
From: Thornton, Jim (GOV)
Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2023 9:40 AM
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Cc: McConnon, Dan (GOV); Fernandez, Rafael (GOV)
Subject: Tokitae Preapplication Meeting

You all are included on this email because you have been identified as primary contact(s) for the potential permitting and approval of relocating the captive orca Tokitae from the Miami Seaquarium to an ocean net enclosure in Puget Sound. I wanted to give you an update on the current status of the potential relocation of Tokitae.

As you all may know the "Friends of Toki" (FoT) have negotiated an agreement to receive custody of Tokitae from the Seaquarium in Miami, FL with the intent of relocating her to a healthier and more suitable site. Potential sites have been identified in Washington State waters known as the Salish Sea. On May 17, 2023, FoT requested the Office of Regulatory Innovation and Assistance (ORIA) conduct project scoping and a coordinated permitting process for the relocation of Tokitae. Per our statute ORIA is to conduct a project scoping (preapplication) meeting within 60 days of receipt of the request. However, the 60-day period can be extended at the discretion of the director of ORIA. We had originally planned on holding the preapplication meeting in the latter part of June in order to meet the statutory timeline, but the level of effort required to prepare for the meeting may require an extension of the time period to hold the meeting. We are currently in discussions with the FoT about scheduling a preapplication meeting and will keep you informed of further developments.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

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