

**Memorandum of Understanding between
Department of Conservation and Project Jonah New Zealand Inc**

Parties

1. Director-General of Conservation ("DOC")
2. Chief Executive of Project Jonah New Zealand Incorporated ("Project Jonah")

Premise: That the survival and effective rehabilitation of stranded or injured marine mammals is considerably enhanced if a spirit of mutual respect and co-operation exists between the two organisations.

DOC, in recognising the important role and expertise Project Jonah has to offer, acknowledges:

- a) That Project Jonah provides a valuable source of training and education, not only to the public via its marine mammal medic training courses, but also to interested community groups and DOC staff;
- b) That Project Jonah's expertise, equipment and trained on-call volunteer network, provides a valuable support resource at strandings;
- c) That Project Jonah's opinions in developing stranding rescue response strategies is valued; and
- d) That, in the event of not having adequate resources available DOC may, on occasion, wish Project Jonah to manage a stranding incident on its behalf.

Project Jonah recognises the legislative responsibilities of DOC and acknowledges:

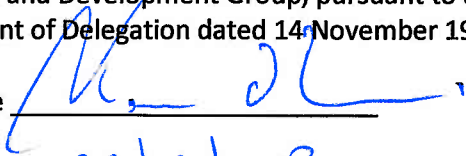
- a) That DOC is responsible and accountable for decisions related to the treatment of marine mammals at stranding operations and must be accorded the responsibility to act in that capacity;
- b) The need to comply with the command structure established at the scene of a marine mammal rescue and thus take direction from the DOC officers in charge;
- c) That assistance from Project Jonah at a stranding event may not always be required; and
- d) That, due to constraints on resources and variables such as public safety, weather, tides and the condition of the mammals involved, DOC may not always pursue a policy of rescue at any cost and will have the final say as to when to conclude a rescue operation.
- e) That in marine mammal stranding operations every action taken gives due attention to health and safety factors.

Both parties further recognise that:

- a) There should always be open, clear, and honest communication between the two organisations;
- b) That any criticism related to the actions of either party should be addressed, in the first instance, to each other directly and not through the media or any third party;
- c) That there are advantages to both organisations in acknowledging to the media of any worthy efforts made by the other.

**Signed by Kevin O'Connor, General Manager,
Research and Development Group, pursuant to an
Instrument of Delegation dated 14 November 1998:**

Signature

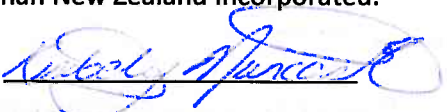


Date:

28/8/08

**Signed by Kimberly Muncaster, Chief Executive,
Project Jonah New Zealand Incorporated:**

Signature



Date:

03/09/08