



PROMOTING STEWARDSHIP OF WHALES AND THE SALISH SEA ECOSYSTEM THROUGH EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

December 18, 2004

Dear Luna Stewardship Fund Donator:

We'd like to thank you again for your previous donation to aid in the **Reintroduction of Luna** with his family group in the Salish Sea region through the **Luna Stewardship Fund (LSF)**.

As you know, Luna's story has been long and confusing, remarkable for such a young whale. People all over the world anxiously await the outcome. We at The Whale Museum wanted to give you a brief update and let you know how the Luna Stewardship Funds have been used.

As you may recall, after L Pod returned to the Salish Sea in June 2004, lead-out attempts were stopped and plans were finally initiated for a hard capture and relocation of L-98. Those plans soon stalled as the Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and the local First Nations people, the Mowachat/Muchalalt Band, disagreed on the capture. Instead, First Nations and DFO embarked on a joint stewardship plan late in the summer while they negotiated a solution that they can agree to. We are still awaiting the outcome of those negotiations. Meanwhile, Luna has remained in Nootka Sound. He has sustained minor injuries over the summer, but seems to be in good overall health. L-98 had many interactions with vessels and people over the summer, but things have quieted down considerably over the winter. If you are interested in the latest Luna updates, you might want to follow the www.reuniteluna.com website.

The Whale Museum used a portion of LSF funds to assist with the Luna Research Project over the winter of 2003-04. This project monitored Luna's behavior, vocalizations and whereabouts, as well as trying to locate L Pod off the west coast of Vancouver Island with hydrophones and sightings information. The project was primarily focused on gathering information and making the needed preparations for potential lead-out and natural reintroduction attempts. After the hard capture plan was cancelled in June and it became clear that a new plan was not immediately forthcoming, the remaining LSF funds were distributed to the Pacific Orca Society (www.orcalab.org) and Orca Network (www.orcanetwork.org) as seed money for the continued monitoring of L-98 over the winter of 2004-05.

The Whale Museum is continuing to play a role in Luna reunification efforts beyond the LSF fund, but is relinquishing its role as "central banker" for the Luna non-profit coalition; which it has carried since the reunification of Springer in 2001. Starting in 2005, Orca Network has agreed to take on the role of banking and processing future contributions for Luna. Donations made through Orca Network are tax deductible in the U.S. This winter The Whale Museum will participate in a project placing hydrophones in Nootka Sound to monitor L-98 and for possible L Pod location detection. We would very much like to thank you for your support of Luna and hope you continue to stay interested in his predicament.

Sincerely,
Kari Koski
Soundwatch Coordinator
Luna Stewardship Fund

Rich Osborne, Ph.D.
Director
The Whale Museum



THE WHALE MUSEUM

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