Development of China Aquarium Industry and Government's Concern——Beijing Aquarium`s action on Animal Protection and development

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The Development Situation of China Aquarium Industry and Government's Concern
China aquarium has a history of 80 years. With the tide of reform and opening up in China, the aquarium has developed greatly.
According to the survey on the development situation of national aquarium done by the Ministry of Agriculture in early 2011, by the end of 2010, there were more than 80 aquarium units, total construction area of which was over 700,000 square meters. Total aquaculture water was more than 40 million tons. More than one thousand pieces of aquatic life were raised, including more than 20 kinds of aquatic mammals, the amount of which was over 1200. More than ten thousand people were directly occupied in aquarium industry. As the emerging man-made landscape, aquarium is popular in tourists.
BEIJING AQUARIUM
CHANGSHA AQUARIUM
HangZhou Aquarium
FuShun Royal Ocean World
BeiHai Underwater World
Shanghai Aquarium
WuHan East Lake Sea World
Under the guidance of the Ministry of Agriculture, the National Aquatic Wildlife Conservation Association was founded in 2000, which carried out a large number of aquatic wild animal protections, propaganda and management and effective protection were given on rare and endemic species resources.
In the early 2011, the Ministry of Agriculture organized the investigation and assessment on the development situation of national aquarium, playing a normative role in promoting the aquatic wild animals under domestication, breeding and rational development.
The Times Call for Protecting Aquatic Animal
According to incomplete statistics, there are about 20 thousand kinds of aquatic animals in China, accounting for about 10% of world aquatic animal, including about 16200 species of marine aquatic animals and over 3300 species of freshwater aquatic animals.
With human activities increasing, a considerable number of aquatic animals have become extinct or they are on the verge of extinction. Protecting biological diversity and saving endangered aquatic species are an important problem that we face. The state therefore issued "Wild Animal Protection Law" and drew up "Directory on National Key Aquatic Wild Animals Protection". These laws, regulations and standards play a good supporting role in aquatic wild animal protection and management.
China aquarium has also made its own efforts in protecting aquatic animals, playing more and more important role in spreading marine knowledge and biological knowledge to tourists.

Facing the present situation of the aquatic organism protection, we are aware that the times call the aquarium for more progress.
Beijing aquarium's attempt to participate in aquatic animal protection
Beijing aquarium was opened in 1999, with a construction area of 42,000 square meters. She integrates enjoying, science education and entertainment and has advanced life support system equipment. The total amount of water is over 18,000 tons. Almost a thousand pieces of aquatic animal are bred, tens of thousands of tails. Since the aquarium was opened, over 18 million domestic and foreign tourists visited it. In 2011, the number of tourists reached 2 million.
The purposes of Beijing aquarium are to entertain the public, teach and benefit students and maintain the ecological system.

The corporate slogan of Beijing Aquarium is to care aquatic animal and protect the earth.
关爱海洋动物
保护地球家园

洛东祥
二〇〇八年五月八日
In terms of making use of our advantages to involve in aquatic animal protection, Beijing Aquarium made some useful exploration regarding the relationship between protection work and the aquarium development.
Carrying Out Migrating and Protecting the Wild Chinese Sturgeon

Chinese Sturgeon is our first level key wild animal protection. At the beginning of 2005, under the support and guidance of the Ministry of Agriculture, Beijing aquarium cooperating with Chinese Academy of Fishery jointly set up a platform for migrating and protecting the Wild Chinese Sturgeon. Through tripartite creative cooperation, a number of important results were achieved in stages.
Beijing aquarium launched a large exhibition hall for breeding, displaying and studying the wild Chinese sturgeon, building keeper groups of the filial generation in the aquarium.
2) Conservation technology of Chinese Sturgeon in the aquarium has improved greatly; Chinese sturgeon's gonad raised in the aquarium grew again. In 2007, two tails of large wild Chinese sturgeon were successfully released into the ocean. After a year, one tail of them again migrated into Yangtze River participating in reproduction.
3) Chinese sturgeon protection propaganda effect is unprecedented. In seven years, more than 10 million Chinese and foreign tourists watched the show of Chinese sturgeon protection in Beijing aquarium. Media exposure rate reached 1000 times/year or more.
4) Building the platform for protecting Chinese sturgeon and establishing the cooperation model and operation mechanism between government and enterprise of science and research.
Acipenser sinensis Gray
Releasing acipenser sinensis back into the Yangtze River in 2007
Migrating and protecting Chinese sturgeon project carried out by Beijing aquarium in 2005 was a landmark event, which made us become a part of the National sturgeon protection system and a part of the entire protection chain. Practice showed that cooperation between the aquarium, government and research institution was an effective way to protect rare and endangered aquatic animals.
2. Making Technology Standards of Aquatic Animal Protection

The standardization of the aquarium industry got the big support of relevant government departments and also leaders' high attention and active participation in the relevant units.
Chinese aquarium industry organized 27 aquariums to carry out drawing up aquarium technology standards together under the guidance of the National Aquatic Wildlife Conservation Association in April, 2010. The standards have been approved by experts.
Five technical standards are:

1. Terminology of aquarium
2. Requirements for aquatic mammal rearing facility
3. Water quality for aquatic mammals in aquariums
4. Recording requirements for studbook keeping of captive aquatic mammals
5. Grade of aquatic mammal rearing techniques in aquariums
Standards mainly standardized the domestication of protected aquatic mammals, focusing on management and technical level directly related to industry development, aquarium construction, and animal domestication and protection. Standards upheld the idea that both considerations were given on animal protection and industry development and there was certain advance and backwardness weren't protected. Since then, China has her own aquarium technology standards.
Beijing aquarium in the standard construction took on the chief responsibility of "Domestication Technology Classification and Evaluation of Aquatic Mammals" and also assisting in daily organizing and coordinating the standard construction of National Aquatic Wildlife Conservation Association.
In 2004, the aquarium industry also organized making “aquatic mammal trainer national occupational standards”. With ten units' participation, Beijing aquarium took on the executive editor's duties. The professional standards were approved and promulgated by the Ministry of Labor in 2005. At present, aquatic mammal trainer's vocational training and vocational skills evaluation are already underway.
In order to make aquarium industry develop healthily and sustainably, Beijing aquarium will continue to promote and participate in the standard construction of this industry.
3. Extensive participation in aquatic animal conservation

Beijing aquarium was widely involved in various forms of aquatic animal rescue, protection, propagation, popular science, promotional activities.
2006年初，一条受伤
搁浅于渤海湾的江豚需
要救助。在接到救助信
息后，我馆派员驱车数
百公里，对搁浅受伤江
豚实施近距离救助，移
地北京海洋馆医疗保护。
两个月后，治愈的江豚
放归渤海。
In 2012 our aquarium joined in the Yangtze finless porpoise rehabilitation project, organized by the Ministry of Agriculture responsible for special investigation, protection, publicity, and providing technical support.
爱海龟 共创和谐家园

2010年海龟放流仪式
Released Chinese sturgeon
During the spring and summer of 2011, an ecological crisis was caused by the Yangtse River's successive drought, putting more severe threat to aquatic mammals. Together with many other aquariums, we assisted in the branch aquatic wild animal protection association in holding a press conference called 'Yangtze River Basin drought aquatic Biotic Crisis—we are moving on', calling on the attention and participation of society.
Our aquarium is an education base for popular science, daily business activities of which are to spread knowledge of ocean, aquatic animal and cultural ideas of aquatic animals' conservation. Popular science activities enrich venue show and extend the voice and the culture of aquatic animal protection.
spread knowledge of ocean, aquatic animal and cultural ideas of aquatic animals
IV Aquarium is an Important Part of Endangered Aquatic Animal Protection System
Aquatic animal protection can be performed in two means: in situ and ex situ conservation, which is an important part of protection system as well as an important way of rare and endangered species protection. And it is a supplement to in situ conservation.
Aquarium protection has the unique potential in aquatic animal. Aquarium simulates and creates a living environment and conditions of aquatic life similar to natural. Various kinds of aquatic animal are taken care of by professionals, making them breed and grow up. This advantage can be considered to be a unique potential for aquarium in aquatic animal protection. Moreover, it gradually becomes a place for aquatic organisms' feeding, breeding, exhibition, science education, resource protection and scientific research.
Dolphins and sea lions breeding research, carried out by Beijing aquarium, have successfully realized animal breeding under artificial environment, providing an efficient way to solve the problem of aquatic wild animal protection and utilization as well.
We absolutely can take aquarium as ex situ conservation site for aquatic animals. We can constantly improve the level of domestication and propagation by taking use of its unique advantage. Besides for daily exhibition, aquarium can perform function of endangered aquatic animal protection base. In this way, it can fulfill more aquatic animal protection jobs, playing a certain role in slowing down the pace of the aggravation trend of endangered aquatic and wild animals.
Aquarium's Development Could Be Promoted by Developing Aquatic Animal Protection
With the increase in the number of aquatic animals needing protection, people need more understanding and awareness of the rare and endangered species, which provides space and attention on the sustainable development of the aquarium.
Aquatic animals' protection work, such as daily exhibition, aquatic or wildlife protection activities, scientific propaganda and technical cooperation in species protection, has become a social responsibility of aquarium as well as a component of enterprise's operation. Aquatic animal protection work not only exhibits social value and quality of enterprise, but also brings good income. Beijing aquarium's economic income has been increasing since 2005.
Beijing aquarium's development course and practice of aquatic animal protection give us the following enlightenment:

1. Aquarium could be an part of national aquatic animal protection system
Aquatic animal protection is consistent with the country's concern for the aquarium, achieves the aquarium's social value and responsibility, and enlarges the development way as well as bringing economic income in the benefit of sustainable development of the aquarium.
Conclusion:
Aquarium can be more capable in aquatic animal protection.
Thank you