

## Panel 25

### **ORCA RIGHTS**

Legally, captive orcas are property.

But even in the wild, orcas' fates are determined by our laws.

To have rights in most countries, an orca would have to be declared a person.

Animal rights lawyers are fighting to declare some apes non-human persons. Some rivers and lakes— like the Ganges and Yamuno in India— have been granted “the status of a legal person with all corresponding rights, duties and liabilities.” In some countries, corporations are considered non-human persons.

Laws of the sea are more challenging to enforce than laws on land. But laws of the sea are vital for protecting marine life and life on Earth.

If orcas have the right to a safe environment, their rights could prevent our wrongs.