

## **‘Where Do My Fish Come From?’**

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1. Merlin Entertainments SEA LIFE

There is an increasing focus on the source of animals for aquariums across the world, but do we truly understand where and how our animals come to us?

In the past 4 years SEA LIFE centres (52 across the globe with 23 million visitors) have been working on a process that allows us to assess the sources, improve the welfare and look for new opportunities to further develop the ethical sourcing of our animals. A task that we originally believed would be relatively straightforward has had some challenges, but is now gaining traction across the key sources and is creating a significant change in the traceability of our animals. So much so that other organisations have taken elements of our work to help path the way for change themselves.

The strategy includes development and implementation of:

- Approved sources – Including assessment and auditing process for external and internal sourcing of animals
- Positive change programs – that create environmental and social advancement in animal supply
- Rehome – working to offer homes for animals that are either non-releasable from rescue programmes or require rehoming from other establishments.

The work continues, the challenges still arise, but the desire and drive to create change and deliver ethical sourcing is never greater.

By sharing our experiences and learnings we would like to create opportunities for the aquarium community to work together to advance the reach and impact of this work.