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PRESS RELEASES APRIL-MAY 2019

Reef Guardians heads to Russia with Cousteau Team to free Orca and Beluga in Whale Jail.

RGH Founder, Harry Rabin, was invited to join the Cousteau Team and Whale Sanctuary Project to head first to Moscow, for diplomatic meetings, and then on to Vladivostok and the infamous Srednyaya Bay in an effort to free 10 Orca and 87 Belugas held in the so-called Whale Jail.



The team was invited by both the Russian Ministry and the Governor of Vladivostok to assess the health of all the animals and determine if they could indeed be released back to the wild. Reef Guardians provided the team with an Infrared scope, Audio and video equipment, Drones and Hydrophones.

The Teams dedication and hard work led to an agreement in which the Governor of Vladivostok, stated the principal goal of rehabilitation and release. Subsequently, VNIRO, Russias equivalent to the United States Fish and Wildlife, recommended that there are no scientific reasons why the whales cannot be released, mirroring the Jean-Michel Cousteau/Whale Sanctuary Project team recommendations.



Harry Rabin during on camera Interview at the Orca pens in Srednyaya Bay.

Mutual cooperation between our scientists and Russia's is underway and we hope to soon return all Orca and Beluga back to where they were captured so they can be united, once again, with their families.



Charles Vinick and Jean-Michel Cousteau at Orca Pen 3.

The team was led by Jean-Michel Cousteau and Charles Vinick of the Whale Sanctuary Project. Team members: Jeff Foster; head of assessment of Orca and Beluga,, Dr. Ingrid Visser leading Orca researcher from New Zealand, Katy Laveck Foster; Marine Biologist, Harry Rabin; Marine wildlife expert and scientific documentary filmmaker,

David Gordon and Russ Abdrakhmanov; translators. Russian team members: Grigory Tsidulko; Marine Biologist , Dr. Tatiana Denisenko; Biologist and Activist Tatiana Beley.



L to R: Jeff Foster, Dr. Ingrid Visser, Katy Laveck Foster, Harry Rabin, Jean-Michel Cousteau, Dr. Tatiana Denisenko, Tatiana Beley, Grigory Tsidulko, Russ Abdrakhmanov., Charles Vinick, David Gordon