

PLEASE DO NOT YELL AT THE SEAL
(An Aquarium Ballade)

Not far from our house is the Woods Hole Aquarium, which among other attractions has a seal pool which is usually occupied in the summertime by one or two of these lovely beasts. Current (April 2014) residents are Bumper and Luseal.

A few years back - perhaps in response to an increase in the number of summer visitors from Brooklyn - a sign appeared on the pool fence imploring visitors not to yell at the seal. (Was there a sign on the inside asking the seals not to bark at the visitors? - I think not!)

In any event, I felt inspiration closing in, with the following result. (It's supposed to be a song but I forget what tune I had for it, so feel free to use one of your own choosing. Or you can just ignore the whole thing and move on with your life.)

PLEASE DO NOT YELL AT THE SEAL
SHE LOOKS CLUMSY BUT HER HEART CAN TRULY FEEL
SNIDE REMARKS BY SMELTS AND KIPPERS
MIGHT JUST BOUNCE RIGHT OFF HER FLIPPERS
BUT HUMAN DISRESPECT'S A BIGGER DEAL

SHE'S HAPPY IN HER LITTLE WOODS HOLE POOL
AND POLITE ATTENTION'S REALLY PRETTY COOL
EVERY DAY HER KEEPER FEEDS HER
AND ATTENDS TO ALL HER NEEDS, SIR,
BUT SHE'S SENSITIVE TO HEARTLESS RIDICULE

[SPOKEN] SO PLEASE DO NOT YELL AT THE SEAL!!!

PINNIPEDS HAVE EARS THAT YOU CAN HARDLY SEE
BUT THEY HEAR EACH OTHER'S NOISES EASILY
ALL THAT BARKING, GRUNTING, SNORTING,
IS ALL PART OF SEAL CAVORTING
BUT SHOUTING HUMANS IRK THEM MIGHTILY

[LOUDER] SO PLEASE DO NOT YELL AT THE SEAL!!!

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**BUT NOW I WILL CONCLUDE WITH SOUND ADVICE:
YOU CAN SHOUT LIKE MAD AT CHIPMUNKS, BATS, OR MICE**

**RAISE YOUR VOICE IN FRENZIED CHORUSES
AT ZEBRAS, MULES, AND HORUSES**

**SCREAM OUT EVIDENCE OF YOUR VANITY
AT NARWHAL, SHARK, OR MANATEE**

**BELLOW CURSES TILL YOU'RE SORRY
AT COD, HAKE, OR CALAMARI**

**BELT A SONG OUT LIKE A CROONER
TO AMUSE A WHALE OR TUNER**

**HOLLER LIKE YOUR AUNTIE MYRTLE
AT A WALRUS OR A TURTLE**

**HOWL TILL YOU GET RIGOR MORTIS
AT A MANTA RAY OR TORTOISE**

[BIG ENDING]

... BUT PLEASE

DO NOT YELL

AT THE SEAL!!!!!!