

Lolita Success Plan

1) Get her out of her current pool ASAP and into the new “Irsay Family Whale and Dolphin Rescue and Rehabilitation Center.” This would ideally be a tank at least double the size of her current environment, equipped with a medical pool with a false bottom floor that could be raised for medical procedures or in the event she needs immediate intervention. Lolita’s current pool lacks this safety measure, and if she needs medical attention, the water must be dropped, which is incredibly stressful for her. A move straight to a sea pen with her health issues leaves few options for medical intervention should she require it.

- A new pool will be a massive improvement for the immediate welfare of Lolita and the Pacific white-sided dolphins. A move to a new pool, close by in Florida, should NOT require any federal permits from NOAA under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act, as it would not involve interstate travel, nor should it require a USDA license if she’s not being publicly exhibited or used for research.
- There would be a life support system, temporary structures for a lab, offices, fish preparation kitchen and security.
- A retractable shade structure would be installed over her pool to provide shelter from the sun and act as a barrier for drones/helicopter surveillance.
- This could be fast tracked in 3-4 months.
- A new pool is **ESSENTIAL** to the success of any potential sea pen move.
- It is standard procedure for an animal like Lolita to go to an intermediary facility/pool prior to a sea pen to make sure she is stabilized.
- The initial 4-6 weeks after any kind of move is critical. Because she has been in the same pool for more than 50 years, a move straight to a sea pen is extremely risky without a larger intermediary facility in which to physically and mentally prepare her. In football terms, it’s like having a variable strategy where you can run or pass strategically and incrementally, getting the ball within passing or kicking distance of the endzone, rather than committing to a Hail Mary.
- A new pool would greatly reduce the stress she’d experience before a sea pen relocation and allow for feasible medical intervention if needed.
- The pool can be designed as a temporary structure or it can carry on as a facility for rescue and rehabilitation of whales and dolphins from the wild and from captivity in inadequate facilities.
- If Lolita doesn’t survive the transport to the new pool--it won’t be for nothing. We will have saved her from the enormous amount of stress she’d endure from a cross-country move, and Jim’s enormous generosity and love would live on in her memory.

2) Bring in a small group of long-time trainers. Lolita’s current trainers are the second string, let’s bring in the game openers! We want to make sure her transition is **SUCCESSFUL**—let’s bring in the trainers who know her best who also have experience with the Pacific white-sided dolphins. This is another measure of abating stress—bring back the people who she loves and knows best.

There are plays we can make as a team to ensure a touchdown for Lolita’s future welfare. The new pool should be part of the game plan we can use to make sure Lolita wins the game!