

Merlin Entertainments

21. ágúst 2017
UST201702-171/M.S.
11.16

Subject: Licence to import beluga whales

The Environment Agency refers to your request for authorization to import three beluga whales (*Delphinapterus leucas*) to Iceland from China, dated 14th of February 2017.

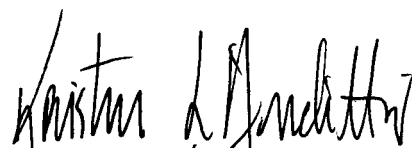
In accordance with Article 63(3) of the Nature Conservation Act No 60/2013 your request was sent to the Expert Committee on Exotic Organisms, which delivered its written assessment to the Environment Agency on the 4th of May 2017. The committee came to a negative conclusion which was presented to you with a letter dated 8th of May 2017.

The Environment Agency received your response to the findings of the Expert Committee on the 19th and 31st of May 2017, which was subsequently sent to the Committee for assessment. On the 11th of August 2017 the Committee concluded that it does not advise against the import of the beluga whales provided that they are kept in quarantine for six months, that all research during that time is supervised by Matvælastofnun (Icelandic Food and Veterinary Authority) and that the research does not reveal any negative results as to the belugas carrying foreign microbes or other disease that could negatively affect the marine environment around Iceland.

The Environment Agency hereby grants Merlin Entertainment a licence to import the beluga whales to Iceland, with the same conditions as set forth in the second written assessment of the Expert Committee on Exotic Organisms.

Sincerely,


Marianna Said
Lawyer


Kristín L. Árnadóttir
General Director

A copy sent to Matvælastofnun.