



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Sept. 21, 2015

Contacts:

Kris Sherman, 253-404-3800; 253-226-6718 or kris.sherman@pdza.org

Whitney DalBalcon, 253-404-3637 or whitney.dalbalcon@pdza.org

CELEBRATE SENSATIONAL SEA OTTERS AT POINT DEFIANCE ZOO & AQUARIUM ON SUNDAY

These always playful sea mammals make a splash in the hearts of visitors, and there is much to learn about them

TACOMA, Wash. – It's hard to resist a smile when watching a sea otter flop on her back and crack the shell of her lunch on her belly.



Or when two or more otters appear to hold hands as they raft together, just as they would in the wild for added protection and to keep from drifting apart.

And Sunday, Sept. 27, is a great time to watch the four sea otters of Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium while celebrating the role these playful mammals play in the nearshore ecosystem.

The special event is held in conjunction with Sea Otter Awareness Week.

The zoo's tribute to sea otters will include information about the species, their natural history, the threats they face in the wild and the conservation and research work being done on their behalf.

Sea Otter Awareness Day activities include:

- **Sea otter feedings and enrichments** at 10:30 a.m., 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. The otters will get some tasty treats, including sea urchins and blue crab.
- **Marine Mammal Food Prep Tours:** 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
- **Keeper Talks** in the Rocky Shores area
- **Special activities in the Marine Discovery Center:** 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Visitors are likely to learn such interesting facts as how sea otters keep warm in cold waters, how much a sea otter eats and which other animals live in kelp forests with them.

All activities are free with zoo admission.

Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium will be open from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday.

For more information, go to www.pdza.org.

###

Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, the Northwest's only combined zoo and aquarium, practices and promotes responsible stewardship of the world's resources through education, conservation, research and recreational opportunities. The zoo, a division of Metro Parks Tacoma, is accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) and the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums (AMMPA).