



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release - December 8, 2021**

### **Vancouver Aquarium Sends Final Rescues of 2021 Home for the Holidays**

Vancouver, B.C. - The Vancouver Aquarium Marine Mammal Rescue Centre was delighted to release some of the final rescues of 2021 and send these animals home for the holidays. Five harbour seals were released today from Iona Beach in Richmond, B.C. This heartwarming event reminds everyone of the Aquarium's core mission, the Rescue, Rehabilitation and Release of marine mammals.

The Marine Mammal Rescue Centre is Canada's only dedicated marine mammal rescue facility and one of the largest in the world. The Centre has rescued and rehabilitated marine mammals for over 60 years. The facility allows for on-site rehabilitation of seals, sea lions, sea otters, sea turtles and small cetaceans, such as harbour porpoises. The Centre also responds to off-site marine mammal emergencies, including spill responses and disentangling sea lions along the coast.

Harbour seals Fish Crackers, Java, Gus, Ramen and Memphis Jookin were released this morning to return to their natural home for the holidays.

"It is extremely rewarding to release these rescued animals back to their natural environment after their stays with us. We share this experience with our outstanding volunteers who help make this all possible," said Marine Mammal Rescue Centre Manager Lindsay Akhurst. "Our work plays an important role to help preserve and promote healthy marine mammal life on our coasts."

If the public would like to know more about the animals at the Marine Mammal Rescue Centre, they can go to [vanaqua.org](http://vanaqua.org).

**-30-**

Photos and videos can be found here -  
Todd Hauptman, Communications Manager  
[Todd.Hauptman@vanaqua.org](mailto:Todd.Hauptman@vanaqua.org)  
604-376-2252

For more information about Marine Mammal Rescue Centre, please visit [www.mmrpatients.org](http://www.mmrpatients.org).

### **[About Vancouver Aquarium](#)**

The Vancouver Aquarium is a fully accredited member of Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums (AMMPA), Canada's Accredited Zoos and Aquariums (CAZA), and Humane Conservation Certified by American Humane. Since opening in 1956, the Vancouver Aquarium has connected more than 40 million people from around the world to our oceans and inspired them to take action to address key threats. Located in Stanley Park, the Vancouver Aquarium is home to hundreds of incredible species.