

Star Trek icon William Shatner and EARTHDAY.ORG unite calling on President Macron to save captive orcas, Wikie and Keijo

WASHINGTON, DC, UNITED STATES, June 26, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Actor, activist, and lifelong champion for animal welfare, William Shatner, best known for his role as the legendary Captain James T. Kirk in the Star Trek franchise, has issued [a passionate plea](#) to President Macron: help save Wikie and her son Keijo, the last two captive orca whales in France.



“In Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home, two humpback whales helped save planet Earth. It was gripping fiction—but what’s happening today in the south of France is heartbreakingly real,” said Shatner. “Wikie and Keijo aren’t characters in a script. They are highly intelligent, social creatures trapped in a crumbling marine park with nowhere to go. We have the power to write them a better ending—if we act now. I urge President Macron to act decisively to find a better location for these animals now.”

“

Captain T Kirk called on two whales to save planet Earth in a movie. Let’s save two real ones now. President Macron, please act decisively.”

William Shatner

[Shatner’s call](#) follows the release of disturbing new drone footage of the facility, showing the two orcas circling in algae-choked tanks at the now-shuttered Marineland Antibes, just 22 kilometers from where the United Nations Ocean Conference convened just over a week ago in Nice.

Wikie, 23, and her son Keijo, 11, were once the stars of live performances. But France passed a ban on keeping cetaceans in 2021, and Marineland closed its doors in January 2025, leaving Wikie, Keijo, and 12 bottlenose dolphins stranded.

“President Macron we know is a champion of marine life and our oceans, and we are asking him to take action now to save them. It is time for us to join together to find a solution to save Wikie

and Keijo,” said Kathleen Rogers,
President of [EARTHDAY.ORG](https://earthday.org)

French Minister of Ecology Agnès
Pannier-Runache said in February,
2025, that a suitable site for a
European whale sanctuary has not yet
been secured but this situation
demands urgent action - now.

The orcas’ physical and mental health
are likely already deteriorating and two
other whales in their family—Wikie’s
brother, Inouk and her first born
son—Moana, have already died at Marineland within the last 18 months.

We need a relocation plan for Wikie and Keijo that gives them the best chance of surviving long
enough to one day be rehomed in a whale sanctuary.

“Captain T Kirk called on two whales to save planet Earth in a movie,” Shatner said. “Let’s save
two real ones now. President Macron, please act decisively.”

“Obviously we want to extend our most sincere thanks to Mr. Shatner for taking the time, and
sharing his compassion to do this for Wikie and Keijo. We must thank Kathleen Hays in
Mr. Shatner’s team, who has been nothing but kind and helpful. Plus, we would like to thank
Jonathan Levy from Kepler Media for his incredible partnership in making this video possible, we
are very grateful. Jonathan’s a pro and he too, like all of us, cares deeply about this initiative. His
work with EARTHDAY.ORG has been invaluable and much appreciated.” Tom Cosgrove, Chief
Creative and Content Officer, EDO

About EARTHDAY.ORG: Founded in 1970 by the organizers of the first Earth Day, EARTHDAY.ORG
has grown into the world’s largest environmental movement, mobilizing over one billion people
annually to protect the planet and its people. Our mission is to diversify, educate, and activate
the environmental community globally. This year Earth Day marks its 55th anniversary and has
designated this year’s Earth Day theme as Our Power, Our Planet. Learn more at
EARTHDAY.ORG.

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