

Editorial

The publication of this issue was delayed in the hope that it would follow the British Government's decision on the future of keeping cetaceans in captivity. Unfortunately, this decision has yet to be published. Meanwhile, the Australian situation is still under debate in their Senate, although both sides of the argument are being aired with great publicity—one Senator receiving 30 000 letters of support from Sea World (Queensland).

On 'Aquatic Mammals', it is encouraging to report that the cost of producing Volume 11 is now covered so there appears no immediate need to raise the subscription for Volume 12. Indeed, if we could increase the subscribers substantially, this would result in a reduced subscription. The answer lies in your hands.

The Annual Symposium of the European Association for Aquatic Mammals (the 14th) was held in Barcelona, and attracted a record number of delegates. Since many came from outside Europe, we wonder if the Association title should now need changing. Certainly, the attraction of next year's Symposium venue at Hamburg, may well increase the attendance still further.

V. J. A. Manton,
Editor

STOP PRESS

On the 1st July, the British Government announced its acceptance of the two main conclusions arising out of The Review of Dolphinarium instituted by the Department of the Environment. These are:-

1. that dolphinarium can continue to be permitted, provided that there are major improvements in virtually all areas, including accommodation, captive breeding programmes, the co-ordination of research and the quality of education provided by cetacean displays.
2. that there should be no further imports of cetaceans until these improvements have been carried out.

A Steering Committee will be set up to consider the Report's detailed recommendations, and operators of dolphinarium and other interested bodies will be invited to comment on the detailed recommendations by the end of August, and to draw up a programme by the end of November 1986 showing how and when the required improvements will be made. This programme must be completed within five years.

The Government has also asked the Nature Conservancy Council to consider whether increased protection for wild cetacea, in British waters, is required.

The Report was drawn up by Dr Margaret Klinowska and Dr Susan Brown, after an invitation to them in September 1985. It should be noted that four cetacean exhibitions have been closed, in the United Kingdom, since 1983.

Full copies of the Report may be obtained from:

The Department of the Environment,
Publication Sales Unit,
Building No. 1,
Victoria Road, South Ruislip,
Middlesex. HA4 0NZ.
Great Britain.

Price: £8.75 sterling (plus postage and packing).