] Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]

Subject: Vet visit to the orca

Re Media update for the evening newsroom:

The vets have arrived on site at 530pm..

Once [REDACTED] Vet, has provided fluids and assessed the calf she will make contact with me. They will not be staying. [REDACTED] has spoken with [REDACTED] and received information from her and other marine experts regarding the best approach.

The advice they have received is to provide fluids to the animal every 3 hours!

If this happens then we will need to close off public access, which Ingrid agrees as not an easy activity to explain to the uninitiated.

[REDACTED] will take photos and send through to myself and [REDACTED]. He only has his phone with him now but will take his fancy cameras tomorrow.

The calf is in the water un-constrained other than a wall of people to stop it wondering off. A fence is being set up along the area to enable the calf to remain in the water without human intervention.

Jack spoke with the [REDACTED] from the Zoo to confirm the responsibilities.

DOC is managing this under the Marine Mammal Act
Ingrid and her crew are operational in providing their knowledge and knowhow.

I have no further update at this stage other than Whale Rescue have gone out asking for support and currently people are turning up in wetsuits to go onto a roster for the evening. Eventually no people will be in the water with the calf but in a small dingy.

[REDACTED] DOC Bio diversity Ranger will be on site at 730 tomorrow then [REDACTED] will take over around 10am.

Action

I will update later tonight once I hear from [REDACTED]

I will make contact with [REDACTED] once he is on site in the morning and had a chance to his eye in so to speak.

Next steps will be decision on whether we send out another aircraft (chopper or plane) to search for pod?

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 5:43 pm
To: [REDACTED] Ian Angus
<iangus@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: For review

Hi all,

Suggesting the following social post copy below:

****UPDATE***
5:25pm 12/07/2021

The orca calf is in the water, in a fenced-off area near a jetty, and we're currently liaising with specialist veterinarians which may include administering electrolytes to rehydrate it.

We also have a DOC boat out looking for the pod and are asking that if anyone sees a pod of orca off the coast of Wellington or Kapiti to please share that information with us via 0800 DOC HOT, as sightings can help us get this calf back to its family.

Another way you can assist us right now is to give us space to focus on the calf. We appreciate people care about these animals and want to help, but please stay clear of the area to keep the calf's stress levels as low as possible. The welfare of this animal is our top priority.

We will resume the search for the pod at first light.

Sunrise is around 7.40 am tomorrow (Tuesday 13 July) so we don't expect to have any further updates before 8.30 am.

Read more here: <https://bit.ly/3hypPWR>

We will add this update to the existing post published earlier today and we will also add the update to the comments section of the post – People who have engaged with our existing post (Like, Comment or Shared) will receive a notification of the update from us.

Ngā mihi,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 5:48 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]

[redacted]; Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>; [redacted]

Subject: RE: Vet visit to the orca

Thanks [redacted]

Will wait to see what the vet suggests after check up and I'll update the social team.

Ngā mihi nui,

[redacted]
Marketing Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapātairanga
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

[redacted]
Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland Office
Bledisloe House, 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1010

Conservation leadership for our nature/*Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa*

After Hours Media Support: Phone: +64 4 496 1911 / media@doc.govt.nz



From: [redacted]

Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 5:43 pm

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted] Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [redacted]

[redacted] Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>; [redacted]

Subject: Vet visit to the orca

Re Media update for the evening newsroom:

The vets have arrived on site at 530pm..

Once [redacted] Vet, has provided fluids and assessed the calf she will make contact with me. They will not be staying. [redacted] has spoken with [redacted] and received information from her and other marine experts regarding the best approach.

The advice they have received is to provide fluids to the animal every 3 hours!

If this happens then we will need to close off public access, which Ingrid agrees as not an easy activity to explain to the uninitiated.

[redacted] will take photos and send through to myself and [redacted] He only has his phone with him now but will take his fancy cameras tomorrow.

The calf is in the water un-constrained other than a wall of people to stop it wondering off. A fence is being set up along the area to enable the calf to remain in the water without human intervention.

Jack spoke with the [REDACTED] from the Zoo to confirm the responsibilities.

DOC is managing this under the Marine Mammal Act
Ingrid and her crew are operational in providing their knowledge and knowhow.

I have no further update at this stage other than Whale Rescue have gone out asking for support and currently people are turning up in wetsuits to go onto a roster for the evening. Eventually no people will be in the water with the calf but in a small dingy.

[REDACTED] DOC Bio diversity Ranger will be on site at 730 tomorrow then [REDACTED] will take over around 10am.

Action

I will update later tonight once I hear from [REDACTED]

I will make contact with [REDACTED] once he is on site in the morning and had a chance to talk to him so to speak.

Next steps will be decision on whether we send out another aircraft (chopper or plane) to search for pod?

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 8:32 pm
To: [REDACTED] Media
<Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED] Ian Angus
<iangus@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; Social Media <socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Vet visit to the orca

Evening update provided by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

The vet took bloods and zoo will process and also send to lab.
Noted deep abrasions on the tail and they have administered lasting antibiotics partly due to this and partly as general precaution.
They have taken nasal/blowhole swab.
Orally administered fluids.
Treatment suggested by [REDACTED] and agreed by Ingrid.
Zoo will return 7:30 am tomorrow to show experienced whale rescue staff and vets how to administer oral fluids. Fluids to be repeated 4x daily.
[REDACTED] lead zoo vet.

Calf tends one side, often lying on its side. May be due to stiff pectoral fin from being on a trailer or other causes. Will need to recover from this for release to be viable. It can swim freely, though not well, and vocalists.

Vet recommend minimal disturbance from people and dogs, as well as PPE for people working close with calf to prevent zoonotic diseases. Gloves and face masks needed.

Calf will be in water overnight with people taking turns watching over it. Wetsuit 5mm or drysuit required. 1hour shifts.

I will provide social with an image shared by [REDACTED]

Ngā mihi nui,

[REDACTED]
Marketing Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapātairanga
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

[REDACTED]
Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland Office
Bledisloe House, 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1010

Conservation leadership for our nature/*Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa*

After Hours Media Support: Phone: +64 4 496 1911 / media@doc.govt.nz



From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 5:43 pm

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED] Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]

Subject: Vet visit to the orca

Re Media update for the evening newsroom:

The vets have arrived on site at 530pm..

Once [REDACTED] Vet, has provided fluids and assessed the calf she will make contact with me. They will not be staying. [REDACTED] has spoken with [REDACTED] and received information from her and other marine experts regarding the best approach.

The advice they have received is to provide fluids to the animal every 3 hours!

If this happens then we will need to close off public access, which Ingrid agrees as not an easy activity to explain to the uninitiated.

██████████ will take photos and send through to myself and ██████████. He only has his phone with him now but will take his fancy cameras tomorrow.

The calf is in the water un-constrained other than a wall of people to stop it wondering off. A fence is being set up along the area to enable the calf to remain in the water without human intervention.

Jack spoke with the ██████████ from the Zoo to confirm the responsibilities.

DOC is managing this under the Marine Mammal Act
Ingrid and her crew are operational in providing their knowledge and knowhow.

I have no further update at this stage other than Whale Rescue have gone out asking for support and currently people are turning up in wetsuits to go onto a roster for the evening. Eventually no people will be in the water with the calf but in a small dingy.

██████████ DOC Bio diversity Ranger will be on site at 730 tomorrow then ██████████ will take over around 10am.

Action

I will update later tonight once I hear from ██████████
I will make contact with ██████████ once he is on site in the morning and has a chance to his eye in so to speak.

Next steps will be decision on whether we send out another aircraft (chopper or plane) to search for pod?

██████████

From: ██████████
Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 9:01 pm
To: ██████████ Media
<Media@doc.govt.nz>; ██████████; Ian Angus
<iangus@doc.govt.nz>; ██████████
Social Media <socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>; ██████████
Cc: ██████████@wellingtonzoo.com>
Subject: RE: Vet visit to the orca

Thanks ██████████ Just adding some names to the content below. I have copied ██████████ from the Zoo who is responsible for communications.

██████████ is the Wellington Zoo Senior Vet based at The Nest Te Kōhanga hospital along with ██████████ and ██████████, also from the Zoo, assisting.

██████████ will provide an update to us if they have any results back tomorrow.

From: Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>

Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 9:19 pm

To:

[REDACTED]; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>;

Social Media

<socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>

Cc: [REDACTED]@wellingtonzoo.com>

Subject: RE: Vet visit to the orca

Thanks folks. Started responding to some of the media interviews. Questions have focused on plan and when might we stop with the effort. Im sticking to plan is rehabilitate calf as best we can and relocate into pod if can locate. Stayed on that message.

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 7:35 am

To: Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>;

[REDACTED] Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]

Social Media

<socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Vet visit to the orca

Spoke with [REDACTED] DOC Ranger who is at site. I will contact him at 8am for an update on the calf.

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 7:39 am

To: [REDACTED] Ian Angus

<iangus@doc.govt.nz>;

[REDACTED] Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]

Social Media

<socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Vet visit to the orca

Thanks [REDACTED]. Media will be happy till 8am because of Ian's interviews but will want an update after that, so thanks for keeping us updated.

Cheers [REDACTED]

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 8:09 am

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: FW: newshub query

Morning [REDACTED]

First query this morning

Ngā mihi nui,

[REDACTED]
Marketing Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapātairanga
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

[REDACTED]
Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland Office
Bledisloe House, 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1010

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After Hours Media Support: Phone: +64 4 496 1911 / media@doc.govt.nz



From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@discovery.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@discovery.com)>
Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 8:05 am
To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: newshub query

Kia Ora.

Just checking to see if there's been any updates around the baby orca who lost its pod near Wellington

Thank you.

--

[REDACTED] THE AM SHOW REPORTER, WELLINGTON

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 8:14 am
To: [REDACTED]; Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] Social Media <socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Vet visit to the orca

The calf picked up over night after receiving the fluids from the vets however it started to become less active by the morning. The vet is back there now administering more fluids and showing the vet and experienced Whale Rescue team member how it is done.

The DOC boat Mataara II is out on the water now. We will assess this morning the next steps in terms of search options. Maritime Radio have recommenced calls out to boats to keep an eye out for the pod.

NO results yet on the bloods and swabs taken last night

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 7:39 am
To: [REDACTED] Ian Angus
<iangus@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED] Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Social Media
<socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Vet visit to the orca

Thanks [REDACTED]. Media will be happy till 8am because of Ian's interviews but will want an update after that, so thanks for keeping us updated.

Cheers [REDACTED]

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 8:19 am
To: [REDACTED] Ian Angus
<iangus@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED] Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Social Media
<socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Vet visit to the orca

Thanks [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] can you please turn that into a social media post for [REDACTED] to update Facebook asap.

[REDACTED] will take over direct comms with the CIMS team and [REDACTED] will monitor media inbox. [REDACTED] please refer orca queries to [REDACTED] (Thanks for all the last minute request night!).

Let's aim for a comms catchup around 10am (me, [REDACTED], Bronwyn, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]). I'll send an appointment.

Cheers
[REDACTED]

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

On 13/07/2021 8:13 am, [REDACTED] wrote:

The calf picked up over night after receiving the fluids from the vets however it started to become less active by the morning. The vet is back there now administering more fluids and showing the vet and experienced Whale Rescue team member how it is done.

The DOC boat Mataara II is out on the water now. We will assess this morning the next steps in terms of search options. Maritime Radio have recommenced calls out to boats to keep an eye out for the pod.

NO results yet on the bloods and swabs taken last night

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 8:21 am
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>;
Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Social Media
<socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Vet visit to the orca

TVNZ has turned up on site. Is it possible Ian to go down there? [REDACTED] DOC Ranger has been briefed on the latest and could speak with them but wanted to ensure we keep the line in terms of spokesperson??

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 9:26 am
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Plimmerton - Orca

Hey [REDACTED]

Here you go

Ngā mihi nui,

[REDACTED]
Marketing Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapātairanga
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

[REDACTED]
Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland Office
Bledisloe House, 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1010

Conservation leadership for our nature/*Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa*

After Hours Media Support: Phone: +64 4 496 1911 / media@doc.govt.nz



Papatūānuku Thrives

Te ora o Papatūānuku | Te ora o te Hapori | Te hunga Atawhai

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@aap.com.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 9:23 am

To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: Plimmerton - Orca

Hi there

I'm interested in covering the sad tale of the baby orca separated from his family. Who is the best DOC contact for this please?

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

--

Ngā mihi,

[REDACTED] | NZ Correspondent | kairiipoata Aotearoa



Australian Associated Press

Press Gallery, New Zealand Parliament Buildings, Pipitea, Wellington 6160

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@aap.com.au> | www.aap.com.au

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@aap.com.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 9:46 am

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: Re: FW: Plimmerton - Orca

That would be great [REDACTED] Please keep me in the loop. I'm planning on heading up to Plimmerton now to get a photo or two.

Cheers

On Tue, 13 Jul 2021 at 09:31, [REDACTED] wrote:

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Your email r.e the Plimmerton orca was forwarded to me.

Our latest update is below. Would you like to receive all statements on this situation? We're anticipating issuing an update later today.

****UPDATE****

8.30AM, 13 July 2021

Last night the orca calf stranded near Plimmerton received fluids from specialist veterinary staff and its condition improved.

It was less active this morning and the veterinarian has given the calf another dose of fluids. We've also arranged for some tests to be done on the calf but have no results as yet.

The DOC boat Mataara has resumed the search for the calf's pod and we are urging anyone in the area who has seen the orca pod to contact us on 0800 DOC HOT.

We are again appealing to the public to stay clear of the site while we continue efforts to save this calf.

Thanks for the messages of support to our team and volunteers working at the scene.



Communication Advisor – Hauraki, Waikato, Taranaki

Department of Conservation

Regional Office

Rostrevor St

Hamilton

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 10:15 am
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Orca pod search for 6pm TVNZ news

Here you go [REDACTED]

Ngā mihi nui,

[REDACTED]
Marketing Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapātairanga
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*
[REDACTED]
Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland Office
Bledisloe House, 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1010

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After Hours Media Support: Phone: +64 4 496 1911 / media@doc.govt.nz



From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>
Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 10:12 am
To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Orca pod search for 6pm TVNZ news

Kia ora,

Re the baby orca pod search : we would love some footage of anyone in plane looking for orca pod – phone footage is fine! It's for TV One news story at 6pm.
Could you contact me about what might be possible?

Nga mihi,
[REDACTED]
Story Producer
[REDACTED]
TVNZ News

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 10:22 am
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] Social Media <socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>; Webteam
[REDACTED] Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Images - Orca

Kia ora [REDACTED]

I understand you will be on site taking photos today.
Could you please send through any images you have to the media, social media and webteams (cc'ed in).

We are prepping regular updates and need some images to go alongside these – we are also getting a few media queries for image requests.
If you could please send through any that you have at the moment that would be great.

Thanks [REDACTED]

Ngā mihi nui,

[REDACTED]
Marketing Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapātairanga
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

[REDACTED]
Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland Office
Bledisloe House, 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1010

Conservation leadership for our nature/*Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa*

After Hours Media Support: Phone: +64 4 496 1911 / media@doc.govt.nz



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 10:53 am

To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Orca

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 10:30 am
To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Orca

[REDACTED] from RNZ called. Asking about what's up with orca rescue attempts/ boats on the water/DOC on site. Asking for call back [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 11:42 am
To: Julie Kidd <jkidd@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Orca related interview request

Thanks Julie,

Here you go [REDACTED]

Ngā mihi nui,

[REDACTED]
Marketing Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapātairanga
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

[REDACTED]
Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland Office
Bledisloe House, 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1010

Conservation leadership for our nature/*Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa*

After Hours Media Support: Phone: +64 4 496 1911 / media@doc.govt.nz



From: Julie Kidd <jkidd@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 11:40 am
To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Orca related interview request

Kia ora [REDACTED]

What a lovely email to get. Despite the best intentions of my great mates at Kelly's, I am not your girl for this! I have connected you to our wonderful media team who has this covered. They will connect you with the right spokesperson.

Thank you for your interest in our beautiful marine mammals.

Kia pai tōu rā/enjoy your day

Julie Kidd

Strategic Partnerships Advisor **Kaitiaki, Manutātaki**

Department of Conservation – *Te Papa Atawhai*

[REDACTED] | jkidd@doc.govt.nz

Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland Office

Private Bag 68 908, Newton, Auckland 1145

7th Floor, Bledisloe House, 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland

Kia piki te oranga o te ao tūroa, i roto i te ngātahitanga, ki Aotearoa

To work with others to increase the value of conservation for New Zealanders

www.doc.govt.nz



From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@nzme.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz)>

Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 11:24 am

To: Julie Kidd <jkidd@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: Orca related interview request

Hi Julie, I'm the producer for the Radio Hauraki breakfast show - we've been following the story about the Orca that's been separated from its pod and we were wondering if there was someone at DOC we could chat to on the show tomorrow morning about Orca?

Be great to hear from you!

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 11:42 am

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Orca footage

Hi [REDACTED]

Yes, absolutely – boat footage would be great too.

Any format that can be transferred to us – phone footage will be OK – We Transfer is simple and free and then we ingest it in our edit.

Latest – probably 5 pm deadline so we have a chance to edit it in to story.

What we're looking for :

Shots of on board boat – pilot at helm and separately spotters looking across water searching for orca pods.

Closeups of radar or ship technology.

Closeups of faces studying sea.

Separate wide shots of water from boat deck. Try for different sized frames – or some of the boat in foreground.

And if it happens of course – shots of orca!

If using a phone – keep it landscape (not portrait). Just hold it steady on one shot. Don't move it unnecessarily as wobbly shots are worse than a long steady one- shot.

Sorry if this is overly simplistic, but just not sure who will be taking shots.

Greatly appreciated!

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 11:33 AM

To: [REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz>

Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]

Subject: Orca footage

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of TVNZ. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi [REDACTED]

Your query r.e orca pod search footage was passed on to me. I'm in DOC's Comms and Media Team.

I will need to see what we can arrange but I cannot make any promises at this point.

Some queries:

- Would you be happy with footage from a boat involved in the search? That might be easier.
- What format file do you need if we can locate something?
- What's the last possible time you could receive footage, i.e a deadline?

█
█
Communication Advisor – Hauraki, Waikato, Taranaki
Department of Conservation
Regional Office
Rostrevor St
Hamilton
█
█

From: █@nzme.co.nz
Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 11:58 am
To: █
Subject: Re: Orca query - interview

Hey █ Thanks for getting back to me!

We're looking at 8:20am tomorrow on Radio Hauraki and the interview would be with Matt Heath and Jeremy Wells and would be for maybe five minutes.

As well as an update on this particular Orca, the guys would also like to generally chat a bit about Orca and their behaviours so someone with a bit more than just knowledge about the current situation but also Orca in general would be amazing!

Thanks!

From: █
Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 11:51 AM
To: █@nzme.co.nz
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Orca query - interview

Hi █,
I'm one of DOC's Comms and Media Advisors and I'm handling the comms/media on the orca situation in Plimmerton.

Some questions r.e your request for an interview with one of our staff?

- Time for this?
- How long will you need our spokesperson for?
- Which broadcaster/reporter will it be with?

We can arrange someone but just need a bit more detail to lock it in.

Please note this is an evolving situation and the best way to get updates is via DOC's Facebook page.



From: [Redacted]

Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 12:02 pm

To: [Redacted]

[Redacted] Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>;

Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>;

[Redacted] Social Media

<socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Vet visit to the orca

We requested the fixed wing plane up again today. They are doing a run currently and then again at 1pm.

The DOC Skipper is still out and about searching.

DOC sounds have had a report of a pod and will try and get photos to identify if this is the one. Pod

can be identified by their **??fins?** [Redacted] anyone in marine team to fill in the gap 😊

Just waiting on new photos from [Redacted].

We now have two DOC Rangers on site

The Wellington Zoo vet s have assessed the animal and will support whatever decision is made. They are liaising with Sea world and DOC marine technical advisors to understand the calf's behaviours. They support the need for a reduced number of people around the calf. Blood results from yesterday and today will be available later today.

From: [Redacted]

Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 8:14 am

To: [Redacted]

[Redacted] Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>;

[Redacted] Social Media

<socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Vet visit to the orca

The calf picked up over night after receiving the fluids from the vets however it started to become less active by the morning. The vet is back there now administering more fluids and showing the vet and experienced Whale Rescue team member how it is done.

The DOC boat Mataara II is out on the water now. We will assess this morning the next steps in terms of search options. Maritime Radio have recommenced calls out to boats to keep an eye out for the pod.

NO results yet on the bloods and swabs taken last night

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 7:39 am
To: [REDACTED] Ian Angus
<iangus@doc.govt.nz>; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Social Media
<socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Vet visit to the orca

Thanks [REDACTED]. Media will be happy till 8am because of Ian's interviews but will want an update after that, so thanks for keeping us updated.

Cheers [REDACTED]

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 12:05 pm
To: [REDACTED] Ian Angus
<iangus@doc.govt.nz>; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Social Media
<socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Vet visit to the orca

Identifying individual orca depends mostly on good photos of the fins. Other helpful things are the 'saddle patch' (white/grey markings on the flanks behind the fin), 'eye patch' (white markings around the eyes) and any other random markings (scars, etc).

[REDACTED]

From: Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 12:08 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Orca related interview request

Can do. Lets catch up as done frw media bits now

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

On 13/07/2021 11:45 am, [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi Ian,

Getting this on your radar – request for a phone interview with Radio Hauraki, tomorrow morning.

[REDACTED]

██████████
Communication Advisor – Hauraki, Waikato, Taranaki
Department of Conservation
Regional Office
Rostrevor St
Hamilton
██████████

Unite
against
COVID-19



From: ██████████ <██████████@nzme.co.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 11:24 am
To: Julie Kidd <jkidd@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Orca related interview request

Hi Julie, I'm the producer for the Radio Hauraki breakfast show - we've been following the story about the Orca that's been separated from its pod and we were wondering if there was someone at DOC we could chat to on the show tomorrow morning about Orca?

Be great to hear from you!

██████████

From: ██████████
Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 12:13 pm
To: ██████████
██████████ Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>;
Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; ██████████
██████████ Social Media
<socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Vet visit to the orca

Hi team,

Just to let you know I'm on leave from this afternoon until next Tuesday. ██████████ is in charge of media queries during the day and ██████████ is on duty again tonight. Please copy in media inbox (as you've been doing) with any updates.

Can someone please add Bronwyn Saunders to the CIMS meetings as she will be taking over from me.

Our Customer Engagement Unit team is having regular comms meetings to make sure our social, media and webpage comms are all aligned. Ian is invited to those too.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 12:40 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] Webteam <HOWebTeam@doc.govt.nz>; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; Social Media <socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
Subject: Images - Orca

From this morning, hard to capture the tilt. Will try with my DSLR

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

On 13/07/2021 10:21 am, [REDACTED] wrote:
Kia ora [REDACTED]

I understand you will be on site taking photos today.
Could you please send through any images you have to the media, social media and webteams (cc'ed in).

We are prepping regular updates and need some images to go alongside these – we are also getting a few media queries for image requests.
If you could please send through any that you have at the moment that would be great.

Thanks [REDACTED]

Ngā mihi nui,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 12:54 pm
To: [REDACTED] Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>; Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; Social Media <socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>; Webteam <HOWebTeam@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Juvenile orca - media update

Suggested social media update – Let me know if it's good to publish

UPDATE

1pm 13/07/21

Our efforts to save the orca calf stranded at Plimmerton are continuing today, as we work alongside Whale Rescue and volunteers.

The animal has been fed nutritional supplements through a tube by veterinarians. This method of feeding does cause the animal some distress but is the only option to keep the animal alive at this time. We're also working with veterinarians to gain valuable expert advice from scientists overseas.

Rehabilitating the animal and reuniting it with its pod remains our objective.

We have a DOC vessel out at sea searching for the pod and a local pilot has also volunteered to support the search. So far he has made one flight today and will make a second flight this afternoon.

There has been a reported sighting of a pod of orca in the Marlborough Sounds, but we're still encouraging the public to report any orca pod sightings to us via the 0800 DOC HOT (0800 362 468). - The range is from the Marlborough Sounds to Whanganui.

If anyone sees the orca pod, we're particularly interested in location details, the direction of travel of the pod, and any markings on the back/"saddle" of the members of the pod and their dorsal fins.

We appreciate the continued support of the public but we're still asking people to stay clear of the site to allow us and Whale Rescue to do our work.

Ngā mihi,

[REDACTED]

From: Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 1:05 pm

To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]

Cc: Webteam <HOWebTeam@doc.govt.nz>; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; Social Media <socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Juvenile orca - media update

Reads well to me.

Just completed interview to tv3 for 1800 news. Media mostly pushing for a view how long we might continue feeding calf. Also increasingly asking about euthanasia.

Calf just about to be fed again. Media respecting requests not to film the feeding so far.

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 1:06 pm
To: [REDACTED] Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>; Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; Social Media <socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>; Webteam <HOWebTeam@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Juvenile orca - media update

Maritime Radio are still broadcasting to local boaties to keep a look out for the Orca pod.
Yet to be confirmed report of a Pod sighted up near Whanganui

This all sounds very upbeat. Do we need to be slipping in comments regarding the prognosis to set the expectation that it may not survive? This was raised by [REDACTED] during our meeting yesterday.

Below is the paragraph [REDACTED] and myself crafted for the release however long ago (seems like a lifetime).. maybe pick something out of this? Guided by [REDACTED]?

We are currently working through other options. The young Orca is estimated to be 4-6 months old and will still require milk from its mum. The main objective at this point is to reunite this calf with its pod. The longer the calf is separated from the pod the more distressed the young calf will become. There are no facilities in New Zealand capable of rehabilitating an Orca in captivity, so options for care are limited to what can be put in place on site. If the calf's pod cannot be found, we will have to consider which option is most humane.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 12:42 pm
To: Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>; Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; Social Media <socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>; Webteam <HOWebTeam@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
Subject: Juvenile orca - media update
Importance: High

Kia ora,

An update on media requests/engagement/messaging r.e the Plimmerton orca calf.

Recommended next update for our channels:

1pm UPDATE

- *Our efforts to save the orca calf stranded at Plimmerton are continuing today (13 July), with DOC working alongside Whale Rescue and volunteers.*
- *Rehabilitating the animal and reuniting it with its pod remains our objective.*
- *We have a DOC vessel out at sea searching for the pod.*
- *A local pilot has also volunteered to support the search and has made one flight today. He will make a second flight this afternoon.*
- *There has been a reported sighting of a pod of orca in the Marlborough Sounds.*
- *We are encouraging the public to report any orca pod sightings to us – the range is from the Marlborough Sounds to Whanganui.*
- *If anyone sees the orca pod, we're particularly interested in location details, the direction of travel of the pod, and any markings on the back/"saddle" of the members of the pod and their dorsal fins.*
- *The animal has been fed nutritional supplements through a tube by veterinarians. This method of feeding does cause the animal some distress but is the only option to keep the animal alive at this time.*
- *We're working with veterinarians to gain valuable expert advice from scientists overseas.*
- *We appreciate the continued support of the public but ask people to stay clear of the site to allow us and Whale Rescue to do our work.*

Media requests

TVNZ – Has requested some sort of footage of the search for the pod. Story producer [REDACTED] has provided direction what they're after, and [REDACTED] will relay this to our boat skipper.

Radio Hauraki – Has requested an interview tomorrow/Wednesday morning with a DOC spokesperson, to discuss what is currently underway at the scene and general commentary about orca. Request from producer [REDACTED]. We will need to put up both [REDACTED] and Ian for this and I will ask for questions in advance.

AAP – Reporter [REDACTED] has been provided the 8.35am update and also planned to head to the scene.

RNZ – Reporter [REDACTED] (surname unknown) also requested an update and was provided with an update as per 8.35am messaging.

Newshub – [REDACTED] requested an update, we provided her with the 8.35am messaging and referred her to our Facebook page.

From the scene this morning Ian has done:

- **TVNZ/One News** – a piece to camera
- **RNZ** – audio interview.
- **Newshub** – radio/audio interview already done, may also need to do piece to camera.
- **Stuff.co.nz** – interview – reporter signalled Saturday editorial content.

Synopsis of interviews:

- Rehab of calf and relocation of pod remains the focus.
- Rehab – vets are at the site, animal looks more comfortable than yesterday. However, it's going to need consistent nutrition until we reunite the animal with its pod.
- Key question has been the likely length of our response and efforts – and when might we make a decision on how long we will continue with this approach. Ian has been emphasising welfare of the animal is at the centre of our decisions, and we're working through the decision methodically, taking into account expert opinion.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 1:07 pm
To: [REDACTED]; Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>; Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; Social Media <socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>; Webteam <HOWebTeam@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Juvenile orca - media update

I have a few suggested edits below in red text. I don't believe the calf has been fed, though someone on site can correct me if I'm wrong. It's just liquid with electrolytes, so is only designed to keep it hydrated. (in human terms, it's drinking, not eating). Also a few other things. I've run this by the technical team as well.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 12:54 pm
To: [REDACTED] Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>; Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; Social Media <socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>; Webteam <HOWebTeam@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Juvenile orca - media update

Suggested social media update – Let me know if it's good to publish

UPDATE
1pm 13/07/21

Our efforts to save the orca calf stranded at Plimmerton are continuing today, as we work alongside Whale Rescue and volunteers.

The animal has been ~~fed nutritional supplements~~ provided electrolytes through a tube by veterinarians. This method ~~of feeding~~ does cause the animal some distress but is the ~~only best~~ option ~~to keep the animal alive to ensure the animal remains in reasonable condition~~ at this time. We're also working with veterinarians to gain valuable expert advice from scientists overseas.

~~Rehabilitating~~ Ensuring the animal remains in reasonable condition and reuniting it with its pod remains our objective.

We have a DOC vessel out at sea searching for the pod and a local pilot has also volunteered to support the search. So far he has made one flight today and will make a second flight this afternoon.

There has been a reported sighting of a pod of orca in the Marlborough Sounds, but we're still encouraging the public to report any orca pod sightings to us via the 0800 DOC HOT (0800 362 468). - The range is from the Marlborough Sounds to Whanganui.

If anyone sees the orca pod, we're particularly interested in location details, the direction of travel of the pod, and clear photos of dorsal fins and any markings on the back/"saddle" of the members of the pod ~~and their dorsal fins.~~

We appreciate the continued support of the public but we're still asking people to stay clear of the site to allow us and Whale Rescue to do our work.

Ngā mihi,

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 1:15 pm
To: [Redacted] Ian Angus
<iangus@doc.govt.nz>; [Redacted]
[Redacted] Bronwyn Saunders
<bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>; [Redacted]
[Redacted]
Cc: Webteam <HOWebTeam@doc.govt.nz>; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; Social Media <socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Juvenile orca - media update

Correct, just fluids at this stage. Primary concern to vets was hydration, I understand they can go a lot longer without food than liquids.

Ingrid has expressed that she wants to know of sightings all over NZ. Also important that people report even though they think someone else might have already reported it.

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 1:15 pm
To: [Redacted] Ian Angus
<iangus@doc.govt.nz>; [Redacted] >
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: CIMS - Juvenile Orca Mana

Hi [REDACTED] I will update as soon as we are done or during the meeting as appropriate...

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 11:37 am

To: [REDACTED] Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]

Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: CIMS - Juvenile Orca Mana

Thanks [REDACTED]

We will need some sort of update for media after that discussion as media and public interest is high and ongoing. Will you and/or Ian be able to share an update with us after that?

[REDACTED]
Communication Advisor – Hauraki, Waikato, Taranaki
Department of Conservation
Regional Office
Rostrevor St
Hamilton

Unite
against
COVID-19



-----Original Appointment-----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 11:31 am

To: [REDACTED] Ian Angus; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED];

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Canceled: CIMS - Juvenile Orca Mana

When: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 2:00 pm-3:30 pm (UTC+12:00) Auckland, Wellington.

Where: KW District (Kapiti Room) or remote via teams

Importance: High

Hi team, have cancelled this meeting as Jack Mace, myself, Ian Angus, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] intend to meet with Ingrid Visser today at 3pm to discuss a way forward. Will provide an update on Wednesday 14/7/21 at 2pm

Refer draft CIMS Structure document [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 1:23 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Baby orca update

Here you go [REDACTED]

Ngā mihi nui,

[REDACTED]
Marketing Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapātairanga
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

[REDACTED]
Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland Office
Bledisloe House, 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1010

Conservation leadership for our nature/*Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa*

After Hours Media Support: Phone: +64 4 496 1911 / media@doc.govt.nz



From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@theguardian.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@theguardian.com)>
Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 10:13 pm
To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Baby orca update

Kia ora,

Are you please able to provide us with updated information about the baby orca in Plimmerton + any background to the situation (we haven't yet reported on this and want to ensure our information is correct)

Also, does DOC have any photos that could be supplied?

Thanks so much,

[REDACTED]
Reporter
The Guardian | New Zealand

From: [REDACTED]@theguardian.com>

Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 10:45 pm

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Orca query

Thanks so much [REDACTED] appreciate this.

Will the information change much in the next update? Wondering if I hold out till that comes out...

On Tue, 13 Jul 2021 at 04:38, [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

I'm managing media queries on the orca at Plimmteron.

You can find our first statement on the orca on the DOC website, here:

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/news/media-releases/2021-media-releases/update-on-stranded-juvenile-orca-in-porirua/>

We are issuing an updated statement very shortly and that will also be on our website. I will email that to you when it's ready.

We do have some photographs taken this morning - [REDACTED] can you send those to [REDACTED] please? I am just in a meeting. Pics will need to be credited to DOC please.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 1:53 pm

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Juvenile orca - media update

Hi [REDACTED] -

Apparently [REDACTED] (who is on the technical group) has some background and a strong interest in orca and might be able to do the Radio Hauraki call in the morning. When you get the

questions from them and circulate them, could you please include her and we'll sort out who's going to cover this one.

Cheers,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Webteam [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 1:55 pm
To: [REDACTED] Webteam [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Cc: Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED] Social Media <socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Plimmerton orca update

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Happy to put this up but I noted that the language in the media release is different to the social media post. Have highlighted the language used in the social media post in red, let me know what's preferred.

New update on stranded juvenile orca in Porirua

Efforts to save the orca calf stranded at Plimmerton are continuing today (13 July), with Department of Conservation (DOC) working alongside Whale Rescue and volunteers.

~~Rehabilitating the animal~~ **Ensuring the animal remains in a reasonable condition** and reuniting it with its pod remains our objective.

DOC has vessel out at sea searching for the pod.

A local pilot has also volunteered to support the search and has made one flight today. He will make a second flight this afternoon.

There has been a reported sighting of a pod of orca in the Marlborough Sounds. DOC is encouraging the public to report any orca pod sightings to us – the range is from the Marlborough Sounds to Whanganui.

“If anyone sees the orca pod, we’re particularly interested in location details, the direction of travel of the pod, and any markings on the back/saddle of the members of the pod and their dorsal fins,” says DOC’s Marine Species Manager Ian Angus.

The animal has been ~~fed nutritional supplements~~ **provided electrolytes** through a tube by veterinarians. This method of feeding does cause the animal some distress but is the ~~only option to keep the animal alive at this time~~ **best option to ensure the animal remains in a reasonable condition at this time.**

“We’re working with veterinarians to gain valuable expert advice from scientists overseas.”

Mr Angus says DOC appreciates the continued support of the public but is asking people to stay clear of the site to allow us and Whale Rescue to do our work.

Best,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 1:40 PM
To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@parliament.govt.nz)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@parliament.govt.nz)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@parliament.govt.nz)>
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Orca update - 1.40pm

Kia ora,
Latest update on the orca, for media, is below.

This is being shared to our channels and will also be passed on to journalists requesting updates.



Media release

13 July 2021

New update on stranded juvenile orca in Porirua

Efforts to save the orca calf stranded at Plimmerton are continuing today (13 July), with Department of Conservation (DOC) working alongside Whale Rescue and volunteers.

Rehabilitating the animal and reuniting it with its pod remains our objective.

DOC has vessel out at sea searching for the pod.

A local pilot has also volunteered to support the search and has made one flight today. He will make a second flight this afternoon.

There has been a reported sighting of a pod of orca in the Marlborough Sounds. DOC is encouraging the public to report any orca pod sightings to us – the range is from the Marlborough Sounds to Whanganui.

“If anyone sees the orca pod, we’re particularly interested in location details, the direction of travel of the pod, and any markings on the back/saddle of the members of the pod and their dorsal fins,” says DOC’s Marine Species Manager Ian Angus.

The animal has been fed nutritional supplements through a tube by veterinarians. This method of feeding does cause the animal some distress but is the only option to keep the animal alive at this time.

“We’re working with veterinarians to gain valuable expert advice from scientists overseas.”

Mr Angus says DOC appreciates the continued support of the public but is asking people to stay clear of the site to allow us and Whale Rescue to do our work.

–Ends–

██████████
Communication

From: ██████████
Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 2:08 pm
To: ██████████
Subject: RE: Orca footage

Hi ██████████, FYI ██████████ the skipper will take a few clips at different locations as per ██████████’s email. He will try and send these to me around 130 (he also has a check in due then) and then contact me to see if they have come through ok. That should give us some wiggle room in terms deadlines 😊

I didn’t push send button! ██████████ is relocating as the video bites he has down will not send...

From: ██████████
Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 12:11 pm
To: ██████████
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; ██████████
██████████
Subject: RE: Orca footage

Thanks ██████████

My colleague ██████████ is in contact with the skipper of the DOC vessel and she’s going to relay this request to him. ██████████ notes the weather in the Wellington region today is not great.

We'll do what we can to help out but can't make any firm commitments.

[REDACTED]
Communication Advisor – Hauraki, Waikato, Taranaki
Department of Conservation
Regional Office
Rostrevor St
Hamilton
[REDACTED]

Unite
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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 11:42 am
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Orca footage

Hi [REDACTED]
Yes, absolutely – boat footage would be great too.
Any format that can be transferred to us – phone footage will be OK – We Transfer is simple and free and then we ingest it in our edit.
Latest – probably 5 pm deadline so we have a chance to edit it in to story.

What we're looking for :

- Shots of on board boat – pilot at helm and separately spotters looking across water searching for orca pods.
- Closeups of radar or ship technology.
- Closeups of faces studying sea.
- Separate wide shots of water from boat deck. Try for different sized frames – or some of the boat in foreground.
- And if it happens of course – shots of orca!

If using a phone – keep it landscape (not portrait). Just hold it steady on one shot. Don't move it unnecessarily as wobbly shots are worse than a long steady one- shot.
Sorry if this is overly simplistic, but just not sure who will be taking shots.

Greatly appreciated!
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 11:33 AM
To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: Orca footage

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of TVNZ. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi [REDACTED]

Your query r.e orca pod search footage was passed on to me. I'm in DOC's Comms and Media Team.

I will need to see what we can arrange but I cannot make any promises at this point.

Some queries:

- Would you be happy with footage from a boat involved in the search? That might be easier.
- What format file do you need if we can locate something?
- What's the last possible time you could receive footage, i.e a deadline?

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 2:30 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Orca footage

I may be in a meeting at 3pm if [REDACTED] sends the video clips through I will give him your number as will [REDACTED], hopefully saving some time. Hopefully he will be in range soon. It was a bit patchy but will be great once he gets around the head.

The meeting is with Ingrid Visser this afternoon and Jack Mace, Ian A, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] as lwi liaison. I hope to have some more information for you after this.

We are likely to be setting up at site from tomorrow also, I will let you know after the meeting.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 2:14 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Orca footage

That's brilliant [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Communication Advisor – Hauraki, Waikato, Taranaki
Department of Conservation
Regional Office
Rostrevor St
Hamilton

From: [REDACTED]@theguardian.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 11:37 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Orca query

Thanks [REDACTED] would you mind confirming that the baby has been called Toa? Was this an iwi-led naming ceremony? are there any more details there?

On Tue, 13 Jul 2021 at 05:32, [REDACTED] wrote:

You should have that update now [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Communication Advisor – Hauraki, Waikato, Taranaki
Department of Conservation
Regional Office
Rostrevor St
Hamilton

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 2:40 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Newstalk ZB orca chat

Hey [REDACTED]

Another interview request

Ngā mihi nui,

Marketing Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapātairanga
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland Office
Bledisloe House, 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1010

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After Hours Media Support: Phone: +64 4 496 1911 / media@doc.govt.nz



From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@nzme.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz)>

Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 2:39 pm

To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: Newstalk ZB orca chat

Hi team, [REDACTED] here from Newstalk ZB, hope you're well.

We're keen to cover the search for baby Toa the orca's pod on Andrew Dickens's show today.

Any chance Ian Angus or someone else involved in the search can chat to Andrew on the show around 5.20pm?

It'd be no more than 5 minutes, and over the phone would be fine.

Possible?

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Technical Producer - Drive | Newstalk ZB

E: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@nzme.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz)>

ME: My pronouns are he/him

From: [REDACTED]@aap.com.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 2:46 pm

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Media release - New update on stranded juvenile orca in Porirua

Hi [REDACTED]

Will that plane head to the Marlborough Sounds given the reported sighting there? Do you have any more details around that sighting - how confident are you and where did that happen?

On Tue, 13 Jul 2021 at 14:32, [REDACTED] wrote:



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Media release

13 July 2021 – 2.30pm

New update on stranded juvenile orca in Porirua

Efforts to save the orca calf stranded at Plimmerton are continuing today (13 July), with Department of Conservation (DOC) working alongside Whale Rescue and volunteers.

Ensuring the animal remains in a reasonable condition and reuniting it with its pod remains our objective.

DOC has vessel out at sea searching for the pod.

A local pilot has also volunteered to support the search and has made one flight today. He will make a second flight this afternoon.

There has been a reported sighting of a pod of orca in the Marlborough Sounds. DOC is encouraging the public to report any orca pod sightings to us – the range is from the Marlborough Sounds to Whanganui.

“If anyone sees the orca pod, we’re particularly interested in location details, the direction of travel of the pod, and any clear photos of the fins, any markings on the back/saddle of the members,” says DOC’s Marine Species Manager Ian Angus.

The animal has been provided electrolytes through a tube by veterinarians. This method of feeding does cause the animal some distress but is the best option to ensure the animal remains in a reasonable condition at this time.

“We’re working with veterinarians to gain valuable expert advice from scientists overseas.”

Ian Angus says DOC appreciates the continued support of the public but is asking people to stay clear of the site to allow us and Whale Rescue to do our work.

–Ends–

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 3:32 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Dear Friends - Pod spotted in Marlborough - please oh please can we have live update from DOC at 5:53 please? on Orca?

Hey [REDACTED]

Another interview request

Ngā mihi nui,

[REDACTED]
Marketing Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapātairanga
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

[REDACTED]
Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland Office
Bledisloe House, 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1010

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Papatūānuku Thrives

Te ora o Papatūānuku | Te ora o te Hapori | Te hunga Atawhai

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@rnz.co.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 3:24 pm

To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: Dear Friends - Pod spotted in Marlborough - please oh please can we have live update from DOC at 5:53 please? on Orca?

Would be with Lisa Owen and need only take three minutes

Producer

Radio New Zealand | Level 3 | 171 Hobson St
PO Box 2209 | Auckland | New Zealand 1040
www.radionz.co.nz

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 3:40 pm

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: Orca

Hey [REDACTED]

FYI

Reporter below called and asked to confirm the rumours the pod has been found and would like a quick interview with Ian.

I told them we'll have an update this afternoon.

[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@stuff.co.nz>

wellington@stuff.co.nz; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@stuff.co.nz>

Ngā mihi nui,

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 3:56 pm

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Orca query - interview

Hey [REDACTED] thanks for all your help today but the guys have decided to take things in a different direction.

All the best with finding the lost pod.

Chris.

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 2:00 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Orca query - interview

Hey mate, my number is [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 1:52 PM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz>
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Orca query - interview

[REDACTED] – what’s the best number to call you on please? Easier than emails.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 4:00 pm
To: [REDACTED] Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Orca query - interview

All good, thanks [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 3:58 pm
To: [REDACTED] Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>; Lydia [REDACTED]
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Orca query - interview

[REDACTED] /Ian – we can scratch this one. Not going ahead, just had an email from the Hauraki producer cancelling the commitment tomorrow morning.

[REDACTED]

Communication Advisor – Hauraki, Waikato, Taranaki

Department of Conservation
Regional Office
Rostrevor St
Hamilton



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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 1:54 pm
To: [REDACTED] Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Orca query - interview

Gents and [REDACTED] – as per earlier phone calls, Radio Hauraki request. Stand by for an update on this one, I am trying to pin down the producer to lock in the details and get those specific questions so we can prep properly.

I'll be in touch when I know more.



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 6:36 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Urgent orca update

Thanks [REDACTED]

Ngā mihi nui,



Marketing Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapātairanga
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*



Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland Office
Bledisloe House, 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1010

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 6:35 pm
To: Webteam [REDACTED] Social Media <socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
Subject: Urgent orca update

Hi team – here's the latest approved update on the Plimmerton orca.

I need this up online as soon as possible please!

[REDACTED]

From: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 6:42 pm
To: [REDACTED] Webteam [REDACTED] Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED] Social Media <socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Urgent orca update

Looks good [REDACTED] Please keep min office looped in if you can copy and paste into body of email, it makes it easier for staff working off mobile.

Talk tomorrow. Nice work

Cheers

Bronwyn

On 13/07/2021 6:35 pm, [REDACTED] wrote:
Hi team – here's the latest approved update on the Plimmerton orca.

I need this up online as soon as possible please!

[REDACTED]

From: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 6:58 pm

To: [redacted] Webteam [redacted] Media
<Media@doc.govt.nz>; [redacted] Social Media
<socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Urgent orca update

Hi. Suggestion below.

We hope to resume etc.

Cheers

Bronwyn

On 13/07/2021 6:48 pm, Social Media <socialmedia@doc.govt.nz> wrote:

>

> This is what I have for the social update – Let me know if it's all good and as soon as the media release has gone up I'll post the update on Facebook.

>

>

>

> ***UPDATE***

>

> 6:30pm 13/07/2021

>

>

>

> The orca calf remains stable tonight, after specialist veterinary treatment.

>

> It has been provided with fluids and electrolytes by the veterinarian.

>

>

>

> More specialist veterinary assessment and further treatment has been arranged for tomorrow morning.

>

>

>

> A sighting of a pod earlier today near Raumati saw us dispatch a boat to confirm if it's the family of the stranded calf. The description of the pod matches eyewitnesses reports from when the calf stranded on Sunday.

>

> We hope to resume the search tomorrow depending on sightings.

>

> Anyone who has sighted any Orca pod is urged to stick with the pod for as long as possible, report the location and direction of the pod's travel, and take videos or photographs – and share those via 0800 DOC HOT or wellington@doc.govt.nz

>

>

>

> Search efforts paused tonight and will be reassessed tomorrow morning after further discussion with veterinarians.

>

>

>
> Read more here: [LINK TO MEDIA RELEASE]
>
>
>
>
>
>
> Ngā mihi,
>
>
>
> [REDACTED]

Hey [REDACTED]

Do you have a mailing list for all the people asking for updates? If so, can we add the below please?

Ngā mihi nui,

[REDACTED]
Marketing Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapātairanga
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*
[REDACTED]
Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland Office
Bledisloe House, 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1010

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After Hours Media Support: Phone: +64 4 496 1911 / media@doc.govt.nz



From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@verizonmedia.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@verizonmedia.com)>
Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 10:49 am
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: [E] RE: Stranded orca - Yahoo News Australia

Thank you, [REDACTED]

On Wed, Jul 14, 2021 at 8:46 AM [REDACTED] wrote:

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email.

We will have an update shortly and will be sure to share this update with you.

Thanks [REDACTED] will be in touch soon.

Ngā mihi nui,

[REDACTED]

Marketing Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapātairanga

Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

[REDACTED]

Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland Office

Bledisloe House, 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1010

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After Hours Media Support: Phone: +64 4 496 1911 / media@doc.govt.nz



From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@verizonmedia.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@verizonmedia.com)>

Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 10:42 am

To: [REDACTED] Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: Re: [E] RE: Stranded orca - Yahoo News Australia

[REDACTED] are you able to give me an update today on the orca please?

I'd love to hear what's been done so far to assist? If there have been any sightings of orca pods? What people can do to help? How the orca is doing and what's being done to care for him?

Regards,

On Mon, Jul 12, 2021 at 2:02 PM [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@verizonmedia.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@verizonmedia.com)> wrote:

Thank you.

On Mon, Jul 12, 2021 at 12:52 PM [REDACTED] wrote:

Kia ora [REDACTED],

Please find the below response.

Please attribute to DOC Marine Species Manager, Ian Angus:

Are you able to give me an update on the juvenile orca stranded at Plimmerton?

The Department of Conservation (DOC), Whale-Rescue.org and Project Jonah were on site at Plimmerton beach yesterday evening to assist in the stranding of a juvenile orca.

After an unsuccessful search to locate the orcas pod yesterday evening DOC and the rescue team have reconvened and been out in the water since dawn to locate the pod.

To assist in the search DOC has commissioned a helicopter and a fixed winged aircraft from the local Kapiti aerodrome is also searching. Maritime Radio have also been asking recreational boats to keep an eye out for the pod.

To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Orca sighting Plimmerton Sunday afternoon

Kia ora,

[REDACTED] from TVNZ has provided some footage of the orca pod on Sunday, see below.

Access in here: [TVNZ](#)

Let me know if there are issues accessing that.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 4:21 pm

To: Marine <marine@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: Orca sighting Plimmerton Sunday afternoon

Hi,

Attached are a couple of shots of orca spotted near Plimmerton last Sunday. They were approximately 300 meters off shore directly to sea of the stranded baby orca. These shots were taken about 10 minutes prior to the baby orca being carried to the nearby trailer and transported to Plimmerton Boat Club.

These are the only shots I got of the offshore orca. Should you require other shots of the rescue, just drop me a line and I'll arrange for the rest of the footage to be copied over.

Cheers

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 10:56 am

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Iwi involvement - orca calf

One news turned up

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

On 14/07/2021 10:33 AM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi [REDACTED],

In response to your questions via text message.

1. Local iwi Ngati Toa Rangatira is directly involved in the search for the pod, and the care of the calf. They are also a key voice in ongoing discussions as this evolves.
2. R.e whether there is a particular iwi which is kaitiaki of orca as a species, I am not aware of one – but am checking with other staff in our org.

■

From: ■
Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 11:06 am
To: ■
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: [E] RE: Stranded orca - Yahoo News Australia

Hey ■,

Here is a list of all the media outlets that have reached out over the last couple of days via the media inbox if you wanted to include them in a media list for updates.

■ [@theguardian.com](mailto:■@theguardian.com)
■ [@aap.com.au](mailto:■@aap.com.au)
■ [@verizonmedia.com](mailto:■@verizonmedia.com)
■ [@nzme.co.nz](mailto:■@nzme.co.nz)
■ [@nzme.co.nz](mailto:■@nzme.co.nz)
■ [@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:■@tvnz.co.nz)
■ [@rnz.co.nz](mailto:■@rnz.co.nz)
Morningreport@rnz.co.nz
news@rnz.co.nz
■ [@nzme.co.nz](mailto:■@nzme.co.nz)
■ [@discovery.com](mailto:■@discovery.com)
■ [@nzme.co.nz](mailto:■@nzme.co.nz)
■ [@stuff.co.nz](mailto:■@stuff.co.nz)
■ [@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:■@tvnz.co.nz)

Ngā mihi nui,

■
Marketing Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapātairanga
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

■
Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland Office
Bledisloe House, 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1010

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Papatūānuku Thrives

Te ora o Papatūānuku | Te ora o te Hapori | Te hunga Atawhai

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 10:54 am
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: [E] RE: Stranded orca - Yahoo News Australia

No I don't – but if you look in media inbox, the update I sent last night went to the journals following the story and the main news media outlets in NZ.

Could you produce a quick list from that?

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 11:30 am
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: [E] RE: Stranded orca - Yahoo News Australia

Sorry, request to add Project Jonah to the list:

[REDACTED] [@projectionah.org.nz](mailto:projectjonah@projectionah.org.nz)
[REDACTED] [@theguardian.com](mailto:theguardian.com)
[REDACTED] [@aap.com.au](mailto:aap.com.au)
[REDACTED] [@verizonmedia.com](mailto:verizonmedia.com)
[REDACTED] [@nzme.co.nz](mailto:nzme.co.nz)
[REDACTED] [@nzme.co.nz](mailto:nzme.co.nz)
[REDACTED] [@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:tvnz.co.nz)
[REDACTED] [@rnz.co.nz](mailto:rnz.co.nz)
Morningreport@rnz.co.nz
news@rnz.co.nz
[REDACTED] [@nzme.co.nz](mailto:nzme.co.nz)
[REDACTED] [@discovery.com](mailto:discovery.com)
[REDACTED] [@nzme.co.nz](mailto:nzme.co.nz)
[REDACTED] [@stuff.co.nz](mailto:stuff.co.nz)
[REDACTED] [@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:tvnz.co.nz)

Ngā mihi nui,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 11:55 am

To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Stranded Orca calf release

Good idea [REDACTED] – probably the best way to manage everyone’s expectations

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 11:53 am

To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Stranded Orca calf release

Thanks – second request of this kind we have had. Stuff.co.nz want someone on the boat as well.

We’re not at that stage yet.

My early thinking on this is we might be better to put our own person on the boat ([REDACTED]? Ranger?) equip them with cellphone vid basics and then make the footage available.

[REDACTED]
Communication Advisor – Hauraki, Waikato, Taranaki
Department of Conservation
Regional Office
Rostrevor St
Hamilton

[REDACTED]



From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 11:50 am

To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Stranded Orca calf release

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Thanks for this.

Hey [redacted] and [redacted] – request below.

Ngā mihi nui,

[redacted]
Marketing Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapātairanga
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

[redacted]
Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland Office
Bledisloe House, 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1010

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From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 11:46 am
To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Stranded Orca calf release

Kia ora team,

Sending this through as I'm not sure who in DOC can help with this and perhaps you already have enquiries from the 'mainstream' media about this Orca calf release?

Cheers, [redacted]

From: [redacted] <[\[redacted\]@nhnz.tv](mailto:[redacted]@nhnz.tv)>
Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 11:42 am
To: [redacted]
Subject: Stranded Orca calf release

Hi [redacted]

Thanks for your time just now.

As I mentioned, we're currently working on developing a series about whale stranding's and the NZ network we're talking to is super keen we follow the current Orca calf, Toa on his release.

We'd love to send a documentary cameraperson to Karehana Bay this afternoon and get them on the release boat when they (hopefully) attempt to reunite the calf with his pod.

Could you put me in touch with the correct people to talk to about this?

They can contact me anytime on [REDACTED] or by email

Thanks again for your help



[REDACTED] | Line Producer /
Senior Production Manager

a: NHNZ Worldwide | 5 Melville St | Dunedin, NZ

e: [REDACTED]@nhnz.tv | **w:** www.nhnz.tv



From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 12:25 pm

To: [REDACTED] Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>

Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: 12pm orca update for approval/feedback - attached and below

Hi [REDACTED], a few amendments below. I'm trying to get input from [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] but am still tracking them down. But do not want to delay the release

The tweaks change the focus a little bit to ensure we continue to share with the Iwi and the Orca research Trust.

Softened the last paragraph again too

Both parties are also doing interviews I believe. The Triage idea for media is a great idea as they are all over the place today...and now in the inside of the cordon

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 11:48 am

To: [REDACTED] Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>

Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: 12pm orca update for approval/feedback - attached and below



Media release

14 July 2021

12pm update on stranded juvenile orca in Porirua

The search for a pod of orca off the Wellington coast has resumed today (14 July) as work continues to reunite a stranded orca calf with its family.

The orca calf – believed to be between four and six months old – stranded on rocks at Plimmerton on Sunday afternoon. It remains in a temporary enclosure near a wharf at Hongoeka, with volunteers from Whale Rescue and Orca Rescue Trust working alongside Department of Conservation and local iwi Ngati Toa.

Ian Angus, Department of Conservation (DOC) Marine Species Manager, says there have been two reported sightings of a pod off the Kapiti Coast – including a sighting this morning near Kapiti Island. DOC dispatched its own vessel to the area the pod was seen, and an aircraft is also in flight this morning as part of the search.

Ian Angus says although the sighting of the pod is encouraging, DOC wants to verify the sightings as it begins planning for what would be a logistically challenging operation to reunite the calf with its pod.

Weather, sea conditions, available sunlight and the location of the pod from the shore are all key factors in any attempt to reunite the calf with its pod. If the pod is spotted, it will be trailed by the Whale Rescue and DOC vessel for as long as possible until nightfall.

Ian Angus says the situation remains complex and challenging – particularly given the very young age of the orca.

“We’re working through planning a range of scenarios,” he says. “The prospect of reuniting the calf with its pod is encouraging, but we do need to keep all our options open.

“I want to emphasise the welfare of the calf is at the centre of all our discussions and the decisions we’re making.”

The calf received more veterinarian-assisted feeding this morning, a mix of electrolytes, nutrients and fish oil. The Wildlife vets say the calf remains stable and although showing some signs of stress, is generally exhibiting normal behaviour for an animal its age.

Volunteers are in the temporary pen with the calf, working shifts to keep the animal moving and safe. Biosecurity protocols are in place for shift handovers, to ensure there is no transmission of disease.

DOC, Vets and Orca Research Trust continues to receive regular advice from international orca experts – information proving vital as decisions are made.

Anyone who sights orca pods off the Wellington or Kapiti coast is urged to provide as much information as possible – location, direction of travel of the animals, and photographs or videos which clearly show the saddle/back markings of the animals and their dorsal fins.

Mr Angus says The team on site appreciates the continued support of the public but is asking people to respect the rehabilitation efforts of the team at site.

Editor's note: DOC expects to offer a further update at 4pm on 14 July.

–Ends–

Contacts

media@doc.govt.nz

From: Social Media <socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 12:46 pm

To: [REDACTED] Webteam [REDACTED] Media
<Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED] Social Media
<socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: 12.30pm update on calf - for web and social please

Cool, will get the update out now

Ngā mihi,

[REDACTED]
Social Media Advisor—*Kaitohu Papāho*
Department of Conservation—*Te Papa Atawhai*

[REDACTED] leadership for our nature *Tākina te hī, tiakina te hā, o te ao tūroa*

www.doc.govt.nz



From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 12:45 PM

To: Webteam [REDACTED] Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]; Social Media <socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: 12.30pm update on calf - for web and social please

It's a yes from me.

On 14/07/2021 12:43 pm, Social Media <socialmedia@doc.govt.nz> wrote:
Let me know if this is good to be posted on Facebook. Will get it up ASAP

UPDATE

14/07/2021

The search for a pod of orca off the Wellington coast has resumed today, as work continues to reunite a stranded orca calf with its family.

There have been two reported sightings of a pod off the Kapiti Coast – including a sighting this morning near Kapiti Island. We dispatched our own vessel to the area the pod was seen, and an aircraft was also in flight as part of the search.

Although the sightings of the pod is encouraging, we want to verify the sightings, as we begin planning for what would be a logistically challenging operation.

Weather, sea conditions, available sunlight and the location of the pod from the shore are all key factors in any attempt to reunite the calf with its pod. If the pod is spotted, it will be trailed by the Whale Rescue DOC vessel for as long as possible until nightfall.

The calf received more veterinarian-assisted feeding this morning, a mix of electrolytes, nutrients and fish oil. The wildlife veterinarians says the calf remains stable and although showing some signs of stress, it is generally exhibiting normal behaviour for an animal its age.

Anyone who has sighted any Orca pod is urged to stick with the pod for as long as possible, report the location and direction of the pod's travel, and take videos or photographs – and share those via 0800 DOC HOT or wellington@doc.govt.nz

We'll have another update at 4pm

Ngā mihi,

Social Media Advisor—*Kaitohu Papāho*
Department of Conservation—*Te Papa Atawhai*

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From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 12:33 PM
To: Webteam <[redacted]>; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; Social Media <socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>; T [redacted]
Subject: 12.30pm update on calf - for web and social please

Hi team – can we get this up online as soon as possible please, 12.30pm update on the orca calf (ignore time stated in file name, copy shows 12.30pm).

Sending to reporters now, please treat with urgency.

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 1:06 pm
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Media release - 12.30pm update on stranded juvenile orca at Porirua

Hi [redacted]
Can you add me to this email list please.
I'm getting involved as part of the tech advisory group

Kā mihi

[redacted] ([he/him](#))
Technical Advisor Marine | Mātanga Mātai Ahu Moana
Hokitika Office
[redacted]

www.doc.govt.nz



From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 1:01 pm
To: [redacted]
Subject: FW: Media release - 12.30pm update on stranded juvenile orca at Porirua

Not sure if you're on the distribution for this yet. If not, please let [REDACTED] know so you can be added.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 1:17 pm
To: [REDACTED]
>
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Media release - 12.30pm update on stranded juvenile orca at Porirua

Hey [REDACTED]

Have created a media list in our teams files – have also included key DOC and MOC contacts in the list so you can just copy and paste from there.

Ngā mihi nui,

[REDACTED]
Marketing Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapātairanga
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

[REDACTED]
Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland Office
Bledisloe House, 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1010

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 1:08 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Media release - 12.30pm update on stranded juvenile orca at Porirua

Thanks [REDACTED] - will do.

[REDACTED] can you update the list to include [REDACTED] please?

Might pay to create a spreadsheet in Excel specifically for orca situation, as this one looks destined to go for several days yet.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 1:17 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: 12.30pm update on calf - for web and social please

Hi [REDACTED]

Published now: <https://www.doc.govt.nz/news/media-releases/2021-media-releases/12.30pm-update-on-stranded-juvenile-orca-in-porirua/>

Do you have any more images? I've used the best ones that came through yesterday.

Best,

[REDACTED] ([he/him](#))
Web Communications Advisor | Kaitohu Paetukutuku
Conservation House Wellington | Whare Kaupapa Atawhai
www.doc.govt.nz



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 12:33 pm
To: Webteam <HOWebTeam@doc.govt.nz>; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; Social Media <socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Subject: 12.30pm update on calf - for web and social please

Hi team – can we get this up online as soon as possible please, 12.30pm update on the orca calf (ignore time stated in file name, copy shows 12.30pm).

Sending to reporters now, please treat with urgency.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 1:52 pm
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Ian Angus
<iangus@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Subject: RE: CIMS - Juvenile Orca Mana

Hi all-

Due to an ongoing meeting at the site, [REDACTED] has asked for this meeting to be cancelled. I can't actually send a cancellation, but consider this notification that there's no need to attend today's meeting.

Cheers,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

-----Original Appointment-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 1:17 pm
To: [REDACTED]; Ian Angus; [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: CIMS - Juvenile Orca Mana
When: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 2:00 pm-3:30 pm (UTC+12:00) Auckland, Wellington.
Where: KW District (Kapiti Room) or remote via teams

Refer draft CIMS Structure document [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 2:07 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: NEWSHUB RADIO - Ian Angus request interview

Hey [REDACTED]

Interview request below

Ngā mihi nui,

[REDACTED]
Marketing Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapātairanga
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

[REDACTED]
Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland Office
Bledisloe House, 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1010

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Papatūānuku Thrives

Te ora o Papatūānuku | Te ora o te Hapori | Te hunga Atawhai

From: [REDACTED]@discovery.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 2:04 pm
To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: NEWSHUB RADIO - Ian Angus request interview

Hi

Can I please have a pre rec phone IV with Ian regarding the latest with the Orca ASAP?

Thank you

[REDACTED]
--

[REDACTED] BROADCAST JOURNALIST

From: [REDACTED]@discovery.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 2:21 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: FW: NEWSHUB RADIO - Ian Angus request interview

Hi [REDACTED] when Ian has any spare moment he can call [REDACTED] for a 3 minute interview

Thank you so much for all your help! I know it's tricky for him to find time.

[REDACTED]

On Wed, Jul 14, 2021 at 2:10 PM [REDACTED] wrote:
Hi [REDACTED]

This has been assigned to me.

I will check Ian Angus availability.

Please stand by.



----- Forwarded message -----

From: [Redacted]
Date: 14/07/2021 2:06 pm
Subject: FW: NEWSHUB RADIO - Ian Angus request interview
To: [Redacted]
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Hey [Redacted]

Interview request below

Ngā mihi nui,



Marketing Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapātairanga

Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*



Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland Office

Bledisloe House, 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1010

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From: [Redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 2:43 pm
To: [Redacted]
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Media query: Orca calf

Hey [REDACTED]

Below query

Ngā mihi nui,

[REDACTED]
Marketing Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapātairanga
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

[REDACTED]
Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland Office
Bledisloe House, 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1010

Conservation leadership for our nature/*Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa*

After Hours Media Support: Phone: +64 4 496 1911 / media@doc.govt.nz



From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@efe.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@efe.com)>
Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 2:35 pm
To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Fwd: Media query: Orca calf

Hello, please see below sent to [REDACTED]. Hope someone is able to help.
Thanks!

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@efe.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@efe.com)>
Date: Wed, 14 Jul 2021 at 09:31
Subject: Media query: Orca calf
To: [REDACTED]

Hi [REDACTED],

We are writing a story about the orca calf.
Are there any photos available for media use?

Also, couple of questions:

1. What are the options if he is unable to be reunited with a pod?
2. How many volunteers have been taking turns in the water with him?
3. How many orcas live in NZ waters?

Thanks a lot!

--

██████████
Multimedia Editor

Agencia Efe, Spain's International News Agency

From: ██████████@efe.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 2:56 pm
To: ██████████
Subject: Re: FW: Media query: Orca calf

Thanks ██████████
Are any photos available for use?

On Wed, 14 Jul 2021 at 09:53, ██████████ wrote:

Hi ██████████

Two links for you r.e the orca calf – these will assist with some general information on orca and our most recent media update:

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/native-animals/marine-mammals/dolphins/killer-whale-orca/>

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/news/media-releases/2021-media-releases/12.30pm-update-on-stranded-juvenile-orca-in-porirua/>

R.e your specific questions I will need to come back to you. We expect to have update information from the site later this afternoon.

██████████

[REDACTED]

Communication Advisor – Hauraki, Waikato, Taranaki

Department of Conservation

Regional Office

Rostrevor St

Hamilton

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 3:43 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Anymore logs please?

Yup all covered - will replicate the log from yesterday and replace with todays.

Hey [REDACTED] - do you mind asking [REDACTED] how many media outlets showed up today for an interview?

Inbox was very quiet they're probably going straight to the source

[REDACTED]
Marketing Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapātairanga
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

[REDACTED]
Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland Office
Bledisloe House, 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1010
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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 3:39 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Anymore logs please?

You got orca mayhem covered? Suggest one log item noting extensive media interest, interviews (by Ian) with Newshub, stuff.co.nz, Radio NZ.

[REDACTED]

Communication Advisor – Hauraki, Waikato, Taranaki
Department of Conservation
Regional Office

Rostrevor St
Hamilton



Unite
against
COVID-19



From: [Redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 4:30 pm
To: [Redacted]
Subject: Anymore logs please?

Send through those logs if you haven't already please and thank you!

Ngā mihi nui,

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 4:08 pm
To: [Redacted]
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: FW: Media query: Orca calf

Will find out what I can and let you know.

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

On 14/07/2021 3:41 pm, [Redacted] wrote:
[Redacted] – can you talk to team at site about possible answers to Q2 and Q3 please?

Suspect Ian will need to give advice on Q1.

[Redacted]
Communication Advisor – Hauraki, Waikato, Taranaki
Department of Conservation
Regional Office
Rostrevor St
Hamilton



From: [Redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 4:21 pm
To: [Redacted]@rnz.co.nz>; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz> [Redacted]

████████████████████
Subject: RE: RNZ inquiry

Hi ██████████

Thanks for your email.

As ██████ mentioned, our staff are very busy at the moment both dealing with media queries and responding immediately to the needs of the baby orca and the search mission to locate the pod.

Unfortunately I won't be able to arrange an interview at your requested time. We have regular updates being shared on social and our website to which I can add you to the mailing list.

Feel free to get in touch tomorrow and we can see if an interview at a later time would be possible.

Ngā mihi nui,

████████████████████
Marketing Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapātairanga
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

████████████████████
Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland Office
Bledisloe House, 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1010

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After Hours Media Support: Phone: +64 4 496 1911 / media@doc.govt.nz



From: ██████████ [@rnz.co.nz](mailto:██████████@rnz.co.nz)

Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 4:09 pm

To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: RNZ inquiry

Hi there,

I'm a producer for RNZ's First Up programme.

I've just got off the phone with ██████████ who's pointed out how absolutely slammed you guys are getting with media requests so apologies for adding to that.

Without wishing to make any of your exhausted staff wake up extra early tomorrow, if there is anyone available at about 5.45am – perhaps someone who's stayed with the calf overnight or who's up early prepping for the day's mission – we'd love to be able to speak with them to get an update.

Is there any way that could work?

In addition, I'd be grateful if you could add me to your mailing list.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED] | **Producer – RNZ First Up**

Radio New Zealand | Level 3 | 171 Hobson St
PO Box 2209 | Auckland | New Zealand 1040

[REDACTED]

From: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 4:24 pm

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: 4.30pm update for review and approval

Looks good – minor suggestions in red

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 4:17 pm

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: 4.30pm update for review and approval



Media release

14 July 2021

4.30pm update on stranded juvenile orca in Porirua

Efforts to reunite a stranded orca calf with its pod have continued today, with a new reported sighting of an orca pod off the coast of Taranaki.

The orca calf – believed to be between four and six months old – stranded on rocks at Plimmerton on Sunday afternoon. It is in a temporary enclosure near a wharf at Hongoeka, with volunteers from Whale Rescue/Orca Rescue trust working alongside Department of Conservation and local iwi Ngati Toa.

Ian Angus, Department of Conservation (DOC) Marine Species Manager, says the two reported sightings of a pod off the Kapiti Coast – including a sighting this morning near Kapiti Island – have not been verified **despite searching**.

The **latest** sighting, reported today, occurred off the coast of Taranaki. It is not known if the orca pod is the **same** one the stranded calf has come from, so DOC, Whale Rescue/Orca Rescue and local iwi Ngati Toa are seeking to confirm the sighting before further decisions are made.

Ian Angus says the likelihood of deteriorating weather in the Wellington region in coming days means additional effort is being put into erecting stronger structures for the volunteers and professionals at the scene. Improvement of the temporary pen in which the infant orca is being kept is also part of current planning and work at the site.

“We’ve got some terrific support here being delivered by some incredibly passionate people – and we’ve got to look after them, too,” Ian Angus says. “It’s the middle of the New Zealand winter, and we need to ensure people are safe.

“The Plimmerton Boat Club has opened its doors to support our efforts and we want to publicly thank the club for helping us out. We’ve also had some **fantastic** assistance from Fire and Emergency NZ, who were among the first on the scene on Sunday, **as well as** local businesses, and the wider community.”

Ian Angus also publicly thanked onlookers for maintaining a distance from the animal and its temporary pen.

“We understand people are very interested in this unfolding situation, and we appreciate the fact they’re letting us do our work.”

Ian Angus says planning for a range of scenarios, including reuniting the calf with a pod of orca, has shifted into a new phase with discussions about the logistics of moving the animal and how that would be done given the worsening weather forecast.

The calf received more veterinarian-assisted feeding this afternoon, and it remains stable.

Volunteers continue to work shifts in the pen with the animal.

DOC, veterinarians and Orca Research Trust are receiving regular advice from international orca experts – information proving vital as decisions are made.

Anyone who sights orca pods off the lower North Island’s west coast - between Wellington and Taranaki - is urged to provide as much information as possible to DOC, via wellington@doc.govt.nz or by calling 0800 DOC HOT. Essential information includes location of the pod, direction of travel of the animals, and photographs or videos which clearly show the saddle/back markings of the animals and their dorsal fins.

Editor’s note: DOC expects to offer a further update tomorrow morning, 15 July. Request for further information, or interview requests, should be sent to media@doc.govt.nz

–Ends–

Contacts

media@doc.govt.nz

[REDACTED]
Communication Advisor – Hauraki, Waikato, Taranaki
Department of Conservation
Regional Office
Rostrevor St
Hamilton
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@discovery.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 4:28 pm
To: Jeff Neems <jneems@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: FW: NEWSHUB RADIO - Ian Angus request interview

Hi [REDACTED] - any updates in regard to the orca's pod?

Thanks [REDACTED]

On Wed, Jul 14, 2021 at 2:21 PM [REDACTED]@discovery.com> wrote:
Hi [REDACTED] - when Ian has any spare moment he can call [REDACTED] for a 3 minute interview

Thank you so much for all your help! I know it's tricky for him to find time.

[REDACTED]

On Wed, Jul 14, 2021 at 2:10 PM [REDACTED] wrote:
Hi [REDACTED]

This has been assigned to me.

I will check Ian Angus availability.

Please stand by.

[REDACTED]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Date: 14/07/2021 2:06 pm
Subject: FW: NEWSHUB RADIO - Ian Angus request interview
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Hey [REDACTED]

Interview request below

Ngā mihi nui,

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 4:31 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: FW: NEWSHUB RADIO - Ian Angus request interview

Added her [REDACTED] – the list should be up to date.

Ngā mihi nui,

[REDACTED]
Marketing Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapātairanga
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*
[REDACTED]
Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland Office
Bledisloe House, 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1010

Conservation leadership for our nature/*Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa*

After Hours Media Support: Phone: +64 4 496 1911 / media@doc.govt.nz



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 4:30 pm
To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@discovery.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@discovery.com)>
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: FW: NEWSHUB RADIO - Ian Angus request interview

Hi [REDACTED]
We expect to issue a further update in the next 40 mins.

We will add you to the list of recipients.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Communication Advisor – Hauraki, Waikato, Taranaki

Department of Conservation
Regional Office
Rostrevor St
Hamilton



From: [redacted]@stuff.co.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 4:33 pm
To: [redacted]
Subject: Re: Media release - 12.30pm update on stranded juvenile orca at Porirua

Kia ora [redacted] just a quick note to say we are expecting an update - and hoping to get something into our Kāpiti paper.

Are you able to send the update through soon please?

Kind regards



On Wed, 14 Jul 2021 at 12:40, [redacted] wrote:



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai Media release

14 July 2021

12.30pm update on stranded juvenile orca in Porirua

The search for a pod of orca off the Wellington coast has resumed today (14 July) as work continues to reunite a stranded orca calf with its family.

The orca calf – believed to be between four and six months old – stranded on rocks at Plimmerton on Sunday afternoon. It remains in a temporary enclosure near a wharf at Hongoeka, with volunteers from Whale Rescue/Orca Rescue trust working alongside Department of Conservation and local iwi Ngati Toa.

Ian Angus, Department of Conservation (DOC) Marine Species Manager, says there have been two reported sightings of a pod off the Kapiti Coast – including a sighting this morning near Kapiti Island. DOC dispatched its own vessel to the area the pod was seen, and an aircraft is also in flight this morning as part of the search.

Ian Angus says although the sightings of the pod are encouraging, DOC wants to verify the sightings as it begins planning for what would be a logistically challenging operation.

Weather, sea conditions, available sunlight and the location of the pod from the shore are all key factors in any attempt to reunite the calf with its pod. If the pod is spotted, it will be trailed by the Whale Rescue DOC vessel for as long as possible until nightfall.

Ian Angus says the situation remains complex and challenging – particularly given the very young age of the orca.

“We’re working through planning a range of scenarios,” he says. “The prospect of reuniting the calf with its pod is encouraging, but we do need to keep all our options open.

“I want to emphasise the welfare of the calf is at the centre of all our discussions and the decisions we’re making.”

The calf received more veterinarian-assisted feeding this morning, a mix of electrolytes, nutrients and fish oil. The wildlife veterinarians says the calf remains stable and although showing some signs of stress, it is generally exhibiting normal behaviour for an animal its age.

Volunteers are in the temporary pen with the calf, working shifts to keep the animal moving and safe. Biosecurity protocols are in place for shift handovers, to ensure there is no transmission of disease.

DOC, veterinarians, and Orca Research Trust continue to receive regular advice from international orca experts – information proving vital as decisions are made.

Anyone who sights orca pods off the Wellington or Kapiti coast is urged to provide as much information as possible – location, direction of travel of the animals, and photographs or videos which clearly show the saddle/back markings of the animals and their dorsal fins.

Mr Angus says DOC appreciates the continued support of the public but is asking people to respect the rehabilitation efforts of the team at the site.

Editor's note: DOC expects to offer a further update at 4pm on 14 July.

–Ends–

Contacts

media@doc.govt.nz

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 4:47 pm
To: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
>
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: 4.30pm update for review and approval

Hi Jeff, please note the Orca Research Trust not Orca rescue 😊 I've highlighted minor changes.

From: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 4:24 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: 4.30pm update for review and approval

Looks good – minor suggestions in red

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 4:17 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: 4.30pm update for review and approval

Media release

14 July 2021

4.30pm update on stranded juvenile orca in Porirua

Efforts to reunite a stranded orca calf with its pod have continued today, with a new reported sighting of an orca pod off the coast of Taranaki.

The orca calf – believed to be between four and six months old – stranded on rocks at Plimmerton on Sunday afternoon. It is in a temporary enclosure near a wharf at Hongoeka, with volunteers from Whale Rescue/[Orca Research Trust](#) working alongside Department of Conservation and local iwi Ngati [Toa Rangitira](#).

Ian Angus, Department of Conservation (DOC) Marine Species Manager, says the two reported sightings of a pod off the Kapiti Coast – including a sighting this morning near Kapiti Island – have not been verified [despite searching](#).

The [latest](#) sighting, reported today, occurred off the coast of Taranaki. It is not known if the orca pod is the [same](#) one the stranded calf has come from, so DOC, Whale Rescue/[Orca Research Trust](#) and local iwi Ngati Toa are seeking to confirm the sighting before further decisions are made.

Ian Angus says the likelihood of deteriorating weather in the Wellington region in coming days means additional effort is being put into erecting stronger structures for the volunteers and professionals at the scene. Improvement of the temporary pen in which the infant orca is being kept is also part of current planning and work at the site.

“[There is some](#) terrific support here being delivered by some incredibly passionate people – and we’ve got to look after them, too,” Ian Angus says. “It’s the middle of the New Zealand winter, and we need to ensure people are safe.

“The Plimmerton Boat Club has opened its doors to support our efforts and we want to publicly thank the club for helping us out. We’ve also had some [fantastic](#) assistance from Fire and Emergency NZ, who were among the first on the scene on Sunday, [as well as](#) local businesses, and the wider community.”

Ian Angus also publicly thanked onlookers for maintaining a distance from the animal and its temporary pen.

“We understand people are very interested in this unfolding situation, and we appreciate the fact they’re [letting the team](#) do our work.”

Ian Angus says planning for a range of scenarios, including reuniting the calf with a pod of orca, has shifted into a new phase with discussions about the logistics of moving the animal and how that would be done given the worsening weather forecast.

The calf received more veterinarian-assisted feeding this afternoon, and it remains stable.

Volunteers continue to work shifts in the pen with the animal.

DOC, veterinarians and Orca Research Trust are receiving regular advice from international orca experts – information proving vital as decisions are made.

Anyone who sights orca pods off the Lower North Island's west coast - between Wellington and Taranaki - is urged to provide as much information as possible to DOC, via wellington@doc.govt.nz or by calling 0800 DOC HOT. Essential information includes location of the pod, direction of travel of the animals, and photographs or videos which clearly show the saddle/back markings of the animals and their dorsal fins.

Editor's note: DOC expects to offer a further update tomorrow morning, 15 July. Request for further information, or interview requests, should be sent to media@doc.govt.nz

-Ends-

Contacts

media@doc.govt.nz

[REDACTED]

From: Social Media <socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 5:09 pm

To: [REDACTED] Social Media <socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Webteam [REDACTED]

Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: 5pm orca update for loading to web/socials

Cool, will do!

Ngā mihi,

[REDACTED]

Social Media Advisor—*Kaitohu Papāho*
Department of Conservation—*Te Papa Atawhai*

[REDACTED]

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www.doc.govt.nz



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 5:08 PM
To: Social Media <socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
Webteam [REDACTED]
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: 5pm orca update for loading to web/socials

Yep = include a link to main media release when [REDACTED] has it up online please.

Thanks all

[REDACTED]
Communication Advisor – Hauraki, Waikato, Taranaki
Department of Conservation
Regional Office
Rostrevor St
Hamilton
[REDACTED]

Unite
against
COVID-19



From: Social Media <socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 5:08 pm
To: [REDACTED]; Webteam
[REDACTED]; Social Media <socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: 5pm orca update for loading to web/socials

Let me know if you're happy with the below

UPDATE
5pm 14/07/2021

Efforts to reunite a stranded orca calf with its pod have continued today, with a new reported sighting of an orca pod off the coast of Taranaki.

The two reported sightings of a pod off the Kapiti Coast – including a sighting this morning near Kapiti Island – have not been verified despite searching.

The latest sighting, reported today, occurred off the coast of Taranaki. It is not known if the orca pod is the same one the stranded calf has come from. Together, with Whale Rescue/Orca Rescue and local iwi Ngati Toa, we are seeking to confirm the sighting before further decisions are made.

We're planning for a range of scenarios, including reuniting the calf with a pod of orca, has shifted into a new phase with discussions about the logistics of moving the animal and how that would be done given the worsening weather forecast.

The calf received more veterinarian-assisted feeding this afternoon, and it remains stable.

Anyone who sights orca pods off the lower North Island's west coast - between Wellington and Taranaki - is urged to provide as much information as possible to DOC, via wellington@doc.govt.nz or by calling 0800 DOC HOT.

We'll have another update tomorrow morning.

Ngā mihi,

■

From: ■
Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 5:19 pm
To: ■; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; ■
>
Subject: RE: Media release - 5pm update on stranded juvenile orca at Porirua

Hi ■

I have cc'ed in ■ who is leading the communications for the orca situation.

We can try arrange something however, I can't make any promises. We will be in touch if we can arrange something.

We have just put an update on our website which you may have received.
<https://www.doc.govt.nz/news/media-releases/2021-media-releases/5pm-update-on-stranded-juvenile-orca-in-porirua/>

Marketing Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapātairanga
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland Office
Bledisloe House, 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1010

Conservation leadership for our nature/*Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa*

After Hours Media Support: Phone: +64 4 496 1911 / media@doc.govt.nz



From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@nzme.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz)>

Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 5:11 pm

To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: Re: Media release - 5pm update on stranded juvenile orca at Porirua

Kia Ora,

Would Ian be free to do a prerecord interview with me this evening? It would be for our morning news bulletins tomorrow.

Keen to talk about the challenges of spotting a pod and then having to keep tabs on it and verify it.

I can be called on [REDACTED] and am in the newsroom until midnight. Let me know if something can be lined up.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (he/him)
Multimedia Journalist | Newstalk ZB

M: [REDACTED] P: [REDACTED]
E: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@nzme.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz)>

From: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 5:27 pm

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED] Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]

Social Media

<socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>; Webteam [REDACTED] Vicki Connor

<vconnor@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: FW: Media release - 5pm update on stranded juvenile orca at Porirua

Hi [REDACTED]

If Ian available – there's one iv request. If he's not or too tired – let media [REDACTED] know and she can advise reporter. I've just talked to [REDACTED] and he's going to stand down for the night. [REDACTED] will be onsite probably till about 6.15pm and then she's going to find a local bed for the night and be back in the morning.

[REDACTED], after this request has been dealt/closed – decline anything further tonight and for first thing in the morning. Can send them to the website for the latest update and tell them that unless there's any significant change with calf, we won't be making any further media updates or interview until mid morning when the team will have met to discuss the plan for that day.

Any issues feel free to call me.

Great work today team and let's focus tomorrow on trying to install a bit more order with media to provide a bit of relief for Ian and co.

Cheers

Bronwyn

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 6:51 pm

To: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>

Cc: [REDACTED] Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]

; Social Media

<socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>; Webteam [REDACTED]; Vicki Connor

<vconnor@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Media release - 5pm update on stranded juvenile orca at Porirua

Hi folks, sorry Ian was doing another interview.

We're going to sort out the timing better for media updates tomorrow morning – a CIMS structure is being organised at 8.30.

But we are aiming for 10am and 3.30 for any updates. Jeff, I'll call you in the morning to work out how best to manage this.

I should be onsite from about 7.30ish tomorrow, is the plan.

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 6:53 pm

To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Cc: [REDACTED]; Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>; Social Media

<socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: Update if any enquiries come through

I'm just going to send this response to a couple of reporters...

If there are any more enquiries about this, highlighted text can be sent on:

Just after 6, Toa started doing "evening zoomies" in the pen. Following health and safety protocol, the volunteers in the water let staff know about the behaviour change. A vet checked Toa and we have no new concerns.

Message to blend into tomorrow's update...

We would however like to ask people not to fly drones around Toa's pen. This might cause Toa stress and there is already a lot happening on site to manage.

Ngā mihi
[REDACTED]

From: Jack Mace <jmace@doc.govt.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 7:38 pm

To: [REDACTED] >

Subject: Media release - 5pm update on stranded juvenile orca at Porirua

Thanks [REDACTED] good work

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

On 14/07/2021 5:06 pm, [REDACTED] wrote:



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Media release

14 July 2021

5pm update on stranded juvenile orca in Porirua

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The orca calf – believed to be between four and six months old – stranded on rocks at Plimmerton on Sunday afternoon. It is in a temporary enclosure near a wharf at

Hongoeka, with volunteers from Whale Rescue/Orca Rescue Trust working alongside Department of Conservation and local iwi Ngati Toa Rangatira.

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“There is some terrific support here being delivered by some incredibly passionate people – and we’ve got to look after them, too,” Ian Angus says. “It’s the middle of the New Zealand winter, and we need to ensure people are safe.

“The Plimmerton Boat Club has opened its doors to support our efforts and we want to publicly thank the club for helping us out. We’ve also had some fantastic assistance from Fire and Emergency NZ, who were among the first on the scene on Sunday, as well as local businesses, and the wider community.”

Ian Angus also publicly thanked onlookers for maintaining a distance from the animal and its temporary pen.

“We understand people are very interested in this unfolding situation, and we appreciate the fact they’re letting us do our work.”

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DOC, veterinarians and Orca Research Trust are receiving regular advice from international orca experts – information proving vital as decisions are made.

Anyone who sights orca pods off the lower North Island’s west coast - between Wellington and Taranaki - is urged to provide as much information as possible to DOC, via wellington@doc.govt.nz or by calling 0800 DOC HOT.

Essential information includes location of the pod, direction of travel of the animals, and photographs or videos which clearly show the saddle/back markings of the animals and their dorsal fins.

Editor's note: DOC expects to offer a further update tomorrow morning, 15 July. Requests for further information, or interview requests, should be sent to media@doc.govt.nz Our team at the site is focussed on work to reunite the calf.

-Ends-s

From: Vicki Connor <vconnor@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 8:02 pm
To: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] Webteam
[REDACTED] Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Social Media <socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Media release - 5pm update on stranded juvenile orca at Porirua

Great work people. Intense, evolving situation. I know how hard you are all working. Thanks for your efforts here.

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 15 July 2021 8:02 am
To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED] Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: Quick update

Morena,

On site now, tv 1 are doing a live cross to update on Toa, but I'm trying to get the media to stay behind the cordons unless they have permission.

We also have History NZ on-site doing some filming for a stranding documentary.

So far no one else this morning.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 15 July 2021 10:21 am
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Draft messaging orca

Couple of notes

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 15 July 2021 9:45 am
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Draft messaging orca

- Continuing rehabilitation. Toa remains stable and has had a successful fe this morning.
- **Weather is deteriorating.**
 - o Metservice are predicting rough seas with swells of up to 1m today, with weather getting rougher tomorrow.
 - o It is unlikely we'll be able to search for orca pods today on boats, only by land.
 - o We're monitoring the swells and weather, and plans are ramping up to ensure the health and safety of our people and the orca.
- We have had no DOC confirmed sightings in the Wellington region.
- Just after 6, Toa started doing "evening zoomies" in the pen – essentially, moving with sudden bursts of energy. This is quite common in mornings and evenings and with young animals.
- We would like to ask people not to fly drones around Toa's pen. This might cause Toa stress and there is already a lot happening on site to manage. Flying drones too close to marine mammals is against <https://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/apply-for-permits/drone-use-on-conservation-land/flying-drones-near-marine-mammals>

Media – there is a lot happening on site, especially with the changing weather and needing to manage the health and safety.

We ask that all media enquiries go directly to the DOC Media Team by emailing media@doc.govt.nz. This will allow the experts on site to focus their attention on taking care of the orca and managing the situation on site. We ask any media who do wish to attend the scene to please wait behind the cordoned area, so we can manage the health and safety and activities on the site.

Q – how many volunteers???

Ngā mihi

[REDACTED]
Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapā, Lower North Island Region
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

[REDACTED]
Conservation House, 18 Manners Street, Wellington 6011

Kia piki te oranga o te ao tūroa, i roto i te ngātahitanga, ki Aotearoa.
To work with others to increase the value of conservation for New Zealanders.
www.doc.govt.nz

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 15 July 2021 11:19 am

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Media list for the Orca updates

Thanks [REDACTED]

Ngā manaakitanga

[REDACTED]
Team Lead Communications | Kaimanatū Tuku Whakapā
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*
[REDACTED]

After Hours Media Support: email media@doc.govt.nz

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, 15 July 2021 11:12 am

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] >
Subject: RE: Media list for the Orca updates

Plimmerton orca:

If you're contacting us about the Plimmerton orca calf, please note:

- We are managing a high level of media interest in this situation.
- Your email should include who you work for, your name and role, and your direct phone line – and any specific questions.
- You will be added to a list for a phone interview with Ian Angus, DOC's Marine Species Manager.
- Media requests for interviews are being managed at-place by DOC comms support. These will be done in two 30-minute slots a day.
- You will be called by our team at the site.

[REDACTED]
Communication Advisor – Hauraki, Waikato, Taranaki
Department of Conservation
Regional Office

Rostrevor St
Hamilton



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against
COVID-19



From: [Redacted]

Sent: Thursday, 15 July 2021 11:05 am

To: [Redacted]

Cc: [Redacted]

[Redacted]

Subject: RE: Media list for the Orca updates

Hey [Redacted]

Nice piece of work do you want to give me 2-3 sentences for me to update the out of office external reply on the inbox?

Ngā manaakitanga



Team Lead Communications | Kaimanatū Tuku Whakapā
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*



After Hours Media Support: email media@doc.govt.nz

From: [Redacted]

Sent: Thursday, 15 July 2021 10:58 am

To: [Redacted]

Cc: [Redacted] Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [Redacted]

[Redacted] >

Subject: RE: Media list for the Orca updates

Hi team,
Dealing with [Redacted] requests here. Added [Redacted] and [Redacted] to the cc field.

Proactive orca pdate process:

- Has evolved since we started, with Jess now on-site.
- We aim to do two a day – morning and afternoon, to meet news media cycles.
- Office-based comms advisor also joining CIMS meeting (along with Bron [redacted] to glean latest info and messaging.
- Information comes from the site via either [redacted] or [redacted] (or their replacements) – it is fed directly to me/office-based comms advisor via phone.
- Update is drafted by office-based comms advisor based on messaging/info obtained from those at the site. Ian Angus is spokesperson unless otherwise advised.
- Draft is provided to [redacted] and [redacted] copied in to media inbox.
- At-place comms support ([redacted] or their replacements) arranges edits and approval from Ian (or his replacement), Whale Rescue’s comms person, iwi rep.
- Officed-based comms person receives edited and approved media update, arranges for it to go online and shared to social.
- Update is distributed to the special media list (attached here and in Teams) for the orca story, as well as the main NZ media outlets. NB: For new reporters joining the action we are asking them if they want to be added to the media list for this situation.

Media request process:

- From today they are being directed to send media requests to media@doc.govt.nz
- Reporters/producers asked to provide name and number, and any specific questions.
- Requests collated by on-call advisor.
- Plan is for Ian to do two slots a day working through interviews – one in the morning, one in the afternoon.
- Recommend we manage the calls i.e comms advisor works through the list, puts Ian on for discussion, limits time for each reporter so everyone gets a turn.
- Estimated time for each media slot is 30 minutes but may fluctuate.

Process/query management suggestion:

- We update the media inbox auto-reply to reference the orca situation and explain the process we are running if that’s what they’re asking for.
-

[redacted]
Communication Advisor – Hauraki, Waikato, Taranaki
Department of Conservation
Regional Office
Rostrevor St
Hamilton



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 15 July 2021 10:38 am
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Media list for the Orca updates

Hi, I cant see, or don't know how to see, the TEAMS file tab sorry – can you screenshot how I can get it?

I'll take over the updates from tomorrow morning, so I'll need to get

- CIMS catch up invites and times please (I'll need the invite)
- Sign off process
- Who to send updates to (internal and external) including those on Web, SM etc over the weekend

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 15 July 2021 10:29 am
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Media list for the Orca updates

Hey [REDACTED]

Updated list below.

[REDACTED] – I have been keeping track of all the media outlets who have reached out for regular updates. This list is on the teams files tab under Orca media list. It includes all the internal DOC staff who need updates and the MOC office so you can just copy and paste everything.

[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz
[REDACTED]@projectionah.org.nz
[REDACTED]@theguardian.com
[REDACTED]@aap.com.au
[REDACTED]@verizonmedia.com
[REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz
[REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz
[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz
[REDACTED]@rnz.co.nz
[REDACTED]@rnz.co.nz
news@rnz.co.nz
[REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz
[REDACTED]@discovery.com
[REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz
[REDACTED]@stuff.co.nz
[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz
[REDACTED]@discovery.com
[REDACTED]@rnz.co.nz

[REDACTED]@stuff.co.nz

[REDACTED]
iangus@doc.govt.nz

media@doc.govt.nz

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
socialmedia@doc.govt.nz

webteam@doc.govt.nz

[REDACTED]
jmace@doc.govt.nz

[REDACTED]@parliament.govt.nz

[REDACTED]@parliament.govt.nz

[REDACTED]@parliament.govt.nz

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, 15 July 2021 10:29 am

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: Media list for the Orca updates

Hey [REDACTED]

Updated list below.

[REDACTED] – I have been keeping track of all the media outlets who have reached out for regular updates. This list is on the teams files tab under Orca media list. It includes all the internal DOC staff who need updates and the MOC office so you can just copy and paste everything.

[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz

[REDACTED]@projectjonah.org.nz

[REDACTED]@theguardian.com

[REDACTED]@aap.com.au

[REDACTED]@verizonmedia.com

[REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz

[REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz

[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz

[REDACTED]@rnz.co.nz

Morningreport@rnz.co.nz

news@rnz.co.nz

[REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz

[REDACTED]@discovery.com

[REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz

[REDACTED]@stuff.co.nz

[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz

[REDACTED]@discovery.com

[REDACTED] [@rnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@rnz.co.nz)

[REDACTED] [@stuff.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@stuff.co.nz)

[REDACTED]

iangus@doc.govt.nz

media@doc.govt.nz

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

socialmedia@doc.govt.nz

webteam@doc.govt.nz

[REDACTED]

jmace@doc.govt.nz

[REDACTED] [@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@parliament.govt.nz)

[REDACTED] [@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@parliament.govt.nz)

[REDACTED] [@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@parliament.govt.nz)

Ngā mihi nui,

[REDACTED]

██████████ emails

From: ██████████
Sent: Wednesday, 21 July 2021 4:58 pm
To: ██████████@tvnz.co.nz; ██████████ Oliver Cowan
██████████@tvnz.co.nz; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; ██████████@tvnz.co.nz;
██████████@tvnz.co.nz
Subject: RE: Breakfast Interview Request

Kia ora ██████████,

Apologies for the delay getting back to you – I've just been talking to a few people on site, including ██████████ from HUHA.

Given the time now, we'd like to hold off on doing an interview on site until Friday morning, but someone in the team will be in touch with you tomorrow to tee this up. It's a bit unclear at this stage who from HUHA you'd interview with as there's a chance ██████████ will be heading down to support some work on the West Coast as early as tomorrow, but there will certainly be people around you can speak with!

Thanks again for your understanding while we try to manage all the media requests coming through, while also keeping things running for the care of the orca.

Ngā mihi

██████████
Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapā, Lower North Island Region

Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

██████████
Conservation House, 18 Manners Street, Wellington 6011

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From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 21 July 2021 10:28 am
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz>; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz>
Subject: RE: Breakfast Interview Request

Thanks for Clarifying [REDACTED]. We look forward to hearing about tomorrow morning.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 21 July 2021 8:55 AM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz>; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz>
Subject: RE: Breakfast Interview Request

Kia Ora [REDACTED],

Thanks for your email. We do appreciate your ongoing interest. The AM Show were simply ahead in the queue having been rescheduled for a number of days in a row. Because mornings are a very busy time for our people setting up for the day and planning, we are only able to commit to a limited number of interviews at that time – it's not about exclusive access at all, purely logistics.

We are still looking to confirm a time for you tomorrow morning and hope to get back to you soon.

Thanks,

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 21 July 2021 8:50 am
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz>; [REDACTED] Media

<Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED] [tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz); [REDACTED] :-
[REDACTED] [@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>

Subject: RE: Breakfast Interview Request

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for helping us organise this request.

We just wanted to check in, as we saw DOC were able to provide an update on the welfare of Toa on The AM show this morning.

Can you please explain to me why we weren't given the same access, despite our request?

We have been following the plight of Toa closely, including very positive coverage of DOC's efforts so it seems unfair that DOC chose to effectively give an exclusive to another broadcaster.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Supervising Planning Producer- Breakfast

[REDACTED]



Follow us: [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 July 2021 12:30
To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>
Subject: RE: Breakfast Interview Request

Kia Ora Breakfast team,
Unfortunately we wont be able to help with this request tomorrow morning due to prior commitments, but feel free to check in again for Thursday, we may be able to set something up then – depending what’s happening on the day orca-wise of course!
Thanks,

From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>
Sent: Tuesday, 20 July 2021 12:11 pm
To: [REDACTED] Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>
Subject: Re: Breakfast Interview Request

Hi [REDACTED] - Just looping in the afternoon team on this!

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 July 2021 10:50
To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Breakfast Interview Request

Hi [REDACTED],
Thanks for your email. I’ve passed on to the team to see what might be possible. We wont be able to accommodate any requests before 7.30am.
Will be in touch,
Thanks

From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>
Sent: Tuesday, 20 July 2021 10:36 am
To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Breakfast Interview Request

Kia ora,

We were hoping someone would be available to do an interview with us tomorrow morning about Toa.

It would be a 5-6-minute interview in our Wellington studio between 0700 and 0745.

We just want an update on Toa and what happens moving forward.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thanks,


Breakfast Producer





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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 21 July 2021 3:17 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Media request: options for Toa

Kia ora [REDACTED],

Ian's unavailable to interview at the moment, but here's some information that can be attributed to him.

- Who is on the panel informing DOC about what to do with Toa?

Our advisory group includes a number of domestic and international experts familiar with orca, according to their area expertise as required which includes feeding and veterinary care. We have veterinary experts onsite at all times.

- What options are DOC considering for if the pod can't be located? What factors will influence the decision around what to do if the pod can't be found?

We are dealing with the unknown. DOC are currently working through a number of potential scenarios, alongside Ngati Toa and the Orca Research/Whale Rescue Trust, and with input from national and international experts.

The best case scenario is that we can find the calf's pod soon and reunite it with its mother, and this remains our current focus.

Another scenario would be to find an orca pod with a lactating female and hope the calf would be accepted by that pod. Lactating female orcas have been known to 'adopt' calves, but there is a risk it would be rejected.

We are therefore also considering other possible scenarios. If the pod can't be located, this will raise significant welfare and ethical issues for the calf – and the health and welfare of the calf are key factors in all our decision making.

One scenario still on the table is relocating the orca to a purpose-build sea pen in calmer waters. We need to consider that the operation would be logistically complex.

We are also looking into what would be in the best interests for the orca's welfare if the animal's health does begin to deteriorate and it cannot be returned to its pod, and all options remain on the table.

We will be continuing to discuss different scenarios as things develop.

- Is there a cutoff date set where, if the pod hasn't been found, another option will be implemented?

There are no "cutoff" dates. We're assessing the situation daily and updating approaches and plans accordingly.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 21 July 2021 12:49 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Media request: options for Toa

Awesome thanks! Yes please, I've just had a chat to the editor and he's happy to extend the deadline if it means a better story.

And yup got the release, thanks!

On Wed, 21 Jul 2021, 12:45 [REDACTED] wrote:

Apologies [REDACTED]! Let me follow up on this, although I know we've already passed the timeframe you were aiming for. Guessing you still want the info?

Just checking too that you got the 11.30 update that's posted on the DOC website?

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 21 July 2021 12:09 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Media request: options for Toa

Hey [REDACTED]

Any chance of a chat or a few comments from DOC?

Much appreciated,

[REDACTED].

On Wed, 21 Jul 2021, 10:34 [REDACTED] > wrote:

Hey [REDACTED]

Thanks for getting back to me. Yes, totally understandable! You guys must be swamped.

I'm working towards a noon deadline if at all possible. If phone isn't possible, a few sentences via email from a relevant person at DOC would also be great.

Let me know.

Cheers,

[REDACTED]

On Wed, Jul 21, 2021 at 10:31 AM [REDACTED] wrote:

Morena [REDACTED]

Thanks for your request, and I'm sure we can tee up an interview for you to talk with Ian or someone else.

Can I check what deadline you're working towards? We have a lot of media requests at the moment (as you can probably imagine!) and are trying to accommodate them as best as we can.

Ngā mihi

[REDACTED]
Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapā, Lower North Island Region

Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

[REDACTED]
Conservation House, 18 Manners Street, Wellington 6011

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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, 21 July 2021 8:46 am

To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: Media request: options for Toa

Good morning,

My name is [REDACTED] I'm a science journalist working with The Spinoff.

I'll be working on stories about Toa and would please like to be added to the mailing list with information/announcements about his transfer.

I would also like to request a brief interview with Ian Angus regarding what factors influence decisions about what to do with Toa going forward. Questions I'd like to ask:

- Who is on the panel informing DOC about what to do with Toa?
- What options are DOC considering for if the pod can't be located?
- What factors will influence the decision around what to do if the pod can't be found?
- Is there a cutoff date set where, if the pod hasn't been found, another option will be implemented?

I can be contacted via email or on [REDACTED]

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 20 July 2021 5:54 pm
To: Kirstie Knowles <kknowles@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>; Elizabeth Heeg <eheeg@doc.govt.nz>; Sarah Owen <sarahowen@doc.govt.nz>; Jack Mace <jmace@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: 4pm update on stranded juvenile orca in Plimmerton DRAFT.

Hi Kirstie – the update that’s gone out today is pretty straightforward, but I agree we should start including some of that new messaging tomorrow morning.

It’s been introduced this afternoon some more with a response that went to Stuff (Jack as spokesperson for that) and with some of Ian’s interviews this afternoon, along with the Science Media Centre experts.

From: Kirstie Knowles <kknowles@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 20 July 2021 4:59 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>; Elizabeth Heeg <eheeg@doc.govt.nz>; Sarah Owen <sarahowen@doc.govt.nz>; Jack Mace <jmace@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: 4pm update on stranded juvenile orca in Plimmerton DRAFT.

My only thing is as per earlier conversation, starting to introduce some of the veterinary concerns – habituation, issue with eye, damage sustained in stranding, only able to swim in one direction. Not seen today’s vet update yet.

Kirstie Knowles ([she/her](#))

Manager Marine Ecosystems – *Kaimātanga Mātai Ahu Moana*

Aquatic Unit, Biodiversity Group – *Kāhui Kanorau Koiora*

Department of Conservation – *Te Papa Atawhai*

Focal point for: IUCN-WCPA, Local Gov Coastal-SIG, Sustainable Seas Challenge, NZ Marine Sciences Society

[REDACTED]

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
-----	------	-----	-------	-----



✓ = In the office; 🏠 = Working remotely; ✗ = Not at work



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 20 July 2021 4:31 pm
To: [REDACTED] Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>; Elizabeth Heeg <eheeg@doc.govt.nz>; Kirstie Knowles <kknowles@doc.govt.nz>; Sarah Owen <sarahowen@doc.govt.nz>; Jack Mace <jmace@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: 4pm update on stranded juvenile orca in Plimmerton DRAFT.

I sent this quickly to [REDACTED] to get confirmation for content.

Not much happening.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 20 July 2021 4:20 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: 4pm update on stranded juvenile orca in Plimmerton DRAFT.

4pm update on stranded juvenile orca in Plimmerton

An Aero club plane failed to find any trace of orca pods in a search earlier today and there have been boats scouring the local coastline for sightings but without success..

“We continue to monitor the health of the calf and it remains in a stable condition. It has been captive and cared for more than a week now. We are conscious this is a long time for the calf to be away from its pod and mother, and to be kept in temporary enclosures. says Ian Angus, Department of Conservation (DOC) Marine Species Manager

“We will be reviewing options tomorrow morning. At the top of our mind is the health and welfare of the calf and these issues will guide our decision making.

We’re also conscious that the calf is better off overnight in the temporary pool as the weather conditions will rule out any return to the seapen.

animal twice which, although the temporary pool was the best option for the calf

“The seapen suffered some damage during the storm over the weekend and needs repairs. It is also being modified to provide better access during low tide.

“To help reduce the stress as much as possible, we will continue to restrict access to the site. No public are allowed access while the calf is in the pool and there will be limited daytime access only when the calf is in the seapen.

“International experts that DOC has been consulting with, now believe the calf may be between 2-6 months of age, rather than 4-6 months as had been originally suspected. The age of the orca calf naturally determines how long the calf needs care and feeding.

Last Sunday (11/7), the orca calf was stranded on rocks near Plimmerton, north of Wellington. An ongoing operation to care for the orca calf is being led by the Department of Conservation (DOC) with support from Orca Research Trust/Whale Rescue Trust, local iwi Ngati Toa Rangatira, and the local community.

DOC, veterinarians and Whale Rescue/Orca Research Trust are receiving regular advice from international orca experts and veterinarians – information proving vital as decisions are made.

Anyone who sights orca pods off the lower North Island’s west coast – particularly between Wellington and Taranaki - is urged to provide as much information as possible to DOC, via marinemammals@doc.govt.nz or by calling 0800 DOC HOT.

Essential information includes location of the pod, direction of travel of the animals, and photographs or videos which clearly show the saddle/back markings of the animals and their dorsal fins.

Editor's note – not for publication:

If the transfer back to the sea pen is able to happen today (19/7) there is likely to be an opportunity for media to film this. This is likely to happen approximately 4.30pm. If you would like to attend this transfer, please email media@doc.govt.nz and we can keep you updated.

Media should send requests for interviews and information to media@doc.govt.nz along with any specific questions, the reporter's name and direct phone line.. For general information on orca, please visit www.doc.govt.nz where all updates on this situation are published.

–Ends–

Contacts

media@doc.govt.nz

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 20 July 2021 12:36 pm
To: [REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: [REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz
Subject: RE: 1 News interview and footage request on orca and search

Kia ora [REDACTED],

Still working on an interview time – although we can arrange for you to come and get some film on site before the 6pm news.

I've just heard – there are no confirmed sightings of the pod, although a boat and plane did go out earlier. We're still encouraging anyone who does spot a pod to report it and take photographs if they can – photos are a huge help.

From: [REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz
Sent: Tuesday, 20 July 2021 12:05 pm
To: [REDACTED]; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: [REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz
Subject: RE: 1 News interview and footage request on orca and search

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for update. Yes, an early as possible after 1pm please would be much appreciated for the interview and getting fresh footage of the orca for our 6pm bulletin. Any indication of when the interview may be would be much appreciated please.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 20 July 2021 11:43 AM
To: [REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Cc: [REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz>

Subject: RE: 1 News interview and footage request on orca and search

Kia ora [REDACTED]

We're not going to have a spokesperson on site able to talk with you at 1pm – is it possible to organise an interview for later in the afternoon? We're very happy to facilitate your story as we can, just need to find those times when our experts are available in amongst all the behind-the-scenes work in caring for the orca.

I'm following up on what's happening with the search for the pod now, and will get back to you and Jack.

Ngā mihi

[REDACTED]
Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapā, Lower North Island Region

Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

[REDACTED]
Conservation House, 18 Manners Street, Wellington 6011

Kia piki te oranga o te ao tūroa, i roto i te ngātahitanga, ki Aotearoa.

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From: [REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 20 July 2021 11:04 am

To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Cc: [REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz>

Subject: 1 News interview and footage request on orca and search

Importance: High

Kia ora DOC media team,

I have two requests to do with the orca in Plimmerton today please.

-Firstly, can I please request permission to enter the Plimmerton site to interview Ian Angus at 1pm today about DOC's latest thoughts on efforts to reunite the orca with its pod and its current health. While we are there, I would also request to please get some updated footage of the orca.

-Secondly, we are keen to continue our coverage of the situation and show the search efforts that have resumed today. Can you please give me an indication of what time the sea and air searches in the Seatoun and Makara areas of Wellington will be occurring. Can I please request, that if any footage is taken by DOC or search volunteers of the search efforts, can you please share this with 1 News to use in our coverage by 4pm at the latest. Preferably, can I please request if a 1 News camera person go out on the boat on the search if this is easier on your resources. The camera person would follow all health and safety requirements asked and marine mammal distance rules.

-If an orca pod is sighted, I would appreciate a heads up on this as soon as possible by phone please as this would be an important update to film for our national audience in this developing situation.

Thanks very much. Please reply to both me and producer [REDACTED].

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

1 News

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 5:03 pm
To: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>; Elizabeth Heeg <eheeg@doc.govt.nz>; Kirstie Knowles <kknowles@doc.govt.nz>; Sarah Owen <sarahowen@doc.govt.nz>; Jack Mace <jmace@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Orca update for this afternoon

Bronwyn, have updated this below.

It has approval from Ian, [REDACTED] and Ingrid – but could do with a final proof read.

Cheers

From: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 3:07 pm
To: [REDACTED]; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>; Elizabeth Heeg <eheeg@doc.govt.nz>; Kirstie Knowles <kknowles@doc.govt.nz>; Sarah Owen <sarahowen@doc.govt.nz>; Jack Mace <jmace@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Orca update for this afternoon

Hi Team

Not sure how things are looking for moving the orca back to the sea. With [REDACTED] help we've got this draft update. Let me know what the plan is. The comms team is meeting for its daily 3.30pm catch up. Any amendments/additions send to me.

Thanks

Bronwyn

4pm update on stranded juvenile orca in Plimmerton

An investigation is underway into a pod that has been sighted in the Marlborough Sounds.

“We have still to confirm whether or not this is the orca’s pod, and there are currently people in the Sounds trying to get photographs to confirm. We welcome photographs from the public if anyone does spot the pod, but do ask them to keep a 50m distance,” says Ian Angus, Department of Conservation (DOC) Marine Species Manager.

“We had been reviewing moving the orca back into the seapen today, but we have decided not to.

“Following the storms, Greater Wellington Regional Council have issued a health warning advising the harbour is currently unsuitable for swimming. This means it would not be safe for our volunteers to go into the seapen with the orca right now.

“We are also keeping an eye on the weather, and there is some more rough weather forecast for Wednesday. We want to minimise the number of times we move the orca.

“We will be keeping an eye on the weather and water health advisories over the next few days, along with the orca’s health to guide a decision about when to move it back.

“This morning vets carried out standard health checks and all the results all fell within normal parameters.

“Although the calf is still in a stable condition, it has been in our care for more than a week now. We are conscious this is a long time for the calf to be away from its pod and mother, and to be kept in temporary enclosures.

“To help reduce the stress as much as possible, we will continue to restrict access to the site and appreciate the ongoing respect and support from the public.

Last Sunday (11/7), the orca calf was stranded on rocks near Plimmerton, north of Wellington. An ongoing operation to care for the orca calf is being led by the Department of Conservation (DOC) with support from Orca Research Trust/Whale Rescue Trust, local iwi Ngati Toa Rangatira, and the local community.

DOC, veterinarians and Whale Rescue/Orca Research Trust are receiving regular advice from international orca experts and veterinarians – information proving vital as decisions are made.

Anyone who sights orca pods off the lower North Island's west coast or in Marlborough Sounds is urged to provide as much information as possible to DOC, via marinemammals@doc.govt.nz or by calling 0800 DOC HOT. Essential information includes location of the pod, direction of travel of the animals, and photographs or videos which clearly show the saddle/back markings of the animals and their dorsal fins.

Editor's note – not for publication:

If the transfer back to the sea pen is able to happen today (19/7) there is likely to be an opportunity for media to film this. This is likely to happen approximately 4.30pm. If you would like to attend this transfer, please email media@doc.govt.nz and we can keep you updated.

Media should send requests for interviews and information to media@doc.govt.nz along with any specific questions, the reporter's name and direct phone line.. For general information on orca, please visit www.doc.govt.nz where all updates on this situation are published.

–Ends–

Contacts

media@doc.govt.nz

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 3:58 pm
To: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Orca update for this afternoon

UPDATE – orca will NOT be being moved tonight.

Reasons

- Health warning is out from the Council – no one is allowed to swim in the water following the storm, so we can't have people in the water right
- We are also keeping an eye on the weather forecast, and there may be some more bad weather coming in – we don't want to have to keep moving the orca

Ian is available to do some interviews this afternoon, so I'll tee things up.

I can make some tweaks to the draft MR Bronwyn based on what I've just heard with some more detail and send it back to you.

From: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 3:07 pm
To: [REDACTED] Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Ian Angus
<iangus@doc.govt.nz>; Elizabeth Heeg <eheeg@doc.govt.nz>; Kirstie Knowles
<kknowles@doc.govt.nz>; Sarah Owen <sarahowen@doc.govt.nz>; Jack Mace <jmace@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Orca update for this afternoon

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Thanks

Bronwyn

4pm update on stranded juvenile orca in Plimmerton

An investigation is underway into a pod that has been sighted in the Marlborough Sounds.

“We have still to confirm whether or not this is the orca’s pod, and are organising a boat to go to the site this afternoon or tomorrow,” says Ian Angus, Department of Conservation (DOC) Marine Species Manager

“We are currently confirming when we will relocate the orca calf to the seapen, although it is likely to be later today.

“The seapen suffered some damage during the storm over the weekend and needs repairs. It is also being modified to provide better access during low tide.

“Although the calf is still in a stable condition, it has been captive and cared for more than a week now. We are conscious this is a long time for the calf to be away from its pod and mother, and to be kept in temporary enclosures.

“We’re also conscious that we will have had to move the animal twice which, although the temporary pool was the best option for the calf given the weather conditions, does put additional stress on the calf.

“To help reduce the stress as much as possible, we will continue to restrict access to the site. No public are allowed access while the calf is in the pool and there will be limited daytime access only when the calf is in the seapen.

“International experts that DOC has been consulting with, now believe the calf may be between 2-6 months of age, rather than 4-6 months as had been originally suspected. The age of the orca calf naturally determines how long the calf needs care and feeding.

Last Sunday (11/7), the orca calf was stranded on rocks near Plimmerton, north of Wellington. An ongoing operation to care for the orca calf is being led by the Department of Conservation (DOC) with support from Orca Research Trust/Whale Rescue Trust, local iwi Ngati Toa Rangatira, and the local community.

DOC, veterinarians and Whale Rescue/Orca Research Trust are receiving regular advice from international orca experts and veterinarians – information proving vital as decisions are made.

Anyone who sights orca pods off the lower North Island's west coast – particularly between Wellington and Taranaki - is urged to provide as much information as possible to DOC, via marinemammals@doc.govt.nz or by calling 0800 DOC HOT. Essential information includes location of the pod, direction of travel of the animals, and photographs or videos which clearly show the saddle/back markings of the animals and their dorsal fins.

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Media should send requests for interviews and information to media@doc.govt.nz along with any specific questions, the reporter's name and direct phone line.. For general information on orca, please visit www.doc.govt.nz where all updates on this situation are published.

–Ends–

Contacts

media@doc.govt.nz

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 3:19 pm
To: [REDACTED] Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Some messages as a starting point for an update

It sounds like we should know in the next half hour whether or not the transfer is going ahead – although don't pass this onto media in case the timeframe shifts.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 3:05 pm
To: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Some messages as a starting point for an update

Can we get a timeframe on the transfer soon? Media starting to get scratchy

From: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 2:54 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Some messages as a starting point for an update

He's doing job interview so I will draft this into an update now.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 2:48 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Some messages as a starting point for an update

Hey [REDACTED], it's [REDACTED] this afternoon is my understanding (cc'ing him)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 2:38 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: Some messages as a starting point for an update

Hey [REDACTED] – not sure if you're drafting up the update for today or not, but here's the latest information I have as a starting point. They may change, but we can get something together.

[REDACTED], I'm going to chase up on those scenarios and try to confirm some interviews, once MOC has left the site and people are free again.

- We are investigation a pod that has been sighted in the Marlborough Sounds. We are still confirming whether or not this is the orca's pod, and are organising a boat to go to the site this afternoon or tomorrow.
- We are currently confirming when we will relocate the orca calf to the seapen, although it is likely to be later today. The seapen did suffer some damage during the storm over the weekend and needs repairs, and we are also modifying it to provide better access during low tide.
- Although the calf is still in a stable condition, we have been caring for this young orca for over a week now. We are conscious this is a long time for the calf to be away from its pod and mother, and to be kept in temporary enclosures. We're also conscious that we will have had to move the animal twice which, although the temporary pool was the best option for the calf given the weather conditions, does put additional stress on the calf.
- To help reduce the stress as much as possible, **we will continue to restrict access/the site will be open at xxxxx times TBC** (I'll confirm the details but we need a line about this)
- International experts we have been talking with who now suspect the calf may be between 2-6 months of age, rather than 4-6 months as had been originally suspected. The age of the orca calf naturally determines how long the calf needs care and feeding.

Ngā mihi

[REDACTED]
Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapā, Lower North Island Region

Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*



Conservation House, 18 Manners Street, Wellington 6011

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www.doc.govt.nz

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 12:21 pm
To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED] Bronwyn Saunders
<bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: On site now

Just sitting in an IMT meeting – we've been asked for speaking points for MOC at 2pm, I'll chat with Sarah Owen after this meeting.

- Update, we're now saying it's between 2 and 6 months.

Getting details about the relocation this afternoon and also some sightings of a pod.

Non-orca – Im Also conscious there is an MOC visit/ J4N announcement on Friday on the East Coast, and the only support I've been able to provide so far is a media release.

Ngā mihi

[REDACTED]
Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapā, Lower North Island Region

Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

[REDACTED]
Conservation House, 18 Manners Street, Wellington 6011

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J4N

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 16 July 2021 5:09 pm
To: [REDACTED] Jack Mace <jmace@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; Sarah Owen <sarahowen@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: URGENT For approval
Importance: High

Kia ora Jack – here’s a draft media response below about the scenarios and operations cost below, for your sign off.

[REDACTED] will call you about this, but this is to send to TV1 regarding their media request earlier. **Ideally we want signoff asap** before 5.30 so they can use it for their 6pm story, rather than saying DOC did not respond.

This text is drafted off the last two Q&A in the document you saw earlier, and Ian, Sarah, Dave and also Ingrid have reviewed it.

As soon as you have approved it, please reply and our Media Duty person (Bridget this weekend – thank you!) will be able to send it across.

Cheers Jack

Scenarios

We are dealing with the unknown. DOC are currently working through a number of potential scenarios, alongside Ngati Toa and the Orca Research/Whale Rescue Trust.

The best case scenario is that we can find the calf’s pod soon and reunite it with its mother.

Another scenario would be to find an orca pod with a lactating female and hope the calf would be accepted by that pod. Lactating female orcas have been known to ‘adopt’ calves, but there is a risk it would be rejected.

We are also considering other possible scenarios. This may include relocating to a purpose-build sea pen in calmer waters. The calf would need constant care for many more months if it was in the sea pen. We need to consider that the operation would be logistically complex.

We are also looking into what would be in the best interests for the orca's welfare if the animal's health does begin to deteriorate and it cannot be returned to its pod, and all options remain on the table.

We will be continuing to discuss different scenarios as things develop.

What is the operation costing?

We estimate we've spent around \$10,000 so far. This doesn't include staffing costs.

We want to also acknowledge the contributions made by Iwi and the Orca Research Trust/Whale Rescue Trust. Support from the community and business has been immense and welcome. A huge thanks also to the Plimmerton Boating Club, and to FENZ and their volunteer brigade who continue to make a massive contribution to helping on the site.

DOC staff numbers are constantly changing. We have had a number of staff onsite over the last couple of days, and many staff supporting behind the scenes with advice, research and communications.

Ngā mihi

██████████
Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapā, Lower North Island Region

Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

██████████
Conservation House, 18 Manners Street, Wellington 6011

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 15 July 2021 9:34 pm
To: [REDACTED] Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: [REDACTED] Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Quick update

Just got home now. Orca moved into temporary pool ok.

I'll aim to be on site tomorrow around 8.

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

On 15/07/2021 9:04 pm, Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz> wrote:

Thanks [REDACTED] Let us know where you at tonight and in the morning.

Cheers

Bronwyn

On 15/07/2021 7:37 pm, [REDACTED] wrote:

Cheers thanks for the messages [REDACTED]

Stay warm and get home safe.

[REDACTED]
Marketing Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapātairanga
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

[REDACTED]
Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland Office
Bledisloe House, 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1010
Conservation leadership for our nature/*Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa*
After Hours Media Support: Phone: [+64 4 496 1911](tel:+6444961911) / media@doc.govt.nz

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 7:33:14 PM
To: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]

Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]

Subject: Quick update

Looks like the orca is being moved - I will probably stay until it's done and get what photos/film are appropriate. Also make notes to draw on for tomorrow. If it takes more than 2 hours I'll go home though.

No media on site at moment. Public are all being cleared from site anyway.

Reactive message should we get a media enquiry specifically about the move:

Due to the current weather conditions and welfare concerns, a decision was made shortly after 7pm to move the orca calf into the temporary holding pool. We will be able to provide further updates tomorrow morning.

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 15 July 2021 1:37 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: FYI A quick update

Just a quick update (but no messages yet)

- Looking at setting up a swimming pool on site, as a backup to move the orca to if the weather continues to deteriorate
- Pool may be on its way now; the set up will involve fire trucks and hoses, and they will be stretching across the car park as the pool will be set up back from the water a bit
- Unclear on exact timeframes and when (if) the orca would be moved. Orca would likely be carried on the stretcher as previously.
- I will work on getting some more details together about this so we can have some messaging ready, and something for an update
- There is a IMT meeting around 3pm, but I'll work to get what information we can together for 3.30. I've flagged with [REDACTED] (now onboard leading H&S aspects) that it would be good to have this, and any health and safety advice for the public, prepared early enough for media to get the word out tonight
- Apparently the local Facebook group is very active, so also a good way to share info – [REDACTED]

I suspect media will be very keen to be on site for orca movement, and likely pool set up.

[REDACTED] re NZ History sharing their footage (which I think is 4k, probably more than many outlets can handle) it's probably best for you and Kirsty to have a chat. Not sure if that's worth pursuing right now or not.

Ngā mihi

[REDACTED]
Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapā, Lower North Island Region
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*
[REDACTED]
Conservation House, 18 Manners Street, Wellington 6011

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 6:51 pm
To: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: [REDACTED] Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Social Media
<socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>; Webteam [REDACTED]; Vicki Connor
<vconnor@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Media release - 5pm update on stranded juvenile orca at Porirua

Hi folks, sorry Ian was doing another interview.

We're going to sort out the timing better for media updates tomorrow morning – a CIMS structure is being organised at 8.30.

But we are aiming for 10am and 3.30 for any updates. [REDACTED], I'll call you in the morning to work out how best to manage this.

I should be onsite from about 7.30ish tomorrow, is the plan.

From: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 5:27 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Social Media
<socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>; Webteam [REDACTED] Vicki Connor
<vconnor@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Media release - 5pm update on stranded juvenile orca at Porirua

Hi [REDACTED]

If Ian available – there's one iv request. If he's not or too tired – let media [REDACTED] know and she can advise reporter. I've just talked to [REDACTED] and he's going to stand down for the night. [REDACTED] will be onsite probably till about 6.15pm and then she's going to find a local bed for the night and be back in the morning.

[REDACTED] after this request has been dealt/closed – decline anything further tonight and for first thing in the morning. Can send them to the website for the latest update and tell them that unless there's any significant change with calf, we won't be making any further media updates or interview until mid morning when the team will have met to discuss the plan for that day.

Any issues feel free to call me.

Great work today team and let's focus tomorrow on trying to install a bit more order with media to provide a bit of relief for Ian and co.

Cheers

Bronwyn

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 5:19 pm
To: [REDACTED] Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Media release - 5pm update on stranded juvenile orca at Porirua

Hi [REDACTED]

I have cc'ed in [REDACTED] who is leading the communications for the orca situation.

We can try arrange something however, I can't make any promises. We will be in touch if we can arrange something.

We have just put an update on our website which you may have received.
<https://www.doc.govt.nz/news/media-releases/2021-media-releases/5pm-update-on-stranded-juvenile-orca-in-porirua/>

[REDACTED]
Marketing Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapātairanga

Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

[REDACTED]
Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland Office

Bledisloe House, 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1010

Conservation leadership for our nature/*Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa*

After Hours Media Support: Phone: +64 4 496 1911 / media@doc.govt.nz



Papatūānuku Thrives

Te ora o Papatūānuku | Te ora o te Hapori | Te hunga Atawhai

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, 14 July 2021 5:11 pm

To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: Re: Media release - 5pm update on stranded juvenile orca at Porirua

Kia Ora,

Would Ian be free to do a prerecord interview with me this evening? It would be for our morning news bulletins tomorrow.

Keen to talk about the challenges of spotting a pod and then having to keep tabs on it and verify it.

I can be called on [REDACTED] and am in the newsroom until midnight. Let me know if something can be lined up.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (he/him)

Multimedia Journalist | Newstalk ZB

[REDACTED]

E: [REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz

NewstalkZB



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 July 2021 17:06
Subject: Media release - 5pm update on stranded juvenile orca at Porirua



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Media release

14 July 2021

5pm update on stranded juvenile orca in Porirua

Efforts to reunite a stranded orca calf with its pod have continued today, with a new reported sighting of an orca pod off the coast of Taranaki.

The orca calf – believed to be between four and six months old – stranded on rocks at Plimmerton on Sunday afternoon. It is in a temporary enclosure near a wharf at Hongoeka, with volunteers from Whale Rescue/Orca Rescue Trust working alongside Department of Conservation and local iwi Ngati Toa Rangatira.

Ian Angus, Department of Conservation (DOC) Marine Species Manager, says the two reported sightings of a pod off the Kapiti Coast – including a sighting this morning near Kapiti Island – have not been verified despite searching.

The latest sighting, reported today, occurred off the coast of Taranaki. It is not known if the orca pod is the same one the stranded calf has come from, so DOC, Whale Rescue/Orca Rescue and local iwi Ngati Toa are seeking to confirm the sighting before further decisions are made.

Ian Angus says the likelihood of deteriorating weather in the Wellington region in coming days means additional effort is being put into erecting stronger structures for the volunteers and professionals at the scene. Improvement of the temporary pen in

which the infant orca is being kept is also part of current planning and work at the site.

“There is some terrific support here being delivered by some incredibly passionate people – and we’ve got to look after them, too,” Ian Angus says. “It’s the middle of the New Zealand winter, and we need to ensure people are safe.

“The Plimmerton Boat Club has opened its doors to support our efforts and we want to publicly thank the club for helping us out. We’ve also had some fantastic assistance from Fire and Emergency NZ, who were among the first on the scene on Sunday, as well as local businesses, and the wider community.”

Ian Angus also publicly thanked onlookers for maintaining a distance from the animal and its temporary pen.

“We understand people are very interested in this unfolding situation, and we appreciate the fact they’re letting us do our work.”

Ian Angus says planning for a range of scenarios, including reuniting the calf with a pod of orca, has shifted into a new phase with discussions about the logistics of moving the animal and how that would be done given the worsening weather forecast.

The calf received more veterinarian-assisted feeding this afternoon, and it remains stable.

Volunteers continue to work shifts in the pen with the animal.

DOC, veterinarians and Orca Research Trust are receiving regular advice from international orca experts – information proving vital as decisions are made.

Anyone who sights orca pods off the lower North Island’s west coast - between Wellington and Taranaki - is urged to provide as much information as possible to DOC, via wellington@doc.govt.nz or by calling 0800 DOC HOT.

Essential information includes location of the pod, direction of travel of the animals, and photographs or videos which clearly show the saddle/back markings of the animals and their dorsal fins.

Editor’s note: DOC expects to offer a further update tomorrow morning, 15 July. Requests for further information, or interview requests, should be sent to media@doc.govt.nz Our team at the site is focussed on work to reunite the calf.

–Ends–s

Contacts

media@doc.govt.nz

[REDACTED]
Communication Advisor – Hauraki, Waikato, Taranaki
Department of Conservation
Regional Office
Rostrevor St
Hamilton
[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 21 July 2021 11:09 am
To: Bronwyn Saunders
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED] put her hand up

[REDACTED] heard us discussing resourcing and put her hand up to do whatever may be required. She admits to not having some of the media skills but is keen to learn and happy to help.

[REDACTED]
Principal Advisor | Customer Engagement Unit
Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai

[REDACTED]
Conservation House Wellington | Whare Kaupapa Atawhai
18 - 32 Manners St | PO Box 10 420, Wellington 6143
T: +64 4 471 0726
www.doc.govt.nz



[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 21 July 2021 5:07 pm
To: Social Media
Subject: RE: Stranded Juvenile Orca Update 21 July Afternoon

Put capitals on 'north island'

From: Social Media <socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 21 July 2021 5:05 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Stranded Juvenile Orca Update 21 July Afternoon

Thanks [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 21 July 2021 5:03 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Stranded Juvenile Orca Update 21 July Afternoon

4.15pm

The predicted persistence of poor weather has meant that there will be no change for the orca calf being cared for at Plimmerton Boating Club and it is likely to remain in the temporary pool for at least another day. The young orca has now been in our care for 10 days.

The Department of Conservation (DOC) Marine Species Manager, Ian Angus, says the veterinarians have done their regular health assessments and some of the previous health issues are no longer a cause for concern.

"While the calf remains in the temporary pool, people are reminded that the welfare of the calf is uppermost, and the public are advised to stay away so that staff and volunteers can focus on looking after the calf. Weather conditions are continually being reassessed," Ian Angus says.

"We want to minimise the potential for stress for the calf and with poor weather predicted until at least Friday, we have to be disciplined in our approach to managing the calf," he says.

Any sightings of orca around the country should be reported to DOC HOT 0800 362 468 or via marinemammals@doc.govt.nz. If the pod is in the lower north island or Marlborough region, this would give the best chance of successful reunification.

"Our focus now is on finding the specific pod the orca calf has come from. We will try to verify the pod based on the markings of the orca, so any photographs people can provide with reported sightings will help immensely.

"We are still planning for a range of scenarios. While the orca's health is still stable, we are also being realistic as we consider the ongoing welfare of this animal – that has to be our number one concern."

Veterinarians are onsite day and night and continue to carry out health checks on the animal.

The site remains closed to the public to reduce stress for the orca calf.

Last Sunday (11 July), the orca calf was stranded on rocks near Plimmerton, north of Wellington. An ongoing operation to care for the orca calf is being led by DOC with support from Orca Research Trust/Whale Rescue Trust, local iwi Ngāti Toa Rangatira, and the local community.

DOC, veterinarians, and Whale Rescue/Orca Research Trust are receiving regular advice from international orca experts and veterinarians – information proving vital as decisions are made.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 21 July 2021 4:12 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Bronwyn Saunders; [REDACTED]
Subject: Stranded Juvenile Orca Update 21 July Afternoon - DOC-6727611
Attachments: Stranded Juvenile Orca Update 21 July Afternoon - DOC-6727611.docx

4.15pm

The predicted persistence of poor weather has meant that there will be no change for the orca calf being cared for at Plimmerton Boating Club and it will remain in the temporary pool for at least another 24 hours. are no longer a cause for concern. The young orca has now been in our care for over a week.

The Department of Conservation (DOC) Marine Species Manager, Ian Angus, says the calf is in good health after the recent veterinarian inspection and some of the previous health issues are no longer a cause for concern.

“While the calf remains in the temporary pool people are reminded that the welfare of the calf is uppermost and the public are advised to stay away so that staff and volunteers can focus on looking after the calf. Conditions are continually being reassessed. Ian Angus says.

‘We want to minimise the potential for stress for the calf and with poor weather predicted until at least Friday, we have to be disciplined in our approach to managing the calf, he says.

Any sightings of orca around the country should be reported to DOC HOT 0800 362 468 or via marinemammals@doc.govt.nz. Pods in the lower north island and Marlborough region give the best chance of release.

“Our focus at the moment is on finding the specific pod the orca calf has come from. We will try to verify the pod based on the markings of the orca, so any photographs people can provide with reported sightings will help immensely.

“We are still planning for a range of scenarios. We are optimistic that we may find the pod, and the orca’s health is still stable, but we are also being realistic as we consider the ongoing welfare of this animal – that has to be our number one concern.”

Veterinarians are onsite day and night and continue to carry out health checks on the animal.

The site remains closed the public to reduce stress for the orca calf.

Last Sunday (11 July), the orca calf was stranded on rocks near Plimmerton, north of Wellington. An ongoing operation to care for the orca calf is being led by DOC with support from Orca Research Trust/Whale Rescue Trust, local iwi Ngāti Toa Rangatira, and the local community.

DOC, veterinarians and Whale Rescue/Orca Research Trust are receiving regular advice from international orca experts and veterinarians – information proving vital as decisions are made.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 21 July 2021 5:03 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Stranded Juvenile Orca Update 21 July Afternoon
Attachments: Stranded Juvenile Orca Update 21 July Afternoon - DOC-6727611.docx

4.15pm

The predicted persistence of poor weather has meant that there will be no change for the orca calf being cared for at Plimmerton Boating Club and it is likely to remain in the temporary pool for at least another day. The young orca has now been in our care for 10 days.

The Department of Conservation (DOC) Marine Species Manager, Ian Angus, says the veterinarians have done their regular health assessments and some of the previous health issues are no longer a cause for concern.

“While the calf remains in the temporary pool, people are reminded that the welfare of the calf is uppermost, and the public are advised to stay away so that staff and volunteers can focus on looking after the calf. Weather conditions are continually being reassessed,” Ian Angus says.

“We want to minimise the potential for stress for the calf and with poor weather predicted until at least Friday, we have to be disciplined in our approach to managing the calf,” he says.

Any sightings of orca around the country should be reported to DOC HOT 0800 362 468 or via marinemammals@doc.govt.nz. If the pod is in the lower north island or Marlborough region, this would give the best chance of successful reunification.

“Our focus now is on finding the specific pod the orca calf has come from. We will try to verify the pod based on the markings of the orca, so any photographs people can provide with reported sightings will help immensely.

“We are still planning for a range of scenarios. While the orca’s health is still stable, we are also being realistic as we consider the ongoing welfare of this animal – that has to be our number one concern.”

Veterinarians are onsite day and night and continue to carry out health checks on the animal.

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Last Sunday (11 July), the orca calf was stranded on rocks near Plimmerton, north of Wellington. An ongoing operation to care for the orca calf is being led by DOC with support from Orca Research Trust/Whale Rescue Trust, local iwi Ngāti Toa Rangatira, and the local community.

DOC, veterinarians, and Whale Rescue/Orca Research Trust are receiving regular advice from international orca experts and veterinarians – information proving vital as decisions are made.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 23 July 2021 2:12 pm
To: Kirsty Prior <kprior@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: ORCA RESPONSE: Technical paper meeting notes - please review

Hiya Kirsty,

Here are the notes attached and embedded below for you to review. Are you able to hand this over to someone else to finalise? I need to get onto some internal comms.

<<<STARTS>>>

ORCA RESPONSE: OPTIONS PAPER MEETING: 23 JULY 2021

MINUTES

PRESENT: Jack Mace (DOC), Ian Angus (DOC), Reg Kemper (DOC), Kirsty Prior (DOC), [REDACTED] and Ingrid (Orca Research Trust), [REDACTED] (Ngati Toa), Elizabeth Heeg (DOC)

PURPOSE: The purpose of the meeting was to table the Orca Technical Options Paper (23 July 2021) to bring DOC's technical advice to the table and share that with those involved in welfare of toa and hear their views.

1. The document provided a number of scenarios for consideration. Attendees felt that 1-hour to review the document wasn't long enough and another meeting would need to be scheduled.
2. Attendees were reminded that no decisions had been made and no one in the room had the authority to make a decision. We were just here to review the recommendations and ask for feedback. No recommendations have been made yet.
3. Those representing external parties felt the document was weighted quite negatively and would have preferred seeing the best outcome options up front. Ingrid and Sandra agreed to take the document away to review in more detail and meeting again to discuss.
4. Elizabeth advised that based on very strong advice from an internal animal ethics committee and international experts, DOCs position on keeping the orca in captivity for any amount of time is seen as being experimental and therefore not ok from an ethical point of view. basis. DOC is keen for a good outcome, however understand the risks around releasing the orca on his own and the impacts of that.
5. Ingrid requested copies of the anaesthetists advice to consider as part of the review process.
6. All tagging preparation has been done and approvals sought so that can happen quickly in anticipation of being able to release the orca and recapture him if required. Iwi. Before any tagging can take place a Karakia must be performed and then again when he's released. Those people who were with the orca from the beginning should also have the opportunity to be part of that and be on a boat alongside.
7. There were lengthy discussions around the definition of captivity.

8. Ingrid suggested DOC should look at the information available regarding an orca calf that had been rescued and raised and had no ongoing issues.
9. [REDACTED] advised that Ngati Toa has agreed that if the orca needs to be moved from their rahui, they would be happy with that. Their priority is about what's best for the orca.
10. Ingrid requested that some of the language in the paper was made more positive, for example, Instead of saying decreasing over time, include the word 'potentially' with the caveat that this type of operation has never been done before.
11. Whatever the outcome, DOC has a legal responsibility and will be heavily examined on how this plays out.
12. The current plan is to continue to look after the welfare of the orca here, with planning in place to move, take action and attempt a relocation if the situation permits.
13. [REDACTED] requested that Iain look at other options for holding pens available around New Zealand.
14. [REDACTED] requested that further insights into the justifications for some of DOCS's statements, i.e. moderate mental health risk – where is the justification and science behind this?
15. Ingrid advised that we need to be clear on the age of the orca that we're communicating. He is not a neonate, he is a CALF.
16. It was agreed that once the decision was made, Mike Slater will contact the local iwi directly before Ngati Toa and also advise Ingrid directly.

ACTIONS

Ref	What	Who
1	Provide further information around availability of pens/bay options around New Zealand. Not just a summary, but the real data.	Ian
2	Elizabeth to share anaesthetists advice documents with Dave Hunt for onsharing to the group.	Elizabeth
3	Provide further information around the justifications for some of DOC's statements (see note 14)	Elizabeth?

Next meeting: will be held at 4pm Saturday 24 July at the Plimmerton Boating Club

<<<ENDS>>>

[REDACTED]
Senior Internal Communications Adviser
Head Office | Te tari Matu

[REDACTED]

www.doc.govt.nz

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 1:50 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Stranded orca - Yahoo News Australia

Thanks [REDACTED]

Ngā mihi nui,

[REDACTED]
Marketing Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapātairanga
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

[REDACTED]
Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland Office
Bledisloe House, 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1010

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 1:48 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Stranded orca - Yahoo News Australia

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Completed. Below answers to question raised.

Completed answers to question from the m: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 11:59 am
To: Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Stranded orca - Yahoo News Australia

Kia ora Ian,

Could you please help with the below query as soon as. I tried to fill it out as much as possible with the information received so far.

Please attribute to DOC Marine Species Manager, Ian Angus:

Are you able to give me an update on the juvenile orca stranded at Plimmerton?

The Department of Conservation (DOC), Whale-Rescue.org and Project Jonah were on site at Plimmerton beach yesterday evening to assist in the stranding of a juvenile orca.

After an unsuccessful search to locate the orcas pod yesterday evening DOC and the rescue team have reconvened and been out in the water since dawn to locate the pod.

To assist in the search DOC has commissioned a helicopter and a fixed winged aircraft from the local Kapiti aerodrome is also searching. Maritime Radio have also been asking recreational boats to keep an eye out for the pod.

To help assist us in finding the orcas pod DOC is asking anyone in the Wellington region, who are out enjoying the moana to please report any sightings of orcas directly to 0800 DOC HOT.

Is this something that occurs often?

While orca strand in New Zealand on a semi-regular basis, it is unusual but not unprecedented for a calf to strand alone.

Have the family been found?

Not at this stage.

If the family aren't found, what's the plan?

We are currently working through other options. The young Orca is estimated to be 4-6 months old and will still require milk from its mum. The main objective at this point is to reunite this calf with its pod. The longer the calf is separated from the pod the more distressed the young calf will become. There are no facilities in New Zealand capable of rehabilitating an Orca in captivity, so options for care are limited to what can be put in place on site. If the calf's pod cannot be found, we will have to consider which option is most humane.

Are there images available of the orca?

Not at this stage, except for the images and videos already on social media.

Ngā mihi nui,

Marketing Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapātairanga
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland Office
Bledisloe House, 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1010

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Papatūānuku Thrives

Te ora o Papatūānuku | Te ora o te Hapori | Te hunga Atawhai

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 12:47 pm
To: Melody McLaughlin <mmclaughlin@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Stranded orca - Yahoo News Australia

Cheers thanks Melody

Ngā mihi nui,

[REDACTED]
Marketing Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapātairanga
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

[REDACTED]
Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland Office
Bledisloe House, 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1010

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Papatūānuku Thrives

Te ora o Papatūānuku | Te ora o te Hapori | Te hunga Atawhai

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 12:47 pm
To: [REDACTED] Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Stranded orca - Yahoo News Australia

Hi Tamara, myself and Dave Lundquist will compile response also taking into account Leigh-Anne's comments.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 11:59 am
To: Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Stranded orca - Yahoo News Australia

Kia ora Ian,

Could you please help with the below query as soon as. I tried to fill it out as much as possible with the information received so far.

Please attribute to DOC Marine Species Manager, Ian Angus:

Are you able to give me an update on the juvenile orca stranded at Plimmerton?

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After an unsuccessful search to locate the orcas pod yesterday evening DOC and the rescue team have reconvened and been out in the water since dawn to locate the pod.

To assist in the search DOC has commissioned a helicopter and a fixed winged aircraft from the local Kapiti aerodrome is also searching.

To help assist us in finding the orcas pod DOC is asking anyone in the Wellington region, who are out enjoying the moana to please report any sightings of orcas directly to 0800 DOC HOT.

Is this something that occurs often?

Have the family been found?

Not at this stage.

If the family aren't found, what's the plan?

Are there images available of the orca?

Not at this stage.

Ngā mihi nui,

[REDACTED]
Marketing Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapātairanga
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

[REDACTED]
Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland Office
Bledisloe House, 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1010

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From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@verizonmedia.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@verizonmedia.com)>
Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 11:38 am
To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Stranded orca - Yahoo News Australia

Hi Team

I'm the environment reporter at Yahoo News Australia.

Are you able to give me an update on the juvenile orca stranded at Plimmerton?

Is this something that occurs often?

Have the family been found?

If the family aren't found, what's the plan?

Are there images available of the orca?

Regards,

--



Video Producer / Journalist
Level 4 West, 8 Central Avenue, Eveleigh NSW 2015



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 11:23 am
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: RNZ on site

Great thanks [REDACTED] – cheers for the update.

Any other news on locating the pod and the orcas condition? I'll keep updating the lines.

Ngā mihi nui,

[REDACTED]
Marketing Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapātairanga
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

[REDACTED]
Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland Office
Bledisloe House, 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1010

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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 11:21 am

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Subject: RNZ on site

Hi team,

Just an FYI. Radio NZ is on site and [REDACTED] will be interviewed by them. Any technical questions he will refer them to Ian Angus as the spokesperson.

There was also a Newstalk ZB/Herald reporter on site. I relayed that we are already talking with [REDACTED].

[REDACTED]
Supervisor Community – Kaitiaki Tauawhi, Ao Hapori
Kapiti Wellington District Office

[REDACTED]
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 10:01 am
To: Social Media <socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Whale, Plimmerton

Thanks [REDACTED]

I started a document to keep track on everything happening here;
[REDACTED]

I'll keep updating this throughout the day.

Ngā mihi nui,

[REDACTED]
Marketing Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapātairanga
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

[REDACTED]
Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland Office
Bledisloe House, 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1010

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From: Social Media <socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 9:47 am
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Whale, Plimmerton

Cool thanks [REDACTED] I'll work with the team to get something up this morning soon.

Cheers,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 9:43 AM
To: Social Media <socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>

Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Whale, Plimmerton

Hi [REDACTED]

Spoke to Ops Manager and could we please get a social post up calling for sightings to go directly to 0800 DOC HOT please.

Here is an approved statement below if you need to pull from there and use. Further updates below the statement.

Please attribute to DOC Marine Species Manager, Ian Angus:

The Department of Conservation (DOC), Whale-Rescue.org and Project Jonah were on site at Plimmerton beach yesterday evening to assist in the stranding of a juvenile orca.

Whale-rescue.org is leading the response and the DOC marine team is on hand to support and supply technical advice.

Lastnight we, alongside the rescue team had attempted to locate the baby orcas pod to return it safely to its family. Unfortunately we were not successful in locating the pod.

Overnight, to keep the calf safe, the rescue team loaded the calf onto a trailer where it was kept onshore, actively monitored by Whale-rescue.org and kept moist and cool overnight. This is a common practice for beached orcas separated from their pod. The method allows a safer and more active monitoring process that prevents the calf from being continuously beached.

DOC has reconvened with the search team this morning to continue to monitor the calf, ensure it is safe and help locate their pod.

To help assist us in finding their pod DOC is asking anyone in the Wellington region, who are out enjoying the moana to please report any sightings of orcas directly to 0800 DOC HOT.

Updates:

- DOC KW has commissioned helicopter to search for pod
- Fixed winged aircraft from the local Kapiti aerodrome also going up to search pod
- Maritime radio will put out a broadcast for boaties
- DOC boat has been on the water since dawn searching
- Calf back in the water being supported by the rescue team. Waiting for the Pod sighting before next steps.
- [REDACTED] on site with rescue team

Ngā mihi nui,

[REDACTED]
Marketing Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapātairanga
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

[REDACTED]
Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland Office
Bledisloe House, 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1010

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After Hours Media Support: Phone: +64 4 496 1911 / media@doc.govt.nz



[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 9:44 am
To: [REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Baby orca Plimmerton

Kia ora [REDACTED]

The best contact person is Ian Angus, DOC Marine Species Manager.
His contact number is [REDACTED]

For further updates please continue to come through the media inbox in the first instance and I can arrange from there.

Ngā mihi nui,

[REDACTED]
Marketing Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapātairanga
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

[REDACTED]
Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland Office
Bledisloe House, 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1010

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From: [REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz
Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 7:27 am
To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Baby orca Plimmerton

Hi,

We're keen to talk to somebody about the baby orca found stranded at Plimmerton beach. Posts on social media refer to search efforts set to continue today for its pod. We've called Project Jonah this morning but they say they're no longer involved.

Can you please let me know the best person for us to contact?

Thanks,

[REDACTED]
Wellington Bureau Chief/Breakfast Newsreader

Newstalk ZB | NZ Herald

M: [REDACTED]
E: [REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 9:43 am
To: Social Media <socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Whale, Plimmerton

Hi [REDACTED]

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Here is an approved statement below if you need to pull from there and use. Further updates below the statement.

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DOC has reconvened with the search team this morning to continue to monitor the calf, ensure it is safe and help locate their pod.

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Updates:

- DOC KW has commissioned helicopter to search for pod
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- Maritime radio will put out a broadcast for boaties
- DOC boat has been on the water since dawn searching
- Calf back in the water being supported by the rescue team. Waiting for the Pod sighting before next steps.
- [REDACTED] on site with rescue team

Ngā mihi nui,

[REDACTED]
Marketing Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapātairanga
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

[REDACTED]
Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland Office
Bledisloe House, 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1010

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After Hours Media Support: Phone: +64 4 496 1911 / media@doc.govt.nz



From: Social Media <socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>

Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 9:19 am

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Whale, Plimmerton

Hi [REDACTED]

Do you think a post is needed on social today asking for sighting information? Or is it best to see how the search goes this morning first?

I've had two people message in sighting information (not very detailed) at all so I asked them to report it via DOCHOT so they can get the details.

Cheers,

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Sunday, 11 July 2021 7:47 PM
To: [Redacted]; lan Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; Social Media <socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>; [Redacted]
Subject: RE: Whale, Plimmerton

Perfect – thank you.

FYI team – statement from DOC below.

Ngā mihi nui,

[Redacted]

Marketing Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapātairanga
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

[Redacted]

Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland Office
Bledisloe House, 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1010

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After Hours Media Support: Phone: +64 4 496 1911 / media@doc.govt.nz



From: [Redacted]
Sent: Sunday, 11 July 2021 7:42 pm
To: [Redacted] lan Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Whale, Plimmerton

Hi [Redacted], just suggested one amendment below. Just shorted and simplified the line about overnight monitoring

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 11, 2021, 19:31
To: Ian Angus; [REDACTED]
Cc: Media
Subject: RE: Whale, Plimmerton

Thanks for chatting with me – updated statement below

Please attribute to DOC Marine Species Manager, Ian Angus:

The Department of Conservation (DOC), Whale-Rescue.org and Project Jonah have been on site at Plimmerton beach this evening to assist in the stranding of a juvenile orca.

Whale-rescue.org is leading the response and the DOC marine team is on hand to support and supply technical advice.

This evening we, alongside the rescue team had attempted to locate the baby orcas pod to return it safely to its family. Unfortunately we were not successful in locating the pod.

Overnight, to keep the calf safe, the rescue team have loaded the calf onto a trailer where it will be kept onshore, actively monitored by Whale-rescue.org and kept moist and cool overnight. This is a common practice for beached orcas separated from their pod. The method allows a safer and more active monitoring of the calf overnight.

DOC will reconvene with the search team tomorrow morning to continue to monitor the calf, ensure it is safe and help locate their pod. To assist us in finding their pod DOC is asking anyone in the Wellington region, who are out enjoying the moana to please report any sightings of orcas directly to 0800 DOC HOT.

Ngā mihi nui,

[REDACTED]
Marketing Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapātairanga
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

[REDACTED]
Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland Office
Bledisloe House, 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1010
Conservation leadership for our nature/*Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa*
After Hours Media Support: Phone: +64 4 496 1911 / media@doc.govt.nz



From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@stuff.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@stuff.co.nz)>
Sent: Sunday, 11 July 2021 7:04 pm
To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: Re: Whale, Plimmerton

Any word on this from your end, guys?

[REDACTED]

On Sun, Jul 11, 2021 at 5:39 PM [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@stuff.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@stuff.co.nz)> wrote:

Thanks [REDACTED]

let me know.. have heard after a search for the pod the whale has been brought in due to the dark and search will resume tomorrow?

is this correct? and people are being urged to keep an eye out for the pod?

[REDACTED]

On Sun, Jul 11, 2021 at 5:05 PM [REDACTED] wrote:

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Yes DOC is at the scene responding to the incident.

Once I get some more information from the team responding I will let you know.

Will be in touch shortly.

Cheers

[REDACTED]

Marketing Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapātairanga
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

[REDACTED]

Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland Office

Bledisloe House, 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1010

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After Hours Media Support: Phone: [+64 4 496 1911](tel:+6444961911) / media@doc.govt.nz

From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@stuff.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@stuff.co.nz)>

Sent: Sunday, July 11, 2021 5:00:59 PM

To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: Whale, Plimmerton

Hi all,

Apparently there is an orca stranded near Plimmerton. Do you have any details about this? I've been told you have been made aware of the situation and are helping...

[REDACTED]

--

[REDACTED] (he/him)

Arts and culture reporter

E [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@stuff.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@stuff.co.nz)> | M [REDACTED]

Stuff Ltd, Level 7, Spark Central 42-52 Willis Street, Wellington, 6011, New Zealand

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 8:17 am
To: [REDACTED]@discovery.com>; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Newshub Query - Baby Orca

Morning [REDACTED]

Thanks for your email.
Statement provided below.

Please attribute to DOC Marine Species Manager, Ian Angus:

The Department of Conservation (DOC), Whale-Rescue.org and Project Jonah were on site at Plimmerton beach yesterday evening to assist in the stranding of a juvenile orca.

Whale-rescue.org is leading the response and the DOC marine team is on hand to support and supply technical advice.

Lastnight we, alongside the rescue team had attempted to locate the baby orcas pod to return it safely to its family. Unfortunately we were not successful in locating the pod.

Overnight, to keep the calf safe, the rescue team loaded the calf onto a trailer where it was kept onshore, actively monitored by Whale-rescue.org and kept moist and cool overnight. This is a common practice for beached orcas separated from their pod. The method allows a safer and more active monitoring process that prevents the calf from being continuously beached.

DOC will reconvene with the search team this morning to continue to monitor the calf, ensure it is safe and help locate their pod. To help assist us in finding their pod DOC is asking anyone in the Wellington region, who are out enjoying the moana to please report any sightings of orcas directly to 0800 DOC HOT.

Ngā mihi nui,

[REDACTED]
Marketing Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapātairanga
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

[REDACTED]
Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland Office
Bledisloe House, 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1010

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After Hours Media Support: Phone: +64 4 496 1911 / media@doc.govt.nz



Papatūānuku Thrives

Te ora o Papatūānuku | Te ora o te Hapori | Te hunga Atawhai

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@discovery.com>

Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 8:00 am

To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: Newshub Query - Baby Orca

Kia ora.

I was just wondering if you have a statement about the baby orca that was stranded off Plimmerton beach?

I'm just after more details around the orca.

Here's a link for reference <https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/125717971/rescuers-to-take-care-of-lost-orca-whale-overnight-as-pod-not-found?cid=app-android>

Thank you very much.

--

[REDACTED] THE AM SHOW REPORTER, WELLINGTON

DISCOVERY NZ [DISCOVERYCORPORATE.CO.NZ](https://www.discoverycorporate.co.nz)

The Discovery New Zealand logo, featuring the word "Discovery" in a large, white, sans-serif font with a globe icon, and "NEW ZEALAND" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font below it. The background is a dark purple with a pattern of overlapping circles.

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 8:13 am

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz>; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Baby orca Plimmerton

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for the call.

As mentioned here is a statement below.

I should be able to get you in touch with the team some time this morning. I won't have any further updates until later this morning.

Thanks [REDACTED]

Please attribute to DOC Marine Species Manager, Ian Angus:

The Department of Conservation (DOC), Whale-Rescue.org and Project Jonah were on site at Plimmerton beach yesterday evening to assist in the stranding of a juvenile orca.

Whale-rescue.org is leading the response and the DOC marine team is on hand to support and supply technical advice.

Lastnight we, alongside the rescue team had attempted to locate the baby orcas pod to return it safely to its family. Unfortunately we were not successful in locating the pod.

Overnight, to keep the calf safe, the rescue team loaded the calf onto a trailer where it was kept onshore, actively monitored by Whale-rescue.org and kept moist and cool overnight. This is a common practice for beached orcas separated from their pod. The method allows a safer and more active monitoring process that prevents the calf from being continuously beached.

DOC will reconvene with the search team this morning to continue to monitor the calf, ensure it is safe and help locate their pod. To help assist us in finding their pod DOC is asking anyone in the Wellington region, who are out enjoying the moana to please report any sightings of orcas directly to 0800 DOC HOT.

Ngā mihi nui,

[REDACTED]
Marketing Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapātairanga
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

[REDACTED]
Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland Office
Bledisloe House, 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1010

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After Hours Media Support: Phone: +64 4 496 1911 / media@doc.govt.nz



From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 7:58 am

To: [REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz>; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Baby orca Plimmerton

Good Morning [REDACTED]

The team at DOC are meeting with Whale-rescue.org this morning. After 9am we will have some further updates to provide and I can see what time our team can have a chat with you.

Thanks [REDACTED] – will be in touch shortly

Ngā mihi nui,

[REDACTED]
Marketing Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapātairanga
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

[REDACTED]
Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland Office
Bledisloe House, 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1010

Conservation leadership for our nature/*Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa*

After Hours Media Support: Phone: +64 4 496 1911 / media@doc.govt.nz



From: [REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz>

Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 7:27 am

To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: Baby orca Plimmerton

Hi,

We're keen to talk to somebody about the baby orca found stranded at Plimmerton beach. Posts on social media refer to search efforts set to continue today for its pod. We've called Project Jonah this morning but they say they're no longer involved.

Can you please let me know the best person for us to contact?

Thanks,

[REDACTED]
Wellington Bureau Chief/Breakfast Newsreader

Newstalk ZB | NZ Herald

M: [REDACTED]
E: [REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 11 July 2021 8:15 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED] Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Whale, Plimmerton

Awesome thank you [REDACTED]

If I can also get someone to be available in the morning for any updates and available throughout the day for interviews if any, that would be great :)

Thank you

[REDACTED]
Marketing Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapātairanga
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*
[REDACTED]
Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland Office
Bledisloe House, 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1010
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After Hours Media Support: Phone: [+64 4 496 1911](tel:+6444961911) / media@doc.govt.nz

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 11, 2021 8:05:02 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Whale, Plimmerton

Thanks [REDACTED]. The Martara II and DOC skipper will be put on the water first light to check for the POD. The skipper has good local.knowlwdge of these water.

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

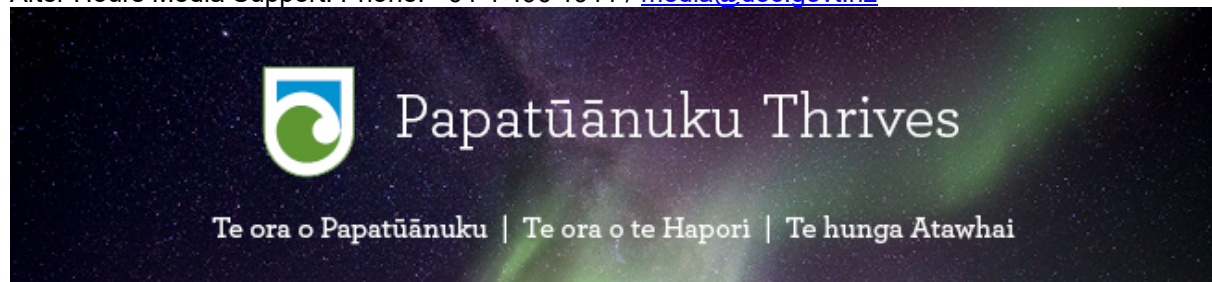
On 11/07/2021 7:54 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:
Kia ora [REDACTED]

Please find below statement sent to media this evening.
Have a good night all.

Ngā mihi nui,

[REDACTED]
Marketing Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapātairanga
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

[REDACTED]
Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland Office
Bledisloe House, 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1010
Conservation leadership for our nature/*Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa*
After Hours Media Support: Phone: +64 4 496 1911 / media@doc.govt.nz



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 11 July 2021 7:47 pm
To: [REDACTED] Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; Social Media <socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Whale, Plimmerton

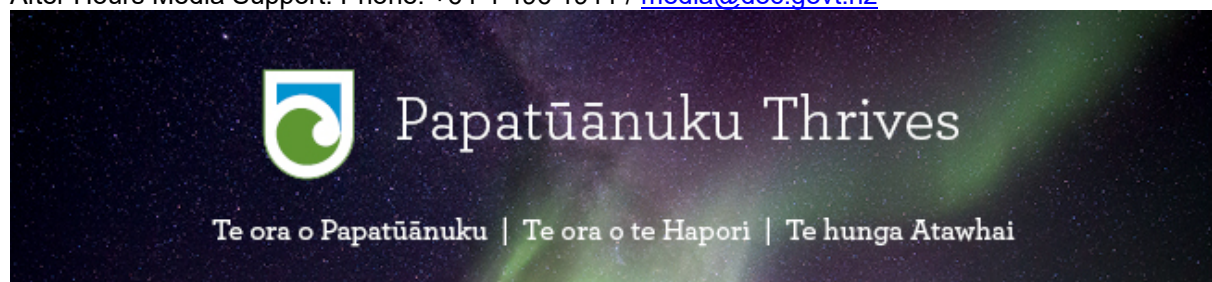
Perfect – thank you.

FYI team – statement from DOC below.

Ngā mihi nui,

[REDACTED]
Marketing Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapātairanga
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

[REDACTED]
Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland Office
Bledisloe House, 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1010
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After Hours Media Support: Phone: +64 4 496 1911 / media@doc.govt.nz



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 11 July 2021 7:42 pm
To: [REDACTED] Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Whale, Plimmerton

Hi [REDACTED], just suggested one amendment below. Just shorted and simplified the line about overnight monitoring

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 11, 2021, 19:31
To: Ian Angus; [REDACTED]
Cc: Media
Subject: RE: Whale, Plimmerton

Thanks for chatting with me – updated statement below

Please attribute to DOC Marine Species Manager, Ian Angus:

The Department of Conservation (DOC), Whale-Rescue.org and Project Jonah have been on site at Plimmerton beach this evening to assist in the stranding of a juvenile orca.

Whale-rescue.org is leading the response and the DOC marine team is on hand to support and supply technical advice.

This evening we, alongside the rescue team had attempted to locate the baby orcas pod to return it safely to its family. Unfortunately we were not successful in locating the pod.

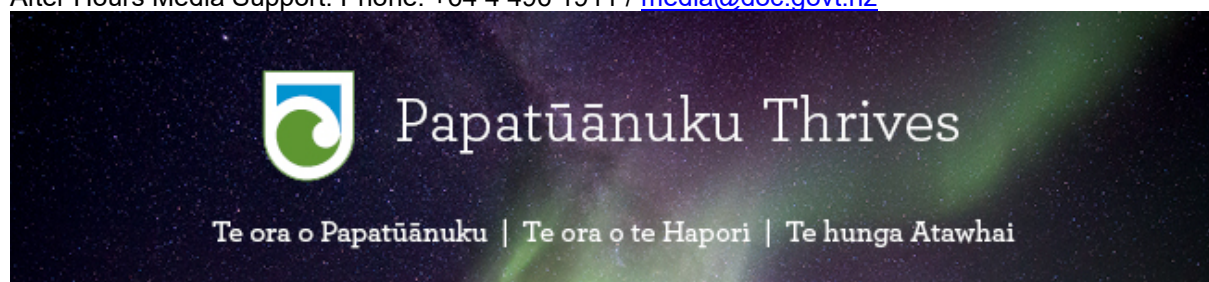
Overnight, to keep the calf safe, the rescue team have loaded the calf onto a trailer where it will be kept onshore, actively monitored by Whale-rescue.org and kept moist and cool overnight. This is a common practice for beached orcas separated from their pod. The method allows a safer and more active monitoring of the calf overnight.

DOC will reconvene with the search team tomorrow morning to continue to monitor the calf, ensure it is safe and help locate their pod. To assist us in finding their pod DOC is asking anyone in the Wellington region, who are out enjoying the moana to please report any sightings of orcas directly to 0800 DOC HOT.

Ngā mihi nui,

[REDACTED]
Marketing Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapātairanga
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

[REDACTED]
Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland Office
Bledisloe House, 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1010
Conservation leadership for our nature/*Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa*
After Hours Media Support: Phone: +64 4 496 1911 / media@doc.govt.nz



From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@stuff.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@stuff.co.nz)>
Sent: Sunday, 11 July 2021 7:04 pm
To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: Re: Whale, Plimmerton

Any word on this from your end, guys?

[REDACTED]

On Sun, Jul 11, 2021 at 5:39 PM [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@stuff.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@stuff.co.nz)> wrote:

Thanks [REDACTED]

let me know.. have heard after a search for the pod the whale has been brought in due to the dark and search will resume tomorrow?

is this correct? and people are being urged to keep an eye out for the pod?

[REDACTED]

On Sun, Jul 11, 2021 at 5:05 PM [REDACTED] wrote:

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Yes DOC is at the scene responding to the incident.

Once I get some more information from the team responding I will let you know.

Will be in touch shortly.

Cheers

[REDACTED]

Marketing Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapātairanga
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

[REDACTED]

Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland Office

Bledisloe House, 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1010

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After Hours Media Support: Phone: [+64 4 496 1911](tel:+6444961911) / media@doc.govt.nz

From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@stuff.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@stuff.co.nz)>

Sent: Sunday, July 11, 2021 5:00:59 PM

To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: Whale, Plimmerton

Hi all,

Apparently there is an orca stranded near Plimmerton. Do you have any details about this? I've been told you have been made aware of the situation and are helping...

[REDACTED]

--

[REDACTED] (he/him)
Arts and culture reporter

E [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@stuff.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@stuff.co.nz)> | M [REDACTED]
Stuff Ltd, Level 7, Spark Central 42-52 Willis Street, Wellington, 6011, New Zealand

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 11 July 2021 7:50 pm
To: [REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: 1News Enquiry - Orca Wellington

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Apologies for the late update. Please find statement below.
We should have further updates in the morning and will be able to supply more information from 9am onwards.

Thank you.

Please attribute to DOC Marine Species Manager, Ian Angus:

The Department of Conservation (DOC), Whale-Rescue.org and Project Jonah have been on site at Plimmerton beach this evening to assist in the stranding of a juvenile orca.

Whale-rescue.org is leading the response and the DOC marine team is on hand to support and supply technical advice.

This evening we, alongside the rescue team had attempted to locate the baby orcas pod to return it safely to its family. Unfortunately we were not successful in locating the pod.

Overnight, to keep the calf safe, the rescue team have loaded the calf onto a trailer where it will be kept onshore, actively monitored by Whale-rescue.org and kept moist and cool overnight. This is a common practice for beached orcas separated from their pod. The method allows a safer and more active monitoring process that prevents the calf from being continuously beached.

DOC will reconvene with the search team tomorrow to continue to monitor the calf, ensure it is safe and help locate their pod. To help assist us in finding their pod DOC is asking anyone in the Wellington region, who are out enjoying the moana to please report any sightings of orcas directly to 0800 DOC HOT.

Ngā mihi nui,

[REDACTED]
Marketing Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapātairanga
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

[REDACTED]
Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland Office
Bledisloe House, 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1010

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After Hours Media Support: Phone: +64 4 496 1911 / media@doc.govt.nz



Papatūānuku Thrives

Te ora o Papatūānuku | Te ora o te Hapori | Te hunga Atawhai

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz>

Sent: Sunday, 11 July 2021 3:20 pm

To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: 1News Enquiry - Orca Wellington

Afternoon,

Emergency services have confirmed that an orca was stranded near Plimmerton Wellington earlier this afternoon. Police have told us the matter has been referred to the department of conservation. We were hoping for a comment.

Any additional information you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

Assignments Desk Coordinator

[REDACTED]



Follow us: Facebook | Twitter | YouTube

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, 11 July 2021 7:06 pm

To: [REDACTED] Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>

Cc: Social Media <socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: FW: Whale, Plimmerton

Importance: High

Hi [REDACTED] and Ian,

Apologies new version below – if you could please review and sign off on this as soon as so I can start fielding these queries:

Please attribute to DOC Marine Species Manager, Ian Angus:

The Department of Conservation (DOC), Whale-Rescue.org and Project Jonah have been on site at Plimmerton beach this evening to assist in the stranding of a juvenile orca.

Whale-rescue.org is leading the response and the DOC marine team is on hand to support and supply technical advice.

This evening we, alongside the rescue team had attempted to locate the baby orcas pod to return it safely to its family. Unfortunately we were not successful in locating the pod and will reconvene the search tomorrow.

The calf has been loaded onto a trailer and will be kept in safe space and monitored overnight.

Ngā mihi nui,

[REDACTED]
Marketing Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapātairanga
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

[REDACTED]
Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland Office
Bledisloe House, 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1010

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After Hours Media Support: Phone: +64 4 496 1911 / media@doc.govt.nz



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 11 July 2021 6:55 pm
To: Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]

Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Whale, Plimmerton

Kia ora team,

Here is a statement on behalf of doc. If someone could please quickly review this I can hold the line with this statement until you all reconvene tomorrow.

Please attribute to DOC Marine Species Manager, Ian Angus:

The Department of Conservation (DOC), Whale-Rescue.org and Project Jonah have been on site at Plimmerton beach this evening to assist in the stranding of juvenile orca.

Whale-rescue.org is leading the response and the DOC marine team is on hand to supply technical advice.

This evening we, alongside the rescue team have attempted to relocate the orcas pod to return it safely to its family.

Unfortunately we have not been successful in locating the pod this evening and will reconvene the search tomorrow. The calf will be loaded onto a trailer and supervised overnight.

Ngā mihi nui,

Marketing Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapātairanga
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland Office
Bledisloe House, 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1010

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After Hours Media Support: Phone: +64 4 496 1911 / media@doc.govt.nz



From: [redacted] <[\[redacted\]@stuff.co.nz](mailto:[redacted]@stuff.co.nz)>

Sent: Sunday, 11 July 2021 5:39 pm

To: [redacted]

Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: Re: Whale, Plimmerton

Thanks [redacted]

let me know.. have heard after a search for the pod the whale has been brought in due to the dark and search will resume tomorrow?

is this correct? and people are being urged to keep an eye out for the pod?

[redacted]

On Sun, Jul 11, 2021 at 5:05 PM [redacted] wrote:

Kia ora [redacted],

Yes DOC is at the scene responding to the incident.

Once I get some more information from the team responding I will let you know.

Will be in touch shortly.

Cheers

Marketing Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapātairanga
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland Office
Bledisloe House, 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1010
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After Hours Media Support: Phone: [+64 4 496 1911](tel:+6444961911) / media@doc.govt.nz

From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@stuff.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@stuff.co.nz)>

Sent: Sunday, July 11, 2021 5:00:59 PM

To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: Whale, Plimmerton

Hi all,

Apparently there is an orca stranded near Plimmerton. Do you have any details about this? I've been told you have been made aware of the situation and are helping...

[REDACTED]

--

[REDACTED] (he/him)
Arts and culture reporter

E [\[REDACTED\]@stuff.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@stuff.co.nz) | M [REDACTED]
Stuff Ltd, Level 7, Spark Central 42-52 Willis Street, Wellington, 6011, New Zealand

stuff  **THE DOMINION POST**

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, 11 July 2021 3:36 pm

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Fwd: 1News Enquiry - Orca Wellington

FYI

Marketing Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapātairanga
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland Office
Bledisloe House, 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1010
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After Hours Media Support: Phone: [+64 4 496 1911](tel:+6444961911) / media@doc.govt.nz

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, July 11, 2021 3:29:17 PM

To: Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Significant emails sent from [REDACTED] re orca between 11 and 24 July 2021

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 24 July 2021 8:54 am
To: Webteam [REDACTED]
>
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; Social Media <socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: DRAFT statement re Toa Saturday 24 July

Thank you, appreciate that.

Cheers [REDACTED]

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

On 24/07/2021 8:46 am, Webteam <HOWebTeam@doc.govt.nz> wrote:
Have updated: <https://www.doc.govt.nz/news/media-releases/2021-media-releases/orca-calf-toa-farewelled-with-dawn-ceremony/>

Was just in the first line.

Best,

[REDACTED]
Web Communications Advisor | Kaitohu Paetukutuku
Conservation House Wellington | Whare Kaupapa Atawhai
www.doc.govt.nz



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 24 July 2021 8:44 am
To: Webteam [REDACTED]
Cc: Webteam [REDACTED]; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; Social Media <socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: DRAFT statement re Toa Saturday 24 July

Can we please change "baby" to "calf"?

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

On 24/07/2021 8:34 am, Webteam [REDACTED] wrote:
Kia ora [REDACTED]

Media release published: <https://www.doc.govt.nz/news/media-releases/2021-media-releases/orca-calf-toa-farewelled-with-dawn-ceremony/>

Best,

[REDACTED]
Web Communications Advisor | Kaitohu Paetukutuku
Conservation House Wellington | Whare Kaupapa Atawhai
www.doc.govt.nz



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 24 July 2021 7:41 am
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; Webteam <[REDACTED]>; Social Media <socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: DRAFT statement re Toa Saturday 24 July

Thanks [REDACTED]
Have added footer to say Ian is available.
Sending to mailing list now.
Webteam please load asap.

Ngā mihi

[REDACTED]
Advisor Communications | Central North Island Region | *Kaitohutohu Whakapā*
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*
WHAKATANE



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Media release

24 July 2021

Orca calf Toa farewelled with dawn ceremony

Amid karakia and waiata, the baby orca known as Toa was farewelled by around 70 people at Plimmerton Boating Club at dawn this morning before being taken for burial by Ngāti Toa Rangatira.

Toa died in his sea pen last evening.

Department of Conservation (DOC) Marine Species Manager Ian Angus said the ceremony attended by Ngati Toa, members of the local community, volunteers and DOC staff, was respectful and moving.

No necropsy was performed.

Ian Angus said DOC thanks the many people who tried to save Toa and return him to his natal pod over the past 13 days.

“We wish to especially thank Gayle Carmichael of the Plimmerton Boating Club and all the members of the club, kaumatua and members of Ngāti Toa Rangatira and Dr Ingrid Visser and her team from Whale Rescue.”

Ian Angus said the number of people involved was staggering with local businesses contributing a wide range of support, veterinarians from Wellington Zoo and HUHA offering their services and a team of more than 40 international and national experts providing their advice over the past 11 days.

“It was not going to be easy to return Toa to his pod which could be anywhere around Aotearoa. It was our goal to return him to his natal pod, but sadly we were unsuccessful in achieving that objective.

“Nonetheless we can reflect on this and know this huge team of people gave it their best.”

Department of Conservation staff will now turn their attention to clearing the site and returning it to Plimmerton Boating Club.

ENDS

Ian Angus is available for interviews. Requests should be made through Media@doc.govt.nz

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 23 July 2021 9:37 pm
To: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: orca died

Should say "Orca calf" not baby Toa in headline?

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

On 23/07/2021 9:28 pm, Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz> wrote:
Reg happy but is just going to run this past Ngāti toa and Ingrid – stand by.

Baby Toa loses fight for survival

Despite a massive community effort to save the baby orca known as Toa, the abandoned calf has tonight died in the sea near Plimmerton Boating club.

The condition of the juvenile orca that stranded 13 days ago began to deteriorate about 5pm, sinking and remaining on the seabed.

Ian Angus says the many DOC staff, Orca Research Trust/Whale Rescue, local iwi Ngāti Toa Rangatira, and the local community threw everything at trying to save him.

"We were always aware that the longer he was in captivity, away from his mother, the more likely it was that his health would deteriorate.

"Toa passed quickly, surrounded by love with his last days made as comfortable as possible.

"Throughout this entire effort, we've all been united in wanting to do what's best for the orca. Finding and reuniting him with his pod was still our goal as we headed into the weekend.

It was always a long shot that we would be able to successfully reunite Toa with his pod. The odds were against us.

Nevertheless, this calf had captured hearts and no one wanted to believe that he didn't have a fighting chance despite the hand fate had dealt him.

We will continue to treat the calf with the dignity and respect he deserves. Appropriate arrangements are being made with local iwi.

We'd like to thank everyone who has volunteered their time and efforts to saving this orca calf and everyone who has followed his journey.

ENDS

Last Sunday (11 July), the orca calf was stranded on rocks near Plimmerton, north of Wellington. Less than 2.5m long, it is thought to be 2 to 6 months old.

The operation to care for the orca calf was led by DOC with support from Orca Research Trust/Whale Rescue Trust, local iwi Ngāti Toa Rangatira, and the local community.

From: Social Media <socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>

Sent: Friday, 23 July 2021 9:16 pm

To: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>; Social Media <socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]

<[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] <z>; Webteam <HOWebTeam@doc.govt.nz>

Cc: Reg Kemper <rkemper@doc.govt.nz>; Kirsty Prior <kprior@doc.govt.nz>; Elizabeth Heeg <eheeg@doc.govt.nz>; Kristopher Ramm <kramm@doc.govt.nz>; Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: orca died

Kia ora Bronwyn,

I'll get a post up ASAP.

Cheers,
[REDACTED]

From: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>

Sent: Friday, 23 July 2021 9:13 PM

To: Social Media <socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Webteam

Cc: Reg Kemper <rkemper@doc.govt.nz>; Kirsty Prior <kprior@doc.govt.nz>; Elizabeth Heeg <eheeg@doc.govt.nz>; Kristopher Ramm <kramm@doc.govt.nz>; Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: orca died

Hi team

The orca has died. I've got a draft release with Reg and the team for sign off but can social media start working up a post real quick. It has been announced on social media a few minutes ago.

Draft

Baby Toa loses fight for survival

Despite a massive community effort to save the baby orca known as Toa, the abandoned calf has tonight died in the sea near Pimmerton Boating club.

The condition of the juvenile orca that stranded 13 days ago began to deteriorate about 5pm, sinking and remaining on the seabed.

Ian Angus says the many DOC staff, Orca Research Trust/Whale Rescue, local iwi Ngāti Toa Rangatira, and the local community threw everything at trying to save him.

"We were always aware that the longer he was in captivity, away from his mother, the more likely it was that his health would deteriorate.

"Toa passed quickly, surrounded by love with his last days made as comfortable as possible.

“Throughout this entire effort, we’ve all been united in wanting to do what’s best for the orca. Finding and reuniting him with his pod was still our goal as we headed into the weekend.

It was always a long shot that we would be able to successfully reunite Toa with his pod. The odds were against us.

Nevertheless, this calf had captured hearts and no one wanted to believe that he didn’t have a fighting chance despite the hand fate had dealt him.

We will continue to treat the calf with the dignity and respect he deserves. Appropriate arrangements are being made with local iwi.

We’d like to thank everyone who has volunteered their time and efforts to saving this orca calf and everyone who has followed his journey.

ENDS

Last Sunday (11 July), the orca calf was stranded on rocks near Plimmerton, north of Wellington. Less than 2.5m long, it is thought to be 2 to 6 months old.

The operation to care for the orca calf was led by DOC with support from Orca Research Trust/Whale Rescue Trust, local iwi Ngāti Toa Rangatira, and the local community.

[Whale-Rescue.org](https://whale-rescue.org)

[4m](#) ·

We have to report that a little time ago Toa passed away, he rapidly deteriorated and vets on site rushed to his aid. But were unable to save him. We have no further details as to what happened as you can all imagine we are devastated. No more updates will be posted at this time.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 23 July 2021 3:27 pm
To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]; Social Media <socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
Subject: Plimmerton orca Q and A July 2021 updated - DOC-6727855

Kia ora,

Here's the latest version of the Q and A. It's had technical input today from [REDACTED] – Ian looked at it briefly yesterday.

This is to assist us with developing our messaging, but it is not to be shared as no decisions have been made yet.

Any final comms will still have to be approved at the appropriate level.

The link to the original is here: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] and this will be kept updated.

Cheers
[REDACTED]

18 July 2021

This version as at 23 July

Orca FAQ

1. Where has this orca calf come from?

This calf has come from one of the pods known to live around New Zealand's coastlines. It is estimated that there are between 100 and 200 individual orca in the New Zealand coastal population. Other populations of orca are known to pass through New Zealand waters, but we don't believe this calf is from one of those groups.

2. What do we know about this calf?

It is an infant calf 2.15 m long. Initial estimates were that it was between four and six months old, however advice from international experts, based on its length, lack of erupted teeth, and other factors, suggest it might be as young as two months old. Like most mammals of this age, baby orca are totally reliant on their mothers for sustenance and survival.

3. How long can it survive without its mother?

A calf this age depends on its mother for food and protection and would not survive at sea without its mother for more than a few weeks. Orca calves are weaned between 12 and 24 months old. Young male orca will stick with a pod for several years and once reaching sexual maturity they may stay, or leave to join another pod.

4. How are you keeping it alive without its mother?

Until recently the orca calf was fed via a tube – initially electrolytes to hydrate it, then a feed mixture to provide nutrition. Tube feeding can cause discomfort and this calf showed some signs of distress during the procedure.

The calf is now being bottle fed with a specially designed teat and apron – to mimic as close as possible an orca udder. It is being fed four litres every four hours of a special whale brew made by Wellington Zoo based on instructions from overseas experts in orca care, a mixture including milk and nutrients.

The orca has lacerations, and has been through a fair bit of trauma but is in a stable medical condition. Based on data provided by overseas experts, the mother orca may continue lactating for up to 30 days if it is not regularly feeding its young, but the actual time is unknown.

5. How long can you keep it alive for?

Unweaned orca calves have been known to survive for around 20 days without feeding – but any calf in that situation would be slowly starving to death. After more than 10 days of supported nutrition, vets have not noted any significant deterioration in the animal's welfare. This does not mean there isn't an undiagnosed issue, however. Vets are regularly checking the calf's condition and vital signs. Our focus is the welfare of this animal. We need to consider what is best for the calf and we don't want it to suffer unnecessarily.

6. What is colic and why did the orca calf get it?

Colic is in essence a form of unexplained distress, typically with vocalisations indicating the animal is upset. It is seen in human babies with crying and fussiness and it can be linked to unexplained distress around feeding. Because we cannot communicate with this calf we can't really explain what is happening, although we noticed that once the calf passed a bowel motion its distress seemed to ease, so we assume the pressure on his stomach eased too.

7. What's the plan?

The main objective continues to be on keeping the calf alive and reuniting it with its pod. If weather conditions allow, we will keep searching and are appealing for any sightings of orca pods, particularly around the North Island and Marlborough Sounds.

Significant planning is underway to return the calf, should the pod be found. DOC is currently working through a number of potential scenarios, alongside Ngāti Toa and the Orca Research Trust/Whale Rescue, and with input from national and international experts.

8. What are your chances of success?

It is a really long shot. The odds are against us - there's no worldwide precedent for an unweaned orca calf being taken into human care and later repatriated to a pod.

A fully weaned juvenile orca, known as Springer, was successfully taken into care and later reunited with its pod in the US/Canada some years ago but it was a different environment with a more mature orca capable of surviving on its own.

A factor for us to consider is the welfare of the orca calf and whether it is in its best interests for reunification to occur if it is suffering or the trip is going to cause extreme distress. We also cannot guarantee that his pod (or any other orca pod) would accept him back.

9. What are the chances of his pod coming back for him?

Evidence shows a pod will stick around when they know a member is stranded/in distress, but this is generally limited to a short duration of time, and it seems to help when the stranded animal can still vocalise underwater. This calf's mother stuck around for a short period of time after he stranded, but then departed. As he was no longer in

the water, it is likely she could not hear him vocalising. There is no reason to believe that his pod knows he is still alive, so they are unlikely to be searching for him and connecting the two will almost certainly depend upon humans making it happen.

There have been sightings of a pod which may be this calf's pod, but weather conditions mean these reports aren't fully verified and no orca have been encountered by search vessels or aircraft. We are continuing to appeal to the public to report any sightings.

10. How long will you keep searching before another option is implemented?

There are no hard timelines or dates. We are assessing the situation daily and updating approaches and plans accordingly. However international experts have advised us that the longer the calf goes without its pod, the less chance there is of a successful reunion.

11. Can it be rehomed somewhere? Surely there's somewhere in New Zealand able to take it?

There is no facility in New Zealand capable of receiving this animal – there isn't a tank or pool big enough. Orca are intelligent, social, curious and exploratory animals known to swim long distances. Even if there was a facility that could take it, we don't consider that this wouldn't be in the best interests of the animal.

12. How about constructing a bigger sea pen and keeping it there?

This is one of the options being considered but has its own challenges, in particular finding a suitable site and having appropriate operational support. This would be an experimental move as it has not been done before in New Zealand, nor anywhere else with a calf other than in a purpose-built facility. The orca calf would still require regular feeding and this would need to continue for the best part of a year, at which point the orca would need to be trained to hunt for its own food. Ultimately this is likely to create an orca that is dependent on humans for survival which is not a great long-term option and is not in the best interests of the animal.

13. What about sending it to another country to be rehomed eg SeaWorld?

This option has been ruled out. New Zealand has chosen not to hold marine mammals in captivity. A decision to relocate the orca to captivity anywhere would need very careful consideration including whether it's in the animal's interests.

14. Would you consider releasing it at sea on its own, if you can't find a suitable pod?

Experts say releasing the orca on its own would be cruel, given it's a calf and cannot feed or protect itself. DOC's view, confirmed by discussions at the technical advisory group, has ruled this out because of cultural/ethical/animal welfare reasons.

15. So will it have to be euthanised?

We are planning for a range of scenarios. Nothing has been ruled out at this stage including euthanasia if it is determined by the experts to be the most humane option in the best interests of the calf.

It is a very challenging and complex situation and we have to do what's best for the animal, no matter what the emotional consequences are for all of the people involved.

The calf's overall welfare is likely to have been declining since it was separated from its mother, as no amount of human intervention can replace his mother and her milk. While the calf is currently medically stable, it has suffered trauma and supplementary feeding may not be enough to keep it healthy. The effects of this experience on the calf's mental health are unknown.

The vet's report shows damage to the pectoral fins and tail fluke and it has been swimming mostly in one direction only. We are trying to keep it in as good health as we can – but it's not a long-term solution, and will likely not keep it alive indefinitely.

We have to plan for alternatives. Any decisions made will be made based on expert advice and the welfare of the animal.

16. What are the alternatives?

We are dealing with the unknown – best case is that we can find his pod and reunite the calf with its mother.

A possible alternative is to find an orca pod with a lactating female and hope that the calf would be accepted by that pod. Lactating female orcas have been known to 'adopt' calves, but there is a risk it would be rejected.

Other options may include relocating to a purpose build sea pen in calmer waters. This would be expensive, logistically complex and may not be in the calf's best interests. It would be a lonely captive experience where it would need to be hand-fed for many more months.

While we are doing all we can to save this orca, the reality is that it may be in its best interests to be euthanised if we cannot maintain its health and it cannot be returned to its pod.

17. Who will make the decision on what happens to this orca calf?

The Department of Conservation (DOC) administers the Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978 and accordingly is responsible for leading management of marine mammal stranding events. DOC consults and works closely with manawhenua iwi, Whale Rescue, Project Jonah and any other marine mammal rescue groups involved on the direction of rescues and decisions taken.

DOC's responsibilities include:

- Protecting the welfare of stranded animals
- Disposing of any dead marine mammals
- Ensuring the health and safety of staff, volunteers and the public
- Enabling research including the collection of scientific samples

The decision on the calf's future will be made by DOC's organisational lead (either DDG Biodiversity or LNI Regional Operations Director) at site, after consulting with Ngāti Toa, Whale Rescue, and with international and national orca experts.

We understand that the plight of this orca has touched many New Zealanders, especially those on the ground that have dedicated their time to helping to care for it. We know there's a huge emotional investment by the public, but we need to keep the interests of the animal at the forefront.

18. What is the operation costing?

We haven't done any calculations yet but a budget of \$50K has been established for DOC's operations to cover accommodation, gear, transport etc. This doesn't include staffing costs.

Iwi and Whale Rescue will have their own costs. Support from the community and business has been immense and welcome, with a special thanks to the Plimmerton Boating Club for donating the use of their facilities throughout this incident. A huge

thanks also to FENZ and their volunteer brigade who continue to make a massive contribution to helping on the site.

DOC staff numbers are constantly changing. We have a rotating shift of operational and technical staff supporting the operation.

19. Who is DOC working with to inform the decision making around this calf?

Our formal advisory group includes around 12 national and international vets and experts on stranding response, animal ethics and orca husbandry and care, including from Sea World, who have had a range of experience in raising neonatal orca. We are also closely working with iwi and veterinary experts are on site at all times, as well as a large number of other experts on a less formal basis.

20. How long do orca live for in the wild?

Orca in wild populations have been known to live for 60-80 years.

21. Why do the handlers have to wear masks?

There is a risk of cross-species disease transmission, so it's important to protect against any viruses, bacteria or illnesses being passed between humans and the orca.

22. DOC's usual practise is not to intervene in the lives and welfare of wild animals - why was this case different?

DOC regularly provides welfare and rescue support for injured or distressed wildlife. This case is no different in that we responded to the stranding of a very young orca calf. The Orca Research Trust was also involved. This is unique in that it is a baby orca that is still being weaned and it has now been supported for more than 11 days in an enclosed area which is New Zealand's longest marine mammal stranding response for an individual animal.

23. If another whale of this age was stranded in similar circumstances next month, would anything be done differently? Does this set a precedent for intervention?

It is impossible to say whether things would be done differently. We are learning from this current operation and there are no easy solutions. Our goal is to maintain the orca's health while we look to locate its pod and try to return the calf to its mother. Every stranding is different but the one thing that does remain the same, is that any decisions are made in the best interests of the stranded animal/s.

24. Have you thought about playing his vocalisations under water to attract the pod back?

We have explored the feasibility of this and there are logistical challenges and we would have to do it at quite a scale for it to be effective. We have opted to work through sightings and where we have good information do area specific searches by boat or plane.

25. How is DOC working with Ngāti Toa?

DOC has been working closely with Ngati Toa since the stranding. We have sought their advice on planning for different scenarios.

Reactive messages for various planning scenarios– no decisions have been made, just preparing in case.

Bigger sea pen somewhere

The current sea pen at Plimmerton Boat Club is too small in the long term for an orca calf. It is 3.5 m deep at high tide and only 1.5m deep at low tide.

Relocating the calf to a larger sea pen would be hugely experimental and go against New Zealand's policy of not keeping marine mammals in captivity.

The orca calf is estimated to be between two and six months old, and would require hand feeding for many months, potentially followed by training to hunt its own food.

There is a high chance that a hand-reared orca could never be successfully returned to the wild.

Advice from international marine mammal experts is that this would not be ethical nor would it be in the best interests of the animal.

Orca health declining

The condition of the juvenile orca stranded at Porirua has sadly begun to deteriorate and helpers are assessing the next steps.

Ian Angus, DOC's marine species manager says despite the best efforts of the many DOC staff, Orca Research Trust/Whale Rescue, local iwi Ngāti Toa Rangatira, and the local community, expert veterinary advice is that the orca's health is beginning to suffer.

"Throughout this entire effort, we've all been united in wanting to do what's best for the orca. Finding and reuniting him with his pod is still our goal, however our priority has always been the welfare of the orca. The longer he is in captivity, away from his mum, the more likely it is that his health will deteriorate.

"Unfortunately the orca is now beginning to exhibit signs of distress/health issues/welfare issues. The teams involved are now looking at some hard calls.

"Ultimately we need to do what's in the orca's best interests. We're working with experts from around the world to help inform the decision making on what the best course of action could be and we'll continue to monitor the situation."

On Thursday the orca was moved to a temporary pool due to increasingly bad weather making his care unsafe for the orca and the helpers.

The orca has been stranded since xx. The calf - estimated to be between two and six months old – was stranded on rocks near Plimmerton, north of Wellington. An ongoing operation to care for the orca calf is being led by DOC with support from Orca Research Trust/Whale Rescue, local iwi Ngāti Toa Rangatira, and the local community.

Euthanasia

The health of the orca calf stranded at Plimmerton has deteriorated and officials have made the difficult call to euthanise.

(DOC spokesperson) says despite the best efforts of the many DOC staff, Orca Research Trust/Whale Rescue, local iwi Ngāti Toa Rangatira, Wellington Zoo, HUHA and the local community, expert veterinary advice was that the orca had begun to suffer. "Despite every effort, including advice from experts around the world, the orca's health took a turn for the worst".

Although there have been two sightings we were unable to ascertain who they were and a release back to them would have prolonged his suffering.

We have had to make this heartbreaking decision with his health rapidly deteriorating, this was deemed to be the kindest action.

We will continue to treat the calf with the dignity and respect he deserves. Appropriate arrangements are being made with local iwi.

We'd like to thank everyone who has volunteered their time and efforts to saving this orca calf and everyone who has followed his journey.

The orca had been stranded since 11 July. The calf - estimated to be between two and six months old – was stranded on rocks near Plimmerton, north of Wellington.

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, 22 July 2021 7:46 pm

To: Social Media <socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]

Subject: orca back in sea pen

Hi team,

I sent through some photos and video of the orca back in the sea pen. He's back in there and swimming around. Volunteers are in there with him and will continue feeding and monitoring him overnight.

I've sent the same photos to [REDACTED] at TVNZ, Matthew Tso at Stuff and [REDACTED] at Newshub. [REDACTED] turned up on site and we didn't allow him access to the pen or to film, but did let them do interview with Ian.

Ian has gone home for a sleep. As have most of the IMT. Ingrid still on site. I'm about to leave now.

[REDACTED] is on site from 7.15am. There's a breakfast TV interview with Huha and Ian says he'll be in early too – so [REDACTED] can grab him for interviews or updates.

Signing off now.

Cheers

(cold and wet and hungry)

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 22 July 2021 7:41 pm
To: [REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz; [REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz;
[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Breakfast Interview Request

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Apologies for not getting back to you sooner. There's been quite a bit of action down here.

Yes we can confirm that DOC is happy with you doing an interview with Huha's vet tomorrow. Sorry I was caught up with media queries and activities on site.

My colleague [REDACTED] will be on site from 7.15. You can call him on [REDACTED] if you need further assistance.

Ngā mihi,

[REDACTED]
Team Lead National Communications | Kaimanatū Tuku Whakapā
Media and Communications Team, Wellington
Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai
18 - 32 Manners Street - Te Aro - Wellington - 6011

[REDACTED]
<http://www.doc.govt.nz/>

From: [REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz
Sent: Thursday, 22 July 2021 5:01 pm
To: [REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz; [REDACTED]
<[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz>; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Breakfast Interview Request

Hey [REDACTED] – any update?

Cheers

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 22 July 2021 3:01 PM
To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Breakfast Interview Request

Kia ora [REDACTED]

There are lots of moving parts at the moment and I haven't been able to pin down the managers to get an answer as they're busy dealing with the operational side of things. I'm still working on it for you and will contact you in the next couple of hours.

Ngā mihi,

[REDACTED]
Team Lead National Communications | Kaimanatū Tuku Whakapā
Media and Communications Team, Wellington
Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai
18 - 32 Manners Street - Te Aro - Wellington - 6011

[REDACTED]
<http://www.doc.govt.nz/>

From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>
Sent: Thursday, 22 July 2021 2:53 pm
To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Breakfast Interview Request

Hi team

Just wondering if there's any update on this?

[REDACTED]
From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>
Sent: Thursday, 22 July 2021 8:36 AM
To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Breakfast Interview Request

Thanks [REDACTED]

To answer your questions:

- Is 7.45 the time you'd like to go live? **Yes- this will be the time live on air interview should be done by around 0750**
- How early do you need to be at the site prior to going live, in order to set up? (That might also have an impact, on timing, just so we can make sure we've got someone to bring you onto site) **We usually like to be on site half and hour before so 0715, so we can be set up.**
- Is it just a camera person coming to site? **It will likely be a camera person plus a reporter so they can help the camera person with all the equipment. But we can just send a camera person if it makes the process easier**

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 22 July 2021 8:32 am
To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Breakfast Interview Request

Morena [REDACTED],

We'll work with the team to try and get something set up. I mentioned to [REDACTED] I'm not on the ground any more so you're likely to end up liaising with someone else.

Couple of questions that would help with logistics:

- Is 7.45 the time you'd like to go live?
- How early do you need to be at the site prior to going live, in order to set up? (That might also have an impact, on timing, just so we can make sure we've got someone to bring you onto site)
- Is it just a camera person coming to site?

Ngā mihi

[REDACTED]
Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapā, Lower North Island Region
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

[REDACTED]
Conservation House, 18 Manners Street, Wellington 6011

Kia piki te oranga o te ao tūroa, i roto i te ngātahitanga, ki Aotearoa.

To work with others to increase the value of conservation for New Zealanders.

www.doc.govt.nz

From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>
Sent: Thursday, 22 July 2021 8:19 am
To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>

[REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Breakfast Interview Request

Kia Ora [REDACTED]

Just wanted to renew this bid for tomorrow. We're keen to talk to HUHA on site on Friday morning and have pencilled in a 0745 slot so it's not too early.

If you can let us know whether this works for the team on site that'd be great. We can let our crew know early and make sure they're there for induction early for all health and safety.

Thanks
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 21 July 2021 4:58 pm
To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>
Subject: RE: Breakfast Interview Request

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Apologies for the delay getting back to you – I've just been talking to a few people on site, including [REDACTED] from HUHA.

Given the time now, we'd like to hold off on doing an interview on site until Friday morning, but someone in the team will be in touch with you tomorrow to tee this up. It's a bit unclear at this stage who from HUHA you'd interview with as there's a chance [REDACTED] will be heading down to support some work on the West Coast as early as tomorrow, but there will certainly be people around you can speak with!

Thanks again for your understanding while we try to manage all the media requests coming through, while also keeping things running for the care of the orca.

Ngā mihi
[REDACTED]

Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapā, Lower North Island Region
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*
[REDACTED]

Conservation House, 18 Manners Street, Wellington 6011

Kia piki te oranga o te ao tūroa, i roto i te ngātahitanga, ki Aotearoa.
To work with others to increase the value of conservation for New Zealanders.
www.doc.govt.nz

From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>

Sent: Wednesday, 21 July 2021 10:28 am

To: [REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz>

Subject: RE: Breakfast Interview Request

Thanks for Clarifying [REDACTED] We look forward to hearing about tomorrow morning.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 21 July 2021 8:55 AM
To: [REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz>; [REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz>; Media
<Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz>
Subject: RE: Breakfast Interview Request

Kia Ora [REDACTED]

Thanks for your email. We do appreciate your ongoing interest. The AM Show were simply ahead in the queue having been rescheduled for a number of days in a row. Because mornings are a very busy time for our people setting up for the day and planning, we are only able to commit to a limited number of interviews at that time – it's not about exclusive access at all, purely logistics. We are still looking to confirm a time for you tomorrow morning and hope to get back to you soon.

Thanks,

From: [REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 21 July 2021 8:50 am
To: [REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz>; [REDACTED]>; Media
<Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz>
Subject: RE: Breakfast Interview Request

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for helping us organise this request.

We just wanted to check in, as we saw DOC were able to provide an update on the welfare of Toa on The AM show this morning.

Can you please explain to me why we weren't given the same access, despite our request?

We have been following the plight of Toa closely, including very positive coverage of DOC's efforts so it seems unfair that DOC chose to effectively give an exclusive to another broadcaster.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Supervising Planning Producer- Breakfast



Follow us: Facebook | Twitter | YouTube

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 July 2021 12:30
To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>
Subject: RE: Breakfast Interview Request

Kia Ora Breakfast team,
Unfortunately we wont be able to help with this request tomorrow morning due to prior commitments, but feel free to check in again for Thursday, we may be able to set something up then – depending what’s happening on the day orca-wise of course!
Thanks,

From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>
Sent: Tuesday, 20 July 2021 12:11 pm
To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>
Subject: Re: Breakfast Interview Request

Hi [REDACTED] - Just looping in the afternoon team on this!

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 July 2021 10:50
To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Breakfast Interview Request

Hi [REDACTED]
Thanks for your email. I’ve passed on to the team to see what might be possible. We wont be able to accommodate any requests before 7.30am.
Will be in touch,
Thanks

From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>
Sent: Tuesday, 20 July 2021 10:36 am

To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Breakfast Interview Request

Kia ora,

We were hoping someone would be available to do an interview with us tomorrow morning about Toa.

It would be a 5-6-minute interview in our Wellington studio between 0700 and 0745.

We just want an update on Toa and what happens moving forward.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thanks,


Breakfast Producer





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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 22 July 2021 7:28 pm
To: Morningreport <Morningreport@rnz.co.nz>
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Morning Report interview request for tomorrow

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Sorry for not getting back to you sooner. You will appreciate that this has been a logistical exercise. I am not able to confirm an interview for you tonight as our spokesperson has been sent home for a well earned rest. But he'll be back on the job tomorrow. You're welcome to contact my colleague [REDACTED] who will be on site first thing and might be able to track down an update/interview for you then.

Ngā mihi,

[REDACTED]
Team Lead National Communications | Kaimanatū Tuku Whakapā
Media and Communications Team, Wellington
Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai
18 - 32 Manners Street - Te Aro - Wellington - 6011

[REDACTED]
<http://www.doc.govt.nz/>

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 22 July 2021 5:32 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Morning Report interview request for tomorrow

Are you able to help out with this one please?

Ngā mihi,

[REDACTED]
Eastern South Island Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapā
Christchurch | Ōtautahi

[REDACTED]
www.doc.govt.nz



From: Morningreport <Morningreport@rnz.co.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 22 July 2021 5:17 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Morning Report interview request for tomorrow

Hi [REDACTED]

Would someone be available to talk to Morning Report about this briefly tomorrow morning?

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 22 July 2021 5:06 p.m.
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] - Orca update – 5pm, 22 July 2021



Media release

22 July 2021

Orca update – 5pm, 22 July 2021

A decision has been made to move the orca calf being held at a temporary pool at Plimmerton Boating Club back into the sea pen.

Department of Conservation (DOC) Marine Species Manager Ian Angus says the orca calf's health has been assessed and vets have determined that it would be in its best interests to return it to a larger area.

“The calf has injuries to his pectoral fins and tail fluke and needs to stretch out in deeper water. It also has an issue with an inflamed eye which vets believe would respond better in salt water.”

The calf has also been more lethargic today and not vocalising as much as previously.

DOC has also been seeking assurances about water quality in the harbour before allowing people and the orca back into the sea.

“We are also keeping a close eye on the weather forecast but we are aiming to return the orca calf to the sea pen this evening. Because it is close to nightfall, we are keeping people at the site to a minimum required for health and safety reasons.”

The Plimmerton Boating Club site remains closed to the public to reduce stress for the orca calf.

“Again, we are in a dynamic and challenging situation for us to manage. Decisions are being made keeping the safety of people in mind, and the orca calf’s wellbeing and health is a priority.”

Ian Angus says we still need sightings of orca pods, preferably alongside photos or video if possible.

Any sightings of orca around the country should be reported to DOC HOT 0800 362 468 or via marinemammals@doc.govt.nz. We are particularly interested in pods in the North Island as we understand they are the most likely to be related to this calf. If the pod is in the lower North Island or Marlborough region this would give the best chance of successful reunification.

The focus is still to reunite the orca calf with its pod, which can be identified based on markings on the animals – which is why photo or video is so crucial.

This is Day 12 of the orca stranding response.

Last Sunday (11 July), the orca calf was stranded on rocks near Plimmerton, north of Wellington. An ongoing operation to care for the orca calf is being led by DOC with support from Orca Research Trust/Whale Rescue Trust, local iwi Ngāti Toa Rangatira, and the local community.

DOC, veterinarians, and Whale Rescue/Orca Research Trust are receiving regular advice from international orca experts and veterinarians – information proving vital as decisions are made.

–Ends–

Contacts

media@doc.govt.nz

Please note – not for publication: Due to health and safety in the weather conditions and as it draws dark, and to minimise disturbance for the orca calf while we carry out the move, we are minimising people on site. This means we will not be able to have media present, but we will be taking some footage and photos of the move with the intention to share as appropriate for media to use.

Ngā mihi,


Eastern South Island Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapā

Christchurch | Ōtautahi

www.doc.govt.nz



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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 22 July 2021 5:03 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Orca update 5pm 22 July

FYI

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 22 July 2021 4:58 pm
To: Webteam [REDACTED]; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; Social Media <socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: [REDACTED] Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
Subject: Orca update 5pm 22 July

Kia ora Webteam,

This morning's update is below and attached for uploading. It's been signed off by [REDACTED] and the team at site. There's a section at the bottom of the attached file that is a note for media and not for publication.

I'm about to send it out to media.



Media release

22 July 2021

Orca update – 5pm, 22 July 2021

A decision has been made to move the orca calf being held at a temporary pool at Plimmerton Boating Club back into the sea pen.

Department of Conservation (DOC) Marine Species Manager Ian Angus says the orca calf's health has been assessed and vets have determined that it would be in its best interests to return it to a larger area.

“The calf has injuries to his pectoral fins and tail fluke and needs to stretch out in deeper water. It also has an issue with an inflamed eye which vets believe would respond better in salt water.”

The calf has also been more lethargic today and not vocalising as much as previously.

DOC has also been seeking assurances about water quality in the harbour before allowing people and the orca back into the sea.

“We are also keeping a close eye on the weather forecast but we are aiming to return the orca calf to the sea pen this evening. Because it is close to night fall we are keeping people at the site to a minimum required for health and safety reasons.”

The Plimmerton Boating Club site remains closed to the public to reduce stress for the orca calf.

“Again, we are in a dynamic and challenging situation for us to manage. Decisions are being made keeping the safety of people in mind, and the orca calf’s wellbeing and health is a priority.”

Ian Angus says we still need sightings of orca pods, preferably alongside photos or video if possible.

Any sightings of orca around the country should be reported to DOC HOT 0800 362 468 or via marinemammals@doc.govt.nz. We are particularly interested in pods in the North Island as we understand they are the most likely to be related to this calf. If the pod is in the lower North Island or Marlborough region this would give the best chance of successful reunification.

The focus is still to reunite the orca calf with its pod, which can be identified based on markings on the animals – which is why photo or video is so crucial.

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DOC, veterinarians, and Whale Rescue/Orca Research Trust are receiving regular advice from international orca experts and veterinarians – information proving vital as decisions are made.

–Ends–

Contacts

media@doc.govt.nz

Ngā mihi,

[REDACTED]
Eastern South Island Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapā
Christchurch | Ōtautahi
[REDACTED]

www.doc.govt.nz



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 22 July 2021 4:52 pm
To: [REDACTED] Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>;
Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
Subject: media release updated

Small change highlighted from Ian. Approved our end, made the call not to get approval from Ingrid as she's busy with logistics, as are we.

Media release

22 July 2021

Orca update – 5pm, 22 July 2021

A decision has been made to move the orca calf being held at a temporary pool at Plimmerton Boating Club back into the sea pen.

Department of Conservation (DOC) Marine Species Manager Ian Angus says the orca calf's health has been assessed and vets have determined that it would be in its best interests to return it to a larger area.

“The calf has injuries to his pectoral fins and tail fluke and needs to stretch out in deeper water. It also has an issue with an inflamed eye which vets believe would respond better in salt water.”

The calf has also been more lethargic today and not vocalising as much as previously.

DOC has also been seeking assurances about water quality in the harbour before allowing people and the orca back into the sea.

“We are also keeping a close eye on the weather forecast but we are aiming to return the orca calf to the sea pen this evening. Because it is close to night fall we are keeping people at the site to a minimum required for health and safety reasons.”

The Plimmerton Boating Club site remains closed to the public to reduce stress for the orca calf.

“Again, we are in a dynamic and challenging situation for us to manage. Decisions are being made keeping the safety of people in mind, and the orca calf's wellbeing and health is a priority.”

Ian Angus says we still need sightings of orca pods, preferably alongside photos or video if possible.

Any sightings of orca around the country should be reported to DOC HOT 0800 362 468 or via marinemammals@doc.govt.nz. We are particularly interested in pods in the North Island as we understand they are the most likely to be related to this calf. If

the pod is in the lower North Island or Marlborough region this would give the best chance of successful reunification.

The focus is still to reunite the orca calf with its pod, which can be identified based on markings on the animals – which is why photo or video is so crucial.

This is Day 12 of the orca stranding response.

Last Sunday (11 July), the orca calf was stranded on rocks near Plimmerton, north of Wellington. An ongoing operation to care for the orca calf is being led by DOC with support from Orca Research Trust/Whale Rescue Trust, local iwi Ngāti Toa Rangatira, and the local community.

DOC, veterinarians, and Whale Rescue/Orca Research Trust are receiving regular advice from international orca experts and veterinarians – information proving vital as decisions are made.

–Ends–

Contacts

media@doc.govt.nz

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 22 July 2021 4:47 pm
To: [REDACTED] Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>;
[REDACTED]
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Draft orca update - 5pm, July 22
Importance: High

I think that's good [REDACTED] – can you add this highlighted line to bottom of media release under not for publication? Aiming to do this move within the hour – all systems go.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 22 July 2021 4:39 pm
To: [REDACTED] Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Draft orca update - 5pm, July 22

Do we want to flick a quick note to any media and let them know the move is happening but, given health and safety in the weather conditions and as it draws dark, and to minimise disturbance for the orca calf while we carry out the move, we are minimising people on site. This means we will not be able to have media present, but we will be taking some footage and photos of the move with the intention to share as appropriate for media to use.

If you think this will just complicate things though, all good.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 22 July 2021 4:28 pm
To: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Draft orca update - 5pm, July 22
Importance: High

They've just decided to stick him in the sea pen. I'll tweak and come back to you

From: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 22 July 2021 4:21 pm
To: [REDACTED] Media
<Media@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Draft orca update - 5pm, July 22

Looks good [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 22 July 2021 4:20 pm
To: [REDACTED] Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Cc: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: Draft orca update - 5pm, July 22

Kia ora, draft update attached and below for sign-off.



22 July 2021

Orca update – 5pm, 22 July 2021

Water conditions and the health of the orca calf will determine if it can be moved from the temporary pool at Plimmerton Boating Club back into the sea pen.

Department of Conservation (DOC) Marine Species Manager Ian Angus says the orca calf's health is being assessed to see whether it would be stable enough for the move, which can be stressful for the animal.

He says the water quality in the harbour is being checked after the recent flooding, which may have washed contaminants into the water, to make sure it is safe for the people that would be in there caring for the orca calf. More rain is forecast in the coming days.

“We are also keeping a close eye on the weather forecast but at this stage, we envision it would be suitable for the orca calf to be returned to a sea pen.

“This is a dynamic and challenging situation for us to manage. Decisions are being made with the orca calf's wellbeing and health, and the safety of the people involved caring for him, as a priority.”

Ian Angus says we still need sightings of orca pods, preferably alongside photos or video if possible.

Any sightings of orca around the country should be reported to DOC HOT 0800 362 468 or via marinemammals@doc.govt.nz. If the pod is in the lower North Island or Marlborough region this would give the best chance of successful reunification.

The focus is still to reunite the orca calf with its pod, which can be identified based on markings on the animals – which is why photo or video is so crucial.

The orca has now been in care for 11 days.

The Plimmerton Boating Club site remains closed to the public to reduce stress for the orca calf.

Last Sunday (11 July), the orca calf was stranded on rocks near Plimmerton, north of Wellington. An ongoing operation to care for the orca calf is being led by DOC with

support from Orca Research Trust/Whale Rescue Trust, local iwi Ngāti Toa Rangatira, and the local community.

DOC, veterinarians, and Whale Rescue/Orca Research Trust are receiving regular advice from international orca experts and veterinarians – information proving vital as decisions are made.

–Ends–

Contacts

media@doc.govt.nz

Editor's note: If the orca calf is to be moved to the sea pen, we will endeavour to provide media advanced warning if possible.

Ngā mihi,

[Redacted]

Eastern South Island Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapā
Christchurch | Ōtautahi

[Redacted]

www.doc.govt.nz



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 22 July 2021 4:45 pm
To: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: rewritten media release
Importance: High

Hi team,

Kirsty has looked at this and given her OK. I've sent it to Ingrid's comms person ([REDACTED]) as an FYI – as we don't have much turnaround time.

Cheers



Media release

22 July 2021

Orca update – 5pm, 22 July 2021

A decision has been made to move the orca calf being held at a temporary pool at Plimmerton Boating Club back into the sea pen.

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DOC has also been seeking assurances about water quality in the harbour before allowing people and the orca back into the sea.

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The focus is still to reunite the orca calf with its pod, which can be identified based on markings on the animals – which is why photo or video is so crucial.

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DOC, veterinarians, and Whale Rescue/Orca Research Trust are receiving regular advice from international orca experts and veterinarians – information proving vital as decisions are made.

–Ends–

Contacts

media@doc.govt.nz

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 22 July 2021 4:44 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: media update 5pm

Kia ora [REDACTED]

We are planning to send this out shortly – just need to get sign off my end. I don't have much time to get it turned around.

Cheers

[REDACTED]

Ngā mihi,

[REDACTED]

Team Lead National Communications | Kaimanatū Tuku Whakapā
Media and Communications Team, Wellington
Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai
18 - 32 Manners Street - Te Aro - Wellington - 6011

[REDACTED]

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/>



Document4.docx

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 22 July 2021 4:28 pm
To: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Draft orca update - 5pm, July 22
Importance: High

They've just decided to stick him in the sea pen. I'll tweak and come back to you

From: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 22 July 2021 4:21 pm
To: [REDACTED] Media
<Media@doc.govt.nz>

Cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Draft orca update - 5pm, July 22

Looks good [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 22 July 2021 4:20 pm
To: [REDACTED] Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: Draft orca update - 5pm, July 22

Kia ora, draft update attached and below for sign-off.



22 July 2021

Orca update – 5pm, 22 July 2021

Water conditions and the health of the orca calf will determine if it can be moved from the temporary pool at Plimmerton Boating Club back into the sea pen.

Department of Conservation (DOC) Marine Species Manager Ian Angus says the orca calf's health is being assessed to see whether it would be stable enough for the move, which can be stressful for the animal.

He says the water quality in the harbour is being checked after the recent flooding, which may have washed contaminants into the water, to make sure it is safe for the people that would be in there caring for the orca calf. More rain is forecast in the coming days.

“We are also keeping a close eye on the weather forecast but at this stage, we envision it would be suitable for the orca calf to be returned to a sea pen.

“This is a dynamic and challenging situation for us to manage. Decisions are being made with the orca calf’s wellbeing and health, and the safety of the people involved caring for him, as a priority.”

Ian Angus says we still need sightings of orca pods, preferably alongside photos or video if possible.

Any sightings of orca around the country should be reported to DOC HOT 0800 362 468 or via marinemammals@doc.govt.nz. If the pod is in the lower North Island or Marlborough region this would give the best chance of successful reunification.

The focus is still to reunite the orca calf with its pod, which can be identified based on markings on the animals – which is why photo or video is so crucial.

The orca has now been in care for 11 days.

The Plimmerton Boating Club site remains closed to the public to reduce stress for the orca calf.

Last Sunday (11 July), the orca calf was stranded on rocks near Plimmerton, north of Wellington. An ongoing operation to care for the orca calf is being led by DOC with support from Orca Research Trust/Whale Rescue Trust, local iwi Ngāti Toa Rangatira, and the local community.

DOC, veterinarians, and Whale Rescue/Orca Research Trust are receiving regular advice from international orca experts and veterinarians – information proving vital as decisions are made.

–Ends–

Contacts

media@doc.govt.nz

Editor’s note: If the orca calf is to be moved to the sea pen, we will endeavour to provide media advanced warning if possible.

Ngā mihi,



Eastern South Island Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapā

Christchurch | Ōtautahi



www.doc.govt.nz



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 22 July 2021 4:03 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: update for this afternoon

Sorry. Seeking clarification on water quality after recent flooding and also of forecasts for more heavy rain

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 22 July 2021 4:02 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: update for this afternoon

Is a bullet point missing? The top one starts with "we are seeking clarification on that" but I'm not sure what "that" is referring to sorry.

Ngā mihi,

[REDACTED]
Eastern South Island Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapā
Christchurch | Ōtautahi

www.doc.govt.nz



From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, 22 July 2021 3:33 pm
To: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
Subject: update for this afternoon

Here's a starter for 10.

- We are seeking clarification on that and assessing if it's safe to return people to the water in parallel we are assessing the health of the orca calf to see whether it is stable enough to be moved to the sea pen.
- We are also having to keep an eye on the weather forecast but we envisage the weather would be suitable to return.
- As you can see it's a very dynamic, challenging situation for us again.
- Making decisions on safety of people and wellbeing of the orca.
- Need sightings of orca pods, particularly in North Island and Marlborough Sounds- send us photos and video so we can verify whether it's this calf's pod.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 22 July 2021 2:10 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: update from DOC on orca calf

Thanks [REDACTED]. Our team is still trying to clarify the situation with the water quality with the council. I'll let you know. I haven't had a query from Newstalk ZB about that yet – only indirectly through Ian.

Do you know who the film camera crew belong to? I asked them and they said they were with Ingrid, but not sure who they are filming for.

Cheers

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 22 July 2021 2:06 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: update from DOC on orca calf

Kia ora

Thanks for your email. Ian asked me to check in with you. He has a question from Newstalk re the water quality in the bay...seems there is a question mark around whether the water quality is up to standard....apparently council is saying there is still a no swim zone? I believe he is going to check into that and asked me to liaise with you. Would you please get back to me if you hear anything. Happy to look at media responses but will be running them past Ingrid or [REDACTED] prior to getting back to you. Important that people commenting are kept to a minimum....you understand I'm sure.

[REDACTED]

On Thursday, July 22, 2021, [REDACTED] wrote:

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Here's the media update as promised. Would you please share your updates with us too? Best address is to email media@doc.govt.nz as the on duty person (and me) will get to see it.

I also have a couple of media responses I'd like to run past you.

Many thanks,

Ngā mihi,

[REDACTED]
Team Lead National Communications | Kaimanatū Tuku Whakapā

Media and Communications Team, Wellington
Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai
[18 - 32 Manners Street - Te Aro - Wellington - 6011](https://www.doc.govt.nz/)

[REDACTED]
<http://www.doc.govt.nz/>



Media release

22 July 2021

Orca update – 10.30am, Thursday 22 July 2021

There was no change overnight for the orca calf at Plimmerton Boating Club, with the next steps to be determined by the weather forecast.

Department of Conservation (DOC) Marine Species Manager Ian Angus says the orca calf fed and rested well overnight and remains stable.

“We are looking at the feeding regime to make sure the orca calf is getting the right food and consulting with international orca experts about the species’ nutritional needs.”

He says the orca calf’s welfare is assessed daily with decisions being made based on what is best for the animal. A range of scenarios are being planned for.

“Whether the orca calf will remain in the temporary pool or move back to a sea pen today will be determined after a detailed assessment of the weather forecast.”

Any sightings of orca around the country should be reported to DOC HOT 0800 362 468 or via marinemammals@doc.govt.nz. If the pod is in the lower North Island or Marlborough region this would give the best chance of successful reunification.

“We remain focused on trying to find the specific pod the orca calf has come from. This can be verified based on markings on the orca, so any photos or video that people can provide alongside reported sightings are extremely helpful.”

A DOC boat is out on the water, but as New Zealand orca pods have been recorded moving up to 160km a day, reported sightings from boaties and the public remain valuable as it provides the information needed to do a detailed search.

Ian Angus says reported sightings are being actively gathered and validated before a decision is made whether to investigate further. Boats or planes are being used to investigate where possible.

The Plimmerton Boating Club site remains closed to the public to reduce stress for the orca calf.

Last Sunday (11 July), the orca calf was stranded on rocks near Plimmerton, north of Wellington. An ongoing operation to care for the orca calf is being led by DOC with support from Orca Research Trust/Whale Rescue Trust, local iwi Ngāti Toa Rangatira, and the local community.

DOC, veterinarians, and Whale Rescue/Orca Research Trust are receiving regular advice from international orca experts and veterinarians – information proving vital as decisions are made.

–Ends–

Contacts

media@doc.govt.nz

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copies of the message and attachments. We apologise for the inconvenience. Thank you.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 22 July 2021 1:19 pm
To: Social Media <socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: orca spotting

Hi team,

Can we please clarify on social media posts that we're asking for sightings of orca pods anywhere in the North Island and the Marlborough Sounds? Any sightings over the past few days and into the future are useful.

Hope to have updated information later this afternoon about whether the orca is being moved to the sea pen, but not confirmed yet.

Cheers

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 22 July 2021 11:31 am
To: [REDACTED]@taxpayers.org.nz; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Preparations for funeral - request for comment

Kia ora [REDACTED]

I've checked with the incident team here and no plans have been made for a funeral. We are working with Ngāti Toa as we work through a range of scenarios but at the moment our goal remains on reuniting the orca calf with the pod.

Ngā mihi,

[REDACTED]
Team Lead National Communications | Kaimanatū Tuku Whakapā Media and Communications
Team, Wellington Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai
18 - 32 Manners Street - Te Aro - Wellington - 6011

[REDACTED]
<http://www.doc.govt.nz/>

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 22 July 2021 10:55 am
To: [REDACTED]@taxpayers.org.nz; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Preparations for funeral - request for comment

Kia ora [REDACTED]

I'll come back to you shortly with a response.

Ngā mihi,

[REDACTED]
Team Lead National Communications | Kaimanatū Tuku Whakapā Media and Communications
Team, Wellington Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai
18 - 32 Manners Street - Te Aro - Wellington - 6011

[REDACTED]
<http://www.doc.govt.nz/>

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]@taxpayers.org.nz>

Sent: Thursday, 22 July 2021 10:46 am

To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: Preparations for funeral - request for comment

Hi there,

I'm writing a story on the likely costs of this poor orca whale you have in a para rubber pool in Wellington.

What preparations are being made for suitable funeral? Please provide details, or options being considered (including whether the option of not having a funeral or similar event).

My deadline is 5pm today.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 22 July 2021 11:26 am
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FYI - media response to TVNZ

Kia ora,

Here's a response we've provided to TVNZ.

[REDACTED] TVNZ – deadline midday

As the situation has evolved, has DOC received advice that focusing on finding the specific pod the orca calf has come from is best for the orca rather than equally pursuing a pod with a lactating mother? Is another pod with a lactating mother still part of the scenario planning?

Yes pursuing another pod with a lactating female is still part of the scenario planning, however advice from international experts tells us it is not certain whether this would be successful. We need to assess whether this would be in the best interests of the orca calf.

Does DOC have any concerns about the conduct of Whale Rescue volunteers both at the scene in Plimmerton and on social media?

No. We are working well as a collaborative effort to care for a wild animal in an unusual and complex situation.

1 News has seen a comment on the Whale Rescue Facebook page that advises a professor that has provided advice to DOC on the orca situation should be ignored and discredits her qualifications.

Does DOC have any concerns about comments like this fuelling public emotional investment in the future of the orca, and this making scenario planning and decision making more difficult?

This is a complex and unique situation and there will always be divergent views on what's in the best interests of this orca calf. We understand that and we have made best effort to listen to those different views so that we understand them. We consider we have the right expertise and experience of handling these situations. We will always make decisions that we consider are right for this animal in this situation.

Does DOC have any message for the public on this subject?

We need people to understand that this is a young wild animal that is now been out of its natural environment for the last 12 days. It's far from ideal. It's great to see how many people are interested and following the orca and efforts to reunite it into its pod, and having people prepared to assist us in this effort. We are doing our best to reunite calf with its pod but we have to realistic that we might have to make some hard decisions. We will always have the health and welfare of the orca at the forefront of any decision making .

Ngā mihi,

[REDACTED]
Team Lead National Communications | Kaimanatū Tuku Whakapā
Media and Communications Team, Wellington
Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai

18 - 32 Manners Street - Te Aro - Wellington - 6011



<http://www.doc.govt.nz/>

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 22 July 2021 11:24 am
To: [REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: 1 News media inquiry on Plimmerton orca

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Here's a response you can attribute to Ian Angus, DOC's Manager Marine Species.

As the situation has evolved, has DOC received advice that focusing on finding the specific pod the orca calf has come from is best for the orca rather than equally pursuing a pod with a lactating mother? Is another pod with a lactating mother still part of the scenario planning?

Yes pursuing another pod with a lactating female is still part of the scenario planning, however advice from international experts tells us it is not certain whether this would be successful. We need to assess whether this would be in the best interests of the orca calf.

Does DOC have any concerns about the conduct of Whale Rescue volunteers both at the scene in Plimmerton and on social media?

No. We are working well as a collaborative effort to care for a wild animal in an unusual and complex situation.

1 News has seen a comment on the Whale Rescue Facebook page that advises a professor that has provided advice to DOC on the orca situation should be ignored and discredits her qualifications.

Does DOC have any concerns about comments like this fuelling public emotional investment in the future of the orca, and this making scenario planning and decision making more difficult?

This is a complex and unique situation and there will always be divergent views on what's in the best interests of this orca calf. We understand that and we have made best effort to listen to those different views so that we understand them. We consider we have the right expertise and experience of handling these situations. We will always make decisions that we consider are right for this animal in this situation.

Does DOC have any message for the public on this subject?

We need people to understand that this is a young wild animal that is now been out of its natural environment for the last 12 days. It's far from ideal. It's great to see how many people are interested and following the orca and efforts to reunite it into its pod, and having people prepared to assist us in this effort. We are doing our best to reunite calf with its pod but we have to realistic that we might have to make some hard decisions. We will always have the health and welfare of the orca at the forefront of any decision making .

Ngā mihi,

[REDACTED]
Team Lead National Communications | Kaimanatū Tuku Whakapā
Media and Communications Team, Wellington
Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai

18 - 32 Manners Street - Te Aro - Wellington - 6011

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/>

From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>

Sent: Thursday, 22 July 2021 10:27 am

To: [REDACTED] Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: 1 News media inquiry on Plimmerton orca

Kia ora [REDACTED] thank you very much.

Ngā mihi nui,

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 22 July 2021 10:24 AM

To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>; [REDACTED] Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: 1 News media inquiry on Plimmerton orca

Kia ora [REDACTED]

I'm working on getting a response to you by your deadline.

Ngā mihi,

[REDACTED]
Team Lead National Communications | Kaimanatū Tuku Whakapā
Media and Communications Team, Wellington
Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai
18 - 32 Manners Street - Te Aro - Wellington - 6011

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/>

From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>

Sent: Thursday, 22 July 2021 10:23 am

To: [REDACTED] Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: 1 News media inquiry on Plimmerton orca

Kia ora DOC media team,

Can I please receive acknowledgement this media request was received.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 21 July 2021 5:43 PM
To: [REDACTED] Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: 1 News media inquiry on Plimmerton orca

Hi [REDACTED]

I have a media request that I would appreciate a response to by 12pm tomorrow please.

As the situation has evolved, has DOC received advice that focusing on finding the specific pod the orca calf has come from is best for the orca rather than equally pursuing a pod with a lactating mother? Is another pod with a lactating mother still part of the scenario planning?

Does DOC have any concerns about the conduct of Whale Rescue volunteers both at the scene in Plimmerton and on social media?

1 News has seen a comment on the Whale Rescue Facebook page that advises a professor that has provided advice to DOC on the orca situation should be ignored and discredits her qualifications. Does DOC have any concerns about comments like this fuelling public emotional investment in the future of the orca, and this making scenario planning and decision making more difficult?

Does DOC have any message for the public on this subject?

Thank you very much.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

1 News

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>
Sent: Wednesday, 21 July 2021 5:05 PM
To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>
Subject: FW: Stranded Juvenile Orca Update 21 July Afternoon

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 21 July 2021 5:03 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Stranded Juvenile Orca Update 21 July Afternoon

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of TVNZ. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Attached and below, please find the most recent update about the orca calf .

Date: 21 July 2021 - 4.15pm

The predicted persistence of poor weather has meant that there will be no change for the orca calf being cared for at Plimmerton Boating Club and it is likely to remain in the temporary pool for at least another day. The young orca has now been in our care for 10 days.

The Department of Conservation (DOC) Marine Species Manager, Ian Angus, says the veterinarians have done their regular health assessments and some of the previous health issues are no longer a cause for concern.

“While the calf remains in the temporary pool, people are reminded that the welfare of the calf is uppermost, and the public are advised to stay away so that staff and volunteers can focus on looking after the calf. Weather conditions are continually being reassessed,” Ian Angus says.

“We want to minimise the potential for stress for the calf and with poor weather predicted until at least Friday, we have to be disciplined in our approach to managing the calf,” he says.

Any sightings of orca around the country should be reported to DOC HOT 0800 362 468 or via marinemammals@doc.govt.nz. If the pod is in the lower north island or Marlborough region, this would give the best chance of successful reunification.

“Our focus now is on finding the specific pod the orca calf has come from. We will try to verify the pod based on the markings of the orca, so any photographs people can provide with reported sightings will help immensely.

“We are still planning for a range of scenarios. While the orca’s health is still stable, we are also being realistic as we consider the ongoing welfare of this animal – that has to be our number one concern.”

Veterinarians are onsite day and night and continue to carry out health checks on the animal.

The site remains closed to the public to reduce stress for the orca calf.

Last Sunday (11 July), the orca calf was stranded on rocks near Plimmerton, north of Wellington. An ongoing operation to care for the orca calf is being led by DOC with support from Orca Research Trust/Whale Rescue Trust, local iwi Ngāti Toa Rangatira, and the local community.

DOC, veterinarians, and Whale Rescue/Orca Research Trust are receiving regular advice from international orca experts and veterinarians – information proving vital as decisions are made.

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 22 July 2021 10:53 am
To: [REDACTED] Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: morning orca update

Here you go [REDACTED]

There were a few deletions so please copy and paste this version. Approved by Kirsty Prior (and Ian and Ingrid).

Orca update – 10.30am, Thursday 22 July 2021

There was no change overnight for the orca calf at Plimmerton Boating Club, with the next steps to be determined by the weather forecast.

Department of Conservation (DOC) Marine Species Manager Ian Angus says the orca calf fed and rested well overnight and remains stable

“We are looking at the feeding regime to make sure the orca calf is getting the right food and consulting with international orca experts about the species nutritional needs.”

He says the orca calf’s welfare is assessed daily with decisions being made based on what is best for the animal. A range of scenarios are being planned for.

“Whether the orca calf will remain in the temporary pool or move back to a sea pen today will be determined after a detailed assessment of the weather forecast.”

Any sightings of orca around the country should be reported to DOC HOT 0800 362 468 or via marinemammals@doc.govt.nz. If the pod is in the lower North Island or Marlborough region this would give the best chance of successful reunification.

“We remain focused on trying to find the specific pod the orca calf has come from. This can be verified based on markings on the orca, so any photos or video that people can provide alongside reported sightings are extremely helpful.”

A DOC boat is out on the water, but as New Zealand orca pods have been recorded moving up to 160km a day, reported sightings from boaties and the public remain valuable as it provides the information needed to do a detailed search.

Ian Angus says reported sightings are being actively gathered and validated before a decision is made whether to investigate further. Boats or planes are being used to investigate where possible.

The Plimmerton Boating Club site remains closed to the public to reduce stress for the orca calf.

Last Sunday (11 July), the orca calf was stranded on rocks near Plimmerton, north of Wellington. An ongoing operation to care for the orca calf is being led by DOC with support from Orca Research Trust/Whale Rescue Trust, local iwi Ngāti Toa Rangatira, and the local community.

DOC, veterinarians, and Whale Rescue/Orca Research Trust are receiving regular advice from international orca experts and veterinarians – information proving vital as decisions are made.

–Ends–

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, 22 July 2021 9:30 am

To: [REDACTED] Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]

Subject: notes for update

Hi [REDACTED] some notes for a media update.

- Feeding well overnight
- This morning orca is doing well
- Focus is on finding the pod and trying to reunite the orca with it
- Consulting international orca experts on nutritional needs of the orca
- Orca had another good night feeding and resting, vet assessment is being done this morning indications orca is stable. Looking at the feeding regime make sure he's getting right food and not reacting to it.
- Having a look at the weather forecast to determine next steps.
- Have a DOC boat out there, At this point orca are recorded as moving up to 160km per day, at day 12 orca pod could be far from wellington. Still reliant on broad area, reports from boaties and public is absolutely valuable as gives us more info to do a more detailed search. Actively gathering sightings and validate them, make a decision whether to investigate in more detail. Where we can will send out boats or planes to investigate further.
- Every day the welfare of the animal is assessed and every day make a decision on what's best for the animal.
- Keep people sending in information, any imagery (photos or video) that can help us assess if it's the pod this animal comes from.

If you can draft up a media release I'll get it signed off here.

Cheers

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 8:29 am
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Vet visit to the orca

Awesome, thanks [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 8:28 am
To: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] Ian Angus
<iangus@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED] Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Social Media
<socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Vet visit to the orca

All done – sent to social media inbox.

[REDACTED]
Communication Advisor – Hauraki, Waikato, Taranaki
Department of Conservation
Regional Office
Rostrevor St
Hamilton
[REDACTED]



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 8:19 am
To: [REDACTED] Ian Angus
<iangus@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED] Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Social Media
<socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Vet visit to the orca

Thanks [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] can you please turn that into a social media post for [REDACTED] to update Facebook asap.

██████████ will take over direct comms with the CIMS team and ██████████ will monitor media inbox. ██████████ please refer orca queries to ██████████. (Thanks for all the last minute request night!).

Let's aim for a comms catchup around 10am (me, ██████████ Bronwyn, ██████████). I'll send an appointment.

Cheers
██████████

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

On 13/07/2021 8:13 am, ██████████ wrote:
The calf picked up over night after receiving the fluids from the vets however it started to become less active by the morning. The vet is back there now administering more fluids and showing the vet and experienced Whale Rescue team member how it is done.

The DOC boat Mataara II is out on the water now. We will assess this morning the next steps in terms of search options. Maritime Radio have recommenced calls out to boats to keep an eye out for the pod.

NO results yet on the bloods and swabs taken last night

From: ██████████
Sent: Tuesday, 13 July 2021 7:39 am
To: ██████████ Ian Angus
<iangus@doc.govt.nz>; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; ██████████
██████████; Social Media
<socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Vet visit to the orca

Thanks ██████████. Media will be happy till 8am because of Ian's interviews but will want an update after that, so thanks for keeping us updated.

Cheers ██████████

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

On 13/07/2021 7:34 am, ██████████ wrote:
Spoke with ██████████ DOC Ranger who is at site. I will contact him at 8am for an update on the calf.

From: Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 9:19 pm
To: ██████████
Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; ██████████
██████████ Social Media
<socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>

Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@wellingtonzoo.com>

Subject: RE: Vet visit to the orca

Thanks folks. Started responding to some of the media interviews. Questions have focused on plan and when might we stop with the effort. Im sticking to plan is rehabilitate calf as best we can and relocate into pod if can locate. Stayed on that message.

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

On 12/07/2021 9:00 pm, [REDACTED] wrote:
Thanks [REDACTED]. Just adding some names to the content below. I have copied [REDACTED] from the Zoo who is responsible for communications.

[REDACTED] is the Wellington Zoo Senior Vet based at The Nest Te Kōhanga hospital along with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] also from the Zoo, assisting.

[REDACTED] will provide an update to us if they have any results back tomorrow.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 8:32 pm
To: [REDACTED]; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]; Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; Social Media <socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Vet visit to the orca

Evening update provided by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]:

The vet took bloods and zoo will process and also send to lab.
Noted deep abrasions on the tail and they have administered lasting antibiotics partly due to this and partly as general precaution.
They have taken nasal/blowhole swab.
Orally administered fluids.
Treatment suggested by [REDACTED] and agreed by Ingrid.
Zoo will return 7:30 am tomorrow to show experienced whale rescue staff and vets how to administer oral fluids. Fluids to be repeated 4x daily.
[REDACTED] lead zoo vet.

Calf tends one side, often lying on its side. May be due to stiff pectoral fin from being on a trailer or other causes. Will need to recover from this for release to be viable. It can swim freely, though not well, and vocalists.

Vet recommend minimal disturbance from people and dogs, as well as PPE for people working close with calf to prevent zoonotic diseases. Gloves and face masks needed.

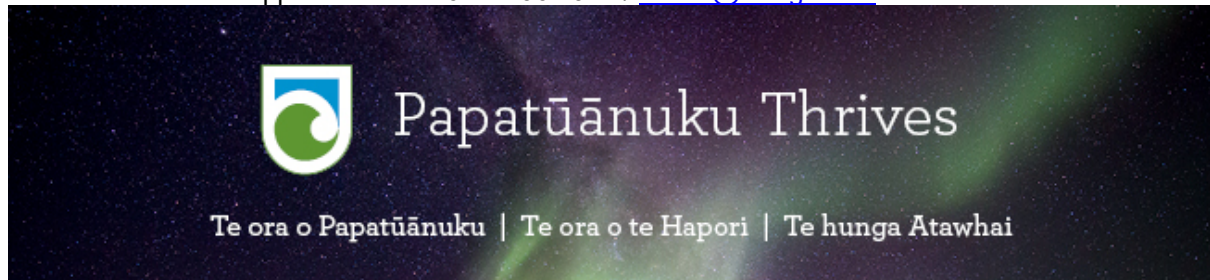
Calf will be in water overnight with people taking turns watching over it. Wetsuit 5mm or drysuit required. 1hour shifts.

I will provide social with an image shared by [REDACTED]

Ngā mihi nui,

Marketing Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapātairanga
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland Office
Bledisloe House, 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1010
Conservation leadership for our nature/*Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa*
After Hours Media Support: Phone: +64 4 496 1911 / media@doc.govt.nz



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 5:43 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]; Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
Subject: Vet visit to the orca

Re Media update for the evening newsroom:

The vets have arrived on site at 530pm..

Once [REDACTED], Vet, has provided fluids and assessed the calf she will make contact with me. They will not be staying. [REDACTED] has spoken with [REDACTED] and received information from her and other marine experts regarding the best approach.

The advice they have received is to provide fluids to the animal every 3 hours!

If this happens then we will need to close off public access, which Ingrid agrees as not an easy activity to explain to the uninitiated.

[REDACTED] will take photos and send through to myself and [REDACTED]. He only has his phone with him now but will take his fancy cameras tomorrow.

The calf is in the water un-constrained other than a wall of people to stop it wandering off. A fence is being set up along the area to enable the calf to remain in the water without human intervention.

Jack spoke with the [REDACTED] from the Zoo to confirm the responsibilities.

DOC is managing this under the Marine Mammal Act
Ingrid and her crew are operational in providing their knowledge and knowhow.

I have no further update at this stage other than Whale Rescue have gone out asking for support and currently people are turning up in wetsuits to go onto a roster for the evening.

Eventually no people will be in the water with the calf but in a small dingy.

██████████ DOC Bio diversity Ranger will be on site at 730 tomorrow then ██████████ will take over around 10am.

Action

I will update later tonight once I hear from ██████████

I will make contact with ██████████ once he on site in the morning and had a chance to his eye in so to speak.

Next steps will be decision on whether we send out another aircraft (chopper or plane) to search for pod?

██████████
Supervisor Community – Kaitiaki Tauawhi, Ao Hapori
Kapiti Wellington District Office

██████████
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 6:04 pm

To: [REDACTED]; Ian Angus

<iangus@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: For review

Yes, thanks.

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

On 12/07/2021 6:03 pm, [REDACTED] wrote:
Is it all good to be published now?

Ngā mihi,

[REDACTED]
Social Media Advisor—*Kaitohu Papāho*
Department of Conservation—*Te Papa Atawhai*

Conservation leadership for our nature *Tākina te hī, tiakina te hā, o te ao tūroa*

www.doc.govt.nz



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 6:00 PM

To: [REDACTED]; Ian Angus

<iangus@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: For review

Nice one, thanks.

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

On 12/07/2021 5:56 pm, [REDACTED] wrote:
All good – Have made the changes below

Ngā mihi,

[REDACTED]
Social Media Advisor—*Kaitohu Papāho*
Department of Conservation—*Te Papa Atawhai*
[REDACTED]

Conservation leadership for our nature *Tākina te hī, tiakina te hā, o te ao tūroa*

www.doc.govt.nz



From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 5:47 PM

To: [REDACTED]

; Ian Angus

<iangus@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]

Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: For review

Hi [REDACTED]

Please change have a boat to have had (past tense). Also we might have a further update after vets get there but unsure at this stage. Can we leave that out for now?

Thanks
[REDACTED]

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

On 12/07/2021 5:43 pm, [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi all,

Suggesting the following social post copy below:

****UPDATE****

5:25pm 12/07/2021

The orca calf is in the water, in a fenced-off area near a jetty, and we're currently liaising with specialist veterinarians which may include administering electrolytes to rehydrate it.

We had a DOC boat out looking for the pod today and are asking that if anyone sees a pod of orca off the coast of Wellington or Kapiti to please share that information with us via 0800 DOC HOT, as sightings can help us get this calf back to its family.

Another way you can assist us right now is to give us space to focus on the calf. We appreciate people care about these animals and want to help, but please stay clear of the area to keep the calf's stress levels as low as possible. The welfare of this animal is our top priority.

Read more here: <https://bit.ly/3hypPWR>

We will add this update to the existing post published earlier today and we will also add the update to the comments section of the post – People who have engaged with our existing post (Like, Comment or Shared) will receive a notification of the update from us.

Ngā mihi,

[Redacted]

Social Media Advisor—*Kaitohu Papāho*
Department of Conservation—*Te Papa Atawhai*

[Redacted]

Conservation leadership for our nature *Tākina te hī, tiakina te hā, o te ao tūroa*

www.doc.govt.nz



From: [Redacted]

Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 5:21 PM

To: [Redacted]

Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [Redacted]

[Redacted] Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>; [Redacted]

Subject: RE: For review

Hi all

Now published: <https://www.doc.govt.nz/news/media-releases/2021-media-releases/update-on-stranded-juvenile-orca-in-porirua/>

Cheers

[Redacted]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 5:04 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: For review
Importance: High

Hi [REDACTED] – this is ready to go, as per discussion with [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Communication Advisor – Hauraki, Waikato, Taranaki
Department of Conservation
Regional Office
Rostrevor St
Hamilton
[REDACTED]

Unite
against
COVID-19



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 4:55 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: For review
Importance: High

Hi [REDACTED] as discussed.

Please confirm this is factually accurate.

[REDACTED]
Communication Advisor – Hauraki, Waikato, Taranaki
Department of Conservation
Regional Office
Rostrevor St
Hamilton
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 5:25 pm
To: News <News@rnz.co.nz>; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: orca update

We're waiting to hear from the vets but plan at this stage is to leave it in water overnight. Will let you know if that changes.

Ngā mihi,

[REDACTED]
Team Lead National Communications | Kaimanatū Tuku Whakapā
Media and Communications Team, Wellington
Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai
18 - 32 Manners Street - Te Aro - Wellington - 6011

[REDACTED]
<http://www.doc.govt.nz/>

From: News <News@rnz.co.nz>
Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 5:22 pm
To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: orca update

Hi there, can you tell us if the orca will remain in the water overnight or be put back on the truck ?

Cheers, [REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 5:07 pm
To: Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Morning Report request

Apparently vets are still 40mins-1 hour away.

From: Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 5:00 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Morning Report request

Yes, but need a site report from [REDACTED] or who ever on scene beforehand. Any news from vets.

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

On 12/07/2021 4:57 pm, [REDACTED] wrote:
Can you do 7.25am?

From: Morningreport <Morningreport@rnz.co.nz>
Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 4:48 pm
To: Leigh-Anne Wiig <lwiig@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Morning Report request

Hi Leigh-Anne - we can speak to him before 7.30am too if that's easier, and actually a perfect time for this interview would be about 7.25am.
We don't require a major update in the morning, of course, but just a quick three-minute interview about the Orca's status from overnight, and the plan for the day.
Thank you and let me know what you think!

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Morning Report producer
RNZ | Level 2, 155 The Terrace | PO Box 123 | Wellington | New Zealand



www.RNZ.co.nz

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 4:29 PM
To: Morningreport <Morningreport@rnz.co.nz>; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Morning Report request

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Kia ora [REDACTED]

We will check with Ian and see what his availability is like tomorrow. It doesn't get light until around 7.30am and we're not expecting to get an update prior to 8am and he will be busy, so not sure how at this stage how he will go. We are expecting one further update this evening so will send that to you once we get it.

Can you **please remove our media phone line from your contact list**. We no longer monitor this number. You will get a quick response via our inbox on media@doc.govt.nz because this is monitored after hours for emergencies, and is also monitored during work hours by a rostered comms advisor.

Ngā mihi,

[REDACTED]
Team Lead National Communications | Kaimanatū Tuku Whakapā
Media and Communications Team, Wellington
Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai
18 - 32 Manners Street - Te Aro - Wellington - 6011

[REDACTED]
<http://www.doc.govt.nz/>

From: Morningreport <Morningreport@rnz.co.nz>
Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 4:23 pm
To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Morning Report request

Hi Bronwyn - could we arrange an interview with Ian Angus for on Morning Report in the morning?

We particularly want to speak with someone who's on the ground and actively searching for the whale's family.

I've tried calling your cell and the media line also.

Please let me know if this would be a possibility for the morning, and then I can come back with a time for the interview.

Thanks so much

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] | Morning Report producer
RNZ | Level 2, 155 The Terrace | PO Box 123 | Wellington | New Zealand



www.RNZ.co.nz

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[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Saturday, 24 July 2021 11:53 am
To: Media
Subject: Interviews finished

Hey [Redacted]

I'm doing one last interview now and then that's it.

[Redacted]
Team Lead Communications
[Redacted]

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Saturday, 24 July 2021 11:36 am
To: Media; [Redacted]
Subject: media interview

Hey [Redacted]

Ian will call you in about 15 mins

[Redacted]
Team Lead Communications
[Redacted]

On 24/07/2021 10:49 am, [Redacted]@nzme.co.nz> wrote:
Hey there,

[Redacted] from ZB news.

Is someone from DOC able to go on tape about Toa the orca?

Pre-recorded.

Thank you!

[Redacted]
Multimedia Journalist | NewstalkZB

[Redacted] [Redacted]
E: [Redacted]@nzme.co.nz



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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 24 July 2021 10:42 am
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Media releases Friday ad Saturday for IAP

[REDACTED]

As discussed here are the links for the last three media releases

Friday morning 11am

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/news/media-releases/2021-media-releases/orca-update-1100am-friday-23-july-2021/>

Friday 5pm

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/news/media-releases/2021-media-releases/orca-update-500pm-friday-23-july-2021/>

Saturday 8am

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/news/media-releases/2021-media-releases/orca-calf-toa-farewelled-with-dawn-ceremony/>

Ngā manaakitanga

[REDACTED]
Team Lead Regional Communications | Kaimanatū Tuku Whakapā
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

Taupō Office

37 Motutaiko Street

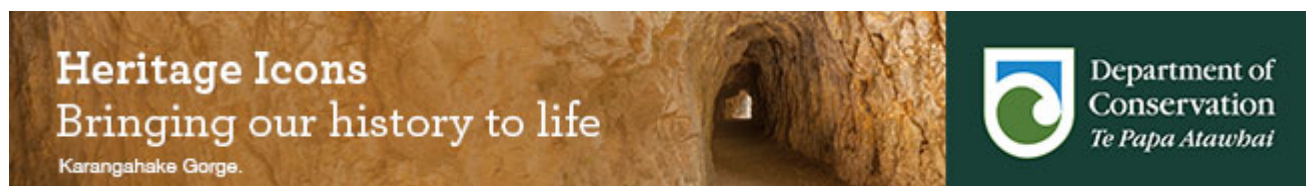
DDI: [REDACTED]

Taupō 3351

**Kia piki te oranga o te ao tūroa, i roto i te ngātahitanga, ki Aotearoa.
To work with others to increase the value of conservation for New Zealanders.**

After Hours Media Support: email media@doc.govt.nz

www.doc.govt.nz



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 24 July 2021 9:39 am
To: David Hunt
Subject: Media Release - Toa the orca calf farewelled

Media Release went out about 8am this morning.

Ian has done interviews with Newshub; TVNZ; RNZ and Stuff.

Camera interview with Newshub set down for 10am.

Ngā manaakitanga

[REDACTED]
Team Lead Communications | Kaimanatū Tuku Whakapā
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

After Hours Media Support: email media@doc.govt.nz

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 24 July 2021 9:36 am
To: David Hunt <dhunt@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Media Release - Toa the orca calf farewelled



Media release

24 July 2021

Orca calf Toa farewelled with dawn ceremony

Amid karakia and waiata, the orca calf known as Toa was farewelled by around 70 people at Plimmerton Boating Club at dawn this morning before being taken for burial by Ngāti Toa Rangatira.

Toa died in his sea pen last evening.

Department of Conservation (DOC) Marine Species Manager Ian Angus said the ceremony attended by Ngati Toa, members of the local community, volunteers and DOC staff, was respectful and moving.

No necropsy was performed.

Ian Angus said DOC thanks the many people who tried to save Toa and return him to his natal pod over the past 12 days.

“We wish to especially thank Gayle Carmichael of the Plimmerton Boating Club and all the members of the club, kaumatua and members of Ngāti Toa Rangatira and Dr Ingrid Visser and her team from Whale Rescue.”

Ian Angus said the number of people involved was staggering with local businesses contributing a wide range of support, veterinarians from Wellington Zoo and HUHA offering their services and a team of more than 40 international and national experts providing their advice over the past 12 days.

“It was not going to be easy to return Toa to his pod which could be anywhere around Aotearoa. It was our goal to return him to his natal pod, but sadly we were unsuccessful in achieving that objective.

“Nonetheless we can reflect on this and know this huge team of people gave it their best.”

Department of Conservation staff will now turn their attention to clearing the site and returning it to Plimmerton Boating Club.

ENDS

Ian Angus is available for interviews. Requests should be made through Media@doc.govt.nz

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 24 July 2021 9:19 am
To: Media; [REDACTED]
Subject: Newshub - Toa

Hey [REDACTED]

Ian will be available after 10am. Give me a call wen you are here.

[REDACTED]
Team Lead Communications
[REDACTED]

On 24/07/2021 9:17 am, [REDACTED]@discovery.com> wrote:
Morning team,

Just wondering when Ian might be available for an on camera interview at Plimmerton this morning following the passing of Toa?

We're keen to come down and have a chat about last night and catch any of the pack down still happening.

In terms of Toa's burial site is DOC or the Iwi allowing filming of that too? And is there a best contact for that Iwi/Marae?

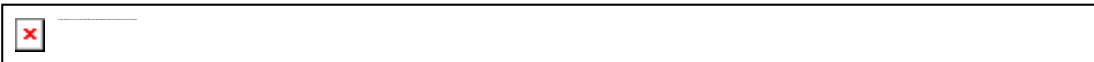
Cheers

--

[REDACTED] **NEWS AND SPORTS REPORTER NEWSHUB**

PLEASE NOTE: DUE TO THE SEPARATION OF THREE FROM MEDIAWORKS, MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS CHANGING TO
[REDACTED]@DISCOVERY.COM

[REDACTED] DISCOVERYCORPORATE.CO.NZ



[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 24 July 2021 8:43 am
To: Webteam; [REDACTED]
Cc: Webteam; Media; Social Media
Subject: RE: DRAFT statement re Toa Saturday 24 July

Thanks [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Team Lead Communications
[REDACTED]

On 24/07/2021 8:34 am, Webteam [REDACTED] wrote:
Kia ora [REDACTED]

Media release published: <https://www.doc.govt.nz/news/media-releases/2021-media-releases/orca-calf-toa-farewelled-with-dawn-ceremony/>

Best,

[REDACTED] ([he/him](#))
Web Communications Advisor | Kaitohu Paetukutuku
Conservation House Wellington | Whare Kaupapa Atawhai
www.doc.govt.nz



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 24 July 2021 7:41 am
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; Webteam [REDACTED]; Social Media <socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: DRAFT statement re Toa Saturday 24 July

Thanks [REDACTED]
Have added footer to say Ian is available.
Sending to mailing list now.
Webteam please load asap.

Ngā mihi
[REDACTED]
Advisor Communications | Central North Island Region | *Kaitohutohu Whakapā*
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*
WHAKATANE
[REDACTED]



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Ataurāwhai

Media release

24 July 2021

Orca calf Toa farewelled with dawn ceremony

Amid karakia and waiata, the baby orca known as Toa was farewelled by around 70 people at Plimmerton Boating Club at dawn this morning before being taken for burial by Ngāti Toa Rangatira.

Toa died in his sea pen last evening.

Department of Conservation (DOC) Marine Species Manager Ian Angus said the ceremony attended by Ngati Toa, members of the local community, volunteers and DOC staff, was respectful and moving.

No necropsy was performed.

Ian Angus said DOC thanks the many people who tried to save Toa and return him to his natal pod over the past 13 days.

“We wish to especially thank Gayle Carmichael of the Plimmerton Boating Club and all the members of the club, kaumatua and members of Ngāti Toa Rangatira and Dr Ingrid Visser and her team from Whale Rescue.”

Ian Angus said the number of people involved was staggering with local businesses contributing a wide range of support, veterinarians from Wellington Zoo and HUHA offering their services and a team of more than 40 international and national experts providing their advice over the past 11 days.

“It was not going to be easy to return Toa to his pod which could be anywhere around Aotearoa. It was our goal to return him to his natal pod, but sadly we were unsuccessful in achieving that objective.

“Nonetheless we can reflect on this and know this huge team of people gave it their best.”

Department of Conservation staff will now turn their attention to clearing the site and returning it to Plimmerton Boating Club.

ENDS

Ian Angus is available for interviews. Requests should be made through Media@doc.govt.nz

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 24 July 2021 8:27 am
To: [REDACTED] Media
Subject: RE: Interview request

Hey [REDACTED]

I will get Ian to call you shortly.

Ngā manaakitanga

[REDACTED]
Team Lead Communications | Kaimanatū Tuku Whakapā
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

After Hours Media Support: email media@doc.govt.nz

From: [REDACTED]@stuff.co.nz
Sent: Saturday, 24 July 2021 8:18 am
To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: [REDACTED]@stuff.co.nz
Subject: Interview request

Hi,

Am I able to get an interview regarding Toa please?

There is huge interest in this story, so it would be great to get this as soon as possible.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

--

[REDACTED]
Senior Reporter

P [REDACTED]@stuff.co.nz
Level 7, Spark Central, 42-52 Willis St, Te Aro, Wellington 6021, New Zealand
PO Box 3740, Wellington 6140, New Zealand

Kia Ora [REDACTED]

Thanks for your email.

I'll add you to the distribution list for updates.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

Communications Advisor / Kaitohutohu Whakapa, Southern South Island Region

Department of Conservation - *Te Papa Atawhai*

Invercargill / *Murihiku* District Office, CUE on Don, 33 Don Street,

PO Box 743, Invercargill 9840

Phone [REDACTED]

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www.doc.govt.nz

From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@beachfm.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@beachfm.co.nz)>

Sent: Friday, 16 July 2021 9:28 am

To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: Information for local transmission - Beach FM

To whom it may concern

We are the main local station for the Kapiti Coast and have been airing information regarding the Orca pod and Toa, requesting locals look out for the pod of Orcas and to stay away today.

If you need us to provide any further information to the general public we would love to do it. We have a large audience base here.

Let us know if we can be of service.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Producer/Announcer

Beach FM

M. [REDACTED]

E. [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@beachfm.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@beachfm.co.nz)>



BEACH FM
106.3

Kia Ora [REDACTED]

I'm taking over the media inbox from [REDACTED] after her long week. Please continue to email requests to media@doc.govt.nz and I will pick them up from there.

Can confirm Ian Angus will be available for an interview at 2.35.
Please let me know what the best contact number is to reach you on, and a rough idea of your specific questions.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]
Communications Advisor / Kaitohutohu Whakapa, Southern South Island Region
Department of Conservation - *Te Papa Atawhai*
Invercargill / *Murihiku* District Office, CUE on Don, 33 Don Street,
PO Box 743, Invercargill 9840
[REDACTED]

Conservation leadership for our nature *Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa*
www.doc.govt.nz

From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@mediaworks.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@mediaworks.co.nz)>

Sent: Friday, 16 July 2021 11:16 am

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: Re: INTERVIEW request BABY TOA UPDATE - Ryan Bridge

Hi [REDACTED]

I just tried to call you.

Wondering if we can confirm the interview for 2.35 and with whom?

I'm copying in producers [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who will be on deck this afternoon.

Nga mihi

[REDACTED] **EXECUTIVE PRODUCER MORNINGS** [MAGIC TALK](#) [REDACTED]



On Fri, Jul 16, 2021 at 7:42 AM [REDACTED] wrote:
Morning [REDACTED],

I will get you in touch with the team who can arrange. Could you please advise a phone number and what is the preferred time?

Thanks [REDACTED]

Marketing Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapātairanga
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

[REDACTED]
Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland Office
Bledisloe House, 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland 1010
Conservation leadership for our nature/*Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa*
After Hours Media Support: Phone: [+64 4 496 1911](tel:+6444961911) / media@doc.govt.nz

From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@mediaworks.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@mediaworks.co.nz)>

Sent: Friday, July 16, 2021 6:41 AM

To: Media

Subject: INTERVIEW request BABY TOA UPDATE - Ryan Bridge

Good morning,

Ryan Bridge is broadcasting Nationwide, as part of his 36 hour talkathon to raise money for child cancer.

Is someone available for an update on baby Toa?

Nga mihi

[REDACTED] EXECUTIVE PRODUCER MORNINGS [MAGIC TALK](#) [REDACTED]



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Thank you.

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reliance upon, this information by persons or entities other than the intended recipient is prohibited. If you received this in error, please contact the sender, and delete the material from any system and destroy any copies.
Thank you.

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz>
Sent: Friday, 16 July 2021 11:51 am
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Orca Calf

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Nope it would be pre recorded

I would ask:

- In the press release recently released by DOC it states the situation has hit a delicate stage - what does that mean?
- All options are on the table - what does this mean?
- Is it risky the orca has been in captivity longer than normal for a marine mammal stranding?

If you can get back to me as soon as possible that would be greatly appreciated.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 16 July 2021 11:47
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz>
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Orca Calf

Kia Ora [REDACTED]

I have passed your details on to Ian Angus who will try to give you a call before 12.
It would be helpful to know will this be a live interview? And do you have specific questions your looking for, or is it just getting someone to speak to the latest update?
Thanks

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz>
Sent: Friday, 16 July 2021 11:25 am
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Orca Calf

My number is [REDACTED]. I am looking to do this before 12pm so if you can get back to me ASAP, that would be greatly appreciated.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 16 July 2021 11:23
To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@nzme.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz)>
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Orca Calf

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for your email

We cannot confirm but can try arrange. A comms advisor will be in touch if this is something we can do. Please advise your number and any specific questions you may have.

Please see our website for the latest updates

Thanks

From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@nzme.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz)>
Sent: Friday, 16 July 2021 11:21 am
To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Orca Calf

Kia ora [REDACTED] here from Newstalk ZB in Wellington,

Just getting in touch with regard to the orca calf in Plimmerton.

I am hoping to get an update on DOC through a phone call for our radio bulletins this morning for the latest information on the orca.

if you can get back to me as soon as possible that would be greatly appreciated.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>
Sent: Friday, 16 July 2021 12:31 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: 1 News media query

Thank you [REDACTED], please keep me posted as I will split the request up if it's the financial costs that require more time.

I did think listing all the options being considered by the team would be able to be provided today.

Cheers,

█

From: █
Sent: Friday, 16 July 2021 12:14 PM
To: █@tvnz.co.nz
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: 1 News media query

Kia Ora █

Thanks for your email.

I've passed your questions along to the team on the ground however I'm unsure we'll be able to meet that deadline – as you'll appreciate there's a lot going on.

We'll work to get an update to you as soon as we can.

Cheers,

From: █@tvnz.co.nz
Sent: Friday, 16 July 2021 11:22 am
To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: 1 News media query

Kia ora,

Thank you for the latest update on the orca calf in Plimmerton.

Can you please outline what all the options being considered by the Department of Conservation are?

Can you please also let me know what financial cost the Department of Conservation has spent on this operation so far? From when DOC first arrived on the scene on Sunday 11 July to this Friday 16 July morning please. Also, can you please share the number of staff that have been involved in this operation to this point.

Can I please request to have this information by 2pm.

Thank you.

Kind regards,

█

1 News

█

From: █@mediaworks.co.nz
Sent: Friday, 16 July 2021 2:21 pm
To: █
Subject: Re: Radio interview request

Thanks for that █.

Apologies - yes, █ was on this this morning but I wasn't aware it had been confirmed.

If Ian could phone [REDACTED] at about 2.32pm that would be perfect. We will pop him on hold briefly then when Ryan picks up he will live on-air with him.

Indicative questions:

- What is the latest with the weather there?
- How long can you keep Toa in the pool for?
- Are you still hopeful of finding Toa's pod?
- What will happen to him if you can't?
- What should people do if they see an orca pod in the area?

Can you please confirm if Ian will be available for 2.32pm as soon as you are able to.

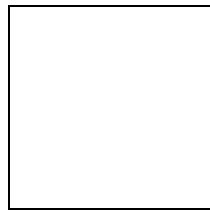
Thanks very much.

[REDACTED] | EXECUTIVE PRODUCER | MAGIC TALK

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

WWW.MAGIC.CO.NZ

MEDIAWORKS



On Fri, 16 Jul 2021 at 14:14, [REDACTED] wrote:

Kia Ora [REDACTED]

Thanks for your email.

I'm pretty sure we already confirmed this one with your colleague [REDACTED] earlier today but I'll double check to make sure nothing's changed in the interim.

Can you confirm the best number for Ian to reach you on?

Also an outline of the types of questions you're looking to have answered would be helpful.

Thanks

From: [REDACTED]@mediaworks.co.nz>
Sent: Friday, 16 July 2021 2:01 pm
To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Radio interview request

Hi there

Would a DOC spokesperson (Ian Angus?) be able to come on Magic Talk this afternoon to update us on the latest with Toa the orca?

Would be a live 6-7min phoner with our host Ryan Bridge, which we could do at 2.35pm this afternoon. Would this be possible?

As an aside, Ryan is coming toward the end of a special 36hr Talkathon where he has been on-air since yesterday morning raising money for the Child Cancer Foundation!

Thanks very much.

[REDACTED] | EXECUTIVE PRODUCER | MAGIC TALK

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

WWW.MAGIC.CO.NZ

MEDIAWORKS



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Thank you.

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Kia Ora [REDACTED]
Thanks for your email.

Unfortunately we wont be able to have anyone available at that time due to prior commitments. Would later in the day (but not too late) suit?

We endeavour to put out two updates per day, the next is due out between 4.30 and 5 today. Are you on the mailing list to receive these?

We may look to scale this back over the weekend to an as-needed basis; ie only issue updates when there is significant change.

Thanks,

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@rnz.co.nz>

Sent: Friday, 16 July 2021 2:21 pm

To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: RNZ enquiry orca

Kia ora,

I'm [REDACTED], a journalist for RNZ that's been covering the orca since Monday.

Just hoping to see if I can have a 5min chat with Ian before 4pm today just to get the latest regarding the orca's health today – just a bit of a run down of how he has gone today in the pool.

Is it also possible if there is an ETA for any further press releases? Rough timeframe would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you and take care,
[REDACTED]

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Hi [REDACTED]

Apologies for the slow reply. It was bought from Para Pools in Petone.

Cheers,

From: [REDACTED]@stuff.co.nz>
Sent: Friday, 16 July 2021 3:17 pm
To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Orca query - pool

Hi media team, my news directors would like me to ask where the pool was bought from, please?

Thanks!

[REDACTED]

--

[REDACTED]
Dominion Post Reporter (she/her)^[SEP]
[REDACTED]@stuff.co.nz, [REDACTED]
Stuff, Level 7, Spark Central, 42-52 Willis Street
PO Box 2595, Wellington 6140

Sent from my phone

Kia Ora [REDACTED],

Thanks for your email. Are you receiving the orca updates?

As per our 4.30 update, pasted below: Editor's note – not for publication: We don't expect the situation with the orca to change over the weekend as we enter a maintenance phase of care due to the bad weather. We will not be providing updates to media unless there is a significant development. We have scaled down our media staff over the weekend.

Media requests over the weekend are by appointment only and should be emailed to media@doc.govt.nz along with any specific questions, the reporter's name and direct phone line. Images of the calf can be lifted from the DOC website or social media channels. For general information on orca, please visit www.doc.govt.nz where all updates on this situation are published.



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Media release

16 July 2021

4.30pm update on stranded juvenile orca in Porirua

The Porirua site where a stranded juvenile orca is being cared for in a temporary pool remains closed to the public for safety reasons as weather conditions worsen.

The bad weather is expected to continue until late Sunday (18 July) and DOC and its operation partners are entering a maintenance phase of care until the weather clears, after which a transfer back to the sea pen may be possible.

On Sunday, the orca calf – estimated to be between four and six months old – was stranded on rocks near Plimmerton, north of Wellington. An ongoing operation to care for the orca calf is being led by the Department of Conservation (DOC) with support from Orca Research Trust/Whale Rescue Trust, local iwi Ngati Toa Rangatira, and the local community.

Ian Angus, DOC's Marine Species Manager, says the orca transfer to the temporary pool last night (15 July) was done due to health and safety concerns. Sea swells are expected to be as high as 4m in coming days.

“The weekend weather is expected to be challenging and by moving the orca to a temporary pool we will be better able to manage its care,” he says.

“As there is no public access to the pool area, we ask people to stay away from the site, and we will provide an update if anything changes.”

There have been no reported sightings of orca pods in the wider lower North Island west coast area and there are no air or sea search efforts expected over the weekend.

Editor's note – not for publication: We don't expect the situation with the orca to change over the weekend as we enter a maintenance phase of care due to the bad weather. We will not be providing updates to media unless there is a significant development. We have scaled down our media staff over the weekend.

Media requests over the weekend are by appointment only and should be emailed to media@doc.govt.nz along with any specific questions, the reporter's name and direct phone line. Images of the calf can be lifted from the DOC website or social media channels. For general information on orca, please visit www.doc.govt.nz where all updates on this situation are published.

-Ends-

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@discovery.com>

Sent: Friday, 16 July 2021 5:22 pm

To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: Newshub weekend query

Hi there,

Just touching base ahead of the weekend - I'm working Saturday and Sunday and just wanting to know if we can expect any updates in relation to Plimmerton and who is the best person to contact?

Cheers,

[REDACTED]

--

[REDACTED] **REPORTER**

NEWS DISCOVERY NZ [REDACTED] [DISCOVERYCORPORATE.CO.NZ](https://www.discoverycorporate.co.nz)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 17 July 2021 11:12 am
To: Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: contingency

Hi Ian,

Hope all is still well on site, and you're getting ready for handover and a break soon.

Good to hear that the orca's condition continues to be stable, fingers crossed the weather improves soon and the search can continue.

In the meantime, I've drafted up three statements covering various scenarios for contingency, in case anything changes rapidly over the weekend. These would obviously need to be updated with specific details in the event that any of them were required, but this gives us a head start by taking pressure off needing to draft anything in a rush.

The current messaging from yesterday's 4pm update still stands.

Please review and let me know any changes you'd like. Once you're happy we can look at having the conversations with others involved in the care to ensure everyone is happy with the contingency messages. Fingers crossed they will not be required.

The following scenarios cover (in no particular order): health deteriorating, euthanasia and returning to sea pen. Apologies if I have any of the established facts incorrect, I'm still getting up to speed with the details

1: The condition of the juvenile orca stranded at Porirua has sadly begun to deteriorate and helpers are assessing the next steps.

Ian Angus, DOC's marine species manager says despite the best efforts of the many DOC staff, Orca Research Trust/Whale Rescue Trust, local iwi Ngāti Toa Rangatira, and the local community, expert veterinary advice is that the orca's health is beginning to suffer.

"Throughout this entire effort, we've all been united in wanting to do what's best for the orca. Finding and reuniting him with his pod is still our goal, however our priority has always been the welfare of the orca. The longer he is in captivity, away from his mum, the more likely it is that his health will deteriorate.

"Unfortunately the orca was now beginning to exhibit signs of distress/health issues/welfare issues. With the weather not expected to clear until Monday/Tuesday, the teams involved were now looking at some hard calls.

"Ultimately we need to do what's in the orca's best interests. We're working with experts from around the world to help inform the decision making on what the best course of action could be and we'll continue to monitor the situation."

On Thursday the orca was moved to a temporary pool due to increasingly bad weather making his care unsafe for the orca and the helpers.

The orca has been stranded since last Sunday. The calf - estimated to be between four and six months old – was stranded on rocks near Plimmerton, north of Wellington. An ongoing operation to care for the orca calf is being led by DOC with support from Orca Research Trust/Whale Rescue Trust, local iwi Ngāti Toa Rangatira, and the local community.

2: The health of the juvenile orca stranded at Porirua has rapidly deteriorated and officials have made the difficult call to euthanise.

Ian Angus DOC's marine species manager says despite the best efforts of the many DOC staff, Orca Research Trust/Whale Rescue Trust, local iwi Ngāti Toa Rangatira, and the local community, expert veterinary advice was that the orca had begun to suffer.

“Despite every effort, including advice from experts around the world, the orca's health took a turn for the worst. With the weather not expected to improve until Monday/Tuesday, and the orca in clear distress/unwell/suffering, we have ultimately made the heartbreaking decision to put him down. With a reunion with his missing pod looking increasingly unlikely, and his health rapidly deteriorating, this was deemed to be the kindest action.

We'd like to thank every one who has volunteered their time and efforts to saving Toa and everyone who has followed his journey.

The orca had been stranded since last Sunday. The calf - estimated to be between four and six months old – was stranded on rocks near Plimmerton, north of Wellington. An ongoing operation to care for the orca calf was being led by DOC with support from Orca Research Trust/Whale Rescue Trust, local iwi Ngāti Toa Rangatira, and the local community.

3: The juvenile orca stranded at Porirua will return/has returned to the sea pen following an improvement in weather.

The orca calf, estimated to be between four and six months old, was moved to a temporary pool on Thursday evening due to bad weather making his ongoing care dangerous for both the calf and the staff and volunteers looking after him.

With the weather now more settled, the focus returns to searching for his missing pod.

The orca's health continues to be stable.

The calf has now been away from his pod for over a week after becoming stranded on rocks near Plimmerton, north of Wellington. An ongoing operation to care for the orca calf is being led by DOC with support from Orca Research Trust/Whale Rescue Trust, local iwi Ngāti Toa Rangatira, and the local community.

Pod sightings can be reported to:

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, 17 July 2021 2:39 pm

To: [REDACTED] Social Media <socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>; Webteam

Subject: RE: social media monitoring for orca sightings

Hi [REDACTED],

Nice to connect. Did I miss a call from you earlier?

Our social media team have been keeping on eye on things over the past few days – I've copied them in above. Team can you let me know if there's been much noise re sightings in the past 24 hours?

Webteam – are you able to update our pages to reflect the below email address to report sightings?
Cheers!

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 17 July 2021 1:56 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: social media monitoring for orca sightings

Hey [REDACTED]

Just trying to get in touch, I'm trying to coordinate any incoming pod sightings a bit better and record responses to them but only stepping in today so am not fully up to play with what individual people are doing. I am wondering if you are monitoring social media for any possible mentions?

Also on the DOC site there is mention to email wellington@doc.govt.nz but I don't think anyone is manning that and I don't actually know where that goes. If you are able to please update this email to marinemammals@doc.govt.nz as this is what many of our staff are monitoring.

Cheers,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 17 July 2021 5:26 pm
To: Kirstie Knowles <kknowles@doc.govt.nz>; Dave Smith <dsmith@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>; Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Orca pod sighting statement for review

Kia Ora team,

Please see below a draft statement acknowledging the potential sighting of a pod of orca off the Kapiti coast.

Please review, fact check and amend as needed. We can get this out on social media too, once signed off.

Please confirm either Kirstie or Ian's availability for any follow up interview requests

A credible potential sighting of a pod of orca has been reported off the Kapiti Coast, near where the juvenile orca stranded last Sunday, but weather conditions in the area make it unsafe for further investigation.

The Department of Conservation DOC has received information indicating an orca pod could be nearby. It's too early to know if this is the same pod the stranded juvenile belongs to. DOC marine species manager Ian Angus says once the weather conditions improve, a team will be able to investigate further.

"At the moment any reunion attempt would be too dangerous for both the people involved and the orca calf.

"Once conditions improve we will be in a better position to investigate the sighting further, and make a plan from there."

People are not encouraged to travel out searching for the pod during the storm, Ian says.

The orca, thought to be between four to six months old remains in a stable condition and remains in the temporary pool it was transferred to on Thursday evening due to health and safety concerns with the incoming storm.

The calf has now been away from his pod for over a week after becoming stranded on rocks near Plimmerton, north of Wellington. An ongoing operation to care for the orca calf is being

led by DOC with support from Orca Research Trust/Whale Rescue Trust, local iwi Ngāti Toa Rangatira, and the local community.

Anyone who sights orca pods off the lower North Island's west coast – particularly between Wellington and Taranaki – is urged to provide as much information as possible to DOC, via marinemammals@doc.govt.nz or by calling 0800 DOC HOT (0800 362 468).

Essential information includes location of the pod, direction of travel of the animals, and photographs or videos which clearly show the saddle/back markings of the animals and their dorsal fins.

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, 17 July 2021 5:57 pm

To: Kirstie Knowles <kknowles@doc.govt.nz>; Dave Smith <dwsmith@doc.govt.nz>; Jack Mace <jmace@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]

Cc: Bronwyn Saunders <bсаunders@doc.govt.nz>; Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: media release - Orca pod sighted off Wellington coast.

Importance: High

Hi all,

Final version below. Will get to our Webteam and social team as soon as possible.

Confirming I'll work with Kirstie on any follow up interview requests.



Media release

17/07/2021

Orca pod sighted off Wellington Coast

A credible sighting of a pod of orca has been reported off the Kapiti Coast, near where the juvenile orca stranded last Sunday, but weather conditions in the area make it unsafe for further investigation.

DOC marine species manager Ian Angus says once the weather conditions improve, a team will be able to investigate further.

“At the moment any reunion attempt would be too dangerous for both the people involved and the orca calf.

“Once conditions improve we will be in a better position to investigate the sighting further, and make a plan from there.”

People should not travel out searching for the pod during the storm, Ian says.

The orca is in a stable condition and remains in the temporary pool it was transferred to on Thursday evening due to health and safety concerns with the incoming storm.

The calf has now been away from his pod for over a week after becoming stranded on rocks near Plimmerton, north of Wellington. An ongoing operation to care for the orca calf is being led by DOC with support from Orca Research Trust/Whale Rescue Trust, local iwi Ngāti Toa Rangatira, and the local community.

Anyone who sights orca pods off the lower North Island's west coast – particularly between Wellington and Taranaki – is urged to provide as much information as possible to DOC, via marinemammals@doc.govt.nz or by calling 0800 DOC HOT (0800 362 468).

Essential information includes location of the pod, direction of travel of the animals, and photographs or videos which clearly show the saddle/back markings of the animals and their dorsal fins.

Editors note: Media requests over the weekend are by appointment only and should be emailed to media@doc.govt.nz along with any specific questions, the reporter's name and direct phone line. Images of the calf can be lifted from the DOC website or social media channels. For general information on orca, please visit www.doc.govt.nz where all updates on this situation are published.

–Ends–

Contacts:

media@doc.govt.nz

From: Bridget Railton

Sent: Sunday, 18 July 2021 9:29 am

To: Sarah Owen <sarahowen@doc.govt.nz>; Kirstie Knowles <kknowles@doc.govt.nz>; Dave Smith <dwsmith@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: FW: Orca SUNDAY Newshub

Morena team,

See media request below. Are we likely to resume searches today? And do we have a reuniting plan that we could discuss at this stage?

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@discovery.com>

Sent: Sunday, 18 July 2021 9:17 am

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Orca SUNDAY Newshub

Hi [REDACTED]

I hope you're having a good weekend.

I'm just touching base about the plan for Toa today, will the search resume today? If so when?

We're keen to come out and film that process, have a chat to people looking, interview Ingrid about how he is doing and how the process of reuniting would work as well as chat to the vets on site to hear about what their role has been in this process. I note on Friday they were keen to do that.

Feel free to give me a call to discuss further [REDACTED]

Many thanks,
[REDACTED]

--

[REDACTED] **REPORTER**

NEWS DISCOVERY NZ [REDACTED] [DISCOVERYCORPORATE.CO.NZ](https://www.discovery.com/nz)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 18 July 2021 9:33 am
To: [REDACTED]@discovery.com>
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Orca SUNDAY Newshub

Hi [REDACTED],
I've received your email. I'll be in touch after I catch up with the team on the ground.

From: [REDACTED]@discovery.com>
Sent: Sunday, 18 July 2021 9:32 am
To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Fwd: Orca SUNDAY Newshub

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 18 July 2021 12:11 pm
To: [REDACTED]@discovery.com>
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Orca SUNDAY Newshub

Kia ora [REDACTED],
I'm hoping to have an update for you soon. But overall, it's unlikely any sea searches will take place today due to the ongoing marine conditions.
I'll be in touch as soon as I can.

From: [REDACTED]@discovery.com>
Sent: Sunday, 18 July 2021 12:00 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Orca SUNDAY Newshub

Hi [REDACTED]

Just following up on this?

Feel free to give me a call [REDACTED]

Many thanks,
[REDACTED]

On Sun, Jul 18, 2021 at 9:38 AM [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@discovery.com> wrote:
Awesome thanks heaps

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 18 July 2021 10:25 am
To: Sarah Owen <sarahowen@doc.govt.nz>; Dave Smith <dwsmith@doc.govt.nz>; Kirstie Knowles <kknowles@doc.govt.nz>; Jack Mace <jmace@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: orca update for review

Hi team,

Since wrapping up the meeintg I've had 4 media requests for an update on the orca, and what our plans are today in terms of resuming the search. Can you confirm we are not able to resume a search by sea today due to the ongoing marine conditions?

One request is an AM show interview request for Ian tomorrow morning between 7.20 and 8.20 – will he be back on deck then, or can we nominate another spokesperson?

Please see below a draft response

Current weather and marine conditions are too rough to investigate the orca pod sighting further, but we will reassess throughout the day. It is unlikely an attempt to reunite would take place today.

Public access to the boat club remains restricted as helpers look to minimize stress on the stranded orca calf.

The calf remains stable, and staff are monitoring weather conditions to plan for a return to the sea pen as soon as conditions allow. Public access will continue to be restricted from the site once the calf is returned to the sea pen. This is to ensure there are as few potential stressors in its environment as possible.

The calf has now been away from his pod for over a week after becoming stranded on rocks near Plimmerton, north of Wellington. An ongoing operation to care for the orca calf is being led by DOC with support from Orca Research Trust/Whale Rescue Trust, local iwi Ngāti Toa Rangatira, and the local community.

Anyone who sights orca pods off the lower North Island's west coast – particularly between Wellington and Taranaki – is urged to provide as much information as possible to DOC, via marinemammals@doc.govt.nz or by calling 0800 DOC HOT (0800 362 468).

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 18 July 2021 10:45 am
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@stuff.co.nz>; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Orca Update: Orca pod sighted off Kapiti

Morena [REDACTED]

I have received your request and will get back to you when I can.

Cheers,

From: [REDACTED]@stuff.co.nz>
Sent: Sunday, 18 July 2021 10:16 am
To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Fwd: Orca Update: Orca pod sighted off Kapiti

Hi media team,

With the weather looking clearer today, are there any plans to head out and search for this pod? If so, can I get whatever details are available pls? :)

Thanks,

[REDACTED]
Reporter (she/her)

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 18 July 2021 1:09 pm
To: [REDACTED]@stuff.co.nz>
Subject: RE: Orca Update: Orca pod sighted off Kapiti

Hi [REDACTED],
I'm hoping to have an update for you soon. But overall, it's unlikely any sea searches will take place today due to the ongoing marine conditions.
I'll be in touch as soon as I can.
Cheers

From: [REDACTED]@stuff.co.nz>
Sent: Sunday, 18 July 2021 10:16 am
To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Fwd: Orca Update: Orca pod sighted off Kapiti

Hi media team,

With the weather looking clearer today, are there any plans to head out and search for this pod? If so, can I get whatever details are available pls? :)

Thanks,

[REDACTED]
Reporter (she/her)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 18 July 2021 10:45 am
To: [REDACTED]@discovery.com>; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@discovery.com>
Subject: RE: The AM Show interview request - Ian Angus - 19/07

Kia Ora [REDACTED]
I have received your request and will get back to you when I can.
Cheers,

From: [REDACTED]@discovery.com>
Sent: Sunday, 18 July 2021 10:14 am
To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]@discovery.com>
Subject: The AM Show interview request - Ian Angus - 19/07

Hi team,

Hope you are well.

I'm getting in touch to see whether we may be able to arrange an interview with Ian tomorrow morning in regard to the stranded juvenile Orca.

The interview time would be between 0720 and 0820, with an exact time to be confirmed early this afternoon.

Would this be possible?

Regards,

[REDACTED]

--

[REDACTED] - ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE PRODUCER - THE AM SHOW

NEWS DISCOVERY NZ [REDACTED]

DISCOVERYCORPORATE.CO.NZ

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 18 July 2021 10:46 am
To: [REDACTED]@discovery.com>; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Orca

Kia Ora [REDACTED],
I have received your request and will get back to you when I can,
Cheers

From: [REDACTED]@discovery.com>
Sent: Sunday, 18 July 2021 10:03 am
To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Orca

Morena,

It is [REDACTED] here from Newshub Radio. I am wondering if it is possible to get an update on the Orca?

Thank you!

--

[REDACTED] NEWSHUB REPORTER

[REDACTED] NEWSROOM: 09 360 0330

NEWS DISCOVERY NZ [DISCOVERYCORPORATE.CO.NZ](https://discoverycorporate.co.nz)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 18 July 2021 10:55 am
To: [REDACTED]@rnz.co.nz>; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: RNZ query - Orca sighting

Kia Ora [REDACTED]

Thanks for your email.

Ian is unavailable today, but happy to arrange something for early afternoon with marine ecosystems manager Kirstie Knowles.

Due to prior commitments we won't be able to meet your midday timeframe. What other times do you have available?

Can you provide an outline of the questions in advance?

Many thanks

From: [REDACTED]@rnz.co.nz>
Sent: Sunday, 18 July 2021 10:48 am
To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RNZ query - Orca sighting

Kia ora,

[REDACTED] here from Radio New Zealand.

I'm hoping to chat to DOC marine species manager Ian Angus today, before midday if possible, for a quick update on the credible sighting off the Wellington Coast of the Orca pod and the latest on Toa.

Is it possible to organise a pre-recorded interview for this one? Would appreciate your help!

Thanks,

██████████ | Journalist

RNZ | 332 Cashel Street | PO Box 1531 | Christchurch | New Zealand

E: ██████████@rnz.co.nz | W: www.rnz.co.nz

From: ██████████

Sent: Sunday, 18 July 2021 1:50 pm

To: Kirstie Knowles <kknowles@doc.govt.nz>; Jack Mace <jmace@doc.govt.nz>; Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>; Sarah Owen <sarahowen@doc.govt.nz>; Dave Smith <dwsmith@doc.govt.nz>

Cc: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: orca update for review/signoff

Thanks, incorporated in final version below. Have Ingrid and Iwi seen? If all happy I'll get Webteam to load up on our site and Ill then send out to media.

Kirstie I've put you down as the named spokesperson this time.



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Media release

18 July 2021

Orca Update – 2pm Sunday 18 July 2021

Current weather and marine conditions are too rough to investigate yesterday's orca pod sighting further, but will be reassessed throughout the day.

Department of Conservation Marine Ecosystems Manager Kirstie Knowles says it is unlikely any attempt to reunite would take place today.

“The calf remains stable at this stage and we're continuing to work through different scenarios as we learn more about the calf and his condition. All decisions will draw on the best national and international expert advice with the welfare and ethics of caring for the orca at the front of mind.”

“Public access to the boat club remains restricted as we all look to minimise stress on the calf.”

The calf has now been away from his pod for over a week after becoming stranded on rocks near Plimmerton, north of Wellington. An ongoing operation to care for the orca calf is being led by DOC with support from Orca Research Trust/Whale Rescue Trust, local iwi Ngāti Toa Rangatira, and the local community.

Anyone who sights orca pods off the lower North Island's west coast is urged to provide as much information as possible to DOC, via marinemammals@doc.govt.nz or by calling 0800 DOC HOT (0800 362 468).

Editors note: Media requests over the weekend are by appointment only and should be emailed to media@doc.govt.nz along with any specific questions, the reporter's name and direct phone line. Images of the calf can be lifted from the DOC website or social media channels. For general information on orca, please visit www.doc.govt.nz where all updates on this situation are published.

–Ends–

Contact: media@doc.govt.nz

Background information

For previous updates, please see doc.govt.nz

From: Kirstie Knowles <kknowles@doc.govt.nz>

Sent: Sunday, 18 July 2021 1:29 pm

To: [REDACTED]; Jack Mace <jmace@doc.govt.nz>; Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>; Sarah Owen <sarahowen@doc.govt.nz>; Dave Smith <dwsmith@doc.govt.nz>

Cc: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: orca update for review/signoff

Edits from Dave and I..

Kirstie Knowles (she/her)

Manager Marine Ecosystems – *Kaimātanga Mātai Ahu Moana*

Aquatic Unit, Biodiversity Group – *Kāhui Kanorau Koiora*

Department of Conservation – *Te Papa Atawhai*

Focal point for: IUCN-WCPA, Local Gov Coastal-SIG, Sustainable Seas Challenge, NZ Marine Sciences Society



Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
✓	🏠	✓	✓	🏠

✓ = In the office; 🏠 = Working remotely; X = Not at work

Papatūānuku Thrives

Te ora o Papatūānuku
Te ora o te Hapori
Te hunga Atawhai



Healthy nature
Thriving communities
People who care

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, 18 July 2021 12:10 pm

To: Kirstie Knowles <kknowles@doc.govt.nz>; Jack Mace <jmace@doc.govt.nz>; Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>; Sarah Owen <sarahowen@doc.govt.nz>; Dave Smith <dwsmith@doc.govt.nz>

Cc: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: orca update for review/signoff

Hi team,

Here's an updated version of today's proposed update. Since we are getting quite a bit of traffic I'd like to put out the update to media before 2pm if we can.

As soon as we say we are looking at different scenarios, we will be asked what they are. We need something high-level, like best case is a successful reunion, but we're dealing with the unknown and need to explore all options?

Please share with iwi/Ingrid as required.

Current weather and marine conditions are too rough to investigate yesterday's orca pod sighting further, but we will reassess throughout the day. It is unlikely any attempt to reunite would take place today.

~~The calf remains stable at this stage and we're working continuing to work~~ through different scenarios as we learn more about the calf, his condition ~~and the likelihood of a successful reunion~~. All decisions will ~~be made draw based~~ on the best international expert advice with the welfare and ethics of ~~the~~ caring for the orca at the front of mind.

Public access to the boat club remains restricted as ~~helpers we all~~ look to ~~minimize~~ stress on the ~~stranded orca~~ calf.

~~The calf remains stable, and staff are monitoring weather conditions to plan for a return to the sea pen as soon as conditions allow. Public access will continue to be restricted from the site if the calf is returned to the sea pen. This is to ensure there are as few potential stressors in its environment as possible.~~

The calf has now been away from his pod for over a week after becoming stranded on rocks near Plimmerton, north of Wellington. An ongoing operation to care for the orca calf is being led by DOC with support from Orca Research Trust/Whale Rescue Trust, local iwi Ngāti Toa Rangatira, and the local community.

Anyone who sights orca pods off the lower North Island's west coast ~~—particularly between Wellington and Taranaki—~~ is urged to provide as much information as possible to DOC, via marinemammals@doc.govt.nz or by calling 0800 DOC HOT (0800 362 468).

From: Kirstie Knowles <kknowles@doc.govt.nz>

Sent: Sunday, 18 July 2021 10:51 am

To: Jack Mace <jmace@doc.govt.nz>; Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Sarah Owen <sarahowen@doc.govt.nz>; Dave Smith <dwsmith@doc.govt.nz>

Cc: Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: Re: orca update for review

Cancel that. Ian has asked me to do morning media.

Kirstie Knowles
Marine Ecosystems Manager
Te Papa Atawhai - DOC

Note: I support flexible working and may be sending this out of usual office hours. I do not expect an out of hours response.

On 18/07/2021 10:34 am, Sarah Owen <sarahowen@doc.govt.nz> wrote:
That will be Ian for tomorrow morning

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 18, 2021 10:24 AM
To: Sarah Owen; Dave Smith; Kirstie Knowles; Jack Mace
Cc: Bronwyn Saunders
Subject: orca update for review

Hi team,

Since wrapping up the meeintg I've had 4 media requests for an update on the orca, and what our plans are today in terms of resuming the search. Can you confirm we are not able to resume a search by sea today due to the ongoing marine conditions?

One request is an AM show interview request for Ian tomorrow morning between 7.20 and 8.20 – will he be back on deck then, or can we nominate another spokesperson?

Please see below a draft response

Current weather and marine conditions are too rough to investigate the orca pod sighting further, but we will reassess throughout the day. It is unlikely an attempt to reunite would take place today.

Public access to the boat club remains restricted as helpers look to minimize stress on the stranded orca calf.

The calf remains stable, and staff are monitoring weather conditions to plan for a return to the sea pen as soon as conditions allow. Public access will continue to be restricted from the site once the calf is returned to the sea pen. This is to ensure there are as few potential stressors in its environment as possible.

The calf has now been away from his pod for over a week after becoming stranded on rocks near Plimmerton, north of Wellington. An ongoing operation to care for the orca calf is being led by DOC with support from Orca Research Trust/Whale Rescue Trust, local iwi Ngāti Toa Rangatira, and the local community.

Anyone who sights orca pods off the lower North Island's west coast – particularly between Wellington and Taranaki – is urged to provide as much information as possible to DOC, via marinemammals@doc.govt.nz or by calling 0800 DOC HOT (0800 362 468).

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 18 July 2021 2:40 pm
To: [REDACTED]@discovery.com>; [REDACTED]@discovery.com>

Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]@discovery.com>
Subject: RE: The AM Show interview request - Ian Angus - 19/07

Kia Ora [REDACTED]

Thanks for following up. Unfortunately it's unlikely we'll be able to help with this particular request tomorrow due to availability.

Feel free to get in touch later in the week and we can see what could be arranged.

Thanks,

From: [REDACTED]@discovery.com>

Sent: Sunday, 18 July 2021 2:26 pm

To: [REDACTED]er@discovery.com>

Cc: [REDACTED] Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@discovery.com>

Subject: Re: The AM Show interview request - Ian Angus - 19/07

Hi [REDACTED]

I am picking this interview up from my colleague [REDACTED]

Was there a spokesperson from DOC for the interview tomorrow?

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

On Sun, Jul 18, 2021 at 12:41 PM [REDACTED]@discovery.com> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

It would be a live interview lasting about five minutes - preferably at the site if possible. The interview time would be 0610.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

On Sun, Jul 18, 2021 at 12:37 PM [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

Can you confirm a few details on this interview for me – will it be live cross to studio or pre-recorded?

Ian is unavailable tomorrow morning, but I am currently lining up an alternative.

Will be in touch

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@discovery.com>
Sent: Sunday, 18 July 2021 10:47 am
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@discovery.com>
Subject: Re: The AM Show interview request - Ian Angus - 19/07

Thanks [REDACTED]

On Sun, Jul 18, 2021 at 10:45 AM [REDACTED] wrote:

Kia Ora [REDACTED]

I have received your request and will get back to you when I can.

Cheers,

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@discovery.com>
Sent: Sunday, 18 July 2021 10:14 am
To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@discovery.com>
Subject: The AM Show interview request - Ian Angus - 19/07

Hi team,

Hope you are well.

I'm getting in touch to see whether we may be able to arrange an interview with Ian tomorrow morning in regard to the stranded juvenile Orca.

The interview time would be between 0720 and 0820, with an exact time to be confirmed early this afternoon.

Would this be possible?

Regards,

█

--

█ - ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE PRODUCER - THE AM SHOW

NEWS DISCOVERY NZ █

DISCOVERYCORPORATE.CO.NZ

From: █
Sent: Sunday, 18 July 2021 2:58 pm
To: █@mediaworks.co.nz>
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Chat on The Breeze

Kia Ora █

Thanks for your email. You should have also just received today's update on the orca – let me know if nothing came through though.

Unfortunately Ian is unavailable tomorrow morning. Feel free to get in touch later in the week though and we can look to try arrange something then.

Thanks,

From: █@mediaworks.co.nz>
Sent: Sunday, 18 July 2021 1:59 pm
To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Chat on The Breeze

Hi there,

I'm the producer for The Breeze in Wellington.

We're looking to chat with someone on the show tomorrow about the latest updates with the baby orca.

Is there someone who would be keen to chat with us tomorrow morning? Some time before 8.30 if possible...

We saw the Marine Species and Threat Manager had been down there a lot, it would be great to speak with him if possible.

Cheers,

[REDACTED]

--

[REDACTED]

Producer - Steve and Shelley
The Breeze | Mediaworks Radio



[REDACTED]



thebreeze.co.nz



15 Walter Street, Te Aro, Wellington

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, 18 July 2021 3:47 pm

To: Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>; Kirstie Knowles <kknowles@doc.govt.nz>; Sarah Owen <sarahowen@doc.govt.nz>; Jack Mace <jmace@doc.govt.nz>; Dave Smith <dwsmith@doc.govt.nz>

Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: FW: Morning Report interview request - Orca pod update

Interview request below. Let me know if we can accommodate this one or need to defer. It's tricky with handover taking place tomorrow for availability – let me know if we need to defer to later.

From: Morningreport <Morningreport@rnz.co.nz>

Sent: Sunday, 18 July 2021 3:31 pm

To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: Morning Report interview request - Orca pod update

Kia ora,

[REDACTED]

from Morning Report here.

We are hoping someone is available to come onto the show live tomorrow at **7:50am** to provide an update on the baby orca, the possible sighting of its pod off the Kāpiti Coast and how the bad weather over the weekend is hindering further investigation into this sighting.

Please give me a call on [REDACTED]

Ngā mihi,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, 18 July 2021 3:52 pm

To: Morningreport <Morningreport@rnz.co.nz>; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Morning Report interview request - Orca pod update

Kia Ora [REDACTED],

Tanks for your email. I'm following up on this for you now. Is there any flexibility in your time? Will be in touch.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 18 July 2021 5:10 pm
To: [REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz
Subject: RE: orca update 2pm Sunday

Kia Ora [REDACTED]

Thanks for your email. I'm following up on this for you now. Are you able to provide a time, list of questions and the best contact number? I'll let you know if we have someone available as soon as I can.

Thanks,

From: [REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz
Sent: Sunday, 18 July 2021 4:54 pm
To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Fw: orca update 2pm Sunday

Hi there,

I wondered if I could arrange an interview for this afternoon/evening on the latest situation with Toa?

It would be a pre-record for our news bulletins in the morning, and take about five minutes.

Cheers,

[REDACTED]
Multimedia Journalist | Newstalk ZB

M: [REDACTED] P: [REDACTED]
E: [REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 18 July 2021 5:48 pm
To: Kirstie Knowles <kknowles@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: newstalk zb interview details

Thanks heaps. Hopefully that's the last of them this evening

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

On 18/07/2021 5:47 PM, Kirstie Knowles <kknowles@doc.govt.nz> wrote:
Yes got it

Kirstie Knowles (she/her)

Manager Marine Ecosystems – *Kaimātanga Mātai Ahu Moana*

Aquatic Unit, Biodiversity Group – *Kāhui Kanorau Koiora*

Department of Conservation – *Te Papa Atawhai*

Focal point for: IUCN-WCPA, Local Gov Coastal-SIG, Sustainable Seas Challenge, NZ Marine Sciences Society



Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
✓	🏠	✓	✓	🏠

✓ = In the office; 🏠 = Working remotely; ✗ = Not at work



From: [Redacted]

Sent: Sunday, 18 July 2021 5:26 pm

To: Kirstie Knowles <kknowles@doc.govt.nz>; Sarah Owen <sarahowen@doc.govt.nz>; Dave Smith <dwsmith@doc.govt.nz>; Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>; Jack Mace <jmace@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: FW: newstalk zb interview details

Hi team,

As mentioned to Sarah, see below an interview request from Newtalk ZB pre-recording tonight for tomorrow morning's news bulletins. Questions similar in nature to the earlier RNZ interview today. Kirstie are you happy to follow up on this one?

From: [Redacted] <[\[Redacted\]@nzme.co.nz](mailto:[Redacted]@nzme.co.nz)>

Sent: Sunday, 18 July 2021 5:18 pm

To: [Redacted]

Subject: Re: orca update 2pm Sunday

Hi [Redacted]

I've available until 8pm tonight - so anytime between now and then works for me.

The number to call is [Redacted]

My questions are:

- Have there been any more pod sightings?
- When was the most recent sighting?
- What is the plan for tomorrow?
- Is he still in the pool?
- Have any decisions been made about Toa's future?

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

Multimedia Journalist | Newstalk ZB

[REDACTED]
E: [REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 18 July 2021 5:10 PM
To: [REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz>
Subject: RE: orca update 2pm Sunday

Kia Ora [REDACTED]
Thanks for your email. I'm following up on this for you now. Are you able to provide a time, list of questions and the best contact number? I'll let you know if we have someone available as soon as I can.
Thanks,

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 8:14 am
To: [REDACTED]@discovery.com>; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Plimmerton orca update

Hi [REDACTED] the latest updates can be found on the doc website. I'll add you to the list for any future updates.
Thanks

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

On 19/07/2021 8:09 AM, [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@discovery.com> wrote:
Hi there.

I was just wondering if there's been any updates around the Orca in Plimmerton.

Thank you.

--

[REDACTED] THE AM SHOW REPORTER, WELLINGTON

DISCOVERY NZ [DISCOVERYCORPORATE.CO.NZ](https://www.discoverycorporate.co.nz)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 10:27 am
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz>
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Orca Update

Kia Ora [REDACTED],

I am unable to confirm an interview time this morning, however I have added you to the list to receive our regular updates. We're expecting to have the latest update before midday.

Thanks,

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz>
Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 8:32 am
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Orca Update

Kia ora [REDACTED]

My best number is [REDACTED]

My questions are as follows:

- What is the current situation with the orca?
- Have there been any changes with its health?
- What is the plan today as the weather eases?

If you can get back to me as soon as possible that would be greatly appreciated.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 8:16 am

To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz>

Subject: Orca Update

Hi [REDACTED],

Thanks for your email. The latest info is on our website. I'll pass your request on the team and get back to you with a time.

Please send me your phone number and a list of questions in advance.

Cheers

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

On 19/07/2021 8:14 AM, [REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz> wrote:

Kia ora [REDACTED] here from the Herald in Wellington,

Just getting in touch with regard to the baby orca at Plimmerton.

We were hoping to get an update from DoC on the current situation via a pre-recorded interview we can use for our news bulletins and website.

Our bulletins broadcast throughout the morning so if you can get back to me as soon as possible that would be greatly appreciated.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 9:40 am

To: [REDACTED]

Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: FW: media requests Orca

To add to the list.

Unless there's a reason not to, I think we should continue to facilitate media interviews where we can.

■ is it you following the media requests up?

From: Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 9:37 am
To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Kirstie Knowles <kknowles@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Orca

Kirstie and self in meetings with experts. Tv 1 and 3 seeking live interviews at site at midday for update. Can someone advise if should proceed. My thoughts can do but not much news. Basically, calf stable, looking for pod. Looking at scenarios with experts.

Media chasing me hard on update.

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

From: ■
Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 10:28 am
To: ■ <■@tvnz.co.nz>; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Seven sharp media request

Kia Ora ■
Thanks for your email. I've added you to the list for our regular updates. We're expecting to have the next update out by midday.
Thanks,

From: ■ <■@tvnz.co.nz>
Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 8:49 am
To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Seven sharp media request

Kia ora
Our reporter ■ did a story last week on Toa the orca, and would be interested in giving our viewers an update on Toa's progress.
Is this possible?
Feel free to give me a call to discuss – ■
Best
■

■
Supervising Producer – Seven Sharp

m. ■



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 10:32 am
To: [REDACTED]@beachfm.co.nz; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Beach FM Kapiti Coast Request for interview

Kia Ora [REDACTED]
Thanks for your email. I've added you to the list to receive our regular updates. We expect the next update to be around midday.
We are unable to arrange an interview this morning, however feel free to get back in touch later this week.
Thanks

From: [REDACTED]@beachfm.co.nz
Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 9:16 am
To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Beach FM Kapiti Coast Request for interview

Hello there

If there was a possibility to talk to anyone onsite on how Toa is that would be appreciated, understanding though how busy everyone is and that he is the priority, but if a gap we would love a chat.

This would be with myself weekdays prior to midday (except Tuesday this week) and the studio number is

[REDACTED]

With kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Producer/Announcer
Beach FM
M. [REDACTED]
E. [REDACTED]@beachfm.co.nz



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 10:33 am
To: [REDACTED]@rnz.co.nz; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: RNZ Media Request re: baby orca

Kia Ora [REDACTED]
We hope to have the next update out before midday.

Thanks

From: [REDACTED]@rnz.co.nz>
Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 9:47 am
To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RNZ Media Request re: baby orca

Good morning,

I'm [REDACTED], a reporter for RNZ Wellington who's been covering the orca in Plimmerton.

Just getting in early this morning to ask whether DOC's vessel is heading out today across the coast looking for orca pods seeing as conditions finally look to be clearing. I'm aware aircraft from Kapiti Aero club are on standby this morning and have an aircraft set to search this afternoon.

Is there also a set time today for a press release update?

If needed, you can contact my on my work cell on [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 10:44 am
To: [REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz>
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Midday live cross - orca

Hi [REDACTED]

It's unlikely we'll be able to facilitate this for midday today due to prior commitments. However, we are aiming to have the next general update out before midday, I'll include you to the list.

Thanks

From: [REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz>
Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 10:15 am
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Midday live cross - orca

Hey [REDACTED]

Any update on this yet?

Cheers,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 9:59 AM
To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Midday live cross - orca

Kia ora [REDACTED],
Thanks for your email.
I'll pass on your request now, though it's unlikely I'll be able to confirm for you by 10.15, I'll try to get back to you asap.
Can you please send through an outline of the questions in advance and the best contact number to reach you on.
Thanks

From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>
Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 9:56 am
To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Midday live cross - orca

Good morning,

We'd like to update the public through a Midday live cross about Toa with him in the background swimming in the pool.

Could you let me know if this will be possible by 10:15am for planning purposes?

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Wellington Breakfast Reporter

[REDACTED]



Follow us: [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 10:56 am
[REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Midday live cross - orca

[REDACTED]
Please note, access is currently restricted to the pool area to minimise stress on the calf.
Cheers

From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>
Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 10:53 am

To: [REDACTED] >
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Midday live cross - orca

Thanks [REDACTED]

We don't need to do an interview, just a live cross will be enough.

If you could pass on Jess's number I'll flick her a message.

Cheers,

[REDACTED]

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 19, 2021 10:51:34 AM
To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>; [REDACTED]
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Midday live cross - orca

Thanks for letting me know. Ian's due to be in a meeting at midday so it's unlikely you'll catch him for your interview.

[REDACTED] from our DOC media team will be on site arriving roughly the same time and will be your best contact for coordinating any interview requests for later today.

From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>
Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 10:46 am
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Midday live cross - orca

Hey [REDACTED]

We're already on our way as we didn't get a response, so I'll just have a chat to Ian when we arrive.

I was told last week that some filming could be arranged for media, we won't be in the way. Just doing a live cross on the side.

Cheers,

[REDACTED]

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Bridget Railton
Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 12:15 pm
To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@thespinoff.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@thespinoff.co.nz)>
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Media list

Kia Ora [REDACTED]

Thanks for your email. I'll add you to the list.
Cheers,

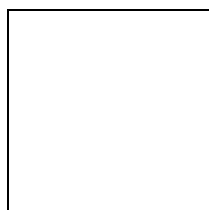
From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@thespinoff.co.nz>
Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 11:54 am
To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Media list

Hello,

Can I please get on your media list? Very keen for orca updates. :)

Cheers,

[REDACTED]



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 12:28 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Media enquiries from Home Voice News Weekly

Kia Ora [REDACTED]

Thanks for your email.

All our orca updates are available on the DOC website here:

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/news/issues/stranded-juvenile-orca-near-porirua/> you are welcome to use any of the information and images on these updates.

I'll also add you to the mailing list so you will receive the next update.

Thanks,

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 12:21 pm
To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Media enquiries from Home Voice News Weekly

To whom it may concern,

Kia Ora, I am [REDACTED] I work as a journalist for Home Voice News Weekly which was a Chinese language newspaper established around 20 years ago in Wellington.

I am writing to ask if I could get permission to report the stranded juvenile orca, I hope I could take some photos of the orca in the temporary pool. The Chinese community is very worried about the orca and keen to know how it is doing now.

Fingers crossed for the orca.

Looking forward to hearing from you. kind regards.

Journalist

Home Voice News Weekly

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 12:48 pm
To: [REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz>
Subject: Re: Orca Update

Hi [REDACTED]
We're still working through details and will be in touch with the plan as soon as finalized.

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

On 19/07/2021 12:43 PM, [REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz> wrote:
Hey [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] here again do you know what time they plan to move Toa from the pool? And if so can media film it?

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 July 2021 11:08
To: [REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz>
Subject: RE: Orca Update

Hi [REDACTED],
We wont be able to arrange anything this morning due to prior commitments. I'll check in with the team later this afternoon and get back to you.

From: [REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz>
Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 11:00 am
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Orca Update

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Thanks for getting me that media release.

I would still love to do a pre-recorded interview with DOC about the orca if you can get back to me as soon as possible that would be greatly appreciated.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 July 2021 10:26
To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@nzme.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz)>
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Orca Update

Kia Ora [REDACTED]

I am unable to confirm an interview time this morning, however I have added you to the list to receive our regular updates. We're expecting to have the latest update before midday.

Thanks,

From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@nzme.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz)>
Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 8:32 am
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Orca Update

Kia ora [REDACTED]

My best number is [REDACTED]

My questions are as follows:

- What is the current situation with the orca?
- Have there been any changes with its health?
- What is the plan today as the weather eases?

If you can get back to me as soon as possible that would be greatly appreciated.

Kind regards,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 July 2021 08:16
To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@nzme.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz)>
Subject: Orca Update

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for your email. The latest info is on our website. I'll pass your request on the team and get back to you with a time.

Please send me your phone number and a list of questions in advance.

Cheers

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

On 19/07/2021 8:14 AM, [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@nzme.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz)> wrote:
Kia ora [REDACTED] here from the Herald in Wellington,

Just getting in touch with regard to the baby orca at Plimmerton.

We were hoping to get an update from DoC on the current situation via a pre-recorded interview we can use for our news bulletins and website.

Our bulletins broadcast throughout the morning so if you can get back to me as soon as possible that would be greatly appreciated.

Kind regards,

█

From: █
Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 2:15 pm
To: █@theguardian.com>
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Orca transfer

Hi █

We're still working through the details and will be in touch when we can.
Thanks

From: █@theguardian.com>
Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 11:16 pm
To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Orca transfer

Kia ora,

Has the orca transfer happened yet? If not, do you know what time it is expected to happen and whether I can attend, on behalf of The Guardian?

Many thanks,

█

Reporter
The Guardian | New Zealand

█

█@theguardian.com

twitter: @GuardianAus / █

From: █
Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 2:46 pm
To: █@rnz.co.nz>; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Note regarding keeping updated with orca transportation

Kia Ora █

Thanks for your email.

We're still working through the details and will be in touch as soon as we can. Apologies I know this is difficult for planning purposes, but a lot goes on behind the scenes to move an orca safely! It won't be in the next hour, I expect.

From: [REDACTED]@rnz.co.nz>
Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 2:30 pm
To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Note regarding keeping updated with orca transportation

Kia ora,

Think it's important to note that we are based in the Wellington city office today, which will have a 40minute travel time, so we hope this is taken into account when updates are made.

Is there any chance of getting a rough ball park of how late in the afternoon the transfer will be taking place?

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 2:55 pm
To: [REDACTED]@discovery.com>
Cc: [REDACTED]@discovery.com>; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@discovery.com>
Subject: RE: The AM Show interview request - DOC - 20/7

Hi [REDACTED]

Unfortunately we wont be able to facilitate an interview at that time of the morning. Let me know if there's anything we can help with later in the week.

Thanks

From: [REDACTED]@discovery.com>
Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 2:46 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]@discovery.com>; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@discovery.com>
Subject: Re: The AM Show interview request - DOC - 20/7

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for your reply.

I absolutely understand that you will have many requests to deal with.

We are very tight with time and would love to cover this story at the start of the show.

Appreciate your efforts,

█

On Mon, Jul 19, 2021 at 2:35 PM █ wrote:

Hi █

Thanks for following up. Your request is currently sitting with the team on the ground. I'm hoping to get an answer back to you as soon as possible, however I'm sure you'll appreciate we've got quite a few media queries and interview requests to work through, so it does take time to confirm.

Do you have any flexibility in your time?

From: █@discovery.com>

Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 2:31 pm

To: █@discovery.com>; █

Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; █@discovery.com>

Subject: Re: The AM Show interview request - DOC - 20/7

Hi there,

I am just following up this request from my colleague █.

Is it possible to have someone available from DOC to talk to us about Toa the Orca tomorrow on The AM Show at 0610?

We would love to check in and see how Toa is doing, and how the support crew are holding up.

We can send a camera to the location to make this as simple as possible.

Thanks,



On Mon, Jul 19, 2021 at 1:09 PM [REDACTED] [@discovery.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@discovery.com)> wrote:

Hi there,

I've just received the note on the reply so adding in more information if it is helpful:

You can reach me directly on [REDACTED]

As we're simulcast on TV and radio we'd like this to be on-air rather than by phone, and we don't pre-record so we would need this to be done in one of our interview slots (0610 as requested would be great).

We would just be looking to discuss the situation at hand, what's happened overnight/today and what we might see in the coming days.

Many thanks,

On Mon, Jul 19, 2021 at 1:00 PM [REDACTED] [@discovery.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@discovery.com)> wrote:

Hi team DOC,

Producer [REDACTED] here from The AM Show. Would someone from DOC be available to join us for an interview on the show tomorrow about the latest on the baby orca in Wellington?

We could do this first up at 0610, on air for 5-7 minutes.

Many thanks,

--

██████████ - SENIOR SET-UP PRODUCER - THE AM SHOW

NEWS ██████████ [DISCOVERYCORPORATE.CO.NZ](https://www.discoverycorporate.co.nz)

From: ██████████
Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 3:52 pm
To: ██████████@tvnz.co.nz
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: 1 News media query

Kia Ora ██████████

Thanks for your patience.

Please see below, attributed to Ian Angus Marine Species Manager

Scenarios

We are dealing with the unknown. DOC are currently working through a number of potential scenarios, alongside Ngati Toa and the Orca Research/Whale Rescue Trust, and with input from national and international experts.

The best case scenario is that we can find the calf's pod soon and reunite it with its mother.

Another scenario would be to find an orca pod with a lactating female and hope the calf would be accepted by that pod. Lactating female orcas have been known to 'adopt' calves, but there is a risk it would be rejected.

We are also considering other possible scenarios. This may include relocating to a purpose-build sea pen in calmer waters. We need to consider that the operation would be logistically complex.

We are also looking into what would be in the best interests for the orca's welfare if the animal's health does begin to deteriorate and it cannot be returned to its pod, and all options remain on the table.

We will be continuing to discuss different scenarios as things develop.

What is the operation costing?

We estimate we've spent around \$10,000 so far. This doesn't include staffing costs.

We want to also acknowledge the contributions made by Iwi and the Orca Research Trust/Whale Rescue Trust. Support from the community and business has been immense and welcome. A huge thanks also to the Plimmerton Boating Club, and to FENZ and their volunteer brigade who continue to make a massive contribution to helping on the site.

DOC staff numbers are constantly changing. We have had a number of staff onsite over the last couple of days, and many staff supporting behind the scenes with advice, research and communications.

From: ██████████@tvnz.co.nz
Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 1:51 pm
To: ██████████

Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: 1 News media query

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Can I please have this info by the end of business today?

Cheers,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] >

Sent: Friday, 16 July 2021 12:14 PM

To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>

Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: 1 News media query

Kia Ora [REDACTED]

Thanks for your email.

I've passed your questions along to the team on the ground however I'm unsure we'll be able to meet that deadline – as you'll appreciate there's a lot going on.

We'll work to get an update to you as soon as we can.

Cheers,

From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)>

Sent: Friday, 16 July 2021 11:22 am

To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: 1 News media query

Kia ora,

Thank you for the latest update on the orca calf in Plimmerton.

Can you please outline what all the options being considered by the Department of Conservation are?

Can you please also let me know what financial cost the Department of Conservation has spent on this operation so far? From when DOC first arrived on the scene on Sunday 11 July to this Friday 16 July morning please. Also, can you please share the number of staff that have been involved in this operation to this point.

Can I please request to have this information by 2pm.

Thank you.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

1 News

[REDACTED]

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copies of the message and attachments. We apologise for the inconvenience. Thank you.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 3:55 pm
To: Morningreport <Morningreport@rnz.co.nz>; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] - RE: [EXTERNAL] - RE: Morning Report interview request - Orca pod update

Kia Ora [REDACTED]
I'm following up for you now. Is there any chance you could do a pre-record tonight if we are unable to find a suitable time in the morning? Mornings can be logistically challenging as our people are in and out of sorting arrangements for the day. We wouldn't expect there to be any drastic changes overnight, so the info would still be current in the morning.

Let me know,

From: Morningreport <Morningreport@rnz.co.nz>
Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 3:26 pm
To: [REDACTED] Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] - RE: [EXTERNAL] - RE: Morning Report interview request - Orca pod update

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Is there anyone who might be available tomorrow morning?

Cheers,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 18 July 2021 8:20 PM
To: Morningreport <Morningreport@rnz.co.nz>; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] - RE: [EXTERNAL] - RE: Morning Report interview request - Orca pod update

Hi [REDACTED],
Unfortunately I can't confirm a time with you this evening, it might be worth checking back in the morning after 8am and I will see if we can arrange something for after then.
Thanks,

From: Morningreport <Morningreport@rnz.co.nz>
Sent: Sunday, 18 July 2021 4:11 pm
To: [REDACTED] Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] - RE: Morning Report interview request - Orca pod update

Yes, there is flexibility in the time.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 18 July 2021 3:51 PM
To: Morningreport <Morningreport@rnz.co.nz>; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] - RE: Morning Report interview request - Orca pod update

Kia Ora [REDACTED]

Tanks for your email. I'm following up on this for you now. Is there any flexibility in your time? Will be in touch.

From: Morningreport <Morningreport@rnz.co.nz>
Sent: Sunday, 18 July 2021 3:31 pm
To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Morning Report interview request - Orca pod update

Kia ora,

[REDACTED] from Morning Report here.

We are hoping someone is available to come onto the show live tomorrow at **7:50am** to provide an update on the baby orca, the possible sighting of its pod off the Kāpiti Coast and how the bad weather over the weekend is hindering further investigation into this sighting.

Please give me a call on [REDACTED]

Ngā mihi,

[REDACTED]
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 4:30 pm
To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@discovery.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@discovery.com)>; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Newshub Radio Request - Urgent

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for your email. I've passed your request and details on to our team on the ground, someone will be in touch when they can.

Cheers,

From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@discovery.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@discovery.com)>
Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 3:25 pm
To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Newshub Radio Request - Urgent

Hi there,

[REDACTED] here from Newshub Radio.

I was wondering if I would be able to set up a quick interview with Ian Angus about the re-location of the baby orca from the pool to the sea pen?

Call me on - [REDACTED]

Would be super quick,

Thanks so much.

█

--

█ NEWSHUB JOURNALIST

NEWS DISCOVERY NZ █ [DISCOVERYCORPORATE.CO.NZ](https://discoverycorporate.co.nz)

From: █
Sent: Monday, 19 July 2021 4:38 pm
To: █
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: update for planning purposes - toa no longer moved today

Kia Ora team,
Thanks for your patience as we continue to work through an evolving situation. A general update will be issued more widely soon with further info, but I am sending this direct to you now as you have indicated interest in following up this afternoon. **For your planning purposes; a transfer of Toa from the sea pen to the pool will now not be taking place this afternoon.**

We'll let you know more detail as soon as we can.
Thanks for your patience

From: █
Sent: Tuesday, 20 July 2021 7:04 am
To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; █@stuff.co.nz>
Subject: media query

Morning █, our latest update is on the doc website. We dont have any overnight updates. I can add you to the media list to receive the next one, mid to late morning. Cheers

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

On 20/07/2021 6:38 AM, █@stuff.co.nz> wrote:
Good morning.

I am on today as Wellington's morning reporter. I am just wanting to check in to see whether there has been any update on the potential sighting of an orca pod in Marlborough?

Thank you,

█

--

█ (she/her)
Crime reporter

E [REDACTED] [@stuff.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@stuff.co.nz) | [REDACTED]
Stuff, Level 7, Spark Central, 42-52 Willis St, Wellington, 6011. PO Box 2595,
Wellington 6140.



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 20 July 2021 9:48 am
To: [REDACTED] [@rnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@rnz.co.nz); Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: RNZ Site Visit

Morning [REDACTED],
Hope you're well. I understand you've spoken with Jess on site? She'll give you a call later this morning to let you know what's suitable.
Cheers

From: [REDACTED] [@rnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@rnz.co.nz)>
Sent: Tuesday, 20 July 2021 9:32 am
To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RNZ Site Visit

Good morning,

I'm [REDACTED] I've been covering Toa since last Monday for RNZ. Emailing this morning to see if we can organise a time to come out and cover Toa on site?

For our content deadline, the best window I have for heading out there is between now and 12pm – hope that works.

Look forward to hearing from you,

[REDACTED] | Journalist
Radio New Zealand | Level 2 | 155 The Terrace
PO Box 123 | Wellington | New Zealand 6140 www.radionz.co.nz



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 20 July 2021 12:30 pm
To: [REDACTED] [@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz); Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED] [@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz); [REDACTED] [@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz)
Subject: RE: Breakfast Interview Request

Kia Ora Breakfast team,

Unfortunately we wont be able to help with this request tomorrow morning due to prior commitments, but feel free to check in again for Thursday, we may be able to set something up then – depending what’s happening on the day orca-wise of course!
Thanks,

From: [redacted]@tvnz.co.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 20 July 2021 12:11 pm
To: [redacted]; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [redacted]
[redacted]@tvnz.co.nz>; [redacted]@tvnz.co.nz>
Subject: Re: Breakfast Interview Request

Hi [redacted] - Just looping in the afternoon team on this!

From: [redacted]
Sent: 20 July 2021 10:50
To: [redacted]@tvnz.co.nz>; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Breakfast Interview Request

Hi [redacted],
Thanks for your email. I’ve passed on to the team to see what might be possible. We wont be able to accommodate any requests before 7.30am.
Will be in touch,
Thanks

From: [redacted]@tvnz.co.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 20 July 2021 10:36 am
To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Breakfast Interview Request

Kia ora,

We were hoping someone would be available to do an interview with us tomorrow morning about Toa.

It would be a 5-6-minute interview in our Wellington studio between 0700 and 0745.

We just want an update on Toa and what happens moving forward.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thanks,

[redacted]
Breakfast Producer

[redacted]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 20 July 2021 1:46 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: DOC Toa OIA

Yes, please narrow scope as suggested and do include DOC and the Orca Research Trust/Whale rescue Trust.

Best,

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 July 2021 13:44
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz>
Subject: DOC Toa OIA

Kia Ora [REDACTED]

Thanks for your time on the phone just now.

As discussed, the OIA request in its current form would likely be declined on the basis of collation required as it encapsulates everything from public enquiry and questions to expert advice – and everything in between - I'm sure you'll appreciate how these things grow legs.

From our conversation I understand your query to be mainly focused on understanding how DOC responds to a wildlife stranding situation, managing the operational response, expert advice, volunteer needs and inputs and high public interest.

Based on that, we discussed refining the scope to include:

- All correspondence between DOC and volunteers working directly on the orca rescue but excluding general public enquiry (did you want to include correspondence between DOC and the Orca Research Trust/Whale rescue Trust?)
- All substantive advice between the aquatic team and the operations team directly involved in the response
- All substantive advice between DOC and marine mammal experts regarding the ongoing care and/or rehabilitation of the orca

Let me know if I've captured your thoughts correctly, and if there's any changes or additions you'd like. Once you're happy I'll pass back to our OIA team to process.

[REDACTED]
Communications Advisor / Kaitohutohu Whakapa, Southern South Island Region
Department of Conservation - *Te Papa Atawhai*
Invercargill / *Murihiku* District Office, CUE on Don, 33 Don Street,
PO Box 743, Invercargill 9840
[REDACTED]

Conservation leadership for our nature *Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa*
www.doc.govt.nz

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 20 July 2021 2:19 pm

To: [REDACTED]@stuff.co.nz; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Questions re Toa

Kia Ora [REDACTED]

Thanks for your email. Letting you know we've picked this up and hope to have something back to you soon.

Cheers,

From: [REDACTED]@stuff.co.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 20 July 2021 1:17 pm
To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Questions re Toa

Hi media team, hope you're all well. I have some questions I'd love to have answered please!

-DOC's usual practise is not to intervene in the lives and welfare of wild animals - why was this case different?

-If another whale of this age was stranded in similar circumstances next month, would anything be done differently? Does Toa set a new precedent for intervention, or has he shown us that it can often get us in too deep?

-What are the odds, now, that a reuniting of Toa and his pod will be successful if they are located?

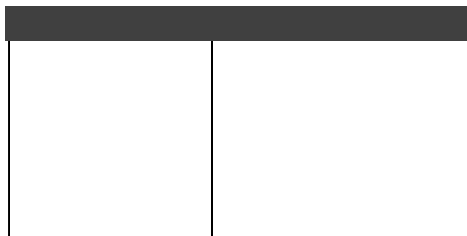
-Has euthanasia been discussed, and how much would Toa's welfare have to decline to to make this the best option?

-Roughly how many hours of DOC staff's time has been dedicated to work surrounding the orca calf?

My deadline is 3pm please. If some questions are unable to be answered in time, please do send me back as much as you can by the deadline.

Thanks heaps!

[REDACTED]
Reporter (she/her)



From: [REDACTED] n
Sent: Wednesday, 21 July 2021 8:55 am
To: [REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz; [REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz; [REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz
Subject: RE: Breakfast Interview Request

Kia Ora [REDACTED]

Thanks for your email. We do appreciate your ongoing interest. The AM Show were simply ahead in the queue having been rescheduled for a number of days in a row. Because mornings are a very busy time for our people setting up for the day and planning, we are only able to commit to a limited number of interviews at that time – it's not about exclusive access at all, purely logistics. We are still looking to confirm a time for you tomorrow morning and hope to get back to you soon.

Thanks,

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 21 July 2021 8:50 am
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz>; [REDACTED] Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@tvnz.co.nz>
Subject: RE: Breakfast Interview Request

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for helping us organise this request.

We just wanted to check in, as we saw DOC were able to provide an update on the welfare of Toa on The AM show this morning.

Can you please explain to me why we weren't given the same access, despite our request?

We have been following the plight of Toa closely, including very positive coverage of DOC's efforts so it seems unfair that DOC chose to effectively give an exclusive to another broadcaster.

Regards,
[REDACTED]

Naomi Tan

[REDACTED] - Breakfast

[REDACTED]



Follow us: Facebook | Twitter | YouTube

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 21 July 2021 10:27 am
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@maoritelevision.com>
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Māori TV BabyToa update today.

It'll be a PR generally updating on Toa's condition and the plan for the day.
For your planning purposes, I'm not expecting any major changes, but obviously it's an ever evolving situation so don't hold me to that!
Cheers

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@maoritelevision.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 21 July 2021 10:22 am
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Māori TV BabyToa update today.

Thanks [REDACTED]

Will it be PR or an advisory for stand up? For planning purposes as we only have 1 crew on today.

Ngā mihi

[REDACTED]
Māori Television
WELLINGTON
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 21 July 2021 10:28 am
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz>
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Orca update

Hi [REDACTED], thanks for your email and ongoing interest.
Someone will be in touch with a time as soon as they can.
Cheers,

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 21 July 2021 10:01 am
To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Fw: Orca update

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 July 2021 09:19
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Orca update

Kia ora [REDACTED] here again from Newstalk ZB,

Was hoping to again lock in an interview this morning with Ian Angus for our bulletins and website.

If you can get back to me on this as soon as possible that would be greatly appreciated.

Kind regards,

██████████

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From: ██████████
Sent: Thursday, 22 July 2021 8:15 am
To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; ██████████@nzme.co.nz>
Subject: Orca update

Morning ██████████,
We've received your request and will see what we can do. It's likely most people will be tied up in planning meetings at this time of day, but I'll let you know asap.
Cheers

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

On 22/07/2021 7:57 AM, ██████████@nzme.co.nz> wrote:
Kia ora ██████████ here again from Newstalk ZB,

Just looking to get in touch again for a pre-recorded interview about the latest on what is happening with Toa.

The interview would be roughly five minutes and would follow this question line:

- What is the latest in the situation?
- What does this bad weather mean for the current situation?
- What is the latest health update on the animal?

My deadline for this would be 9am so if you can get back to me before then that would be greatly appreciated.

Kind regards,

██████████

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From: ██████████
Sent: Thursday, 22 July 2021 2:41 pm
To: ██████████ Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: NOT TO BE FORWARDED OR SENT TO ANYONE - Orca contingency message

Hey ██████████
This is the version that was agreed with Ingrid, ██████████.

From: Sarah Owen <sarahowen@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Sunday, 18 July 2021 2:12 pm
To: Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>; Jack Mace <jmace@doc.govt.nz>; Dave Smith <dwsmith@doc.govt.nz>; Kirstie Knowles <kknowles@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: ██████████ Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: NOT TO BE FORWARDED OR SENT TO ANYONE - Orca contingency message

Hi all
I have had this agreed with Ingrid and ██████████ and ██████████ (local iwi) in the unfortunate case of having to euthanise for health decline reasons.

The health of the orca calf stranded at Porirua has deteriorated and officials have made the difficult call to euthanise.

Ian Angus DOC's Marine Species Manager says despite the best efforts of the many DOC staff, Orca Research Trust/Whale Rescue Trust, local iwi Ngāti Toa Rangatira, and the local community, expert veterinary advice was that the orca had begun to suffer. "Despite every effort, including advice from experts around the world, the orca's health took a turn for the worst".

Although there have been two sightings we were unable to ascertain who they were and a release back to them would have prolonged his suffering.

We have had to make this heartbreaking decision with his health rapidly deteriorating, this was deemed to be the kindest action.

We will continue to treat Toa with the dignity and respect he deserves. Appropriate arrangements are being made with local iwi.

We'd like to thank every one who has volunteered their time and efforts to saving Toa and everyone who has followed his journey.

The orca had been stranded since last Sunday. The calf - estimated to be between four and six months old – was stranded on rocks near Plimmerton, north of Wellington.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 22 July 2021 6:30 pm
To: [REDACTED]@rnz.co.nz; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: [REDACTED]@rnz.co.nz; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Orca update (Friday 5am) first Up RNZ

Kia Ora [REDACTED]
Thanks for your email. Unfortunately we aren't able to facilitate an interview at that time of the morning. Happy to follow up for later in the day.
Thanks,

From: [REDACTED]@rnz.co.nz
Sent: Thursday, 22 July 2021 6:21 pm
To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]@doc.govt.nz
Cc: [REDACTED]@rnz.co.nz
Subject: Orca update (Friday 5am) first Up RNZ

Kia ora [REDACTED] and DoC media team,

I was wondering if there will be anyone available in the morning before our show to talk to for an update on Toa, the Orca's condition?

I've cc'd in [REDACTED] who will be in in the early hours, I was hoping someone might be up overnight and we could check in before our show goes to air? (5am-6am)

Best wishes,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | **Producer – First Up**
Radio New Zealand | Level 3 | 171 Hobson St
PO Box 2209 | Auckland | New Zealand 1040
firstup@rnz.co.nz
[REDACTED]



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 22 July 2021 6:55 pm
To: [REDACTED]@rnz.co.nz
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] - RE: Interview request with RNZ's late night news programme, Lately

Ok, I'll see who's available tomorrow. Cheers
And no worries!

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

On 22/07/2021 6:54 PM, [REDACTED]@rnz.co.nz wrote:
Also – thanks so much for getting back to me so fast – really appreciate it!

From: [REDACTED]@doc.govt.nz
Sent: Thursday, 22 July 2021 6:51 p.m.
To: [REDACTED]@rnz.co.nz
Cc: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] - RE: Interview request with RNZ's late night news programme, Lately

Kia Ora [REDACTED]
Thanks for your email.
Unfortunately we won't be able to provide an interview at that time of the evening. I'm sure you'll appreciate everyone's been pulling some pretty long days.
Happy to follow up tomorrow?
Thanks,

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]@rnz.co.nz
Date: 22/07/2021 6:36 pm
Subject: Interview request with RNZ's late night news programme, Lately
To: [REDACTED]
Cc:
Hi [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] here from the team at Lately, RNZ's late night news programme.

Is there any chance we could talk to someone from the team looking after the orca calf on our show tonight for about five minutes?

It'll go to air just after 10:15pm and would be a very short chat, but we can prerecord from 7:30.

Keenly watching the latest updates!

Cheers
[REDACTED]

██████████ | Producer/newsreader
RNZ | Level 2, 155 The Terrace | PO Box 123 | Wellington | New Zealand

██



www.RNZ.co.nz



From: ██████████
Sent: Thursday, 22 July 2021 9:26 pm
To: ██████████@rnz.co.nz; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] - Wastewater sewage

Yes he is back in the pen.
We'll have a further update tomorrow mid morning

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

On 22/07/2021 9:23 PM, ██████████@rnz.co.nz wrote:
Excellent thanks for your speedy response. Does that mean Toa is back in the sea pen then?

From: ██████████
Sent: 22 July 2021 21:22
To: ██████████@rnz.co.nz; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] - Wastewater sewage

Hi ██████████
We've been working with the council all week who have been monitoring water quality following the storm.
I'll be in touch tomorrow if there are any further updates

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

On 22/07/2021 8:08 PM, ██████████@rnz.co.nz wrote:
Kia ora,

I'm writing to just ask if you know of the pipe burst in Porirua which is sending sewage into the harbour?

I was wanting to see if this will impact on your plans to re-introduce Toa back into his sea pen?

Are you able to send me a quick comment on whether this is affecting you at all?

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | He/Him | **Reporter (Wellington Issues)**

Radio New Zealand | Level 2 | 155 The Terrace

PO Box 123 | Wellington | New Zealand 6140

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, 22 July 2021 10:39 pm

To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz>

Subject: Re: Baby Orca update

Hi [REDACTED]

The orca is back in the sea pen after being moved early this evening. All other info is in the update.
Cheers

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

On 22/07/2021 10:35 PM, [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

This update makes no mention confirming the baby Orca is back into the sea pen, but rather a decision has been made to move it back.

Can I please request the details or statement from this news story which says the Orca is back in the sea pen, and there's been a dip in energy levels.

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/300364214/baby-orca-back-in-sea-pen-following-reported-drop-in-energy-levels>



[Baby orca back in sea pen following reported drop in energy levels](https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/300364214/baby-orca-back-in-sea-pen-following-reported-drop-in-energy-levels)
www.stuff.co.nz

[REDACTED]
MULTIMEDIA JOURNALIST

M: [REDACTED]
E: [REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz

NZME. NEW ZEALAND
MEDIA AND
ENTERTAINMENT

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 July 2021 10:02 PM
To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [REDACTED]
Subject: Baby Orca update

Kia ora [REDACTED]
Our latest update is on the doc website here

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/news/media-releases/2021-media-releases/orca-update-5pm-thursday-22-july-2021/>

I can add you to the list to receive future updates.

Thanks

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

On 22/07/2021 9:28 PM, [REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz> wrote:

Hi there.

Stuff.co.nz is saying Baby orca Toa has been shifted back into its sea pen, as the calf's carers report a dip in its energy levels.

Can you please confirm this? and provide a statement or update on his condition?

Thank you.

[REDACTED]
MULTIMEDIA JOURNALIST

M: [REDACTED]
E: [REDACTED]@nzme.co.nz

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MEDIA AND
ENTERTAINMENT

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From: Steve Brightwell

Sent: Saturday, 24 July 2021 7:46 am

To: [redacted]@projectionah.org.nz; [redacted]@theguardian.com; [redacted]@aap.com.au; [redacted]@verizonmedia.com; [redacted]@nzme.co.nz; [redacted]@nzme.co.nz; [redacted]@tvnz.co.nz; [redacted]@rnz.co.nz; [redacted]@rnz.co.nz; news@rnz.co.nz; [redacted]@nzme.co.nz; [redacted]@discovery.com; [redacted]@nzme.co.nz; [redacted]o@stuff.co.nz; [redacted]@tvnz.co.nz; [redacted]@discovery.com; [redacted]@rnz.co.nz; [redacted]@stuff.co.nz; [redacted] Ian Angus <iangus@doc.govt.nz>; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; [redacted]; Social Media <socialmedia@doc.govt.nz>; [redacted]; webteam@doc.govt.nz; Jack Mace <jmace@doc.govt.nz>; [redacted]@parliament.govt.nz>; [redacted]@parliament.govt.nz>; [redacted]@parliament.govt.nz>; [redacted]@stuff.co.nz; [redacted]@stuff.co.nz; [redacted]@rnz.co.nz; [redacted] - Radio Live <news@radiolive.co.nz>; shareyournews@maoritelevision.com; news@newshub.co.nz; news@tvnz.co.nz; news@fuseworksmedia.com; [redacted]@makelemonade.nz; contact@newsroom.co.nz; online-editor@nzherald.co.nz; news@nznewswire.co.nz; editor@scoop.co.nz; newsroom@stuff.co.nz; onlinenews@tvnz.co.nz; news@digitaladvance.co.nz; [redacted]@thespinoff.co.nz; info@thespinoff.co.nz; [redacted]@globalhq.co.nz; [redacted]@aap.com.au; [redacted]@jslmedia.com.au; wellington@stuff.co.nz; [redacted]@stuff.co.nz; [redacted]@rnz.co.nz; Jack Mace <jmace@doc.govt.nz>; [redacted]@beachfm.co.nz; [redacted]@nzme.co.nz; [redacted]@tvnz.co.nz; [redacted]@tvnz.co.nz; [redacted]@thespinoff.co.nz; [redacted]@discovery.com; [redacted]@tvnz.co.nz; [redacted]@tvnz.co.nz; [redacted]@stuff.co.nz; [redacted]@nhnz.tv; [redacted]@maoritelevision.com; [redacted] Internal Comms <internalcomms@doc.govt.nz>; [redacted]

Subject: Media Release - Toa the orca calf farewelled

Statement below from Department of Conservation is available for Immediate use.

Ngā mihi

[redacted]
Duty Advisor Communications
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*
WHAKATANE
M: [redacted]



Media release

24 July 2021

Orca calf Toa farewelled with dawn ceremony

Amid karakia and waiata, the baby orca known as Toa was farewelled by around 70 people at Plimmerton Boating Club at dawn this morning before being taken for burial by Ngāti Toa Rangatira.

Toa died in his sea pen last evening.

Department of Conservation (DOC) Marine Species Manager Ian Angus said the ceremony attended by Ngati Toa, members of the local community, volunteers and DOC staff, was respectful and moving.

No necropsy was performed.

Ian Angus said DOC thanks the many people who tried to save Toa and return him to his natal pod over the past 12 days.

“We wish to especially thank Gayle Carmichael of the Plimmerton Boating Club and all the members of the club, kaumatua and members of Ngāti Toa Rangatira and Dr Ingrid Visser and her team from Whale Rescue.”

Ian Angus said the number of people involved was staggering with local businesses contributing a wide range of support, veterinarians from Wellington Zoo and HUHA offering their services and a team of more than 40 international and national experts providing their advice over the past 12 days.

“It was not going to be easy to return Toa to his pod which could be anywhere around Aotearoa. It was our goal to return him to his natal pod, but sadly we were unsuccessful in achieving that objective.

“Nonetheless we can reflect on this and know this huge team of people gave it their best.”

Department of Conservation staff will now turn their attention to clearing the site and returning it to Plimmerton Boating Club.

ENDS

Ian Angus is available for interviews. Requests should be made through Media@doc.govt.nz

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 24 July 2021 7:20 am
To: [REDACTED] >
Subject: DRAFT statement re Toa Saturday 24 July

Draft for your thoughts – can we add an editor’s note that we won’t be issuing any further statements?
[REDACTED]

24 July 2021

Orca calf Toa farewelled with dawn ceremony

Amid karakia and waiata, the baby orca known as Toa was farewelled by around 70 people at Plimmerton at dawn this morning before being taken for burial by Ngāti Toa Rangatira.

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Department of Conservation (DOC) Marine Species Manager Ian Angus said the ceremony attended by Ngati Toa, members of the local community, volunteers and DOC staff, was respectful and moving.

No necropsy was performed.

Ian Angus said DOC thanks the many people who tried to save Toa and return him to his natal pod over the past 13 days.

“We wish to especially thank Gayle Carmichael of the Plimmerton Boating Club, kaumatua and members of Ngāti Toa Rangatira and Dr Ingrid Visser and her team from Whale Rescue.”

Ian Angus said the number of people involved was staggering with local businesses contributing a wide range of support, veterinarians from Wellington Zoo and HUHA offering their services and a team of 47 international and national experts providing their advice over the past 11 days.

“It was always a long shot that we would be able to see Toa returned to his pod and very sadly we were unsuccessful in achieving that goal.

“Nonetheless we can reflect on this and know this huge team of people gave it their best shot.”

Department of Conservation staff will now turn their attention to clearing the site and returning it to Plimmerton Boating Club.

ENDS

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 23 July 2021 10:40 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Toa passing away

No requests as such yet but they will be coming.
Sleep well.

■

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, 23 July 2021 10:38 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Toa passing away

■

I've just arrived in Wellington.

Going to be out there at 5.45am with Ian.

If you have a list of media who requesting interviews tomorrow flick it to me .

Going to bed so I can get up bloody early and get on road.

[REDACTED]
Team Lead Communications
[REDACTED]

On 23/07/2021 10:10 pm, [REDACTED] wrote:



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Media release

23 July 2021

Orca calf Toa loses fight for survival

Despite a massive community effort to save the orca calf known as Toa, he has tonight died in the sea pen at Plimmerton Boating club.

The condition of the orca calf that stranded 13 days ago began to deteriorate this evening.

Department of Conservation Marine Species Manager, Ian Angus says local iwi Ngāti Toa Rangatira, the many DOC staff, Orca Research Trust/Whale Rescue, and the local community threw everything at trying to save him.

“We were always aware that the longer he was in captivity, away from his mother, the more likely it was that his health would deteriorate.

“Toa passed quickly, surrounded by love with his last days made as comfortable as possible.

“Throughout this amazing effort, we’ve all been united in wanting to do the best for Toa. Finding and reuniting him with his pod was still our goal as we headed into the weekend.

“This calf had captured hearts, and no one wanted to believe that he didn’t have a fighting chance.

“We will continue to treat Toa with the dignity and respect he deserves. Appropriate arrangements are being made with Ngāti Toa.

“We’d like to thank everyone who has volunteered their time and efforts to saving this orca calf and everyone who has followed his journey”, says Ian Angus.

ENDS

Sunday 11 July, the orca calf was stranded on rocks near Plimmerton, north of Wellington. Less than 2.5m long, he was thought to be 2 to 6 months old.

The operation to care for the orca calf was led by DOC with support from Orca Research Trust/Whale Rescue Trust, local iwi Ngāti Toa Rangatira, and the local community.

Ian Angus is not available tonight but will be available from 6.30am tomorrow. Interview requests should be made through Media@doc.govt.nz

From: [REDACTED]@rnz.co.nz>

Sent: Friday, 23 July 2021 9:24 pm

To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: Toa passing away

Kia ora,

I was wondering if you were able to let me know if someone will be available for an interview, either tonight, or tomorrow morning, to talk about what has happened with Toa?

As I'm sure you're aware, Whale Rescue has posted saying he has died?

Are you able to confirm this and tell me if someone is available for a chat?

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He/Him | **Reporter (Wellington Issues)**

Radio New Zealand | Level 2 | 155 The Terrace

PO Box 123 | Wellington | New Zealand 6140

Mob.: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 23 July 2021 10:12 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Urgent Newshub query

Okay, didn't see media box copied so they may get two copies each now – no harm done.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 23 July 2021 10:10 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Urgent Newshub query

Hi
I've sent statement to all who emailed before so you can stand down now.
Thanks [REDACTED].

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 23 July 2021 10:10 pm
To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@discovery.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@discovery.com)>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@discovery.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@discovery.com)>; Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Urgent Newshub query



Media release

23 July 2021

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Ian Angus is not available tonight but will be available from 6.30am tomorrow. Interview requests should be made through Media@doc.govt.nz

From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@discovery.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@discovery.com)>
Sent: Friday, 23 July 2021 9:51 pm
To: [REDACTED] >
Cc: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@discovery.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@discovery.com)>
Subject: Re: Urgent Newshub query

Thanks [REDACTED]

I’ve ccd in my colleague [REDACTED] who is working tomorrow and will be wanting to keep updated about Saturday’s plans.

Cheers

On Fri, 23 Jul 2021 at 9:48 PM, [REDACTED] > wrote:

Hi [REDACTED],

We will have a statement coming shortly. No interviews until tomorrow morning.

Ngā mihi

[REDACTED]
Duty Advisor Communications

Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

WHAKATANE

M: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@discovery.com>

Sent: Friday, 23 July 2021 9:10 pm

To: Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: Urgent Newshub query

Hi there,

Can you please confirm Toa has passed away?

Can you please detail as much as you can, I understand it will be a difficult time.

Feel free to call if easier - [REDACTED]

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

--

[REDACTED] / REPORTER

NEWS DISCOVERY NZ MOBILE [REDACTED] [DISCOVERYCORPORATE.CO.NZ](https://www.discoverycorporate.co.nz)



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[REDACTED] / REPORTER

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