

 * JANUARY MEETING *

DATE: Thursday,
 January 29, 1987
 PLACE: Fisher hall,
 Hopkins Marine Station
 TIME: 7:30 PM
 SPEAKER: Dr. Gary Greene
 SUBJECT: Ideas on the
 Formation of the
 Monterey Submarine
 Canyon.

The origin of the Monterey Submarine Canyon, which is the most important submarine feature of our Bay and which has been given much prominence recently with the "adventures" of the Deep Rover submersible, is still a controversial issue. It has long been believed that the canyon was formed by a large river flowing into the Bay but no such river has existed in the region which would carve such a huge feature in the geologically short time of a few hundred thousand years. With the advent of global plate tectonics, however, new ideas have developed which could explain much about our Grand Canyon sized "valley".

Dr. Greene received his doctorate from Stanford University and is a research geologist with the United States Geological Survey. He has spent a number of years studying the geology of Monterey Bay. He is an expert on the subject of Monterey Bay and we are most fortunate to have him discuss, with the aid of some very interesting graphics, the latest ideas on the evolution of the canyon.

JANUARY 1987

MONTEREY BAY CHAPTER

AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY

Soundings

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAPTER PRESIDENT

As we start another year, I would like to lay some thoughts before you

(1) The consistently good attendance at our monthly meetings is very encouraging. You obviously enjoy the speakers and the programs and find them interesting BUT - we still have only just over one hundred truly local members and we need a broader base. How do we encourage people to join and how do we conduct a membership development program?

(2) With only twenty five percent of your membership fee coming back to us from National Headquarters, we barely have enough funds for necessities such as the Newsletter. Funds for such activities as student grants and support of the Beach-watchers must be raised locally. The cancellation of the "Artisans Give Thanks to the Animals" Christmas Fair was, therefore, a great disappointment, and I am doubly grateful to the Fisherman's Wharf Boat Owners and to three of our members for their gifts. We will try to reactivate the Fair this year plus have a fund-raising Square Dance (might as well have some fun!!). Any other ideas?

(3) Conservation - marine life is being threatened by, among other things, toxic waste, plastics, gillnetting, oil drilling and oil shipment. Legislation must be supported to control these problems and much more research is needed to reveal how life in the sea is affected by changes made by man and how we can minimize adverse impacts. Our Chapter needs to be involved - in letting our legislators know how we feel, in encouraging the press to publicize problems and in informing ourselves so that better decisions can be made. Can you help by taking an issue or part of an issue and keeping the rest of us informed?

(4) We need speakers to go to schools and talk to groups - to tell them about whales and why it is important to care.

(5) What would you like to see our Chapter do that we aren't doing now? Program? Field Trips? What do you think would encourage more people to join us? Do you have any gripes?

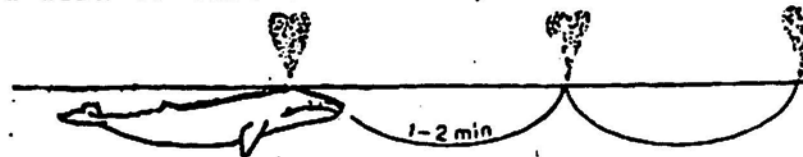
(6) We take our speakers to dinner before every program. If you would like to join us, call George Powell (624-2261) or myself a few days in advance.

I am not always at home but my machine usually is - please call and let me have your thoughts. It is not my Chapter but yours and the more we work together, the better it will be.

Sheila Baldrige
372-3809

AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY - GRAY WHALE TEACHING KIT

The American Cetacean Society Gray Whale Teaching Kit is available for use with classes or groups. It contains educational material, slides and an audio capability. If you wish to take it on loan, call Esta Lee Albright (375-1658).



RECENT MARINE MAMMAL OBSERVATIONS - November/December 1986
compiled by Allan Baldrige

ORCA - The single most exciting observation of this period would have to be the megapod of 54 plus or minus 5 25 miles due W of Pt. Reyes, Marin Co. Scattered pods merged into 1 "chofus line" of 44 animals. 2 miles away another pod of 10 attacked a California Sea Lion. There is only 1 previous report of a pod this size off the California coast. This took place on Nov. 2 (ShJ).

Locally we had an unprecedented 17 sightings during this period, many involving resightings of animals which remained in the area for several days. On Nov. 3 4 animals passed Cypress Pt. going north (JA, RH) and a male was seen from shore there going S the next day (SH). On Nov. 5 and 6 5-6 animals were in Carmel Bay (DL). Reports came from visitors at Pt. Lobos on the 4th and 5th and on Nov. 7 4 animals, including a male with a bent over dorsal tip went N 8.6 miles off Moss Landing (SK). On Nov. 11 a male travelled S in Monterey Bay (JS). 6 were reported off Davenport in Santa Cruz Co. that same day (GG). On Nov. 12 2 animals, 1 an adult male, were seen from Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park, Big Sur (BH) and on Nov. 30 5-6 animals swam S from a point 4 miles S of Santa Cruz and were observed successfully by several party boat skippers (RT). On Dec. 2 2 males headed N from Lobos Rocks off Soberanes Pt., Big Sur and were tracked N past Pt. Lobos and Cypress Pt. where they went offshore (RT). The next day on Dec. 3, a pod of undetermined size was seen off Cypress Pt. (DL). 5 were seen in mid-Monterey Bay and were followed S to 4 miles off Pt. Pinos on Dec. 7. They were photographed, 2 males having well notched dorsal fins (RLB, DL, SK). Finally on Dec. 10 3 animals, of which 2 were males, were porpoising to the NE from a point 4.5 miles NW of Pt. Pinos (JS).

BLUE WHALE - This species dominated the cetacean picture during the period by continuing to concentrate for feeding along canyon edge areas. One such area, 4-7 miles NW Pt. Pinos was especially favored. Later when food became more dispersed, the whales reappeared further south in the region off Carmel Bay. Faculty and graduate students from Moss Landing Marine Labs seized this research opportunity and, by means of numerous tows for krill sampling, fecal collection, the use of side-scan sonar and video and finally overflight, gathered a great deal of data on this episode. Our knowledge of the behavior of this species at sea has been greatly expanded this fall.

Highlights - 1 inside Carmel Bay Nov. 1 (JL). 4-6 were seen from shore at Pt. Pinos Nov. 1 and 2 (BHa). On Nov. 2 your editor observed 2 animals 3 miles W Pt. Joe, Pebble Beach from her sailboat (ELA). On Nov. 2 15 were also seen 4.5 miles NW Pt. Pinos where surface krill swarms were visible (WG, NF). On Nov. 6 15 were feeding inside the Bay SW Moss Landing and several showed the sulfur-colored diatom patches sometimes seen on this species (AB, ShJ). On Nov. 11 10 animals 7.2 miles NW Pt. Pinos exhibited lunge feeding with lots of birds present, especially Bonaparte's Gulls (SK). On Nov. 11 also 8 were reported off Cypress Pt. accompanied by "bow-riding" Dall's Porpoise (DL). That same day 4-6 were seen from shore 1-2 miles off Pt. Pinos (BWe). On Nov. 17 Moss Landing observers during overflight noted that the animals were in pairs one behind and slightly to the side of the other. By this time animals were dispersed following storms (JS, BW). ACS Conference field trip participants observed 15 animals on Nov 24 (ShJ). On Nov. 26 8 had returned to their former feeding areas (JS). Following this, animals slowly declined but continued to be seen almost daily. The last observation was of 2 animals in outer Carmel Bay on Dec. 10 (RT). Hundreds of whale watchers were taken out to see these animals during the course of their extended stay. Away from our immediate area, ShJ observed 19 animals, 10 of which were lunge feeding at Cordelle Bank 25 miles W of Bodega, Sonoma Co. on Nov. 1. 18 were in the same area the following day.

GRAY WHALE - On Nov. 9 a very small individual thought to be less than 20 ft (runt?) was inside Monterey Breakwater. It appeared to be excessively parasitized by barnacles (KH). This was probably the same individual reported on Sept. 7 (see previous Soundings). On Nov. 24 a similar individual entered Elkhorn Slough and penetrated almost 6 miles inland almost to Kirby Park boat ramp before turning back to the ocean. It turned N upon reaching the bay (JSt., JT). A really small individual again entered Monterey Harbor and was later off Monterey Bay Aquarium on Nov. 29 (RT, JV). A large individual came inside the breakwater at Monterey on Dec. 1 (RT). The migration began to pick up on Dec. 7 at Granite Canyon, with 6 sightings (DR).

CUVIER'S BEAKED WHALE - On Dec. 14 a pod of 5 of this very rarely reported species was observed 8 miles WSW of Cypress Pt. The animals allowed a close approach but, unfortunately, there were no cameras on board (RT). This species is usually very boat shy.

MINKE WHALE - Most had departed our area by the end of October. A single animal was 1/2 mile W of Pt. Joe on Nov. 3 (DL), and on Nov 17 2 animals 1/2 mile apart were close to granite Canyon, Rocky Pt. (DR). Outside of our area, ShJ reported a single at the north end of Cordelle Bank on Nov 2.

HUMPBACK WHALE - There are few December records for our area. 2 late individuals were close to Long Marine Lab., UC Santa Cruz for several hours on Dec. 8. This was the first sighting from shore at the laboratory (RW). On Dec. 12 2 more, perhaps the same two created a big show off the Pacific Grove shore line from Otter Pt. to Asilomar. The animals breached 25 times and did much flipper slapping (AB, B&JH, R&AK, RT).

PACIFIC WHITE SIDED DOLPHIN - On Nov. 6 2 schools of 50 each were seen in rough seas 2 mi SW of Asilomar (AB, ShJ). No less than 1000 were offshore on Nov. 24 during the ACS National Conference Trip (ShJ). 500 were reported offshore on Dec. 3 and 300 were off Carmel Bay on Dec. 4 (DL). On Dec. 6, 45 were with Risso's and Right Whale Dolphins, their frequent companions in this area, 2 miles off Pt. Lobos (ShJ). The next day on Dec. 7, 100 together with 100 Right Whale Dolphins attacked a "ball" of bait fish (RLB). On Dec. 8, one stranded itself on rocks at Long Marine Lab, only to work its way back into the water. It is not known to have re-stranded (RW). Finally, outside of our area, a massive school of 1300 was seen at Cordelle Bank Nov. 1 (ShJ).

CONTRIBUTORS

AB - Alan Baldrige	B&JH - B. and J. Head
BH - B. Hatfield	BHa - B. Handy
BW - B. Würsig	BWe - B. Weed
DL - D. Lemon (Star of Monterey)	DR - D. Rose
ELA - Esta Lee Albright	GG - G. Gulart
JA - J. Ames	JL - J. Loomis
JS - J. Schoenherr	JSt - J. Stein
JT - J. Tarpley	JV - Jud Vandevere
KH - K. Häberman	NE - N. Fraley
R&AK - Ruth and Allan Kraus	RH - R. Huettman
RLB - R. L. Bronson	RW - R. Wells
RT - R. Ternullo (Pt. Sur Clipper)	SH - S. Harrison
ShJ - Shearwater Journeys	SK - S. Kruse
WG - W. Gilly	





WHALE WATCHING GUIDELINES

The National Marine Fisheries Services is the federal agency responsible for protecting gray whales under the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 and the Endangered Species Act of 1973. In order to protect the gray whale from harassment and to promote a better understanding of the need to avoid harassment, the National Marine Fisheries Services and the American Cetacean Society are providing these guidelines for safe, non-disruptive whale watching.

- A: Vessels should not be operated at speeds faster than a whale or or group of whales while paralleling them within 100 yards.
- B: Vessels should be operated at a constant speed while paralleling or following whales within 100 yards.
- C: Vessels should do nothing to cause the whale to change directions.
- D: Aircraft should not fly lower than 1,000 feet while within a horizontal distance of 100 yards from a whale.

GRAY WHALE COUNT

To recapitulate the results of National Marine Mammals Laboratory's local count of gray whales, (Soundings, October 1986), the population estimate now stands at 18,000 whales. This is somewhat, but not significantly larger than the results of the census in 1979-80. Now in its third recovery period, gray whales may be almost as numerous as the original population in the northern Pacific. This strange persistence, after near extinction in the 19th century and in the first third of this century, due to whaling, is one of the gray whale's most endearing traits. "Our" eastern Pacific gray whales are the earth's first chance for this particular cetacean: Atlantic stock did not last into the nineteenth century and they are considered extinct in the western Pacific near Korea. As with all the great whales, the grays now face the threat of altered habitat, an indirect intervention of man which may destroy food supplies and prove to be more deadly than the harpoons of the past.

WHALING WALLS

Robert Wyland creates "Whaling Walls". He has completed more than twelve of them and the walls in San Diego and White Rock, British Columbia feature gray whales. The "Whaling Walls" are enormous murals on sides of buildings and the whales are painted life size after much study and research. Several whales, some joined by dolphins, are painted in natural habitat that are local to most of the wall's locations. Wyland calls his work "the Art of Saving Whales" and he paints for free, using materials donated by local business men while supporting himself by selling cards and prints to "sidewalk supervisors" who admire his work. He has established a trust fund to help him paint 100 walls around the world. Starting in Laguna Beach, Wyland has painted walls in Vancouver, Edmonton, Honolulu, Rancho Palos Verdes, Seattle, San Diego, White Rock and Tokyo. The latter may have produced the greatest challenge, for Wyland expected controversy when he painted a life-size sperm whale in the heart of downtown Tokyo, where whale meat is found in meat market counters. Wyland claims that his desire to teach is almost as important as his desire to create something beautiful.

GIFTS AND DONATIONS

It is with much gratitude that we thank the following people for donations totalling \$625 to the Fisherman's Wharf Boat Owners Research Grant. The recipient of this grant will be announced at the January Meeting. Members may wish to thank these people for their support:

Fred Mountford - Sam's Fishing Fleet
Benji Shake - Monterey Sports Fishing
John Lupo and Peter Bruno - Randy's Fishing Trips
Chris Arcoleo - Chris' Fishing
Debra Shearwater - Shearwater Journeys

We also thank most warmly Sylvia Arndt and Virginia Bacher for generous contributions to our chapter.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Dr. Ken Marten	David Rizk	Sidney P. Harrison
Dr. & Mrs. H. Medwin	Ed Peckham	Dr. & Mrs. H. F. Mollet

Current members are urged to watch for the renewal notice from ACS National Headquarters and respond promptly. You are the backbone of our chapter from year to year. Thank you!

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Membership in the American Cetacean Society means protecting whales, dolphins and porpoises through education, conservation and research. The Monterey Bay Chapter meets at 7:30 PM at the Hopkins Marine Station in Pacific Grove on the last Thursday of each month. Programs and activities feature cetacea and the marine environment. Yearly membership:

patron - \$500	contributing - \$250	supporting - \$75
foreign - \$30 (US Currency)	active - \$25	

Telephone contacts: Sheila Baldrige (372-3809)

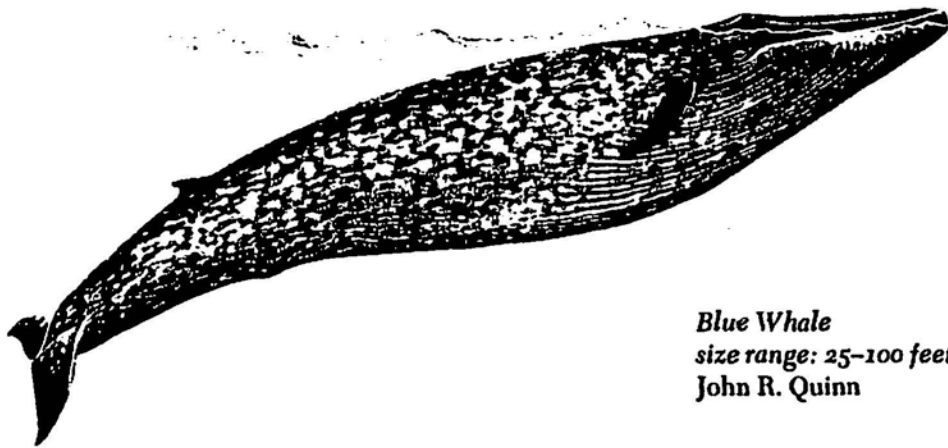
Jean Theisen, membership secretary (372-2293)

SOUNDINGS

SOUNDINGS is edited by Esta Lee Albright, produced by Ruth and Allan Kraus and mailed by Marian LaRosa. Contributors to this month's issue include Alan and Sheila Baldrige, feature articles; Robin Makowski and Bob Western, Art.

MONTEREY BAY CHAPTER
AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY
PO BOX HE
PACIFIC GROVE, CA., 93950-0405

FEBRUARY
MEETING



Blue Whale
size range: 25-100 feet
John R. Quinn

DATE
Thursday,
February 26, 1987

PLACE
Fisher Hall,
Hopkins Marine Station

TIME
7:30 PM

SPEAKER

Jill Schoenherr,
Moss Landing
Marine Laboratories

SUBJECT
Feeding Ecology of
Blue Whales in
Monterey Bay

During the fall of 1986, an anomalously high concentration of Blue Whales appeared in Monterey Bay. Word got out to the News Services resulting in an excited throng of spectators being ferried out daily to watch in awe this largest of all animals. But why did the Whales come this year? Was there an exceptional abundance of krill, their principal food supply? Were there unusual oceanic conditions? Jill Schoenherr spent many hours with the Blues - noting their behavior, taking water temperatures, krill samples, noting the depth of the krill in the water column - trying to answer some of these questions. She will tell us what is presently known about the biology of the Blue Whales and their distribution and abundance leading into her own research and what she has learned.

FEBRUARY 1987

MONTEREY BAY CHAPTER

AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY

Soundings

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HOPKINS MARINE STATION LIBRARY

RESEARCH GRANTS AWARDED

It is with much pleasure that we announce the Student Grant Award Winners for this year.

(1) Fisherman's Wharf Boat Owners Research Grant - \$625

Susan Kruse, UC Santa Cruz - "Behavior Patterns of Grampus in Monterey Bay". Susan, who is studying for a Master's Degree under Dr. Ken Norris, has spent many hours out on Monterey Bay trying to determine association patterns between individuals of this species, the extent of their movements and residence time in the bay, all with the help of photo-identification techniques. She will speak about this work at the May meeting.

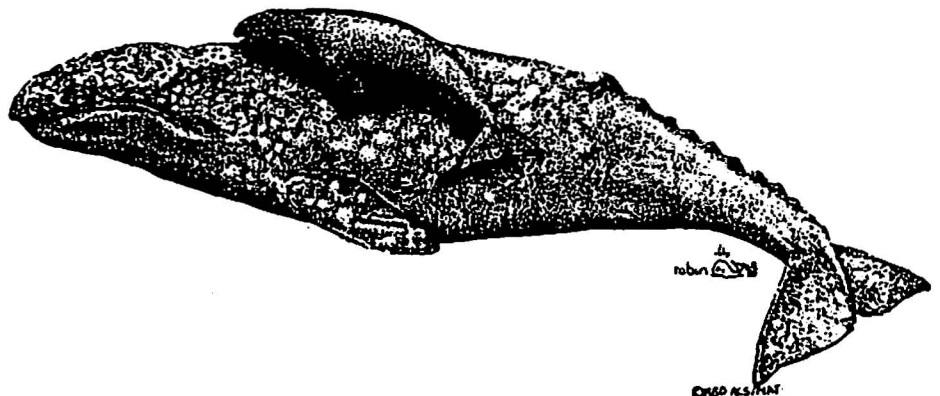
(2) Monterey Bay Chapter Grant - \$500

Bernie Tershy, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories - "Feeding Ecology and Social Behavior of Rorqual Whales in the Sea of Cortez: You Are What You Eat". Bernie, who is a Master's Degree student under Dr. Bernd Wursig, plans to put radio-tag/time-depth recorder packages on four species of Rorqual Whales. These packages, together with other equipment, will give information on duration of feeding, movement patterns, surface behavior and depth of dive. The purpose of this is to test a theory on the relation of body size, diet, social behavior and habitat use in mammals. We will learn more about this project at our March program.

(3) Monterey Bay Chapter Grant - \$500

Thomas Jefferson, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories - "Further Studies on the Behavior of Dall's Porpoise in the Johnstone Strait, British Columbia, Canada". Tom, who is also a Master's Degree student under Dr. Bernd Wursig will start a long-term study on these animals. The primary objective will be to learn about their daily habits so that fisheries conflicts, such as net entanglement, can be avoided. He will employ techniques such as photo identification, theodolite tracking and recovered carcasses to learn more about the movements, social behavior and feeding ecology of this little-known species.

These young people deserve our congratulations on the hard work, thoughtfulness and initiative they display in furthering our knowledge of cetaceans. If you would like to read these proposals, please call Alan Baldrige, 372-3809.



RECENT MARINE MAMMAL OBSERVATIONS

---Compiled by Alan Baldridge---

Editor's Note: The gray whale migration is the current highlight in our bay and coastal waters. Late fall and early winter brought so much excitement from observations of the great whales (SOUNDINGS, January 1987) it has been found hard to find room for other species such as those listed below:

Common Dolphin - On Nov. 5 75 were in Monterey Bay (JS), with 175 off Carmel Bay on Nov. 8 (DL). 4 were with whitesided dolphins offshore on Dec. 3 (JC). This species can be expected to occur in our area when warm water conditions prevail, as is presently the case.

Risso's Dolphin - 50 were with 2 blue whales 4.5 miles NW from Pt. Pinos Nov. 2 (WG, NF). 100 animals were 2 miles W of Cypress Pt. on Nov. 8 (DL) and on Nov. 11 200 were followed S to the vicinity of Pt. Pinos. The school included several very small calves (SK). 10-20 were off Cypress Pt. on Nov. 13 (ShJ) and on Nov. 17, the arrival of Risso's dolphins "disturbed" the behavior of Blue Whales under observation in the Bay (JS). 40 animals were in 2 groups close to Hopkins Marine Station on Nov. 14 (ShJ). 500 were offshore with Right Whale Dolphins on Dec. 3 (JC). 150 were off Carmel Bay on Dec. 4 (DL) with 4-5 animals 1/4 mile E of "A" Buoy off Ft. Ord the same day (PM). Finally, 350 with Right Whale dolphins 2 miles off Pt. Lobos on Dec. 6 (ShJ).

Northern Right Whale Dolphin - 25 were with Risso's dolphins 2 miles W of Cypress Pt. Nov. 8 (DL), and 400 with the same species near Pt. Pinos included several small calves (SK). The ACS National Conference Field Trip observed 200 with 1000 white-sided dolphins (ShJ). The same concentration of these three species offshore S of Pt. Joe to the Pt. Lobos area persisted through December (RT,DL,ShJ).

Harbor Porpoise - On Nov. 28, 2 were just outside Monterey Harbor, an unusual occurrence so far S in the Bay (DL).

Dall's Porpoise - 8-10 animals were 2 miles W of Spanish Bay, Pebble Beach on Nov. 2 (WG,NF) and on Nov. 6, 10 were "bowriding" the Blue Whales S of Moss Landing (AB,ShJ). This behavior was noted by other observers including 15-20 with 8 plus Blues on Nov. 26 (JS). The species was reported from mid-Carmel Bay S of Cypress Pt. with 8 on Dec. 4 (DL) and 12 on Dec. 6 (ShJ).

Northern Elephant Seal - 18 were ashore at Grimes Pt. Beach, Big Sur on Nov. 13 (AB). This is the most that I have ever seen there. No adult males were visible.

California Sea Lion - An increase to 400 was noted at Monterey Breakwater Dec. 30 (AB,ShJ).

Bioluminescence - Spectacular glittering dinoflagellates illuminating waves and beach at Carmel on Dec. 3 after dark (visiting lover's report).

White Shark - A spear fisherman diving off San Jose Creek Bedach on Dec. 6 calmly survived and described the incident in which he was severely bitten.

RECENT MARINE MAMMAL OBSERVATIONS (cont'd)

Mola Mola - Ocean sunfish were numerous throughout the period and California Sea Lions fed extensively on them off Hopkins Marine Station to the extent that the sea floor became littered with carcasses being scavenged by the sea stars (AB).

Contributors

AB - Alan Baldrige
JC - J. Christman
NF - N. Fraley
RT - R. Ternullo
SK - S. Kruse

DL - D. Lemon
JS - J. Schoenherr
PM - P. Mason
ShJ - Shearwater Journeys
WG - W. Gilly



GRAY WHALE NOTEBOOK - PART II



GRAY WHALE CALVES

Gray whale calves are born in the calm, warm waters of lagoons in Baja California, where they can gain strength for swimming and add blubber for warmth. During the past few years, there have been several births of gray whale calves off the coast of central California. At least three calves have been sighted here this year. The reasons for the early births and the fate of the calves are unknown. The following is an excerpt from the gray whale teaching kit:

At birth, the calves are twelve to fifteen feet long and weigh an average of 1500 to 2000 pounds. The flukes of newborns are limp and their bodies have fold marks from being in the fetal position. The calves are dark skinned, shiny and have pronounced dimples on their snouts. In fact, they resemble a huge, dark pickle. The female's nipples are located in shallow slits in the lower belly. As the babies' lips touch the fold of skin, muscles push the nipple outward and inject the rich milk into the calf's mouth. This takes place under water. It is believed that nursing continues for seven months.

Sexual maturity occurs between five and eleven years when the whales are from 36 to 41 feet long. From then, until their life span ends at about the age of 60 years, this two-year mating and birthing cycle is repeated.

SHORE WHALING

In the 1930's, you might have stood on Pt. Pinos looking out to sea without seeing a single spout from a gray whale. For the second time in one hundred years, they had come near extinction because of whaling. First, whalers had discovered the calving lagoons in the nineteenth century and destroyed most of the population. When whaling was no longer economical, they withdrew and the gray whale slowly recovered. Improved whaling methods were developed by the time there were gray whales again, so the destruction returned. Finally, the Mexican Government protected the calving lagoons and the United States protected the whales along the migration route, and a second remarkable recovery has been made.

In the 1850's, there were shore-based whaling stations in Monterey. Though these small operations, using six men in a 15-30 foot rowing-sailing boat, could not be as large a threat to an entire population, they did have a significant impact. The following information is from "Shore Whaling for Gray Whales Along the Coast of the Californias", by Hazel Sayers, in THE GRAY WHALE, Academic Press, 1984:

The first California shore station was established at Monterey in 1854 specifically to take humpbacks which were then found in large numbers within the bay. However, a catch report from 1855 records that 24 whales were killed at the Monterey Station between April and September: 6 grays, 14 humpbacks and 4 killer whales indicating that grays were preyed upon from the beginning (Monterey Sentinel, November 10, 1855).

The two species migrated annually at different times, greys from December to February and humpbacks from August to December. By taking advantage of both migrations, the northern California shore whalers were able to extend their hunting season to as much as 8 months each year (Watkins, 1925).

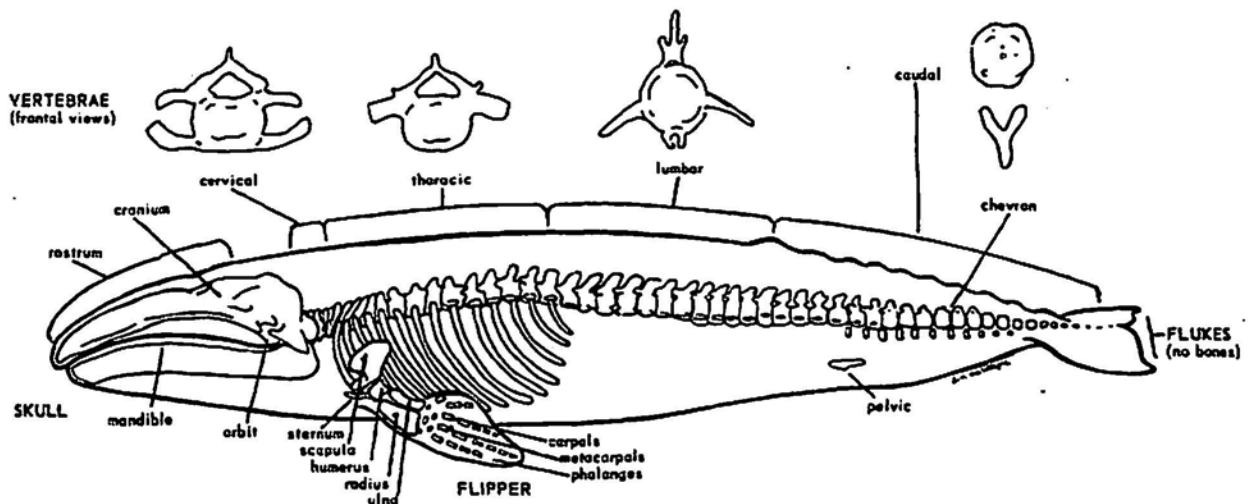
Stations along the southern coast of California confined their whaling to winter months, concentrating on the grays which passed during "going down" season from December to February and the "coming up" season from February to April (Watkins 1925). The whales killed on the "down season" were fat, well nourished, and rendered a fine quality of oil. Whales harvested on the "up season" were smaller, having lost up to one-third of their body weight during the long migration (Rice and Wolman, 1971; Scammon, 1874). The yield of oil was commensurately less and not of the same fine quality as from the "down season" whales.

Gray whales measured 35-45 feet and yielded 25-35 barrels of oil. The exceptional animal reached 45-47 feet and gave 60+ barrels of oil. Humpbacks were somewhat larger, averaging 45-50 feet and 35-45 barrels of oil. An occasional cow would measure up to 75 feet, yielding 73 barrels of oil (Scammon, 1874).

The baleen of the gray was short and had no commercial value. The humpback baleen was a little longer and, although not of premium quality, could be harvested for marketing (San Diego Daily Union; March 2, 1872).

GRAY WHALE SKELETON

SPECIAL ADAPTATIONS OF WHALES INCLUDES: ELONGATED SKULLS - POROUS BONES - MODIFIED LIMB BONES



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY SHEILA BALDRIDGE

I would like to extend a warm 'thank you' to the following Board members who have agreed to continue to serve for the upcoming year:

George Powell - Vice-President
Cindy Hazard - Secretary
Jean Theisen - Membership
Esta Lee Albright - Newsletter Editor
Merilyn Georgevich - Special Events
Mary Rodriguez - Publicity

Scientific Advisory Committee: Alan Baldrige, Milos Radakovich, Steven Webster, Tom Williams and Bob Western.

I thank Wendy Guglieri who is stepping down as Treasurer for her time and welcome Bob Huettmann in her place. Your newsletter comes to you produced by Ruth and Allan Kraus and addressed and mailed by Marian LaRosa. I want them to know that their efforts are much appreciated.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Membership in the American Cetacean Society means protecting whales, dolphins and porpoises through education, conservation and research. The Monterey Bay Chapter meets at 7:30 PM at the Hopkins Marine Station in Pacific Grove on the last Thursday of each month. Programs and activities feature cetacea and the marine environment. Yearly membership:

patron - \$500 contributing - \$250 supporting - \$75
foreign - \$30 (US Currency) active - \$25

Telephone contacts: Sheila Baldrige (372-3809)
Jean Theisen, membership secretary (372-2293)

SOUNDINGS

SOUNDINGS is edited by Esta Lee Albright, produced by Ruth and Allan Kraus and mailed by Marian LaRosa. Contributors to this month's issue include Alan and Sheila Baldrige, feature articles; Robin Makowski and D. L. McIntyre, Art from the Gray Whale Teaching Kit; John R. Quinn, blue whale drawing from Steve Katona, "Field Guide to the Whales, Porpoises and Seals Off the Gulf of Maine and Canada".

MONTEREY BAY CHAPTER
AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY
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Bryde's Whale
Richard Ellis, Book of Whales

March Meeting

Date and time: Thursday, March 26, 1987 7:30 p.m.

Place: Fisher Hall, Hopkins Marine Station

Speaker: Bernie Tershy, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories

Topic: Behavior and Ecology of Gulf of California Rorquals

The word "rorqual" comes from the Norwegian and means "furrow whale." This term refers to the large number of pleats on the throats of these animals, which double their capacity to take in large amounts of water and food. The rorquals include the fin whales and Bryde's whales, which Bernie Tershy has studied over the last three years in the Sea of Cortez. He has tried to define why these two species differ so markedly in behavior, food preference and habitat use. Currently, he is using innovative radio tags and other remote sensory equipment to look beneath the surface of the water into the whales' three-dimensional environment. He has received two research grants from our Chapter.

In the meeting, he will take us along with him, sharing a research scientist's view of these large cetaceans. We will see how, bit by bit, the pieces of the puzzle of their lives are being found and fitted into place.

Soundings

March 1987
MONTEREY BAY CHAPTER
AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY

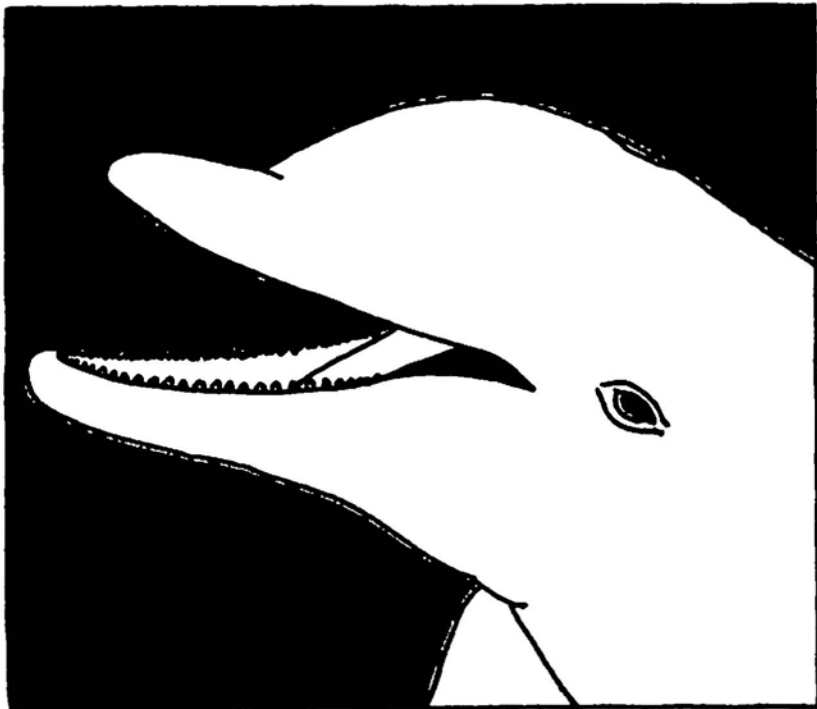
SOUNDINGS is the newsletter of the Monterey Bay Chapter of the American Cetacean Society. This meeting announcement is a substitute this month because various members of the production staff went out of the country whalewatching, to the East Coast on business, and other places that precluded getting out a newsletter by March. We promise a return to the usual SOUNDINGS next month !

MEMBERSHIP in the American Cetacean Society means protecting whales, dolphins and porpoises through education, conservation and research. The Monterey Bay Chapter meets at 7:30 PM at the Hopkins Marine Station in Pacific Grove on the last Thursday of each month. Programs and activities feature cetacea and the marine environment. Yearly membership: patron \$500; contributing \$250; supporting \$75; foreign \$30 (US currency); active \$25. Telephone contacts: Sheila Bladridge, president (372-3809)
Jean Theisen, membership secretary (372-2293)

MONTEREY BAY CHAPTER
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APRIL
MEETING

DATE
Thursday,
April 30, 1987

PLACE
Fisher Hall,
Hopkins Marine Station

TIME
7:30 PM

SPEAKER

Susan Shane
U. C. Santa Cruz

SUBJECT
Ecological Influences
on Cetaceans: Pilot Whales
and Bottlenose Dolphins

Susan Shane, who is just finishing her doctorate with Dr. Ken Norris has studied both pilot whales and bottlenose dolphins over the past few years. She will bring us her impressions of the impact the environment can have on these two species. Susan was shown a graphic example of the powerful effects of an El Nino when the pilot whales she was studying near the Channel Islands in Southern California just didn't appear that year; and she will talk about why this might have happened. She will discuss pilot whale social structure and some interesting interactions that she has noted between this species and Risso's Dolphin.

This busy lady has also spent time in Texas and Florida noting differences in the feeding behavior that Bottlenose Dolphins exhibit in these two areas. She will explain how the environment can affect feeding and the techniques she used to get the evidence. Susan has been the recipient of two of our research grants and we are delighted to have her as our speaker.

APRIL 1987

MONTEREY BAY CHAPTER
AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY

Soundings

APR 15 1987

HOPKINS MARINE STATION LIBRARY



ILLEGAL GILLNETTING IN MONTEREY BAY - AN UPDATE

As you know, there were problems last fall with gill nets being illegally set in shallow water in the bay. Mammals were being drowned, including sea otters, and harbor porpoises, species which can ill afford these losses. After much pressure, the State Department of Fish and Game brought in a patrol boat; the first night out, a gillnetter, "The Infallible", was caught fishing under cover of fog and darkness in shallow waters where gill nets have been banned. The fishermen pleaded guilty and were sentenced to thirty days straight jail time for the captain and fifteen for the chief crew member. All of this proved what we already knew, that a Fish and Game patrol boat is badly needed permanently in Monterey Bay. Support is needed for an upcoming bond issue which will, among other things, set aside one million dollars for patrol boats for the Central/Northern California area. Campaign funds of \$2500 are needed to get this on the ballot. Friends of the Sea Otter have given \$685 and \$600 have already been pledged by local fishermen's groups. We cannot, as a non-profit organization, give money - why I don't know - but I do urge you to help with donations which are NON-TAX DEDUCTIBLE. The money is needed by April 15. Checks should be made out to "Californians for Parks and Wildlife", noting that the money is for patrol boats. Send your check to Shiela Baldrige at PO Box HE in Pacific Grove, Ca, 93950. They will be forwarded in a batch. This is an important issue - we have the laws; now we need the ability to enforce them.

----Sheila Baldrige---

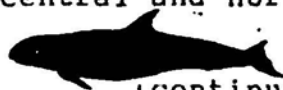
UNFORTUNATE LANDINGS by Jennie Dusheck (A summary from PACIFIC DISCOVERY, July - September 1986)

If you've sworn off tuna sandwiches out of concern for porpoises killed in tuna nets, don't take another bite of that halibut. And start thinking about giving up flounder, sea bass, squid, shark, and rockfish too. All the fisheries for these seafoods inadvertently kill a variety of marine mammals - from gray whales to seabirds.

This "incidental take" of marine animals occurs primarily in gill nets, which can be more than a mile long and hundreds of feet deep. As the fish try to swim through the nets, they are caught by their gill plates. Birds and marine mammals attracted by the struggling fish get caught themselves and drown.

The problem has been growing in recent years as gillnetting off the West Coast has increased. Often cited as the cause for the increase is the influx of Indochinese fishermen, many of whom must fish with gill nets because, as non citizens, they may not own the larger boats needed for other kinds of fishing. Also, after salmon catches declined during the 1982-83 El Nino, some fishermen switched from salmon trawlers to the more lucrative gill nets, which take halibut, croakfish, flounder, rockfish and herring. The introduction of cheap, strong, monofilament nets to replace the oldfashioned twine ones meant more people with less capital could start their own fishing businesses.

The seriousness of the incidental takes continues to be hotly debated, largely because no one knows the full extent of the damage. The incidental take of marine animals off central and northern California is now the worst in the United States.



(continued on page 5)

in our area came N during a pulse unusually warm water. From Jan 21 to 24, extra-limital sighting of animals were made off San Luis Obispo Co. and N Santa Barbara Co. during aerial surveys (TD).

Risso's Dolphin - On Jan. 13, 10-15 circled and interacted with courting Grays 4.5 WNW Pt. Pinos (ShJ). 500 in a mixed school in outer Carmel Bay Jan. 17-18 (DC, ShJ & JV). On Feb. 7, this same school 1.5 miles off Cypress Pt. (RT).

Northern Right Whale Dolphin - 50 interacted with a trio of courting Grays 4.5 WNW of Pt. Pinos on Jan. 13 (ShJ). 400-500 outer Carmel Bay Jan. 17-18 in a huge mixed species school (DC, ShJ & JV).

Harbor Porpoise - On Feb. 20, 3 groups of 2-5 animals Pajaro Rivermouth area in 7 fathoms of water (RT). On Feb. 24, 10 were observed along the N boundary of the Fort Ord Range, off Marina (RT).

Dall's Porpoise - 7-8 in Carmel Bay on Jan. 18 (ShJ). On Jan. 24, circa 25 in small groups of 2-3 along the Canyon edge NW Pt. Pinos included a "white snouted" individual (AB, ShJ). One group attended a courting pod of Grays 3 miles NW Pt. Pinos. 6-8 animals were 4 mi. WSW Pt. Pinos and 2-4 were bow-riding 3 Grays 4.5 mi. W Pt. Pinos, both on Feb. 1 (ShJ). 4-6, 3 mi. WSW Pt. Pinos on Feb. 8 (ShJ) and 8-10, 4 mi. W Moss Landing on Feb. 27 (RT).

Pigmy Sperm Whale - Outside of our area a very rare sub-adult male of this species weighing 142 lbs. came ashore alive at Stinson Beach, Marin Co. It died after several hours on Jan. 12 (SFB). Specimen to California Academy of Sciences.

Harbor Seal - On Jan. 30 and again during similar conditions on Feb. 2, about 12 animals were vigorously playing, exploring and splashing around in heavy freshwater runoff Hopkins Marine Station Beach. There were high counts at Hopkins of 154 on Dec. 31 and 192 on Jan. 9 was the highest ever counted there. The red-headed individual came ashore on Jan. 17 at HMS where it has been seen intermittently for several years. On Feb. 2, a small individual bit the arms and flippers of a diver at Hopkins. On Feb. 24, the premature birth of a stillborn fetus was observed there. Births begin in Peninsula waters around Apr. 10 (AB).

Elephant Seal - On Dec. 31, a large bull was in the water at Cypress Pt. (RC) and another was observed from the Red Snapper Restaurant, Fisherman's Wharf, Monterey on Jan. 17 (DR). Two were ashore at Alder Creek, 40 miles S of Big Sur on Jan. 27 (JN, DP).

Sea Otter - A two year old, tagged female repeatedly climbed onto the dock at Randy's, Fisherman's Wharf, Monterey on Jan. 8. This animal, tagged light orange and royal blue, was born in the marina two years ago and has now mated for the first time. She hauled out onto the dock in order to avoid the attentions of adult males. One wonders if her pup will, in turn, become a marina resident (MR, AB).

Contributors - AB-Alan Baldridge, B&JH - B. and J. Head, DC-D. Cheesman, DP-D. Painter, DR-D. Rose, DV-D. Ventresca, JHM-J. H. Martin, JL-J. Loomis, JM-J. Magee, JN-J. Norman, LO-L. Oliver, MR-M. Reidman, NF-N. Fraley, RC-R. Coon, RT-R. Turnullo, skipper "Pt. Sur Clipper", S&JH-S. and J. Harrison, SB-S. Baldridge, SFB-S. F. Bailey, ShJ-Shearwater Journeys, SM-S. Meyer, TD-T. Dohl, TN-T. Neece, skipper "Toronado".

RECENT MARINE MAMMAL OBSERVATIONS - JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1987

---compiled by Alan Baldrige---



Fin Whale - A single animal, possibly a fin but unconfirmed, .5 miles W Pt. Pinos, Feb. 5 (LO). No previous mid-winter reports from our area.

Humpback - A single moving S at Cypress Pt., Pebble Beach, Jan. 21 (S&JH). Very few midwinter records for this area.

Gray Whale - No complete census done this winter although Minerals Management Service funded a January count from Pt. Sal, San Luis Obispo Co., in order to assess the impact of ongoing oil/gas activity in the Santa Maria Basin on migrating whales. They are also concerned about impacts on northbound cow/calf pairs in April. Observers at Pt. Sal believed the migration to be about ten days late this year (TD).

For several successive years newborn calves have been seen in January in Monterey Bay. This year there were 4 as follows: A cow/calf pair 1 mile SW Pt. Pinos on Jan. 6 was the first (RT); 1 pair .5 miles W Pt. Pinos on Jan. 8 (ShJ); 1 at Moss Landing going S Jan. 27 (SB); 1 at the Cement Ship Capitola, Santa Cruz Co. for 3.75 hours on Feb 3 (TD). A newborn 14'- 6" male with umbilicus attached beached itself just outside our area at San Gregorio State Beach, San Mateo Co. on Jan. 5. With great effort it was returned to the water but was found dead the next day. This is only the second known fatality among these newborns. They are generally believed to be viable and appear to survive.

Intense courtship and what is euphemistically called "socializing" was observed for .75 hour off Hopkins Marine Station/Cannery Row, Monterey on Jan. 13 (AB). On Jan. 18 an active trio was caught up in a huge mixed-species dolphin school in outer Carmel Bay (JV). A small, heavily encrusted individual moved S at Moss Landing Marine Labs Jan. 19 (SB) and on Jan. 20, 5 pods passed HMS, having come around the Bay from Sand City. Typical late migrants often follow the Bay shoreline (AB). On Jan. 20, 2 were playing in the breakers for some hours at Carmel Rivermouth (per SM). 3 going S at Moss Landing Jan. 26 (JHM). The first northbound animal was reported at Granite Canyon, near Rocky Pt., Big Sur on Feb. 15 (DR). Following this, much breaching and socializing activity was noted among northbound migrants (DR).

Orca - 2 circled and "attacked" a southbound, medium-sized Gray just outside the kelp at Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park, Big Sur on Jan. 17. After 10 min., the Gray continued S (JM). Outside our area, S. Schwarz and M. L. Jones observed from the air a pod of 5 Orcas attack and kill a calf accompanied by its mother near Santa Cruz Island, Santa Barbara Co. Jan. 17. A solitary bull, named "Ruffles", from a wavy dorsal fin, was observed in mid-Carmel Bay Jan. 17 (DC, ShJ). On Jan. 29 another solitary male, probably the same individual, was observed 50 yds. off Pt. Lobos headed S (JL).

Pacific White Sided Dolphin - 500 in outer Carmel Bay S of Cypress Pt. on Jan. 18 were part of a huge mixed school with Risso's and Right Whale Dolphins (DC and ShJ). On Feb. 6, 200 plus were 2.5 miles W Yankee Pt. (TN)

Common Dolphin - On Feb. 1, 180-200 were 2 mile NW Pt. Pinos (ShJ, JL). On Feb. 11, 100 plus, 2.5 miles W Pt. Pinos (RT). Feb. 19 and almost daily to Feb. 28, 200 animals repeatedly entered southern Monterey Bay and were observed from Otter Pt., Lover's Pt., etc. (B & JH, AB, RT).

Bottlenosed Dolphin - On Dec. 6 3-5 dolphins considered to be *Tursiopes* near Monterey Beach Hotel (DV). On Jan. 1, a dozen were in the breakers just S of Big Sur Rivermouth (NF). This species which is rarely observed

UNFORTUNATE LANDINGS (Continued from page 2)

Statistics for mortality in gill nets on the Central California Coast, from the California Department of Fish and Game are as follows:

•Harbor Seals - Out of a regional population of 13,000, about 600 die each year in nets.

•Harbor Porpoise - 300 per year in 1983 (200 per year in 1984 and 1985) in the halibut fishery alone. The California population may be 10,000.

•Gray Whales - Eight whales netted in 1981 and 1984 in California, but the number went up to 13 in 1985 alone.

•Sea Otters - Approximately 80 each year according to 1985 research on why the population seemed to decline in recent years.

•Common Murres and other seabirds - Thousands each year. In 1981, it is estimated that 8,000 murres died in gill nets in Monterey Bay alone. The total murre population off Central California may have declined sixty percent between 1983 and 1984 due to weather, oil spills and gill nets.

•Dall's Porpoise - Over their range in the North Pacific, about 2700 die each season in gill nets. On the open seas, Japanese Salmon Fisheries use miles of gill nets in Dall's breeding grounds.

•California Sea Lions - It is estimated that 3,000 sea lions die each year in fishing nets set along the West Coast of the United States. Sea Lion populations are expanding regardless.

Increasingly, West Coast fisherman find themselves in a bind. Marine mammals destroy thousands of dollars worth of fish and fishing gear each year. Doyle Hannan of the CDFG reported a 1983 study that estimated the worth of fish and fishing gear lost from California gill netters from 1979 to 1981 at about \$600,000. The same study estimated that in California halibut gill netters lose about ten percent of their catch to sea lions and seals. But at the same time, each recorded incidental take builds the case for extending further government regulation.

Without a reliable guideline for allowable incidental takes, one based on clear population estimates and trends, wildlife managers and fishermen will continue to wrangle over rules and regulations. And marine mammals and seabirds will continue to die for no reason.

A QUOTATION FROM ALDO LEOPOLD'S "A SAND COUNTRY ALMANAC"

"Like winds and sunsets, wild things were taken for granted until progress began to do away with them. Now we face the question whether a still higher 'standard of living' is worth its cost in things natural wild and free. For us of the minority, the opportunity to see geese is more important than television, and the chance to find a posque-flower is a right as inalienable as free speech".





**FIELD TRIP TO U. C. SANTA CRUZ LONG MARINE LABORATORY
SATURDAY, MAY 9th at 1 PM**

Staff at Long Marine Lab have graciously invited all ACS members to tour on May 9th. We will have a general tour of the Labs first and then a staff member will show us the area where behavioral research is taking place on marine mammals. At present there are two Bottlenose Dolphins, three Fur Seals and six California Sea Lions. The work with sea lions has been particularly interesting, as they have proved themselves to be as adept at understanding signals as Dr. Herman's dolphins in Hawaii. For example, 10-year old "Rocky" understands 11 nouns, 6 verbs and can respond to 600 imperative sentences of two to four words. We hope that they will be showing off their knowledge when we visit on May 9th.

Please call me if you would like to go - we need to let the lab know how many will attend.

----Sheila Baldrige, 372-3809----



MOSS LANDING MARINE LAB OPEN HOUSE

The annual open house at MLML (a very popular event) will be April 25 and 26 this year. The hours are: Saturday, April 25 - 12 noon to 5pm and Sunday, April 26 - 10 am to 5pm



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patron - \$500 contributing - \$250 supporting - \$75
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Telephone contacts: Sheila Baldrige (372-3809)
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SOUNDINGS

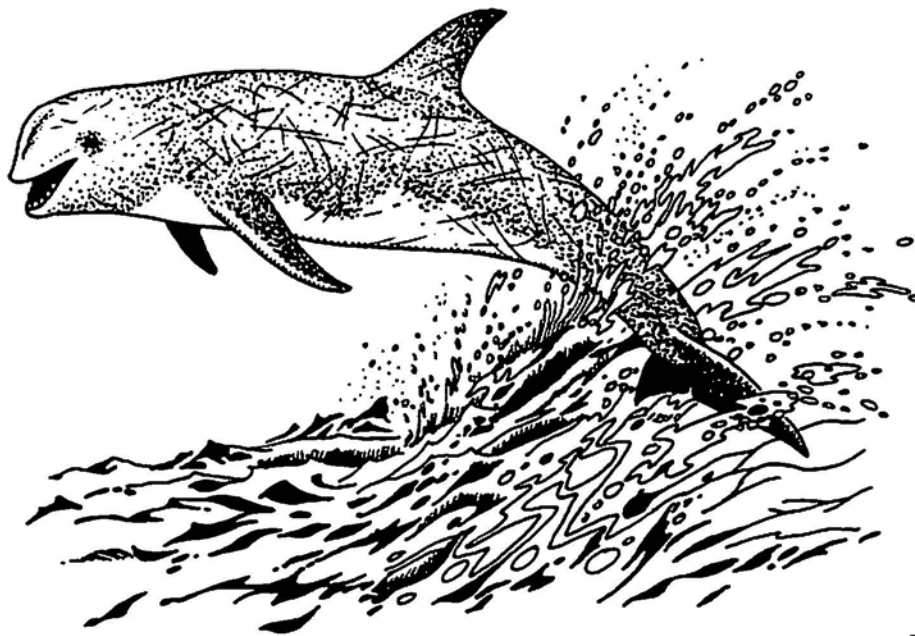


SOUNDINGS is edited by Esta Lee Albright, produced by Ruth and Allan Kraus and mailed by Marian La Rosa. Contributors to this month's issue include Alan and Sheila Baldrige, feature articles; Milos Radakovich, Robin Makowski, Bob Western, Yvonne Ibrisimovic, art.

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Risso's Dolphin
Richard Ellis in
DOLPHINS AND
PORPOISES

MAY MEETING

Date and time: Thursday, May 28, 1987 7:30 p.m.

Place: Fisher Lecture Hall, Hopkins Marine Station, Pacific Grove

Speaker: Susan Kruse, University of California, Santa Cruz

Topic: Risso's Dolphins and Associated Cetaceans in Monterey Bay

Susan Kruse, awarded two ACS Monterey Bay Chapter research grants, is now in the second year of her study of this little-known animal. Although widely distributed in temperate oceans of the world, it is largely an open-ocean species and inaccessible to the biologist. The Monterey region, with its deepwater canyons close to shore, attracts Risso's (equally well-known as "Grampus") to within reach of the field researcher in a small boat. Susan will discuss what has been learned concerning their abundance, distribution, behavior, ecology and their interesting and close association with Northern Right Whale and Pacific White-sided Dolphins.

Soundings

May 1987

MONTEREY BAY CHAPTER
AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY

WHALING FOR "RESEARCH"

Recent newspaper articles about Japan continuing its whaling operation in the name of "research" have lowered our hopes for a true moratorium and an end to whaling. The following excerpts from an article in Science, 15 Aug. 1986, helps explain the issue.

"The rationale for scientific whaling, as it is termed in IWC (International Whaling Commission) discussions, stems from disagreements about the size of surviving whale populations. The moratorium agreement calls for a comprehensive assessment of whale stocks to be made by 1990. However, a major effort has not been organized, and there is debate on methodologies and on whether a satisfactory survey can be made while whaling continues.

"Conservation groups charge that research whaling, conducted under the guise of assessing stocks, is a way to circumvent the moratorium. The issue has been sharpened by the plans of other countries to return to whaling under the banner of research.

"Iceland has been catching fin and sei whales and proposes to take North Atlantic minke whales, which are on the IWC's protected list. The meat is reportedly to be sold to Japan. Korea is said to be planning a program of scientific whaling in the Pacific with the minke whales caught also going to Japan. Norway, facing possible restrictions on fisheries exports to the United States because it continued whaling, plans a shift from commercial to scientific whaling in 1988.

"The IWC began to focus on the issue of scientific whaling at its recent meeting, but seems far from ready to set the terms for such operations. An indication of the official U.S. view of research whaling is likely to surface soon. Iceland exports fishery products to the United States and is, therefore, subject to the provision of fisheries law that calls for restrictions on such imports at the discretion of the President when IWC rules are violated. The Icelanders are said to be adamant about their prerogatives to whale in northern waters. With their control of bases crucial to NATO they would appear to hold a stronger political hand than the whales."

So, keep writing letters. It may seem an uphill battle in this administration, and military bases and computer chips are more often at the bargaining table than whales. But all it takes is the graceful sight of a minke whale off Rocky Point at sunset to remind us -- it's not too late.

March 31st 1987

RECENT MARINE MAMMAL OBSERVATIONS - March 1987

Compiled by Alan Baldrige

Minke Whale - A single was seen in nearshore waters on March 31 (DL). This species is normally absent from our area in winter and was last reported here Nov. 17.

Gray Whale - A pair of courting whales was seen from Cypress Pt., Pebble Beach on March 18 (S&JH). A cow/calf pair was observed in the Bay near "A" Buoy off Fort Ord on March 28 (AB,SHJ). There were two strandings - a 27' female, fresh and apparently uninjured, came in dead at Jetty Road State Beach, Moss Landing on March 24. Measurements and specimens were collected by Moss Landing Marine Labs. before the waves reclaimed it. Subsequently carried north, it re-stranded at Manressa State Beach, Santa Cruz Co. where it was buried. On March 28 another individual of similar size but dead some time, was found afloat .5 mile from Pt. Pinos, Pacific Grove. Later in the day several observers noted 2 White Sharks feeding on it, before the U.S. Coast Guard towed it 3 miles W of Asilomar. It drifted S and later re-stranded at the south shore of Pt. Lobos Reserve, where it has gradually disintegrated. (CB).

Orca - On March 17 3 were seen 3 miles WNW of Cypress Pt., travelling inshore towards Seal Rock, Pebble Beach (CD). There were no reports from shore.

Pacific Whitesided Dolphin - On March 3 a large, dispersed school of 60-200 was 5-7 miles NW of Pt. Pinos (MLML Transect). On March 4 200 were near Hopkins Marine Station, Pacific Grove and 235 more near the Whistle Buoy, Pt. Pinos (DL). On March 17 there were 40-50 together with a second small school with "socializing" gray whales in Monterey Bay (SK,RW). 130-150 were in a scattered feeding mode in outer Carmel Bay SW of Cypress Pt. on March 28 (AB,SHJ).

Common Dolphin - This month there were continued observations of large schools in our area. A large school was observed going NE 1 mile NE of "A" Buoy off Fort Ord on March 2 (PM). A single was observed among Whitesided Dolphins on March 3 (MLML Transect). 3-500 were S of Santa Cruz Pt., Santa Cruz Co. on March 17 (SK,RW). On March 26 200 plus were 2 miles NW from Pt. Pinos (SW). These numerous sightings, together with many more, by party boat skippers DL and RT may all refer to a single large school.

Risso's Dolphin - On March 3 a large dispersed school of 60-100 14 miles W of Moss Landing (MLML Transect). On March 22 a school of 80 was followed from the S rim of the Monterey Canyon N to off Davenport, Santa Cruz Co. Associated with them were several hundred Right Whale Dolphins (SK,RW).



Northern Right Whale Dolphin - On March 3 20-40 were near a school of Risso's Dolphins 14 miles W of Moss Landing (MLML Transect). On March 22 several hundred were with Risso's Dolphins off Davenport (SK,RW).

Harbor Porpoise - 43, was an exceptionally high winter count, this usually being their low period. These animals were inshore .5 -1.5 miles off the beach between Moss Landing and Aptos, Santa Cruz Co. on March 3 (MLML Transect).

Dall's Porpoise - This species was observed associating with Common Dolphins S of Santa Cruz Pt. on March 17 (SK,RW). Dall's infrequently associate with other odontocetes in our area. 17 in 5 groups, including 1 juvenile, were observed along the 100 fathom curve from outer Carmel Bay N to off the Salinas Rivermouth (AB,SHJ). Numerous reports were logged by party boat skippers DL and RT from normal locations in and around the Bay.

Northern Elephant Seal - On March 2 on an inaccessible S Monterey Co. beach 40 females were present together with 8 pups. Many additional pups were thought to have perished at this site during a period of heavy swells in late January (RJ).

California Sea Lion - Monterey Breakwater hosted 370-400 animals on March 28 (AB,SHJ). Late April and May will see a decline as local animals migrate S to breeding rookeries in S California and perhaps Mexico.

Bonus Species

Basking Shark - On March 23 a 20-25' individual was among the salmon fleet near "A" Buoy off Fort Ord (KT).

Leopard Shark - 12-15 were highly visible in Whalers Cove, Pt. Lobos Researve during exceptionally calm and clear conditions on March 29 (JW). This species is known to become numerous inshore at this time of year, although not usually visible from land.

White Shark - 2 individuals estimated to be 12' and 15' in length were seen feeding on a yearling gray whale carcass afloat off Lover's Pt., Pacific Grove on March 28.

Salmon - Extraordinary sport fishing in Monterey Bay during the month.

Sea Turtle sp. - The 18-20" tracks of a large turtle ascended Asilomar State Beach from water line to dunes on the morning of March 20. This extraordinary find could not be corroborated with any turtle sightings, and remains a mystery (Bob Prince fide VLY).

Contributors: AB-A. Baldrige; CB-C. Bancroft; CD-C. Dennie, Skipper Miss Monterey; S&JH-S. and J. Harrison; RJ-R. Jameson; USFWS; SK-S. Kruse; DL-D. Lemon, Skipper Star of Monterey; PM-P. Mason; MLML-Moss Landing Marine Labs.; ShJ-Shearwater Journeys; KT-K. Temple, Skipper Telstar; RT-R. Ternullo, Skipper Pt. Sur Clipper; JW-J. Ware; SW-S. Webster; RW-R. Wells; VLY-V.L. Yadon.

EASTER SEALS AGAIN



The time of the harbor seal pups coincided with Easter, as we might have expected -- Beachwatch volunteers seem to tend some type of seal on some beach almost every Easter. In fact, the first pups to be born on Fanshell Beach this year came on Palm Sunday. For two weeks, Beachwatch monitored a repeat of last year's collision between harbor seal interests in the beach as a nursery and human interest in it for scenery and recreation. By May 1st, only occasional, abandoned seal pups needed attention.

We have made some progress, however. Thanks to this chapter and Orange County chapter of ACS, there were flyers given to tourists at the gates to Pebble Beach, with the simple message, "Stay away from marine mammals," and a drawing using the universal "NO" circle. A little knowledge helped tourists understand our barricades at the clifftops.

Also, Fanshell Beach expert Bob Huettmann, who was there every day, has seen lots of possibilities for improvement, should this happen next year. After seeing the success of hand-lettered signs by new volunteer, Jackie Fitzpatrick, Bob expects us to move more toward interpretive duty. An information station in the parking lot, plus more signs along the overlooks, all giving natural history information about the seal pups, should ease the policing duty. With the gorgeous scenery, the pairs of seal heads in the water (mother seal nuzzling smaller head of pup), and the additional attraction of two resident otters, it's very easy to get across a lot of information. Tourists love it.

On the two sides of the point, Bob estimates at least fifteen pups were born. The most regrettable incident was a photographer's going too close to an overlook and frightening away a seal in labor on the beach below. She gave birth in the water -- the pup didn't survive -- but she carried it for two days by holding its flipper in her mouth.

The very beauty of the spot turns out to be a hindrance. The little beach tucked up into the curve of the road was a real temptation to photographers driving by in cars. It would help us if a particularly ugly sign could be temporarily erected, "No stopping," to spoil all the pictures. Milos and Deon Radakovich directed traffic all day the first Saturday, a stormy, blowy day not even to the liking of the seals. Mothers and pups were cornered in the little bay, coming ashore for rest and nursing when the traffic above allowed. Lots of scared mother seals were traveling back to the water and out again, while pups exhausted from wave action finally hauled out on the beach regardless. Milos called them "pooped pups."

The happiest experiences were picking up some new recruits, getting to know Herald reporter Joe Livernois (who wrote the article published Apr. 22), and having the interest and gratitude of many tourists and residents at the Beach.

We need Beachwatch volunteers. Even though the Beachwatch sometimes was scheduled at high tides, the sessions turned out to be long and daily. (At low tide the seals usually were content on offshore rocks; but (cont. next page)

STAY AWAY FROM MARINE ANIMALS



**This is the time baby seals
and sea otters are born.**

Frightened mothers often abandon their pups.

Federal Law prohibits approaching
marine animals.

EASTER SEALS cont'd.

when the tide rose, mother seals would approach the shore and stare up at the cliffs, ready to retreat if they could see people there. A birth on a beach could happen at any tide level.) This situation is rather exclusive to Fanshell; most animal watches are not this extended or complicated. A couple months can pass without a Beachwatch call out. Anyone physically capable of being on the beach for awhile, and inclined toward telling the public interesting facts about marine animals, is welcome to join. Cost: price of the little manual and your own transportation, plus a little time to learn.

Contact Esta Lee Albright at 375-1658 for news of the next training session, now being scheduled for May.

"THANKS" FROM THE PRESIDENT

I would like to thank members who so generously contributed funds to "Californians for Parks and Wildlife" to help support a Bond Issue which, if passed, will provide funds for State Department of Fish and Game patrol boats in our area. Your support is much appreciated.

- - Sheila Baldrige

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Dues: Patron \$500; Contributing \$250; Supporting \$75; Foreign \$30 U.S. Currency; Active \$25. Send dues to the address below to get on our mailing list immediately.
Telephone contacts: Sheila Baldrige (372-3809) president; Jean Theisen (372-2293) membership secretary.

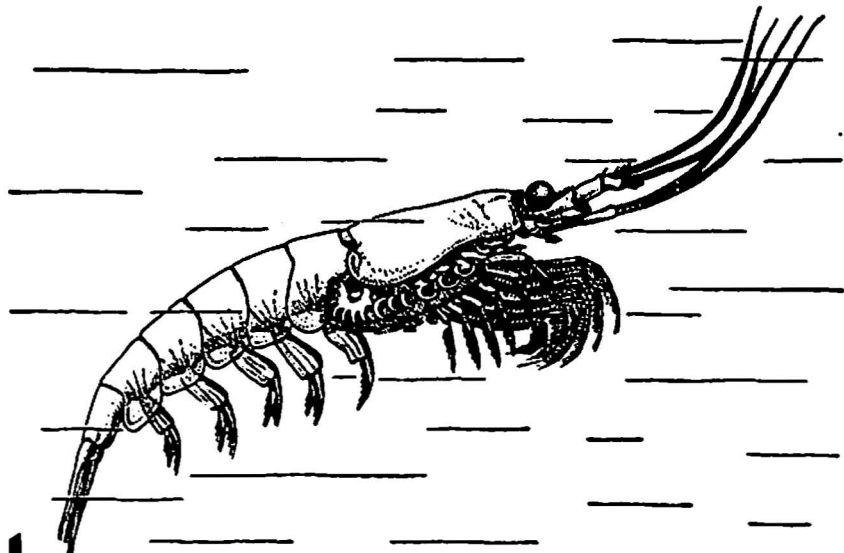


SOUNDINGS is edited by Esta Lee Albright and produced this month by elves. Marian and Frank LaRosa are in charge of mailing. Contributors to this month's issue: Alan and Sheila Baldrige, Esta Lee Albright, feature articles; Bob Western, Beachwatch flyer, and Richard Ellis, art.

MONTEREY BAY CHAPTER
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* JUNE *
* MEETING *
* *

DATE
Thursday,
June 25, 1987

PLACE
Fisher Hall,
Hopkins Marine Station

TIME
7:30 PM

SPEAKER

Dr. Harvey Marchant
Visiting Fulbright Scholar
University of California
Santa Cruz

SUBJECT

Conservation of Antarctic
Living Marine Resources:
from krill to the large
whales in this post-whaling
area.

We are extremely fortunate to have Dr. Marchant for our program this month. Director of the Antarctic Division of the Department of Science, Australian Federal Government, he is based in Hobart, Tasmania. He is Australia's delegate to the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR). He is spending his sabbatical year working in the laboratories of Dr. Mary Silver and Dr. David Garrison, Institute of Marine Science, UCSC. The principal food of the large baleen whales, krill, exists in staggering numbers, perhaps five hundred million tons. It is estimated that the whales alone consume up to forty million tons a year and there is growing concern over the effect that an increased krill fishery would have on this vital food supply. Dr. Marchant's talk will, among other things, provide us with an up-to-date discussion of this fishery and its potential impact on other resources.

Soundings

JUNE 1987

MONTEREY BAY CHAPTER

AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY

HOPKINS MARINE STATION LIBRARY

JUN 15 1987

CONSERVATION: MONTEREY BAY

In lieu of a formal conservation committee, this chapter is seeking concerned, articulate people to take on and direct us in ways to make a difference. Curt Cureton is the first, and the issue is all important: Monterey Bay as a Marine Sanctuary. Oil drilling pollution, oil spills, garbage, pesticides ---- threats to the bay come from all sides. Letters are needed now, Curt says, to Representative Lowry at the following address:

Representative Mike Lowry
House Merchant Marine Oceanography Subcommittee
2454 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC, 20515

"As always, a personal expression of your support for HR 734 will probably be most effective. I'll be happy to share my copy of HR 734 and/or the original letter from which the one below was taken," says Curt. "THANKS FOR YOUR HELP IN PROTECTING OUR WILD LIFE." And thank you, Curt.

The following letter from Leon Panetta, sponsor of the bill to establish Monterey Bay as a marine sanctuary explains the issues:

LEON E PANETTA
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 15, 1987

Thank you for writing to request information on H.R. 734, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Act. I am enclosing a copy of the bill pursuant to your request. I appreciate hearing from you.

I am deeply concerned about potential new threats to the quality of water in Monterey Bay, including offshore oil and gas development, new sewage outfalls and the proposal to use the bay to dispose of toxic agricultural drainage water. As you know, the bay is already threatened by high levels of toxic contamination, and I am convinced that action must be taken now if we are to preserve it. Findings during the past few years suggest that the bay and its tributaries are slowly being contaminated by toxic chemicals. Record levels of pesticides have been found in Watsonville, Espinosa, and Elkhorn Sloughs as well as the Salinas River; all of which empty into the bay. Residues of pesticides banned over a decade ago are still being found at high levels in the soils that drain into the bay.

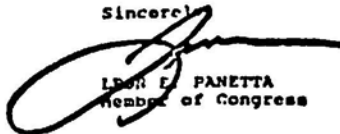
It is clear that this unique national resource must be preserved, and that the threats posed by potential new industrial sewage outflows and toxic agricultural discharges are too immediate to wait for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to designate the bay as a National Marine Sanctuary - action it may never take. Because NOAA has closed the door on attempts to designate the bay as a Marine Sanctuary through the established process, I introduced the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Act (H.R. 734) last year and again on January 22. This legislation would designate the bay as a National Marine Sanctuary and would require the Secretary of Commerce to establish a management plan for the bay in accordance with the goals and purposes of the Marine Sanctuaries Act.

The management plan established by the Secretary would determine the effect of the Marine Sanctuary designation on municipal sewage outfalls and the drainage of pesticides and other toxic chemicals into the bay and its tributaries. The legislation sites sewage outfalls, oil and gas development and the drainage of toxic agricultural waste water as potential threats which should be addressed by the management plan. The plan would be crafted with extensive public and local government input, and I am confident that the management of the bay would be conducted in a manner consistent with local management goals and objectives.

Monterey Bay's unique physical and biological qualities, its economic productivity, and its national cultural and research significance clearly warrant marine sanctuary designation and protection from the growing threat of contamination. It is my hope that this legislation will bring about the protection needed for this unique national resource. Letters to House Merchant Marine Oceanography Subcommittee Chairman Mike Lowry, urging that hearings be held on this bill would be very helpful.

Once again, thank you for your interest in this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can ever be of service.

Sincerely,



LEON E. PANETTA
Member of Congress



RECENT MARINE MAMMAL OBSERVATIONS - APRIL 1987

---compiled by Alan Baldrige---

Humpback - 2 observed northbound W of Pillar Pt., San Mateo Co. during April from the air (TD).

Gray Whale - Northbound migrants were last reported off Pacific Grove at Otter Pt. April 10 (B&JH). Nevertheless, observations of cow/calf pairs continued with a pair near Pt. Pinos on April 15 (CH) and 2 pairs off Granite Canyon, near Rocky Pt., Big Sur on April 25 and 26 (DR). Another pair were northbound at Moss Landing Marine Labs on April 28 (SB). Tom Dohl commented that observers at Pt. Sal, San Luis Obispo Co. considered there to be no peak in the cow/calf pair migration this spring, "just strung out over time".

Orca - Omitted last month was a pod of three (an adult male, an immature male or female and a juvenile) on March 7 southbound at Pt. Lobos. They were close to Sea Lion Pt. and south shore (JM, et al). They were tracked from Highway 1 from Yankee Pt. south to Soberanes Pt. where they veered further off shore passing Rocky Pt. Much acrobatic activity and play with kelp (AB, CG). On April 29, 1 was glimpsed in hazy conditions off Otter Pt. Pacific Grove as it headed NW into the bay. Others may have been present (BH, AB). Outside of our area at Montara, San Mateo Co., a pod of 5 - 7 (including 1 large male) swam N .5 miles off shore on April 5. Seen from the air (TD).

Common Dolphin - On March 11, 75 entered southern Monterey Bay off Otter Pt. and Hopkins Marine Station, Pacific Grove (B&JH, AB).

Risso's Dolphin - Groups of 15-20 and 10-15 animals 13 miles SW of Moss Landing on April 26 (JS). On April 28 about 30 animals were 10.5 miles SW of Moss Landing (JS).

Pilot Whale - A small group of 5 animals travelling rapidly N were 8 miles SW of Santa Cruz on March 30. This is a rare species in our area and is not even recorded annually (DL).

Northern Right Whale Dolphin - 30-40 animals were with 10-15 Risso's Dolphins about 13 miles SW of Moss Landing on April 26 (JS).

Harbor Porpoise - 3 animals were close to Monterey Marina on Mar 28 (DL). This species is usually seen in the NE part of the bay, close to shore. On April 26, 7 animals were 7.5 miles SSW of Moss Landing in 48 fathoms of water, deeper than their usual habits (JS).

Dall's Porpoise - Several groups of 5-10 animals W of Moss Landing over the submarine canyon on April 26 (JS). This is a reliable location for this species.

Harbor Seal - April produced numerous reports of pupping activity from Hopkins Marine Station S to Dolan Rock in Big Sur.

Northern Elephant Seal - A female or sub-adult male in the Bird Island/Gibson Beach area at Pt. Lobos on April 4 (NT).

(Continued on page 6)



THE SPLASH ZONE

Bits and Pieces of Information from Hither and Yon

---compiled by Esta Lee Albright---

SEA TURTLES AND ACRONYMS

Ever elusive, sea turtles stir the imagination of scientists and conservationists. Greenpeace is trying to keep endangered sea turtles (especially Kemp's ridley which is "precariously on the verge of extinction") out of nets of shrimp trawlers. Trawlers are responsible for the deaths of 11000 sea turtles, including 800 Kemp's ridleys, each year. A device called a TED has been developed; it reduces the turtle take to near zero, sharply reduces the catch of fin fish, and does not significantly reduce the shrimp catch. TEDS (Turtle Excluder Devices) recently were accepted by shrimp fishermen, but when NMFS (National Marine Fisheries Service) issued regulations to reflect their agreement, Gulf Coast shrimpers balked. The matter is up for resolution in Louisiana. (GREENPEACE ACTION ALERT, March 24, 1987)

Another acronym, TDR, stands for time-depth recorder, which is attached to the back of the endangered giant Leatherback Turtles to study feeding behavior during the nesting season. A TDR is attached when the female is ashore to lay eggs on St. Croix, USVI. It uses a pressure sensor connected to a light-emitting diode to trace a record on a moving strip of film. The film record revealed that the turtles made about three dives per hour, day and night. Two dives were recorded to depths estimated at 1260 meters (4130 feet), which were deeper than the deepest dive ever recorded by an air-breathing animal. The closest record is of a sperm whale which was found tangled in a submarine cable at a depth of 1140 meters. (UNDERWATER USA, May 1987)

Any glimpse into the life of an animal quickens our own and makes it so much the larger and better in every way.

- John Muir

SARDINES

A directed fishery for sardines resulted in landings of 28 tons in Monterey Bay ports, according to California Fish and Game March report.



OTTERS

The CFG Report also featured censuses at the edges of the sea otter range, counting 48 sea otters south of Pt. San Luis and 43 otters north of Pt. Santa Cruz.

Mortality of sea otters in March 1987 totaled nine, compared with four in this month last year. Otter mortality Jan.-Mar. 1987 totalled nineteen, compared to sixteen last year. Several sea otter carcasses with shark bites were examined from the southern half of Monterey Bay. A more fortunate sea otter had its deep cuts sutured. It was kept at the Monterey Bay Aquarium for a week; it gained 6 lbs and was released.



And all this happens in the sea, in the salt
Where God is also love, but without words:
and Aphrodite is the wife of whales
Most happy, happy she !

and Venus among the fishes skips and is a she-dolphin...
- D.H. Lawrence

SOUND FAMILIAR?

When your home is on land that juts out into the sea, in an area rich in marine life, you get involved. Many of us here have much empathy with Dr. Dorothy Spero, West Quoddy Biological Research Station, Lebec, Maine. The station is on a point of land near the Bay of Fundy and Dr. Spero came seven years ago to gather acoustical and behavioral data on Northern Right Whales. She tracks a large vocal repertoire of whale calls, seemingly dependent on behavior, and recognizing individual vocal "signatures".



The marine mammals are a shared and universal good, a common heritage of mankind. They have opened our eyes to the final limits of power, beauty and grace that life can reach. This contribution is to all the peoples of the earth. - Victor Scheffer

From Quoddy Head, Dr. Spero soon spotted Right, Finback, Humpback and Minke Whales, all within fifty feet of the shore line. The whales opened other doors, too, on the wild meadows, bogs and mudflats of the point. Soon, people were calling on her staff to rescue wounded animals stranded there. After receiving the necessary permits, they mixed whale research and animal care, releasing countless woebegone creatures as small as shore birds and as large as whales. One special patient returns for visits, a harbor seal that came with a gunshot wound, probably from nearby Canada, where there is a bounty on seals -- \$15 a nose. Beginning at approximately a week and raising him to three months of age, Spero's staff fed him a formula of cow's milk, cream and herring followed by live herring dropped into a pool three times a day.

"As soon as possible, we try to dehumanize the animals in our care," Spero says. "That's essential if we are going to reintroduce them to the natural environment. It can be tough, for seals can break your heart by wailing when they are bored and hungry for attention".

Sending stranded dolphins back to sea has been more difficult. Spero has set up a stranding network and distributed flyers on what to do if a stranded animal is sighted, leading to better cooperation from local fishermen, who will shoot entangled cetacea, to avoid loss of nets.

Some of the above will ring a bit familiar to some local persons. It's nice to have a connection across the continent. (CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, Oct. 28, 1986)

RECENT MARINE MAMMAL OBSERVATIONS (Cont'd)

California Sea Lion - On April 5 at Sea Lion Pt., Pt. Lobos 1 was seized by a large white shark in front of visitors. It is unknown, at this time, if such an incident has been witnessed in earlier years. The observers were interviewed by CH and RL.

Bonus Species

Market Squid - 2 - 3 tons were taken on March 9 - 11 in S Monterey Bay. There has been little activity since.

Contributors

AB - Alan Baldrige	JM - J. Mackenzie
B&JH - B. and J. Head	JS - J. Schoenherr
CG - C. Gottlund	NT - N. Troth
CH - C. Hartzell	RL - R. Lea
DL - D. Lemon, Skipper	SB - S. Baldrige
Star of Monterey	ShJ - Shearwater Journeys
DR - D. Rose	TD - T. Dohl

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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patron - \$500	contributing - \$250	supporting - \$75
foreign - \$30 (US Currency)	active - \$25	

Telephone contacts: Sheila Baldrige (372-3809)
Jean Theisen, membership secretary (372-2293)

SOUNDINGS

SOUNDINGS is edited by Esta Lee Albright, produced by Ruth and Allan Kraus and mailed by Marian La Rosa. Contributors to this month's issue include Alan and Sheila Baldrige, Esta Lee Albright and Curt Cureton, feature articles; Robert Western and others, art.

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* JULY MEETING *

DATE: Thursday, July 30, 1987

PLACE: Fisher Hall
Hopkins Marine Station

TIME: 7:30 PM

SPEAKER: Susan McBride
Moss Landing Marine Laboratories

SUBJECT: Trade Wind Sailing and Tropical Adventures

An eight year circumnavigation aboard the 37 foot sloop "Chrysalis" was an adventure in sailing and a collection of cultural experiences for our speaker. Traveling the world aboard her boat at a leisurely pace and with just one traveling companion allowed extended visits and time to learn the customs and ways of life of many countries. Down-wind sailing between islands was the usual pattern but passages to New Zealand and rounding the Cape of Good Hope kept the sailing challenge alive. Susan will share some of her many adventures and show us the way of life of some other peoples who, like us, live by the sea.

JULY 1987

Soundings

MONTEREY BAY CHAPTER
AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY

JUL 13 1987

HOW TO WATCH WHALEWATCHERS

---Esta Lee Albright---

Looking back at Summer and Fall, 1986, we wonder if we will see the likes of such whalewatching again---Blue Whales inside the Bay, close enough to Cypress Point for spouts to be watched from land, unheard of numbers (20+) feeding at the edge of the Canyon; Orcas, Dolphins. Many times the Blue Whales seemed to be as curious about boats as the people on the boats were eager to see whales. Was this unusual interface of people and whales a one-time experience for this area---did whalewatching behavior support continuation of such a privilege?

Every person can monitor whalewatching activity. It takes a little care and cool-headed observation. It's best supported by good notes and clear photographs. Here are some instructions:

(1) Vessels should not be operated at speeds faster than a whale while paralleling and within 100 yards of a whale. Vessels should not be operated at speeds faster than the slowest whales while paralleling or between groups of whales and within 100 yards of them. Vessels should be operated at a constant speed while paralleling or following a gray whale and within 100 yards of the whale*. There should be no circling of a whale or groups of whales. Boats should not run up on a whale's spout, wait for the whale to move off, then run up on the spout again. Boats need to stay off to the side and go parallel (or slightly behind and to the side) to whales as they swim. But how far is 100 yards when the sea is rough, the boats are moving as are the whales? A good way to express distance is in boat lengths. If you can report that a boat named "Wrongdoing" was consistently one to two boat lengths or less from a whale spout, moving toward the whale with each sighting, and it was driven by a tall male in yellow slickers and a black beard, you can effectively report an infringement of whalewatching guide lines. You must add your location, length of observation, time, day and activity. It is best if you can report the identification number of the Wrongdoing ("CF number" on the bow). It's even better if you have a clear picture of the boat, showing number or characteristic markings, and it's bow sticking into the whale spout or such.



(2) A vessel should not be used to separate a whale from its calf. It should not be used to herd or drive whales. Operators of vessels or aircraft should not perform any actions that substantially disrupt the normal behavioral pattern of a whale. A substantial disruption of a normal behavioral pattern may be manifested by, among other actions on the part of the whale, a rapid change in direction or speed; escape tactics such as swimming away rapidly at the surface; attempts by a female to shield a calf from a vessel or a human observer by tail swishing or by other movements to protect her calf.* This means that, in addition to observing a boat too close to a whale, you must also observe what changes in behavior result. Note the whale's behavior before and after Wrongdoing's actions. Did the whale speed up, dive and change course, begin spouting rapidly as it tried to get away? Current whale watching procedure includes stopping a boat in the vicinity of a whale and sitting idly in the water leaving the decision to the whale as to whether it will approach, swim by, or avoid the boat. You may, then, see a whale near a boat, but the whale's behavior is regular, at a steady pace, and obviously undisturbed.



Continued on page 4

HOW TO WATCH WHALE WATCHERS (Continued from page 2)

(3) Aircraft should not fly lower than 1000 feet while within a horizontal distance of 100 yards from a whale.* That's a tough one to estimate. About all you can do is report the type of aircraft and how many wingspans above the water it flies. Buzzing whales from a plane and hovering over them in a helicopter are obvious infringements--one fast fly-by may be less of a fault but the 1000-foot distance is still important. For aircraft, you need the type, number, and all the same behavior changes, location, time, and your own identification.

*These guidelines are from National Marine Fisheries Service and the observers' techniques are from Steve Meyer, NMFS representative in Monterey. Steve is an unusual combination of biologist and law enforcement officer. He can make citations and he can enforce the Marine Mammal Protection act of 1972, but such action requires the documented observations explained above and an observer willing to sign a statement. Steve also spends time giving warnings and educating the public about the legal aspects of protecting marine mammals. He listens to information and complaints, but, with a sigh, he says that the warnings often don't help a situation; fines do.

The ACS Chapter has several points of liaison with Steve. For whale-watching, you can call your observations to Steve at (408)-649-2894, or or to the regional NMFS office in Santa Rose where there is a 24-hour answer machine at (707)-525-4291. Call our own chapter phone for more information about observations that have teeth.

Steve Meyer wishes that more people knew about the guidelines and why they exist. As it says in an ad, "Tell a friend," especially the ones that go out on the water. Careful observation of whalewatching guidelines protect the natural history of the whale--feeding, behavior, migration, mating behavior, pregnancy and birth, and care of the calves. Any of the harassed whale behavior mentioned above can mean danger to a pregnant whale, or a calf's getting separated from the mother and subject to prey, and much more. Local commercial whalewatch skippers have observed that careful attention to the guidelines results in longer and better whale-watching. It is time to convince pleasure boaters, zodiac skippers, and everyone else.

WHALEWATCHERS ORGANIZED IN HAWAII

---Esta Lee Albright---



Whalewatching tour boats and other boats can effect the behavior of the estimated 500 to 1000 humpback whales that reside in breeding grounds in the Hawaiian Islands from January to April every year. Some indications are: whale surface times are reduced when boats are nearby; whales display fluke-up dives (signifying dives of long duration) when boats come within 500 meters of them; whales swim faster when boats come close; and more.

Whalewatching is reported to be one of the fastest growing ocean recreation activities in Hawaii--nothing new to Californians and even East Coast Americans. The above effects were observed during a Sea-Grant-supported study off West Maui. Boat and whale interactions were studied off Pt. Reyes California last winter, partially supported by the Oceanic Society. What will be the follow-up of these data collections?

RECENT MARINE MAMMAL OBSERVATIONS - MAY 1987

---compiled by Alan Baldridge---

Northern Right Whale - Outside of our area, 5 miles off San Gregorio, San Mateo Co., on May 23, 1 and possibly 2 were observed and reported by Bob Ingles, Skipper of Blue Horizon. He was one of two skippers involved in the observation of the last Right Whale recorded in our area several years ago. 1 animal was reported as 35' in length. This report has high credibility although it was not confirmed by photography or other observers.

Blue Whale - Outside of our area, 2 had returned to waters 10 miles SE of SE Farallon Island on May 21. This was the first of the spring (fide ShJ).

Minke Whale - Animals began to return to our area after absence during winter. 1 was seen 1.5 miles W of Carmel Bay on May 6 (RT) and singles were reported from Granite Canyon, Rocky Pt., Big Sur on May 8 and May 14 (DR).

Humpback Whale - The first report from this area was of one (possibly 2) individual 5.4 miles NW of Pt. Pinos, Pacific Grove on May 9 (RT).

Gray Whale - The migration of cow/calf pairs continued into this period. Pt. Lobos had their last pair on April 26 (NF). 2 pairs were seen at Granite Canyon on both May 2 and May 3 - all at the very edge of the kelp beds. They were last reported there the week of May 4 although the exact date was not reported (DR). Finally, on May 27, a yearling estimated at 25' was observed from Wharf #2 while foraging in water only 10-15' deep close to Monterey State Beach. Side-swimming behavior and characteristic sediment plumes were noted. Possible food species in this sea grass bed area are not known at this point (AD).

Orca - Previously unreported was an adult male 2 miles NW Pt. Pinos on April 8 (RT). From 1 - 3 animals were glimpsed in awful conditions 2 miles SW Pt. Lobos on May 24 traveling SE (DW). 5 at Sea Lion Pt., Pt. Lobos on May 28 put on a show for visitors. They loitered in the area, apparently feeding, although no prey was observed. Both breaching and spy-hopping behaviors were performed - and at least 1 large male was present (NF).

Pacific White Sided Dolphin - 3 were in Monterey Bay on May 17 (ShJ) and 6 - 8 .5 miles NW Pt. Pinos on May 21 (RT).

Harbor Porpoise - Good salmon fishing took the Monterey Sport Fishing Fleet into the NE part of the bay where the following records were reported: On April 10, 3 were 2.5 miles W of the Pajaro River; on April 13, 4 at the same location; 4 - 5 were 2.5 miles W of the Soldier's Club, Ft. Ord on April 26; 4 - 6 pods, each of 4 - 6 animals were seen the same day 3.5 miles W of Sanata Cruz Harbor; on April 27, 4 - 5 animals were 1.5 miles W of Mulligan Hill, Salinas River mouth. All reports by (RT). An adult female was dead on the beach at Moss Landing Marine Labs. on May 5 and was thought to have been gillnetted. The carcass was frozen at the lab (BT).

Dall's Porpoise - Many reports from the usual places of which a selection follows: 10 -12 animals 5 miles W of Moss Landing on May 16 (RT), and 10 plus animals in the bay on May 17 (ShJ). 6 - 8 were 2 miles SW Pt. Lobos on May 24 (BW).

Harbor Seal - Approximately 30 pups were counted along shores of Pt. Lobos reserve in early May (CB). 6 pups were recovered from the Fan Shell Beach/Cypress Pt. section of Pebble Beach this spring during the problem period experienced in recent years in that location. All were sent to the California Marine Mammal Center in Marin Co. for rehabilitation (LH, SPCA, BH).

(Continued on page 6)

In Hawaii, Sea Grant sponsored a workshop on whalewatching... "Balancing Commercial and Conservation Concerns." An organization called the Hawaiian Whale Watchers Association was formed, led by three commercial tour boat operators of Maui. The group intends to act as a "citizen's watchdog" to help NMFS eliminate whale harassment in Hawaiian waters.

NMFS has "beefed up" guidelines in Hawaii and has regulations that are more definite and enforceable. Some tour operators have opposed the regulations, saying that self-regulation is a better, more attractive alternative. They add, "The cases of whale harassment that do occur... usually involve recreational boaters, amateur and uneducated whale-watchers, overly curious tourists, and even researchers." (Source: Makai: University of Hawaii Sea Grant College Program, November 1985)

CALLING IT CORRECTLY

---Esta Lee Albright---



The water was flat calm and the sun was making a rare June morning appearance as we drifted offshore of the Chase house in Pacific Grove, fishing. Suddenly I heard the familiar, magical, WHOOSH, of a cetacean exhalation. It was a sharp, but loud report that should mean a large dolphin, and sure enough, 8 - 10 large dorsal fins cut the water in lazy rolls fifty yards away. Dark gray, white marks on gray backs, slow-easy swimming, spyhopping leader, white underside, relatively large size --- Risso's Dolphins. As we watched them parade past between us and the shore, a commercial fisherman steamed by us on the seaward side. We could hear him shouting excitedly on his radio, "It's ten or twenty Killer Whales going right past Pacific Grove!"

I had reached for a field guide to Pacific marine life as soon as I saw the dolphins approach. My astounded crew were able to see pictures of the whole animal and the dorsal view that we were getting, plus some natural history facts. I wondered if the fisherman ever considered one reference guide for his boat. You may know that this ACS Chapter is rich in librarian members; if so, you won't be surprised that we recommend the following books to help you read the correct identification of your remarkable sightings.

These field guides for quick looks can go in back packs and hiking pockets and fit into some corner of a boat: MARINE MAMMALS OF CALIFORNIA, by Anita E. Daugherty, UC Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program, 3rd Rev., 1979... WHALEWATCHERS HANDBOOK, by Eric Hoyt, Doubleday, 1984, \$12.95, Paperback... THE SIERRA CLUB HANDBOOK OF WHALES AND DOLPHINS, by Leatherwood and Reeves, Sierra Club Press, 1983, \$12.95, paperback... WHALES, DOLPHINS AND PORPOISES, by Stephen Leatherwood et al., NOAA Tech. Report, NMFS Circular 444, 1982, \$5.00, available from U.S. Gov't Bookstore, 425 Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco, 94102... PACIFIC COAST, by McConnaughey and McConnaughey, The Audubon Society Nature Guides, Knopf, 1984.

And, if you get back home and want to know more, here are some stable investments for a reference shelf: THE BOOK OF WHALES, by Richard Ellis, Knopf, 1980, \$16.95, paperback... DOLPHINS AND PORPOISES, by Richard Ellis, Knopf, 1982, \$25.00... MIND IN THE WATERS; A BOOK TO CELEBRATE THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF WHALES AND DOLPHINS, by Joan McIntyre, Scribner's, 1974, \$16.95, paperback... THE WORLD'S WHALES, by Minasian, Balcomb and Foster, Smithsonian Books, 1984, \$27.50... A NATURAL HISTORY OF MARINE MAMMALS, by Victor B. Scheffer, Scribner's, 1976, \$5.95.

RECENT MARINE MAMMAL OBSERVATIONS (Cont'd)

Northern Elephant Seal - 3 sub-adults were on the beach below Grimes Pt., Big Sur on May 1 (JV). 5 were recovered during this spring in our area, all with skin problems beyond those usually associated with molt. All were taken to CMMC (LH, SPCA).

Northern Fur Seal - Very few have been reported in recent years in this area. 1 was seen 6 miles S of Santa Cruz on April 27 (RT).

Bonus Species

Basking Shark - Previously unreported was a sighting of 2 - 5 in the area 8.5 miles NW of Moss Landing on March 30 (RT).

Contributors

AB - Alan Baldrige	JV - J. Vandevere
BH - Bob Huettmann	LH - L. Hoeffler
BT - B. Tershy	Monterey County SPCA
BW - B. Williamson, Skipper	NF - N. Fuller
Captain Randy	RT - R. Ternullo, Skipper
CB - C. Bancroft	Pt. Sur Clipper
DR - D. Rose	ShJ - Shearwater Journeys

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Telephone contacts: Sheila Baldrige (372-3809)

Jean Theisen, membership secretary (372-2293)

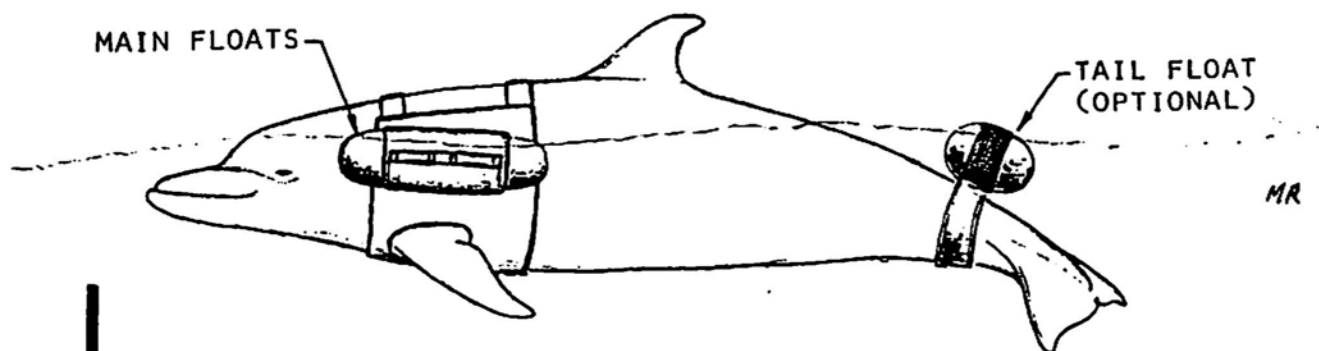
SOUNDINGS

SOUNDINGS is edited by Esta Lee Albright, produced by Ruth and Allan Kraus and mailed by Marian La Rosa. Contributors to this month's issue include Alan and Sheila Baldrige, feature articles.

MONTEREY BAY CHAPTER
AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY
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 * AUGUST MEETING *

DATE: Thursday, August 27, 1987

PLACE: Hopkins Marine Station
 Agassiz Beach (behind the Boatworks and to the South)

TIME: 5:30 PM onwards (until the last one goes home)

TOPIC: Fun in the Sun: a potluck picnic

This month we are starting our first annual ACS Picnic. Please come, bring your friends, some food to share, your own plates, cups and cutlery. We'll provide tea, coffee and dessert. There will be tables and benches. So---dress warmly because we can't guarantee the sun; join your fellow members in feasting and watching the light slowly fade over Monterey Bay.

There will be no speaker but we will have a Volunteer Slide Show in Fisher Hall after dinner. Bring up to ten of your favorite slides of ocean or wildlife subjects for an informal picture get-together----who knows what sights to see.

Editor's Note: This "vacation issue" of SOUNDINGS features events and articles emphasizing the pleasures of being an ACS member and part of the Monterey Bay Community. Enjoy the privilege!

AUGUST 1987

MONTEREY BAY CHAPTER
 AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY

Soundings

SEP 8 1987

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DO - SI - DO FOR WHALES

Mark your calendar right now for a good time on the evening of October 24, at the ACS Barbeque. The menu will include a choice of albacore or chicken, with french bread and salad. Anyone who has first-hand knowledge of the famous food at famous Moss Landing Marine Lab parties will heartily recommend ours for the cooking because we've signed on the same chef.

But that's not all. Entertainment (in addition to good-time people) will be an "amateur square dance." That means that the music and the caller will be expert but the dancers won't. You can bring both your left feet and fit right in.

The hall, New Monterey Neighborhood Center on Lighthouse Avenue in Monterey will hold 80 people, so watch for a formal announcement and make your reservations immediately. There will be a charge to cover food, live music and a donation to ACS.

This is serious stuff. We need fund raisers in order to support next year's research grants and the work of the chapter. The need is great--- but the fun will be, too.



IT WORKS!

In the June 1986 SOUNDINGS we reported that Milos Radakovich had designed a float/sling to support a dolphin in the water. With private donations through the SPCA, the device was built by a local seamstress. The idea is to give a sick or wounded dolphin a pair of "waterwings," so that it would not need constant support by a human standing in cold water or surf (see page 1).

On July 29, the float was put to the test on a Pacific Whitesided Dolphin that was stranding beside Cannery Row. Milos and Bob Huettmann were in the water with the dolphin about an hour and only had to guide the dolphin instead of keeping it afloat. Then, when the dolphin was in a quarantine tank at the Aquarium, the "waterwings" supported it continuously.

At first, the dolphin seemed to respond to medication and care, but died July 30, apparently due to pneumonia and other complications. Much was learned from this episode. The aquarium is to be congratulated on quick, temporary acceptance of the dolphin. Beachwatch volunteers Bob Huettmann, Bob Western, George Powell and Cindy Hazard took turns all night to make notes on respiration, activity and the use of the float. We're still learning, but it works!

ANOTHER SOCIETY BUT SAME CAUSE



The OCEANIC SOCIETY, which calls itself "the only internationally recognized membership organization devoted to ocean issues," is taking up the cause of opposing whaling for "science." In a June letter, the society asks for letters to support its stand, preferably with donations (1536 16th Street NW, Washington, DC, 20036), for letters to the Secretary of Commerce (Washington, DC, 20230) and support for their "meetings with policy makers inside and outside the government" to try and stop the whaling this fall. Well, it's good to have a fellow organization to

(Continued on page 4)

RECENT MARINE MAMMAL OBSERVATIONS - JUNE 1987

---compiled by Alan Baldrige---

Minke Whale - At Granite Canyon, Rocky Pt., Big Sur 2 animals were seen on May 30, 1 on June 2 and 2 on June 3 (DR). On June 4, 1 was 1 mile S of Stillwater Cove, inside Carmel Bay (RT). On June 7, 1 was 1 mile NW of Cypress Pt., Pebble Beach (RT), and on June 11 there were 2-4 animals 2 miles W of Asilomar Beach, Pacific Grove (RT). On June 14, 1.5 miles S of Soberanes Pt., Big Sur (AB) and on June 18, 1 was 1.5 miles off Cannery Row, Monterey (ELA).

Gray Whale - On April 1 a previously unreported beached animal at Seascapes Beach, Aptos, Santa Cruz Co. It was long dead and unsexed. Photographed by (BC). This appears to be the third beached individual reported from our area this spring and summer.

Risso's Dolphin - On June 15 a group of 10-12 were well inside the bay and close to Hopkins Marine Station, Pacific Grove. This is the first report inshore. Their absence so far reflects a poor squid season in the inner bay (AB). On June 18 8-10 were off Cannery Row, perhaps the same group (ELA). On June 19, 20 over mid-Canyon off Moss Landing (NB, TK), and on June 25, 6-7 were in the Bay. 11 26 (JS).

Northern Right Whale Dolphin - On June 25, groups of 5 and 20 were present on the Bay with White-sided Dolphins (NB, TK).

Pacific White-sided Dolphin - On June 19 an almost complete albino was observed and video taped in a school of 300 NW of Moss Landing (NB, TK). On June 25 there were schools of 30 and 100 W of Moss Landing (NB, TK) and on June 27 12-15 animals were 8.5 miles S of Santa Cruz (RT).

Harbor Porpoise - Previously unreported in SOUNDINGS were the following beached animals:- on April 8 137 cm male, in fair condition, Aptos Beach, Santa Cruz Co., and on May 6 a freshly dead female at La Selva Beach, Santa Cruz Co. Both frozen for future study at Long Marine Lab (BC). On June 14, several groups of 3-5 animals were 1 mile W of Rio Del Mar, Santa Cruz Co. (RT) and on June 26, 4-5 animals were 0.5 mile W of Pajaro Dunes (RT).

Dall's Porpoise - Numerous sightings by party boat operators in the usual areas around the Bay. In addition, the following reports are noteworthy:- 8-10 animals 5 miles W of Little Sur River, Big Sur on June 12 (RT); on June 13 a long dead individual, Zmudowski State Beach, Moss Landing (NB); on June 25 there were 4 separate groups in the Bay (NB, TK).

Harbor Seal - On June 18 an exceptional total of 41 was hauled out on the banks of Elkhorn Slough, Moss Landing (NB).

Northern Elephant Seal - On June 14, 3 were ashore on Grimes Pt. Beach, Big Sur (2 large, 1 small) (AB). On June 21, 2 were ashore on Headland Cove Beach, Pt. Lobos Reserve (AB). On June 25 a sub-adult male was at sea in the Bay (NB, TK).

California Sea Lion - On June 14 there were 93 (including 15 yearlings, the rest adults) Grimes Pt. Beach (AB). On June 21 there were 25, mostly yearlings, Sea Lion Pt., Pt. Lobos Reserve (AB).

Stellar Sea Lion - No local reports this spring or summer. This species was formerly numerous in our area. While still present in declining numbers at Ano Nuevo Island, San Mateo Co., it is rarely reported ashore around the Monterey Peninsula nowadays (AB).

(Continued on Page 6)

ANOTHER SOCIETY BUT SAME CAUSE (Continued from page 2)

help in the battle--some of your membership dues that stays at ACS National supports such efforts, too. We certainly recommend support, and your reading their magazine OCEANS. In the May/June issue is an article by familiar ACS member and well-known artist Richard Ellis, "Why Whales Strand." In the August issue, in the "Letters" section, are some interesting reactions to his article--then Ellis' reaction to the reactions. The arguments form a readable discussion of the ethics around marine mammal rescue, which certainly is a familiar issue in these parts.

• While you're writing letters, don't forget to write in support of making Monterey Bay a Marine Sanctuary, as requested in SOUNDINGS for June. If you've lost the address, call Curt Cureton or Sheila Baldrige. Curt says that the hearings will be at the end of September and letters are very important. •

A SHOW OF W.H.A.L.E.S

On the video monitor in the aquarium art gallery moved a Humpback whale and calf. The sound track was a continuous medley of clicks, grunts, calls and groans. A visitor beside me asked, "Are they talking to each other? What are they saying?"

Without thinking, I answered, "The mother whale is telling her calf to watch out for that crazy photographer." The visitor laughed and I threw in some of the popular theories on whale communication.

Multi-level, multi-medium information becomes effective at times, and the same goes for art shows. The pictures and sculpture are enhanced by video tapes of whales and dolphins in motion in the current show in the aquarium's second-floor art gallery--"W.H.A.L.E.S." Sponsored by Bank of America, its opening corresponds with the bank's "whale checks" that benefit the aquarium and the Marine Mammal Fund. The show is small but of high quality and runs through September 8th. There is a nice array of Randy Puckett sculpture. Larry Foster's quite varied works in pencil, oil and water color provoke scientific interest mixed with emotion; the large pencil drawing of a Minke Whale has feelings of both sleek power and softness. Quality of the video tape is uneven, but who cares about that when it comes to closeup views of Blue Whales? These capture the goes-on-forever feeling of watching the massive backs slide through the water. Whether or not you get the whalechecks, don't miss the show.

WHALEFEST AT MONTEREY BAY AQUARIUM

WHALEFEST to celebrate the gray whales off the Central Coast will be January 23 to April 3, 1988. There will be enhancement of the marine mammal exhibit, in the form of a series of exhibits throughout the aquarium, featuring feeding, migration, people and whales, communication, size, shape and structure, according to Judy Rand. Special events will include member's nights, lectures and field trips. Aquarium guides have been asked for suggestions and there is a Whalefest box on the volunteer's table. If you have ideas of how ACS might coordinate with this program, please advise Sheila Baldrige. If you would like to suggest something to the aquarium while the event is still in the planning stages, you might tell George Powell or Esta Lee Albright who will pass it along. A recent memo about the festival said, "It's a celebration of these beautiful creatures, and should be a strong emotional experience for our visitors, with the conservation ethic being a key element of the message they take away."

PAST FRIENDSHIPS - NEW RESEARCH
---Esta Lee Albright---



Many of us had the good fortune of whale watching aboard the lovely sailing research vessel Varua a few years ago. Owners Russ Nilson and Cynthia D'Vincent were doing behavioral and population research on whales, supporting ACS whalewatching and appearing to overflow crowds at chapter meetings. As we climbed aboard the Varua in the Monterey moorings area, we could look across a narrow channel to the Acania, the Naval Postgraduate School's research motor vessel that was tied up to the breakwater. The Acania was lovely in her own way--a 126 foot diesel luxury yacht that was painted gleaming white and had the lines of the pleasure yacht that she was designed to be.

Now, the Varua's home port has been Friday Harbor, Washington, for the past three years, and the Acania was sold last year--to the Nilsons. Their goal is to use the Acania for their Alaska expeditions for whale research and school groups and the Varua for work in Hawaii. Humpback whales have been their specialty, though they did important acoustical research with gray whales out of Monterey. Cyndi documented a song in Alaska one year that was unique in Humpback feeding research. Our chapter was one of the first groups to see her remarkable pictures of eight whales, mouths agape, charging to the surface in close formation. "When you see something that weighs 50 tons lunge out of the water and land itself right in front of you, it's pretty incredible. It stays with you for awhile," she says.

At the age of 58, the Acania is joining this research. Outfitted with sophisticated electronic listening gear, cameras, microscopes, a working darkroom, a lab and other scientific gadgetry, she'll head north to the Humpback feeding grounds. Research isn't new to her; during World War II, she was pressed into service by the Coast Guard, renamed the Nellwood and outfitted with a radar dish and two 100-foot masts for picking up radio signals. Later, the Stanford Research Institute used her for upper-atmospheric research in the Central Pacific. At NPGS, she was used by the Navy for oceanographic research.

The Acania was an engagement gift to film star Constance Bennett from her fiance and third husband, the French director Henri de la Falaise. Built at one of the country's finest shipyards in 1929 for a Wall Street banker, the Acania has comfortable staterooms, black-walnut paneling, a fireplace and a large, well equipped galley. The Acania and Varua give the Nilsons a golden opportunity to expand their program technically and locationwise. Russ also saw another advantage: "The Varua is large, but there is still no enclosed steering area, so I have been out in the weather all this time."

Russ and Cyndi were surprised when they were able to get the Acania for what they believed was a bargain-basement bid of \$75,000. "It was one of those unbelievable deals you get in your life," Cyndi says. They recently turned down an offer of \$300,000 for the now-refurbished Acania.

Source for much of the above information was an interview in the SEATTLE TIMES, May 30, 1987.

RECENT MARINE MAMMAL OBSERVATIONS (Cont'd)

Bonus Species

Leatherback Turtle - On June 7, 1 was observed near "A" Buoy off Fort Ord (RT). On June 8, there were two sightings: one animal was 3 miles SE of Santa Cruz in the morning (RT) and the other 1 mile N of Pt. Pinos Buoy (DC). These three records are thought to refer to at least 2 individuals. Any sea turtle reported from our area is noteworthy.

* FLASH *
* Blue Whales have been sighted. Party boat skippers have seen *
* several over the Canyon. Spouts have been sighted from shore *
* at Pt. Lobos Reserve and Cypress Point. *

Contributors

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| AB - Alan Baldrige | NB - N. Black |
| BC - B. Currie | RT - R. Ternullo, Skipper |
| DC - D. Campos | Pt. Sur Clipper |
| DR - D. Rose | TK - T. Kieckhefer |
| ELA - Esta Lee Albright | |

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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patron - \$500 contributing - \$250 supporting - \$75
foreign - \$30 (US Currency) active - \$25
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Jean Theisen, membership secretary (372-2293)

SOUNDINGS

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SEPTEMBER MEETING

DATE & TIME: Thursday, September 24, 1987 - 7:30 PM

PLACE: Fisher Hall, Hopkins Marine Station

SPEAKER: Judson Vandevere

TOPIC: Marine Mammals I Have Known

There can be few local folks with an interest in natural history who have not at some time or another taken a class from Jud Vandevere, or gone on a nature walk with him or in some way been enriched from his bountiful store of knowledge. A walk with Jud is not just a walk - it is an entry into the a world of insects, birds, plants and mammals of which those with a less knowing and patient eye are completely unaware. Jud has also spent time on the ocean and his interest in marine mammals stretches back 28 years. He will share some of these experiences with us - especially those from the many hours he has spent studying the Southern Sea Otter. Don't miss this one - you are in for a treat.

Note: The above drawing was used for the popular art show "Artisans Give Thanks to the Animals" which benefited ACS, the Audubon Society and Friends of the Sea Otter. Somehow it always reminded us of Jud.


SEPTEMBER 1987

MONTEREY BAY CHAPTER

AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY

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Soundings
SEP 16 1987

 DOLPHINS IN PERIL 

Back when most of us first became aware of conservation needs of marine life, the tuna/dolphin issue was one of the first things we heard about. Fisheries' methods changed somewhat, the Marine Mammal Act provided some protection, and we thought the situation was under control. We went on to other things and the tuna/dolphin problem of the early 1970's is now virtually unknown to people under the age of 25. But it is still with us.

The Eastern Tropical Pacific (ETP) is a trouble zone. In 1986, 125,000 dolphins were killed in tuna nets and millions were chased to exhaustion and encircled, sometimes three times in one day. One species, the Eastern Spinner Dolphin has been formally classified as "depleted" by the US for several years; the population has been estimated to have declined as much as 80 percent since purse seining began in the ETP in the 1960's.

Perhaps the heaviest ramification of the problem is its international nature. The foreign tuna fleet is now three times the size of the US fleet. There are no laws limiting the total dolphins killed by the foreign fleet, and their mortality rates are far worse. Worldwide overfishing of tuna has reduced the prices. Facing growing competition, and increased operating costs, US fisherman aggressively oppose regulations to protect dolphins; only US fisherman are limited by the dolphin kill quota of the Marine Mammal Protection Act. They favor relaxing restrictions such as those against setting nets on dolphins at night--these sets result in mortality rates four times higher than daytime sets. With the Reagan Administration, not only have regulations been relaxed, but enforcement of existing regulations have been weakened and funds for research into dolphin-saving gear and techniques have been largely eliminated.

Dolphin-saving practices would not necessarily wreck the tuna fishing industry in ETP. The vast majority of tuna harvested worldwide (80 percent) is caught outside the ETP or by methods that do not jeopardize dolphins. Even inside the ETP, profitable amounts of tuna can be captured without encircling dolphins. This was proven in the last three months of 1986 when US fishermen had exceeded the dolphin mortality quota and were forced to fish using other methods. They continued to catch large quantities of tuna without killing a single dolphin.

Earth Island Institute and the Whale Center propose to launch an effective public campaign toward international solutions to the problem. The following points are set forth; you are asked to read them and write your support, attention and encouragement to Earth Island Institute, 300 Broadway, Suite 28, San Francisco, CA, 94133-3312.

- 1- Amendments to the Marine Mammal Protection Act to stipulate its original intention that dolphin mortality rates be reduced to "levels approaching zero."
- 2- A ban on importation of tuna from countries that do not provide proof of compliance with regulations to end the dolphin slaughter.
- 3- An immediate halt to the encirclement of dolphins in tuna fishing operations.
- 4- 100 percent observer coverage on all US and foreign tuna fishing vessels.
- 5- Consumer action against tuna companies that continue to import and sell tuna from foreign or domestic boats that kill dolphins.

Continued on Page 4

MARINE MAMMAL OBSERVATIONS

Alan Baldrige is in Africa at press time so we have no compilation of Marine Mammal Observations this month. However, we feel an obligation to report something for it has been an interesting summer for local marine mammal presences. Now, we have heard a very uncharitable rumor that some distant readers assume the observations are wishful thinking and that the "reporters" are names from old copies of Monterey Life Magazine. Not true, and fie on such envy! So, here are reports from three six-hour boat trips by Shearwater Journeys in Monterey Bay and just beyond, with 25 - 50 observers each trip; Aug. 1: 4 Blue Whales, 7-8 Fin Whales, 3 Leatherback Turtles, 180 Pacific White sided Dolphins, 20 Right-Whale Dolphins. Aug. 20: 4 Humpback Whales, 6 Fin Whales, 26 Blue Whales, 12 Risso's Dolphins, 1 Minke Whale, 50-100 Pacific White sided Dolphins. Aug. 23: (a sparse day, just to prove the bay isn't always so amazing): 2 Blue Whales, 1 Humpback Whale, 6 Dall's Porpoises and few hundred frolicking Pacific White Sided Dolphins.

MONTEREY BAY LETTERS CRUCIAL
---Curt Cureton---



It's time to make a commitment in support of our coastal waters and the wildlife therein. Letters are needed now concerning two bills:

1- Congressman Leon Panetta's Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Act, HR 734, is still in the subcommittee on Oceanography. He requests that letters be mailed to the chairman of the full House committee (Jones) at once, requesting a hearing this month. Panetta thanks coastal supporters for letters in the past. He feels that letters indicating strong local support for HR 734 are extremely helpful. Mail to

Honorable Walter Jones, Chairman
House Committee on Merchant Marine
and Fisheries
1334 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC, 20515

2- The Bureau of Reclamation (!) continues to evaluate options to dispose of toxic effluents in the Central Valley. The Bureau still believes their #1 option of disposal of these effluents is to dump them into the Pacific Ocean "somewhere between Estero Bay in San Luis Obispo County and San Gregorio in San Mateo County. Congressman Panetta has introduced a bill, HR 2415, which would prohibit the dumping of contaminated water into the Pacific Ocean, San Francisco Bay or the Delta. HR 2415 has been referred to the Interior Committee's Subcommittee on Water and Power Resources, and letters are needed now in support of this measure. Mail to

Congressman George Miller, Chairman
Interior Subcommittee on Water and
Power Resources
House of Representatives
Washington, DC, 20515



DOLPHINS IN PERIL (Continued from page 2)

6- New labelling requirements that allow consumers to better distinguish between tuna caught by setting on dolphin.

7- Action by the International Whaling Commission to regulate incidental killing of dolphins.

8- The US to take the lead in the development of a new international convention on incidental killing of marine mammals in the Eastern Tropical Pacific to include participants of all countries fishing in the region.

9- Increased research into fishing methods which do not result in the death of dolphins and porpoises.

10- Greater licensing fees on the tuna industry to reflect actual costs of research and enforcement.

11- Increased research into biology of dolphin and tuna.

12- Full access to Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission observer data relating to the tuna-dolphin issue for National Marine Fisheries Service and other interested parties.

(Sources of the above information: Earth Island Institute/Whale Center proposal, May 1987; International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, Newsletter of the Cetacean Specialist Group, May 1987).

● NOW AND THEN THERE'S HELP

Against the tragic dolphin kill figures, one looks for some hope that regulatory practices can make a difference, should governments support them. From Canada, where marine mammals are not always widely protected by law, comes the following hopeful news. (Source: National Fisherman, September 1987).

The joint Japanese - Canadian flying squid fishery off the West Coast of British Columbia continues despite concerns about the bycatch of marine mammals. Two Canadian vessels and one Japanese vessel fished in 1986. This year, only one Canadian Vessel, the Ocean Pearl, is fishing with the Japanese vessel.

In 1986, the three vessels took a total of 33 porpoises, five Pilot Whales (four were released alive), three Pacific White-sided Dolphins, four Northern Right Whale Dolphins, two Killer Whales and one Cuvier Beaked Whale. The Canadian vessels had the majority of the bycatch. This year's fishery has more safeguards to minimize the bycatch:

The Canadian vessel will closely follow the experienced Japanese research vessel's location, fishing times and techniques;

Tests will be conducted on new nets with hollow, air-filled webbing to provide increased acoustics, enabling mammals to detect and avoid nets more easily;

Mammals' sensitivity to water temperature will be studied to determine if fishing in certain temperature zones can reduce mammal bycatch; and

When mammals are in the vicinity of vessels, the time a net is in the water will be reduced.

Inspiration for the battle to improve conservation is provided further when an individual action sets a chink of light in the gloomy situation. This story is such a gift. (National Fisherman, September, 1987).

When gillnetter George Abbott found a 40' Humpback Whale in his gillnet, he did what his grandparents always told him to do with wild animals -- he spoke to it in his native Tlingit language.

"I told him to relax," Abbott later explained to an Alaska Public Radio reporter, "I told him I would get him out."

Abbott said both he and the whale remained calm while he cut web away from the mammal. When he had cut away enough net so the whale could escape, he told it -- again in Tlingit -- to swim away, which it did.

"Killer Whale"

Reproduced from a silk-screen by Haida artist Robert Davidson.

South of the Tlingit Indian Lands are those of the Haida (north of Vancouver Island), where cetaceans are revered. Killer whales appear on many totems and are the official symbol of Alert Bay, near Telegraph Cove, favorite haunts of the Orcas of Johnstone Strait.



ELECTIONS ARE COMING

Nominations are in order for ACS Monterey Bay officers for 1988. Elected officers are President, Vice President, Membership Secretary and Treasurer. Committees include Conservation, Special Events, Fund-raising and Newsletter. Most current officers have served 2 or 3 (or 6) years, so let's show appreciation for our admirable Chapter with some HELP. Even the sturdiest wharf needs new pilings from time to time. Call Sheila (372-3809) with your name or suggest the name of someone else.

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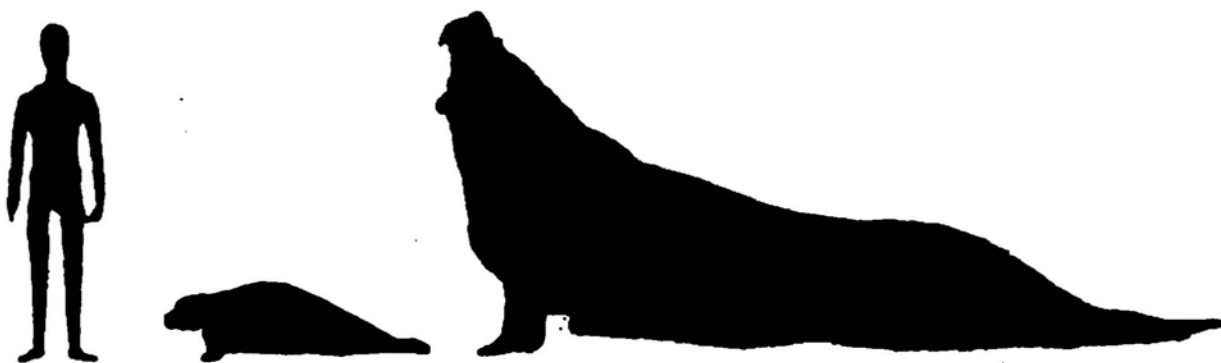
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* OCTOBER MEETING *

DATE & TIME: Thursday, October 29, 1987 - 7:30 PM

PLACE: Fisher Hall, Hopkins Marine Station

SPEAKER: Chip Deutsch

TOPIC: The Elephant Seals of Año Nuevo

The Northern Elephant Seal has shown a remarkable recovery in recent years. Heavily exploited for their blubber during the past century, they were reduced to perhaps as few as twenty animals on Guadalupe Island off Baja California. They are now completely protected and this small herd has grown to more than 48,000 spread up and down the West Coast. A large number now breed at Año Nuevo on the San Mateo County coast and anyone who has ever visited this park and seen these incredible animals will never forget the experience.

The elephant seal is noted for its ability to dive to considerable depths and to fast during the breeding season which begins each year in December. Our speaker is studying this animal for his doctorate and will tell us about the latest research findings for on this large and powerful member of the family of "true" seals.

OCTOBER 1987

MONTEREY BAY CHAPTER

AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY

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Soundings

OCT 21 1987

VOICE OF THE WHALE

Note: The puzzle of cetacean sound making continues to fascinate researchers. Below is a news item from the October 1987 issue of Oceans, the journal of the Oceanic Society.

A new medical tool may help solve a mystery that has long puzzled biologists: Since whales and dolphins have no vocal cords and don't exhale when they vocalize, how do they generate their vast repertoire of clicks, whistles and grunts?

Now a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) device has been employed -- by Mike Carvan, a graduate student and Robert Spencer, a professor of radiology, both at the University of Miami -- to look inside the head of a dead pygmy sperm whale.

MRI is more sensitive than either XRay or CAT scan and is used to observe soft tissues in the body without surgery. Carvan and Spencer used MRI to examine the whale's intricate sound producing system.

The researchers found that after air is drawn through the blowhole, it enters an organ called the "monkey's muzzle" -- so-called because it looks like the puckered lips of a chimpanzee. When air passes out through the "lips," it vibrates. This internal "Bronx cheer," Carvan thinks, is the actual source of sound.

After sound is produced, air pockets surrounding the monkey's muzzle absorb extraneous sound waves, which allows the main pulse to travel directly to the "melon" -- a bulbous, oil-filled cavity in the whale's forehead. There the sound is focused into a beam that bounces off the inside of the whale's skull. The beam picks up speed as it travels forward through the spermaceti -- the oily, sound-conducting contents of the melon -- and is projected straight out ahead of the animal.



* Instructive, exciting, fund-raising, with good company *

* ACS WHALEWATCH *

* January 10, 1988, Sunday, will be Gray Whale time for *

* ACS Monterey Bay, so save your whalewatching plans until *

* then and bring all of your friends. It will be a three-hour *

* trip on Sunday morning, sponsored by Monterey Sport Fishing. *

* Once again Benji Shake is donating proceeds to this chapter. *

* so lets remember such generosity. As a bonus, there will be *

* a lecture beforehand on Saturday Night, featuring our own *

* experts on the gray whale. We hope to have more than one *

* of these combination trips in January, but this is the only *

* one that's definite, so mark your calenders and TALK IT UP. *

* *****

RECENT MARINE MAMMAL OBSERVATIONS
JULY, AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

--- compiled by Alan Baldrige ---



Introduction: The compiler's absence in Alaska in July and Africa in August interrupted these monthly columns of observations. There has been a veritable flood of sightings from an increased number of Shearwater Journey's cruises. Following the Blue Whale bloom last fall, Earthwatch sponsored a program of four two-week sessions in Monterey Bay for marine mammal studies (staffed by S. Kruse and R. Wells of UCSC and D. Shearwater). We are greatly indebted to them for permission to incorporate their observations. Hydrophone recordings have been made of several species together with video-taping, in addition to 35 mm still photography.

Noteworthy were the large number of Blues in July and August together with several Fin Whale sightings. Humpbacks have been scarce considering the observer effort. Among Odontocetes (toothed whales), Pacific White-sided Dolphins have been exceptionally abundant and of great interest were at least two different albinos and two other distinct animals (one fawn colored and another minus a dorsal fin). Risso's Dolphins have been comparatively scarce so far. Finally, the sighting on Aug 27 by the "Susan B" of an unidentified large whale dragging net and buoy just north of Santa Cruz has brought the entanglement issue home. This observation was reported to the US Coast Guard and the Department of Fish and Game. It is not known if the animal was resighted (ShJ).

Blue Whale - On July 26, 15-18 animals were 7.5 miles NW of Pt. Pinos, Pacific Grove. 5 were observed lunge feeding (ShJ). Further south on July 7, 1 was northbound at Granite Canyon, near Rocky Pt., Big Sur (MH). On Aug 9, there were 18 sightings of Blues, although the total number of individuals was unclear. On Aug 20, 11 were in the outer Carmel Bay area and 12 more elsewhere (ShJ) and on Aug 11, 5 were in Carmel Bay (DD). On Aug 27, 12 animals were reported by the "Miss Inez" 8 miles off Pt. Pinos (ShJ). On Aug 29, 2 animals were only 0.4 miles E of Pt. Pinos (ShJ). Up to 3 animals were seen on several dates in September (EW, DL, ShJ).

Fin Whale - On Aug 1, there were 7-8 animals (including 2 cow/calf pairs) 16.3 miles SW Cypress Pt, Pebble Beach (ShJ). On Aug 2, a single animal was 10 miles off Cypress Pt. and on Aug 20, about 4 were with Blues in the same area (ShJ). On Sept 2, 2 animals were observed feeding, with jaws wide open, possibly on saury (ShJ).

Minke Whale - At Granite Canyon there were singles on July 2, 7, 9, 20, 23, 27 and 28 with an exceptional 12 on July 31. In Aug, 3 scattered animals on the 12th was the only report there (MH). On Aug 20, a 14' two thirds grown juvenile was 1 mile W of Lobos Rocks off Soberanes Pt., Big Sur (JS). Jon Stern's observations this summer have shown only about 6 individuals to be present this year compared with about 12 during the summer of 1986. Two animals were photoidentified for the third successive summer here (JS). On Sept 4, there were 2 in 20 fathoms of water 0.5 mile off Bird Rock, Pebble Beach (EW) and on Sept 12, 2 were 0.5 mile off Pt. Pinos and later in the day, 2 more, including 1 off the Hopkins Marine Station, Pacific Grove (ShJ). On Sept 17, a single was observed near Pt. Pinos (EW).

Humpback Whale - From shore at Pigeon Pt., San Mateo Co., 8 were seen on July 11 and 2 more the following day (JD). On Aug 13, 2 were in Monterey Bay and 2 more were 5.6 miles W of Cypress Pt. on Aug 17. On Aug 22, 2

were SW of Santa Cruz, with 1 the following day. On Aug 27, a single animal breached 21 times. There were 2 on Aug 30 (all ShJ). On Sept 1, 2 were breaching and lobtailing (ShJ) and on Sept 7, 2 were travelling NW near Cypress Pt (JS). Outside of our area, a minimum of 110 individuals were photoidentified in the Farallon/Bodega/Cordell area this summer (JS).

Gray Whale - On Aug 9, 1 near Seal Rock, Pebble Beach in 20 fathoms (DC). On Sept 5, 30-35' individual was near Lobos Rocks, travelling N (JS). On Sept 8, an 18' juvenile swam S off Pt. Lobos (EW), and on Sept 10, 1 was seen off Monterey State Beach, Monterey Bay Aquarium and off Pt. Pinos between 10:30 and 14:30 hours (RS and ShJ).

Baird's Beaked Whale - On Aug 15, 7-8 animals were travelling N over the Gumdrop Seamount, 20 miles SW of the Farallon Islands off San Francisco (ShJ). On Sept 3, a very large group of 18 was observed 12 miles SW of Cypress Pt (EW). On Sept 14, 2 adults and 2 young were 20 miles W of Pt. Pinos (EW).

Orca - On Sept 10, 4-5 including a large male and calf were followed N from Cypress Pt. to Pt. Pinos (EW). On Sept 19, 4 were near Cypress Pt. (ShJ) and on Sept 20, 9 animals in three sub-groups were feeding near Pt. Pinos (ShJ). They were resighted the following day (EW).

Risso's Dolphin - 30 were in the Bay on July 2 (NB) and 35 on July 12 in a mixed school of White-sided and Right Whale Dolphins (MB). No August observations. On Sept 1, there were 8-10 in the Bay and on Sept 12, 4 were 12 miles off Pt. Pinos (ShJ). On Sept 16, there were 30-40 (DC) and on Sept 19, groups of 15, 7 and 2 were 12 miles S of Cypress Pt. (ShJ). On Sept 23, groups of 18-20, 9 and 6 were seen (EW), and 8 on Sept 24 (EW).

Pacific Whitesided Dolphin - As always, this is by far the most abundant cetacean in our area. On July 28 and 29, there were 50 and "hundreds" off Otter Pt., Pacific Grove in the early AM (B&JH). On July 29, 100 were seen from Cypress Pt. (S and JH) and on July 30, an adult came ashore, alive, at Cannery Row, Monterey. It was taken to Monterey Bay Aquarium where it subsequently died (TW). This was the first stranding of this species this year. On Aug 1, 180 were 2 miles NW of Pt. Pinos (ShJ) and on Aug 13, 200-250 were 8.5 miles SSW of Pt. Pinos (ShJ). On Aug 22, an incredible 2300 were in outer Carmel Bay (ShJ). On Aug 29, schools of 500 and 1000 included a fawn colored individual 9-10 miles W of Santa Cruz. On Sept 4, an albino was with 40 Whitesided Dolphins and 100 Right Whale Dolphins (EW). On Sept 14, a mixed school of 1000 "lags" and "lissos" were scattered over a 5 mile area and later bunched together. This group included 2 albinos, one of them previously photographed, as well as an individual minus the dorsal fin. The finless individual was re-sighted on Sept 17 (ShJ). On Sept 23, 250 mixed with 80 Right Whale Dolphins were off Pt. Pinos (EW). The above observations are selected and do not include days when only small numbers were observed.

Common Dolphin - On Sept 11, 700 were seen in a very tight school followed by large numbers of seabirds, the first of the fall (EW). On Sept 26, 70 animals including several small young entered S Monterey Bay off Otter Pt. and travelled as far as the Coast Guard Breakwater at Monterey before returning to the open ocean (B&JH, AB).

A list of contributors may be found on page 6.





I would like to say some words about this newsletter. The editorship carries a lot of opportunity for interesting compilations and self-expression. File copies of the first Soundings are on legal-size, blue paper. Mary Rodriguez and Randy and Gail Puckett started Soundings, along with this Chapter, in 1980. Soon Gail was typing it and some of us would gather to help run it off at the Aquarium planning offices next to Fisher Hall at Hopkins Marine Station. We mailed copies to the small membership and to potentially interested institutions. When Robert Western became editor, with his artistic talent and sense of humor, each issue became a keepsake. Milos Radakovich and Nancy Norton continued the high standards, with Milos' scientific, yet whimsical, drawings giving it a new flair. Milos actually managed the newsletter in two different time frames and formats.

To me, as with all before me, the look and flavor of SOUNDINGS was mine to determine as long as it suited the intentions of the President and Board. There is no dearth of material; Alan and Sheila Baldrige contribute enough news and photocopied articles to fill two newsletters. ACS is an organization with a scientific purpose where things happen; my two years as editor have given me new information and perspectives, a challenge in rhetoric and composition. Six or seven of you have given me the praise I needed and I have learned from you too. However, I feel that I have been the editor long enough.

It is necessary to produce good, camera ready masters for the printer, and Allan and Ruth Kraus have been patient, creative and meticulous (as well as a lot of fun) in getting their word processor to serve us. I wish the new editor some Kraus-luck; Allan and Ruth joined me more than a year ago and must now return to other things. Allan has contracted for a new book with a short manuscript delivery deadline.

There is hope, however, that Marion and Frank LaRosa will continue to prepare the mailings. They have organized this big task - we are mailing about 100 more copies now that Frank got us a bulk rate permit.

So, here it is for some of you - editing and producing Soundings - a fulfilling experience right in the middle of ACS activities. Call me at 375-1658 for lots of enthusiastic information. We need someone to take over both editing and production by January.

AMAZING STATISTICS

Talk about bombshells in unlikely locations, consider the following medley of statistics. They were selected from the California Department of Fish and Game, Monthly report of the Marine Resources Division.

In the 1985-1986 fishing season, it is estimated that 1900 harbor seals and 2200 sea lions were killed in California fisheries as incidental mortality. This is within the range of annual estimates for sea lions but there are no previous estimated for harbor seals.

One gill net, which had been set illegally just outside the surf zone during the Monterey Bay salmon season this summer was pulled by Wildlife Protection personnel and biologist divers. It contained 13 sea lions, 6 of which were released alive and one harbor seal, as well as halibut and 5 large striped bass.

Sea Otters average an annual mortality of about 59.9 recorded by Fish and Game. Through July 1987, the total had already hit 45. Sea otters were censused by aircraft at the northern and southern parts of their range; 28 were counted near Ano Nuevo Island, the highest number counted to date this far north.

The fishery for sea urchins has increased. In July 1987, 2.5 to 3 million pounds of sea urchins were landed, mostly in northern California. Pounds per delivery for some vessels reached 15,000 to 20,000 pounds. Projections for this year are at least 20 million pounds, which is twice last year's harvest.



CONTRIBUTORS TO SIGHTINGS (pages 3 and 4)

AB - Alan Baldrige
B&JH - B. and J. Head
DC - D. Campos
DL - D. Lemon
EW - Earthwatch

JS - J. Stern
MH - M. Harris
NB - N. Black
RS - R. Smith
ShJ - Shearwater Journeys

★ ART FOR RESEARCH ★

Gary Koepfel brought a stunning art show to Monterey in August and September, "Monterey Marine Art Expo 87" at the Monterey Plaza Hotel. It set a standard for appreciating art that draws from the ocean realm for inspiration. To make it even better, part of the proceeds went to benefit the Cousteau Society. Then, remembering that Monterey is unique in its own local value of the marine environment, Mr. Koepfel donated enough of the proceeds to fund a student research grant in our annual program. Thank you Mr. Koepfel!

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Membership in the American Cetacean Society means protecting whales, dolphins and porpoises through education, conservation and research. The Monterey Bay Chapter meets at 7:30 PM at the Hopkins Marine Station in Pacific Grove on the last Thursday of each month. Programs and activities feature cetacea and the marine environment. Yearly membership:

patron - \$500 contributing - \$250 supporting - \$75
foreign - \$30 (US Currency) active - \$25

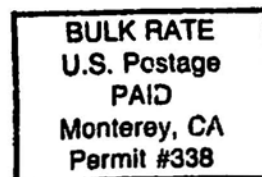
Telephone contacts: Sheila Baldrige (372-3809)

Jean Theisen, membership secretary (372-2293)

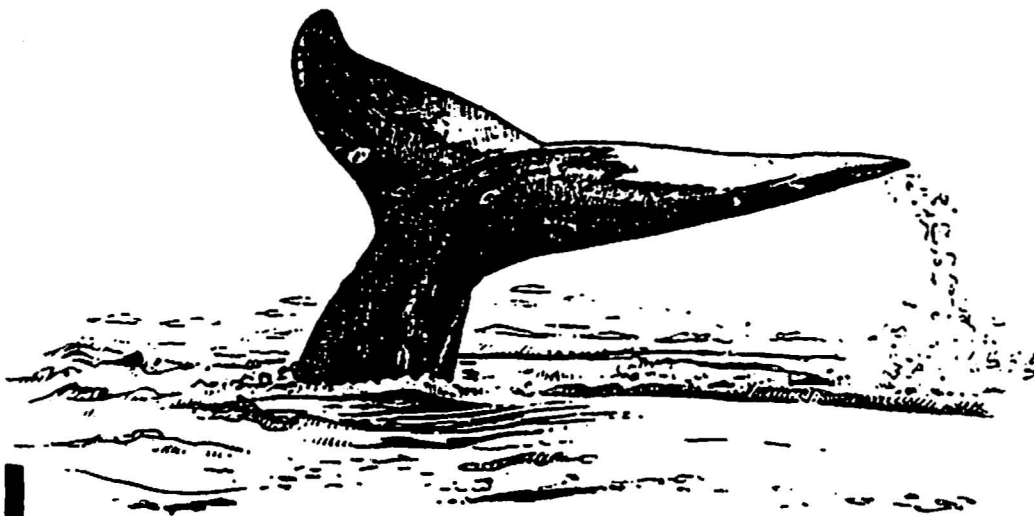
SOUNDINGS

SOUNDINGS is edited by Esta Lee Albright, produced by Ruth and Allan Kraus and mailed by Marian La Rosa. Contributors to this month's issue include Alan and Sheila Baldrige and Esta Lee Albright.

MONTEREY BAY CHAPTER
AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY
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CA 93950



DECEMBER MEETING

Topic: Marine Mammals of the Southern Ocean

Speakers: Doug and Gail Cheeseman

Date: Thursday, December 3rd (Please note change of date from last Thursday in month).

Doug was lecturer/naturalist on two cruises aboard the Lindblad Explorer from Punta Arenas, Chile to the Antarctic Peninsula and to several sub-Antarctic islands. These islands are noteworthy for their pinniped and seabird colonies. You will be treated to accounts of encounters with Humpbacks and other cetaceans of the Southern Ocean as well as Southern Fur Seals, Hooker's Sea Lions and other species. The speakers will also include slides from their whale observations in the Canadian Maritimes. Doug is an outstanding lecturer and ecologist on the Faculty of De Anza College, Cupertino. He is also a master photographer. He and his wife Gail operate Cheeseman Ecology Safaris to East Africa, the Galapagos, South America and other areas. Their combined enthusiasm is legendary.

Note: ACS meetings are the last Thursday of every month (except during the November-December holiday season) and are held in Fisher Hall, Hopkins Marine Station, Pacific Grove. The public is welcome to attend.

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Soundings

MONTEREY BAY CHAPTER
AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY

DEC 1 1987



NEWSLETTER TURNS INTO PUMPKIN

It's midnight, Cinderella, and the grand coach has reverted back to a natural state -- as has this newsletter, the state conveyance of this chapter. This issue is a combined effort of your outgoing president and her outgoing editor. Truly, we are "outgoing" and have been giving out for quite some time, so ...

HOW ABOUT IT?
WHO WILL TAKE OVER THE NEWSLETTER?

The newsletter may change design and format with each new editor and production staff. There is plenty of news and there are lots of announcements. So, the door is open. The chapter needs a communication outlet and the members need to know what's going on. It's an interesting, active, important part of the world of ACS and marine life. Aw, c'mon on! Call 375-1658 (Esta Lee Albright) or 372-3809 (Sheila Baldrige) and talk it over.



1988 OFFICERS

We are pleased to announce a proposed new slate and are grateful to the following people for accepting nominations for 1988 officers of ACS Monterey Bay:

Jerry Loomis - President
Jim Willoughby - Vice-President
Cindy Hazard - Secretary
Bob Huettmann - Treasurer
Marian LaRosa - Membership Chairman

Elections will take place at the December 3rd meeting.



WHALEWATCHING WITH ACS MONTEREY BAY

What could be more appropriate than whalewatching with a cetacean society, especially when proceeds go to benefit research and education about whales? Plans are going swimmingly for the fund-raising whalewatch trip on Sunday morning, January 10, preceded by a special gray whale program on Saturday night, January 9. This is the one for bringing all your friends -- at the height of the migration, three hours aboard a good boat, narration and comments by ACS naturalists, and additional fun of sightseeing the Monterey coastline, seals, birds, otters and sea lions on the way out to the whales. Save the dates now and watch for a flyer after Christmas.

When your friends ask about whalewatching, remember the Monterey companies that support this ACS Chapter. Monterey Sport Fishing has provided fund-raising trips over the past 3 years with all proceeds to benefit this chapter. The company employs ACS members as naturalists every week-end for 2-3 months during the gray whale migration and has offered free ACS publicity in the shop on the wharf. A remarkable generosity!

All local whalewatch companies donated funds for an ACS Monterey Bay research grant last year: Monterey Sport Fishing, Sam's Fishing Fleet, Randy's Fishing Fleet, Chris' Fishing Trips, and Sheerwater Journeys of Santa Cruz.

Remember, and support them by sending them whalewatchers!

November 5th 1987

RECENT MARINE MAMMAL OBSERVATIONS - October 1987

Compiled by Alan Baldrige

Introduction: The Blue Whale influx of Oct./Nov. 1986 has not been repeated so far. Large whales were relatively scarce during the month in the Monterey Bay region, although apparently, more numerous to the north from Half Moon Bay northward. Noteworthy was the continued presence of large schools of Pacific White-sided Dolphins (including albinistic individuals), Northern Right Whale Dolphins and a rapid build-up of Risso's Dolphins. There were also exciting Orca observations.

Blue Whale - 3 lunge-feeding individuals were off-shore on Oct. 4 (BW) and on Oct. 5 3 more, lunge-feeding, 15 miles SW of Pt. Sur (AB, ShJ). On the same day 5 were in Monterey Peninsula waters (RS). 9-11 individuals were observed on Oct. 9 (ShJ) and 3 on Oct. 17 20 plus miles SW of Cypress Pt., Pebble Beach (ShJ). On Oct. 27 1 was 16 miles from Pt. Pinos, Pacific Grove (BW). Outside of our areaduring Sept. up to 26-28 animals were present along the 1000 fathom curve from Año Nuevo Island to Pillar Pt., San Mateo Co. (TD).

Minke Whale - 1 was close to the Peninsula on Oct. 3 and 1 very close to Pacific Grove on Oct. 8 (ShJ). On Oct. 12 1 was close to Pt. Pinos (per ShJ). There were 3 on Oct. 13 1 of which breached, a behavior rarely observed in our area. (ShJ). 1 was near Santa Cruz buoy on Oct. 15 (AB, ShJ). At Granite Canyon DFG Lab., Rocky Pt., Big Sur there were singles on Oct. 19 and 22 with 3-4 there on Oct. 20 (MH, SMCB, DR).

Humpback Whale - 1 was seen on Oct. 9 (ShJ). On Oct. 24 3 moved S of Granite Canyon (MH, DR). 1 was in Carmel Bay on Oct. 25 (CD) while 2-4 were off Asilomar, Pacific Grove, (BW).

Gray Whale - An immature was off the Monterey Bay Aquarium, Monterey on Oct. 1 (ELA) and off Pt. Pinos later (ShJ). On Oct. 11 a small calf trailing fishing gear passed Pt. Lobos State Reserve (NF, JH, GL). On Oct. 20 a very small individual entered Moss Landing Harbor (MLML) and what was probably the same animal was among the boats at Fisherman's Wharf on Oct. 23 (BS, ELA).

Sperm Whale - Pods of 5-7 animals were frequently sighted 23-27 miles offshore along the 4000 fathom curve from Santa Cruz north to Pillar Pt., San Mateo Co. Most sightings were far offshore from Año Nuevo Island during aerial surveys (TD). The Davidson Seamount, 70 miles SW of Pt. Sur, an area where they have been observed, failed to yield any on Oct. 5 (AB, ShJ).

Baird's Beaked Whale - There were 2 sightings of this rare species. 4-7 were seen offshore on Oct. 5 (RS). On Oct. 30 4 were observed 3 miles off Pt. Lobos and were followed N until off Pt. Pinos (NB).

Cuvier's Beaked Whale - A single large individual was observed on Oct. 5 40 miles SSW from Pt. Sur in 1900 fathoms (AB, ShJ). On Oct. 11 a group of 5-6 was observed 9 miles SW of Pt. Pinos. This species is shy around boats although we managed to time their dives at 20 minutes. Hydrophone recordings were made in the presence of these animals, perhaps the rarest regularly occurring cetacean species in our area (AB, ShJ).



OVER

Orca - 5 scattered individuals were seen off Cypress pt. and followed N to 6 miles NW of Pt. Pinos on Oct. 1 (NL,ShJ). 2 adult males in this group had been previously photo-identified in Oct. 1986 (RLB). On Oct. 8 a pod of 8 included 3-4 males and a small calf. Vocalizations were recorded from this pod for the first time in Monterey Bay. When analysed and compared with Pacific Northwest animals some light may be thrown on the origins of this pod. On Oct. 11 a single bull with another bull and female a half mile away, all travelling N 2.2 miles W of Cypress Pt. They were video-taped and a hydrophone in the water showed them to be silent (AB,ShJ). On Oct. 22 4 were reported in the Bay to ShJ by fishermen. On Oct. 26 offshore from Pt. Lobos 2 sub-groups of 5 each merged for an intense period of milling, displaying their complete repertoire of behaviors; vocalizations were heard. An awkwardly swimming recently born calf with bright orange rather than white patches was seen. It is possible that a birth may have taken place. "Placental" (?) material was collected for analysis (ShJ). An extraordinary 2 hours of observation was made, much of it video-taped (EW,ShJ).

Pacific White-sided Dolphin - On Oct. 4 1000 plus were dispersed over 4 miles, together with 5-20 Right Whale Dolphins and 10-12 Common Dolphins. Included was a distinctive individual nicknamed "Suspenders" together with another individual which lacked a dorsal fin. On Oct. 9 200 were widely scattered, some close to shore. On Oct. 10 1300-1700 animals were a 50/50 mixture of this species and Right Whale Dolphins (ShJ). 2 different albinistic "Lags" were video-taped. On Oct. 11 1000 animals (20% sub-adults) were with 500 Right Whale Dolphins (AB,ShJ). On Oct. 13 there were 2 groups of 300 (ShJ). On Oct. 24 250-300 were mixed with a few Right Whale Dolphins and 50 plus California Sea Lions (AB,ShJ). On Oct. 25 800 schooled with 200 Right Whale Dolphins and 80 Risso's Dolphins (ShJ).

Common Dolphin - 10-12 were seen on Oct. 4 and 150-180 on Oct. 13 included 10 calves (ShJ).

Bottlenose Dolphin - A single individual was observed and video-taped 8 miles off Pt. Pinos in a mixed school of 1500 White-sided Dolphins and Right Whale Dolphins on Oct. 30 (NB). This species was last recorded in our area in early January.

Risso's Dolphin - On Oct. 4 there were 12-15 near Cypress Pt. (CD). On Oct. 12 the first major influx was recorded when 400 plus, including many calves were seen. Associated with them were 30 White-sided Dolphins and 150 Right Whale Dolphins. What was possibly the same group was observed again the following day (ShJ). On Oct. 15 15-20 were observed feeding on squid in the early morning NW of Pt. Pinos (AB,ShJ). On Oct. 20 a huge of about 900 was in outer Carmel Bay, including 100 calves. Associated were small numbers of Right Whale Dolphins, White-sided Dolphins and California Sea Lions (ShJ). On Oct. 22 400-500 were observed in one group and 100 in another (ShJ). Finally on Oct. 27 175 were observed (ShJ).

Contributors: AB-A. Baldrige; BS-B. Shake, Monterey Sport Fishing; BW-B. Williamson, Skipper; CD-C. Dennie, Miss Monterey; DR-D. Rose; ELA-E.L. Albright; EW-Earth Watch; GL-G. Loomis; JH-J. Harrison; MH-M. Harris; MLML-Moss Landing Marine Labs.; NB-N. Black; NF-N. Fuller; NL-N. Lemon, New Holiday; RLB-R.L. Branson; RNL-R.N. Lea; RS-R. Stallcup; ShJ-Shearwater Journeys; SMcB-S. McBride; TD-T. Dohl; TT-T. Thomas, R.V. Ricketts.



















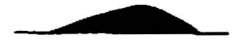




Watching whales

Another title in the series

Learning about the ocean

by Bruce R. Mate, Extension Oceanographer, Oregon State University

Table 1.—Blowing and diving characteristics of some of the large whales (reproduced by permission from Gordon C. Pike, *Guide to the Whales, Porpoises and Dolphins of the North-East Pacific and Arctic Waters of Canada and Alaska*)

Surfacing and blowing	Beginning the dive	Diving
	Blue 	
	Finback 	
	Sei 	
	Humpback 	
	Gray 	
	Right 	
	Sperm 	

Marine mammals—especially whales—are a popular cause with the American public. Even without scientific training, you can contribute to what science is learning about whales. One way to do so is to build accurate and systematic habits of observing, identifying, recording, and reporting your whale sightings. Here are tips on how to do it.

When and where

1. Observe from coastal headlands that jut out into the ocean—especially those with good elevation.
2. Pick early morning hours. Conditions are usually more favorable before winds cause whitecaps on the water's surface.
3. Choose weather favoring a calm ocean. Don't go during or just after a heavy storm. Overcast days are good for whale watching because there is little glare.

What to look for

1. Scan the horizon and look for the *blow*—vapor, water, or condensation blown into the air up to 12 feet (3.6 m) when the whale exhales. (Backlighting by the afternoon sun can sometimes be helpful in spotting the blow initially.) See table 1.
2. Once you locate a blow, stay with it. Where you see one blow, you will see others, either from other whales or a single whale. Getting the range (distance) to whales is a frequent



Oregon State University
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(Continued on p. 6)

- problem; but, once established, you can focus your attention on this area.
3. Whales have periodic blow patterns during their migration. Usually an individual will make up to a half dozen short, shallow dives before a more prolonged dive of up to 9 to 10 minutes (more generally, 3 to 5 minutes). Frequently the short dives leave turbulent eddies along the surface, so you can track the whale's progress and set up a camera or spotting scope to anticipate the next blow.
 4. Usually, only a small portion of the whale's head and back show during a blow. Whales can be distinguished from each other by observing the position and/or shape of the dorsal fin, blow, head, back ridges, and tail. If the tail flukes are raised high, the dive will be a deep one (the whale is *sounding*); in shallow water, the animal may keep the flukes aloft for several minutes while *head-standing*.
 5. *Spy-hopping* is a term applied to a whale with its head partially out of the water in a vertical posture, frequently bringing the eye above the surface. This is thought to be a visual-orientation behavior and may be done near boats to see, "What's that?"
 6. *Breaching* is a term for the whale's rising vertically out of the water (often $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of its length) and falling to its side or back, making a spectacular splash when it hits the water. The reasons suggested for breaching include knocking off whale lice (an external parasite), communicating, courting, or just having fun. Often where one whale breaches, others will start to breach also. Individuals frequently breach repeatedly, so if you see one breach, get your camera ready—you are in for a real treat!

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

You have an opportunity to help yourself, your friends and ACS all at the same time. National Headquarters is sponsoring a membership drive which works as follows: each new member who joins between now and December 31, and who gives your name as a sponsor, will receive a copy of Larry Foster's new poster/chart depicting the baleen whales of the world. If more than one person joins because of you, each new member gets a chart and you get one, too. Membership costs \$25 and the membership applications should be sent to our Chapter (address below). That way, we can get the charts out without delay. Christmas is drawing close and a membership will help the whales and make a very nice gift -- it includes the chart, our monthly newsletter and the national journal, "Whalewatcher." The charts will go on sale later for \$10 - so this is an all-round bargain.



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