

Title : ACRES continues pressure on RWS to free dolphins

By :

Date : 02 June 2011 1154 hrs (SST)

URL : <http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/singaporelocalnews/view/1132734/1/.html>

SINGAPORE: The Animal Concerns Research and Education Society (ACRES) has once again called on Resorts World Sentosa (RWS) to retract its calls for more dolphins to be collected.

It said RWS had already bought 27 Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphins, caught from the Solomon Islands for their Marine Life Park attraction, and two died.

ACRES on Thursday, disputed an RWS statement issued last Friday by a Park spokesperson that to avert species crises, more controlled dolphin collections should be done from more locations and more facilities built to study and breed them.

ACRES said that efforts should instead focus on addressing why dolphins were disappearing in the wild.

It quoted a report by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, that the threats facing the Indo-Pacific bottlenose dolphins included live capture for oceanariums, pollution, overfishing, incidental catches and environmental degradation.

ACRES said establishing captive breeding programmes did not address or eliminate the cause of wild population declines, and subjected dolphins to the stress of capture, transport and captivity.

Catching them might drive them towards extinction, ACRES argued.

Mr Louis Ng, ACRES' executive director said in less than a week, more than 6,000 people had joined ACRES in asking RWS to free the dolphins.

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