

# Ban on cetacean captivity: the Greek case

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# Dolphinarium in Athens

- One dolphinarium in Athens operating at the Attika Zoological Park, June 2010
- Constructed without a license
- Operating without a license
- Brought bottlenose 11 dolphins from the Lithuanian Sea Museum as it was being refurbished. Brought into the country without the right papers.
- Argos was a wild captive dolphin, caught in the Black Sea
- Births at the dolphinarium
- 7 dolphins returned to Lithuania in 2013





Source: Lifo.gr



# Ban of animal performances

- Law 4039/2012 forbids all animal performances in Greece (circus, variety shows, etc) even in zoos which basically means that dolphinarium shows are illegal
- A bureaucratic process of implementation (prefectures and municipalities)



# Efforts to shut down the dolphinarium

- The Greek Greens (Oikologoi Prasinoi) and the Institute for Cetacean Research 'Pelagos' went to court
- Battle continues: press releases, letters to the authorities, citizen engagement
- Ministry of Education (school visits)
- Animal welfare societies and groups have joined in
- Unsuccessful effort to revise the law
- “educational shows”
- Issue of dolphin therapy





Source: Lifo.gr



# The road to a ban on cetacean captivity

- Discourage visits
- Educate the public
- Call on the State to enforce the law
- Lobby for a ban

Captive dolphins?

Evaluate options - Sanctuary

