

MEDIA ADVISORY: July 9, 2017

## BAG MONSTER TEAMS UP WITH POINT DEFIANCE ZOO & AQUARIUM AND AQUARIUMS ACROSS U.S. TO STEM TIDE OF PLASTIC POLLUTION

*Two days before Tacoma's single-use bag ban takes effect, the zoo steps up to show Explore the Shore beach walk participants first-hand the harm plastics large and small do to animals in our ocean*



**What:** A demonstration of the impact single-use plastic shopping bags and other plastic items have on Puget Sound, as well the rest of the world's oceans and other waterways. The dancing Bag Monster will hand out reusable shopping bags during a low-tide beach walk attended by children and their families. The demonstration, part of the Explore the Shore event, will include displays of various plastic items, including tiny microplastics that are ingested by fish and birds, ending up in the food chain.

**When:** 11:45 a.m. Monday, July 10

**Where:** Owen Beach in Point Defiance Park, Tacoma

**Visuals:**

- **A Bag Monster** dancing and strutting up and down the beach, wearing a costume composed of 500 single-use plastic shopping bags. That's the number just one person could use in a year. He will hand out reusable bags – just two days

before Tacoma's Bring Your Own Bag ordinance takes effect.

- **Explore the Shore** participants and naturalists using a sifter to examine sand to see how plastic can hide among the grains. This shows how a beach might look clean even when it isn't.
- **Visitors getting hands-on** knowledge about plastic items that have washed up on beaches, showing kids, parents and other adults how common products easily wind up in our ocean, harming sea life and sea birds.
- **A display of reusable items** to illustrate the alternatives to single-use plastics.

**Interview:** Karen Povey, Conservation Engagement Manager for Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, will talk about the growing issue of ocean plastics and ways individuals can help stem the tide with simple actions. **Without action, there could be more plastic than fish in the ocean by 2050.** Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium and 18 other members of the Aquarium Conservation Partnership are launching the In Our Hands campaign on Monday to draw attention to this critical environmental issue.

**When and where to meet:** Meet Kris Sherman at Owen Beach at 11:30 a.m. **Cell: 253-226-6718**