

Soundings



American Cetacean Society ~ Monterey Bay Chapter

January 2006

The Newsletter of the Monterey Bay Chapter of ACS

AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY - MONTEREY BAY CHAPTER

Monthly meeting at HOPKINS MARINE STATION, Lecture Hall, Boatworks Building

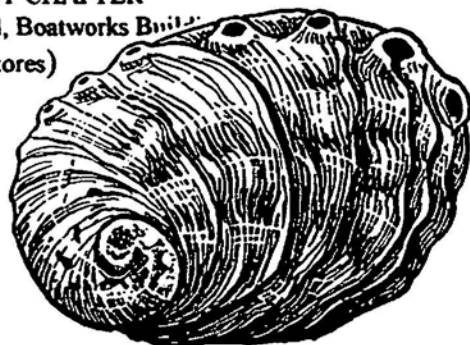
(Across from the American Tin Cannery Outlet Stores)

Date: Thursday, January 26, 2006

Time: 7:30 p.m. (Because of restrictions on the room, there will be no refreshments before this meeting.)

Speaker: A. L. "Scrap" Lundy

Title : Monterey Abalone Divers from 1898 to 1943 and a Tribute to the Unknown Divers of Historic Cannery Row



Of the wealth of invertebrate marine life in Monterey Bay, the abalone may have had one of the greatest historical and economic impacts. From the argument about the sea otter's role in its abundance, through the years of its harvest by a string of different peoples, to the regulations about it as a fishery, the mollusc with the pearly inside shell resides in the center of development and controversy.

It is not easy to find and pry an abalone off a rock; moreover that's done underwater in an environment difficult for air-breathing mammals. Hence, getting it involves the history and technology involved in HOW to get it.

Our speaker is a writer and historian who is fascinated by all of the above. A.L. "Scrap" Lundy wrote a book entitled: *The California Abalone Industry -- A Pictorial History*. It caught the eye of Huell Howser of the television program "California Gold." Before long, Lundy, Howser, Jerry Loomis, and others, were sitting off Cannery Row in a classic Monterey fishing boat, watching an original abalone diver from 1939, Roy Hattori, and the story of hard-hat diving came to life. Lundy wrote an article about the experience in *Historical Diver* (Historical Diving Society), No. 19, Spring 1999.

Cannery Row's hard-hat divers were pioneers in diving techniques and in the profession of commercial diving. They solved problems of building canneries and moving fish, and they developed the use of the wooden "hoppers" that floated outside each cannery's intake. Lundy found very little was known about these divers and his research is impressive. Lundy himself was a Navy deep-sea diver to 600 ft, and a commercial abalone diver in the Channel Islands. So, the mechanics of early diving make a topic he is well able to talk and write about. Reviews praise Lundy's book, *California Abalone Industry*.... Don Barthelmess wrote: "...we continue to use the text as a reference in our teaching and training of Marine Diving Technology at Santa Barbara City College." (www.amazon.com)

Join us for a program about a most unique part of Monterey's marine history.

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Calendar

January 26 : Regular meeting at 7:30 pm. See page 1.

January 14 : **Benefit whale watch to see gray whales.** Naturalists: Milos Radakovich and Jerry Loomis. Monterey Whale Watching (formerly Monterey Sport Fishing) is donating this cruise aboard their new whale watching vessel, *Princess Monterey*. At almost 100 feet in length, a heated lounge, a full snack bar, and ample desk space, passengers will find comfort despite the early hour. Check in at 7:30. The trip is about 2 hours beginning at 8 a.m. \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members. Mail a check to ACSMB, PO Box HE, Pacific Grove, CA 93950 Check with Jerry Loomis at 649-1249 or Sally Eastham at 372-6919 for information if it's the last-minute and you still want reservations.

January 21 and 22, Sat. and Sun. : Monterey's Fisherman's Wharf. **Whale Fest, Celebrating the Gray Whale Migration.** Come meet the folks doing marine mammal studies and education. Volunteer at our own ACS display and enjoy it even more. 649-1249 - Jerry Loomis - Loomis@mbay.net

February 23 : At the regular ACSMB meeting, 7:30 pm, Boatworks at Hopkins Marine Station. **Drawing for the Gray Whale Sculpture !!** It is not too late to purchase a raffle ticket for the stunning sculpture by Randy Puckett, "Sneak Peak," and tickets are still available at our regular meetings. \$5 each or five raffle tickets for \$20.

Happy Birthday to Bay Net – Ten Years Old !

History:

By Milos Radakovich

The concept that became Bay Net was born in 1994, when Friends of the Sea Otter received an anonymous grant to develop a citizen-based shoreline docent program to support the newly designated Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. The idea was passed on to the Center for Marine Conservation (now The Ocean Conservancy), whose local director, Rachel Saunders, hired me to develop the training program, help identify long term funding sources, and oversee its operation. The initial concept, as defined by the funders, called for a three-year pilot program, conducting one training per year, with 25 students each, and to be in Pacific Grove. I knew we needed to do better than that. So by the end of the third year we had completed nine trainings (over 150 grads) and we *were* in Pacific Grove, but also in Monterey, and planning to expand across the Bay to Santa Cruz. Instead, we were called to San Luis Obispo County to create a docent program to oversee the growing elephant seal presence just south of Point Piedras Blancas, near San Simeon. Three trainings, and 350,000 visitors later, Bay Net (South) became the currently successful Friends of the Elephant Seals. Since graduating our first volunteers in December of 1995, we have conducted 28 classes, trained nearly 500 docents, and enriched the shoreline experience of more than 750,000 visitors throughout the MBNMS, from Santa Cruz to San Simeon. Soon, in response to the concerns of the citizens of Pacific Grove, we hope to be able to expand our efforts to their fragile tidepools, including those along the shoreline of Point Pinos. *We are doing an important job; we're doing it well, and we're making a difference. Thank you all.*

What's Out There ~ Sometimes It May Be a Shock As Well As a Surprise

Wildlife photographer Peggy Stap was aboard the whale watch vessel *Sea Wolf II* (Monterey Bay Whale Watch cruise), shooting ID photos of whales near shore in Monterey Bay, when a non-whale animal came into view. Here's her photo of a Shortfin Mako Shark. Thanks to ACSMB member Peggy Stap for this amazing photo and information. She writes:

"If you look closely at the photo, the shark is eating a harbor seal and you can see the body of the harbor seal next to the shark between his mouth and pectoral [side] fin. Part of the harbor seal is in his mouth— but on the other side where it is hard to see."

Shark expert Henry F. Mollett helped ID the shark from her photos and posted this on his web site: http://homepage.mac.com/mollet/Io/Io_large.html

The shortfin mako was seen on 3 Sep 2005 at 9:20 a.m.; position 36.37570 N and 121.52596 W; water - 142 feet deep (43 m) ; water temp 15.5 Celsius; in Monterey Bay.

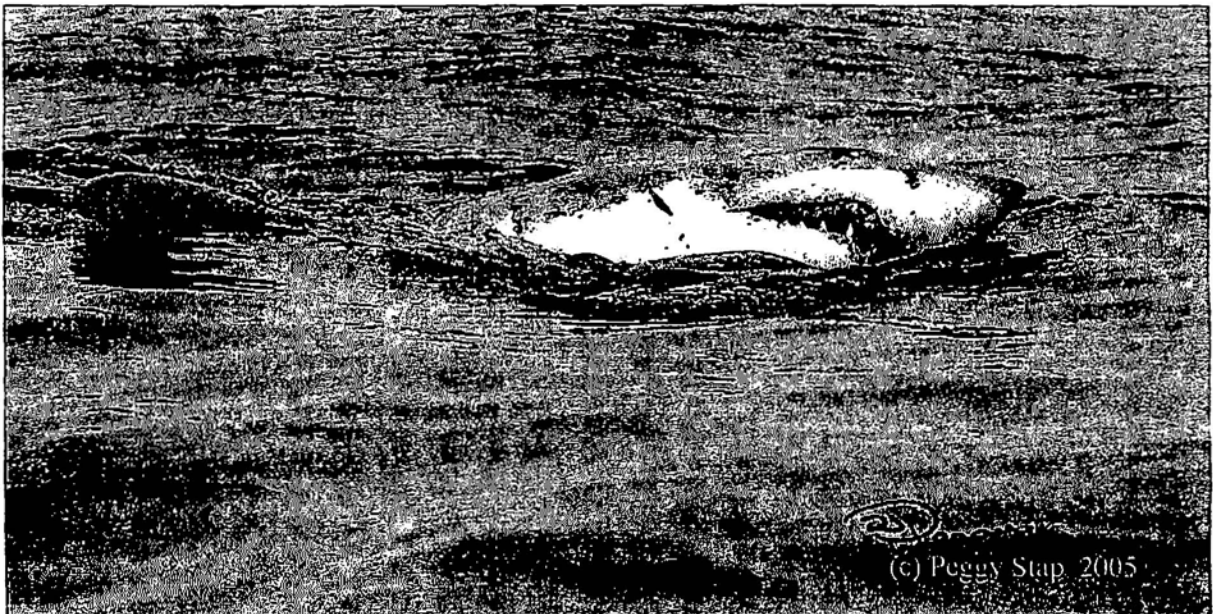
Identified by Dave Ebert and Bob Lea from photo. Photo of dorsal fin confirmed ID.

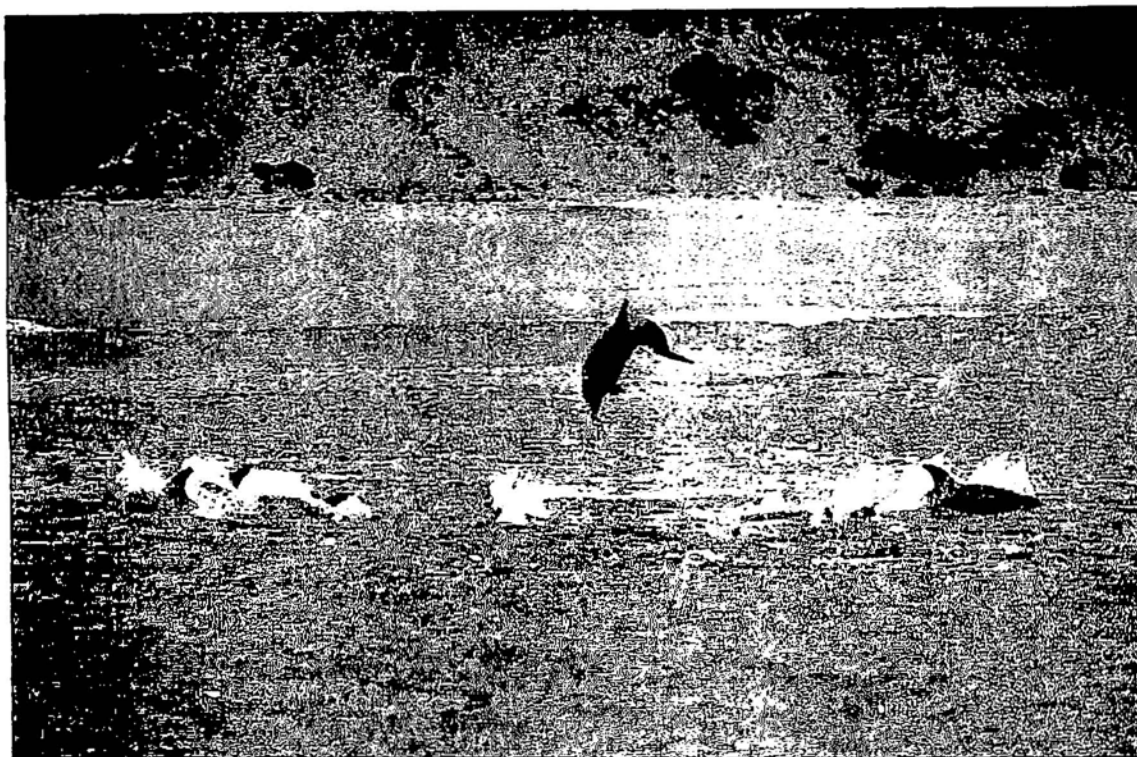
Capt. Richard Ternullo [*SeaWolf II*] estimated the shark to be 8 to 9 feet long.

Location is about 2.5 km off Del Monte Beach, Monterey and New Monterey/Cannery Row, Monterey. Can be considered outer Monterey Harbor. The shark was eating a harbor seal, *Phoca vitulina*, Family Phocidae, Order Pinnipedia.

If a mako shark in Monterey Bay is a surprise to you, here is a quotation from *Sharks and Rays of the Pacific Coast*, by Ava Ferguson and Gregor Cailliet, Monterey Bay Aquarium, 1990:

"During fall (from August to October), the prevailing winds die down and cease to draw cool water from below. Warm oceanic water from far offshore drifts into the bay, raising water temperatures. Along with this warm-water mass swim large open-ocean sharks, such as shortfin makos and blues. These seagoing sharks may linger in the bay for a month or two." (p. 26) ~





Five in '05 : 5 Great Sightings of the Past Year

By Danny Frank
as told to this editor

*Photo of Risso's &
Bottlenose
Dolphins by
Danny Frank*

Daniel Frank is a whale watch captain for Monterey Bay Whale Watch. Before becoming one of the youngest captains on the bay, passing the licensing test before he was 20, Danny was a deck hand for Nick Lemon of Chris' company on the wharf, fishing and whale watching. He's had many years at sea. Recently this editor was a naturalist on the *Sea Wolf II* while Danny was driving, and we started talking about sightings.

Offering whale watch trips year round is a fairly new idea in Monterey. Thirty years ago the whale watches during gray whale season were something for party fishermen to do before salmon season started in the spring. November and December became months "off" for boat repair, shore business, and vacations, between summertime whales (here to feed) and gray whales (migrating past in numbers January - April). Even with the surprise of humpbacks staying over to feed on schools of little fish through November and into December this year, these two months offer few "sure things" in sightings of great whales. Asked about the rather unusual sightings of cetaceans during the past few weeks, Danny said it may be a difference in the way we look for things during these months. At other times we are looking for specific species that we fully expect to be around, based on experience and sightings. When we know the whales may be hard to find, or not even out there to be seen, we are looking far and wide for *anything at all*. We travel more. We cruise the rim of the canyon daily. Our eyes try to pick up any little thing that may turn into some big thing. Therefore, we may spot different animals.

We agreed that being offshore year round puts us in line for some amazing experiences. Here are five that Danny remembered and described as five great sightings of 2005 -----

Leucistic Northern Right Whale Dolphin: instead black and white tuxedo-like markings, one dolphin was white all over except for two dark patches at the rostrum (front of the head). This rare individual was with a very large group of Northern Right Whale Dolphins about seven miles southwest of Pt. Pinos. With dark instead of the pink eyes of an albino, this dolphin qualifies for the term leucistic (anomalously white).

Baird's Beaked Whales: two pods, total of twenty animals, alternating between diving down and staying on the surface with spyhops, tail slaps, rolling showing pectoral flippers, possibly mating. These were over the

canyon eight miles west of Pt. Pinos.

One Striped Dolphin: swimming with about 100 Pacific White-sided Dolphins. This is a species very rarely seen in Central California waters.

Killer whales often: Transient killer whales came into the area several times in November and December.

Some sightings included:

the large male nicknamed "Star" because of a star-shaped cut in his dorsal fin,

various females with juveniles,

and "Ted and Charlie," two males seen as a pair alone. In the photo below, taken a year ago, their dorsal fins are seen as they cruise past Seal Rocks at Point Lobos, perhaps much to the consternation of the sea lions there.

This brought to mind a male orca that is seen by himself, an unusual habit for an orca. Just before Danny sighted him recently the orca evidently had killed an elephant seal and ripped it up. The killer whale draped it over his back and approached Danny's boat, then pushed the body through the water toward the boat and backed off, as if to say, "Have some." When the boat remained stopped, waiting, the orca swam under the seal body, lifted it to its dorsal fin, then its peduncle and finally to the flukes, a watery ballet with a gory partner.

Risso's Dolphins attacking a lone Bottlenose Dolphin: chasing, surrounding, and causing the lone *tursiops* to leap straight up in the air. Twelve Risso's were involved. Even considering the frequency with which they are seen harassing other cetaceans, this activity of open-ocean Risso's, in the shallows near Del Monte Beach, is a mystery. Danny Frank's photo is reproduced on the preceding page, in black and white instead of color, alas.~

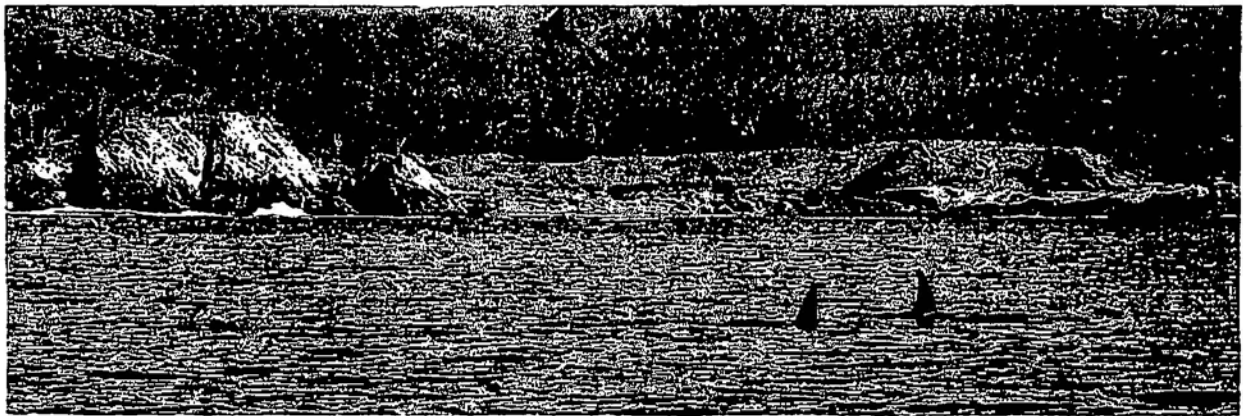


Photo by Esta Lee Albright

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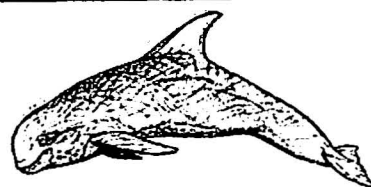
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SIGHTINGS IN DECEMBER

Whales, dolphins, and sometimes other marine mammals are reported by various boats on the bay. The reports are compiled by Monterey Bay Whale Watch and posted on their web site: www.gowhales.com (Click on Sightings). In late Dec. the winter storms kicked in, making for fewer whale watch trips, but Richard Ternullo of MBWW recalls a steady number of gray whales daily, 6 or 8 usually. So have a look at the updated Sightings on the web site, then get to the ACS benefit whale watch cruise! See you out in the migration path of the gray whale!

Date	#	Type of Animal(s)
12/21 p.m.	250	Poor weather Risso's Dolphins
12/21 a.m.	3	Humpback Whales
12/20	2	Gray Whales
	2	Humpback Whales
	40	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
	1800	Risso's Dolphins
12/19	6	Humpback Whales
	850	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
	300	Northern Right Whale Dolphins
12/17 p.m.	2	Humpback Whales
12/17 a.m.	2	Gray Whales
12/15	1	Gray Whale
	1	Humpback Whale
12/13	3	Humpback Whales
	5	Risso's Dolphins
12/11 p.m.	2	Humpback Whales
12/11 a.m.	6	Humpback Whales
12/10 p.m.	3	Humpback Whales
	12	Risso's Dolphins
12/10 a.m.	8	Humpback Whales
12/9	1	Humpback Whale
	50	Risso's Dolphins
	3	Dall's Porpoise
12/7	9	Dall's Porpoise
12/6	1	Humpback Whale
12/5	2	Humpback Whales
	50	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
	600	Risso's Dolphins
	100	Northern Right Whale Dolphins
12/4	8	Humpback Whales
	2	Killer Whales
	30	Risso's Dolphins
12/3	2	Humpback Whales
	8	Dall's Porpoise
12/2	8	Humpback Whales
	80	Pacific White-sided Dolphins

Risso's dolphin



While it is not the time of year that we expect to see whales other than the grays, this winter we've had unusually late sightings of feeding humpbacks. They may stay as long as there are schools of fish to eat, so it is possible we'll see them during gray whale watching. One thing we can count on about off-shore Monterey: we never know for sure what great things we'll see. ~



Endangered Species Listing for Killer Whales

A group of killer whales that visits Washington state's Puget Sound every summer has been listed as an endangered species under the federal Endangered Species Act, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries Service) announced today. Known officially as Southern Resident killer whales, they were proposed a year ago for "threatened" status under the Endangered Species Act. "Recent information and further analysis leads our agency to conclude that the Southern Resident killer whale population is at risk of extinction, and should be listed as endangered," said Bob Lohn, regional administrator for NOAA Fisheries Service's Northwest region. "By giving it protection under the ESA, we have a better chance of keeping this population alive for future generations." A species listed as threatened is at risk of becoming endangered; an endangered species is one at risk of extinction.

Reasons for the Decline in Killer Whale Populations

Reasons were summarized well by John Ford, Graeme Ellis, Peter Olesiuk, and Ken Balcomb at the 16th Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals, Dec. 12-16, 2005. "Two populations of fish-eating killer whales in British Columbia and Washington State, known as the *northern* and *southern residents*, experienced declines in abundance of up to 20% during 1996-2001..... Potential factors contributing to these declines include environmental contaminants, physical and acoustic disturbance, and changes in the availability or quality of food." Research showed the critical value of chinook salmon (large, high in lipid content, within the whales' range year-round) over smaller salmonid species. "A sharp decline in coast-wide chinook abundance during the late 1990s was closely associated with a significant decline in resident whale survival." (Abstracts of the conference, p. 94, "Linking Prey and Population Dynamics")

Another source of information, with expansion on all the reasons, is The Whale Museum, Friday Harbor, WA. Their web site has this to say about the reason regarding pollution: "Because orcas are the top predator in the ocean and are at the top of several different food chains in the environment, they tend to be more affected by pollutants than other sea creatures. Examinations of stranded killer whales have shown some extremely high levels of lead, mercury, and polychlorinated hydrocarbons (PCBs)." (www.whale-museum.org)

What about NOISE ?

The new listing will have impact on public and private use of the environment. Danger from extreme underwater noise is an example. HeraldNet, online version of the Herald newspaper in Puget Sound, wrote: One of the key factors biologists fear has hurt orcas is underwater noise. That's where the Navy comes in. On May 5, 2003, the Everett-based Navy destroyer USS Shoup drew fierce criticism from whale researchers for conducting military exercises using midrange tactical sonar in Haro Strait between San Juan and Vancouver islands. Some researchers reported watching orcas acting distressed, and 11 harbor porpoises washed ashore dead in the following few days. A federal investigative team later cleared the Shoup and the Navy.... [however] Navy officials started communicating regularly with private researchers after the Shoup incident... The Navy developed a new computer database that can track the time and location of training exercises and compare it with the latest locations where researchers have spotted orcas or other marine mammals... The Navy already was using lookouts to spot whales, as well as passive sonar to listen for whale vocalizations. Rules now stop sonar transmissions if any whales are spotted.

NRDC provides documentation of underwater noise

Www.nrdc.org/wildlife/marine/sound

Sounding the Depths II The Rising Toll of Sonar, Shipping and Industrial Ocean Noise on Marine Life Most whales and many other marine species depend on sound as they hunt for food, avoid predators, find mates and maintain their awareness in the darkness of the sea. But over the past century the acoustic landscape of the ocean has been transformed by human activity – intensely loud military sonar, oil-and-gas surveys, and ever-increasing traffic of commercial ships. This noise can have impacts on marine life ranging from long-term behavioral change to hearing loss to death. This Nov. 2005, 2nd ed. of NRDC's ground-breaking 1999 report on ocean noise has been completely rewritten to reflect the rapid growth of the scientific record.

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Gray Whale Events: Don't miss our big, popular benefit whale watch cruise Jan. 14 !!!!
Learn & enjoy at the WhaleFest on Fisherman's Wharf, Jan. 21 and 22. (See P.2 inside)

AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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Soundings



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February 2006

The Newsletter of the Monterey Bay Chapter of ACS
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Monthly meeting at HOPKINS MARINE STATION, Lecture Hall, Boatworks Building
(Across from the American Tin Cannery Outlet Stores)

Date: Thursday, February 23 2006

Time: 7:30 p.m. Please join us at 7:00 for refreshments.

Speaker: Guy W. Oliver, Ph.D., Research Associate, Institute of Marine Science, UC Santa Cruz

Title: Professor Ken Norris (1924-1998): scientist/teacher
extraordinaire, from desert reptiles to Spinner dolphins in Hawaii and
many stops in between.

Ken Norris, internationally known for his research in cetaceans, especially dolphins, also never lost his interest in the desert and continued to pass on to UCSC undergraduates his love for desert biology, by taking a busload to the UC Natural Research Reserve in the Mojave desert each spring. Memories of which stayed with many for the rest of their lives.

He is known for so much that was innovative in cetacean research especially the discovery of echolocation in dolphins. He wrote the first description of a new species, Vaquita. He came from UCLA, where he received his Ph. D. to UCSC in 1972 and set up the Marine Mammal Research Program there and was very much involved with the tuna/dolphin issue including research on why these two species are so closely associated. He helped found Marine Land of the Pacific. He was involved with so much more and his influence continues on through his contact with colleagues and his many students who have gone on in their own lives to further the course of research.

He was a man of many parts, scientist, gifted writer, outside-the-box thinker, raconteur, lover of good wine. A friendly man who was never too busy to stop and talk and a man with a tremendous, infectious enthusiasm for his subject. His books include "The Porpoise Watcher" (1974) and "Dolphin days: the life and times of a Spinner Dolphin" (1991). This was a John Burroughs Medal winner.

Our speaker was one of his last graduate students and has many interesting and fond tales to tell.

ACS Monterey Bay Whale Watch Trip Is a Wild Ride But a Successful One

Being on the ocean in tall winter swells can give a special perspective. The swells rise sometimes above the head of a person standing on a deck, then fall away into the trough of the swell like a hole in the water right there at our feet. Boats and whales appear and disappear completely on the other side of one of those 15-foot tall swells. Up up to the crest like a hilltop and down down out of sight. Monterey Bay swells are harbingers or remaining signatures of winter storms – and are sometimes as fascinating to visitors as the animals they have signed up to see.

ACS Monterey Bay's January Gray Whale Watching Trip was a success despite high seas. Monterey Whale Watching's big new boat was a comfortable platform from which to watch the migrating whales at the peak of their passage along Monterey's coast. Nevertheless, ACS people saw about nine whales on their 2-hour trip January 14th. Milos Radakovich kept everyone smiling and their interest alive through changing rain-shine conditions.

President Jerry Loomis described the trip like this: We saw 15-foot seas and 25 knots of wind. A beautiful rainbow over the boat. And, 8 or 9 whales and the usual marine mammals. No dolphins or porpoise. We had more than 70 people and no complaints. The trip was a success!

Thanks to all who worked to make the trip process a smooth one, even if the seas didn't follow their example. And many thanks to Monterey Whale Watching for the gift of this trip as a benefit to our research and education projects. ~

C A L E N D A R

February 23 : Regular ACS meeting, see cover for program announcement.

THIS IS IT! The February meeting was chosen for the drawing of a lucky raffle ticket that will get its owner the beautiful gray whale sculpture by **Randy Puckett, "Sneak Peak."** Randy generously donated this lovely rendition of a spy-hopping gray whale for our research and education programs, especially the current project to provide school supplies for the children of San Ignacio Lagoon's caretakers. Their school is remote but the number of whale watchers who come to the lagoon increases. If all goes well, someday these children will be protecting the whales and leading whale watch programs. Increase your chances to win the sculpture – come to the meeting and buy more raffle tickets.

March 30: Next regular ACS meeting.

ACS Monterey Board 2005

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*Spinner dolphin drawing by
artist John Green*

Spinner dolphins were a favorite
longtime research subject of Ken Norris.

(p.3) Exchanging One Canyon for Another: *Soundings* Editor Re-locates But Keeps On Writing

During whale watching one of my favorite wandering/searching locales is over the edge of Monterey Bay's submarine canyon. True, there is no ridge or step down on the surface of the ocean. From the deck one may be unaware the ocean bottom has taken a 90-degree plunge thousands of feet downward and off the scale of the captain's depth sounder. There is, however, a sense of removal and immense space. Land looks very far away or is lost in the haze. Come humpback and blue whale time this summer, I will breathe a sigh of contentment when I'm again 'way offshore among feeding whales. Meantime, I am living at the edge of a different kind of canyon: a branch of Pueblo Canyon, which is between two of the tall mesas on which the town of Los Alamos, New Mexico, has been built. Giving in to allergy problems and joining family members with delight, I left CA after 30 years of Central Coast living and learning about the ocean. Now I look straight down about 400 feet past remarkable formations of colored volcanic *tufa*, pine trees, junipers and sage – across the Rio Grande river valley to the mountains behind Santa Fe, or in the other direction to the dark Jemez peaks. A different kind of space at 7200' elevation; another call to learn. I am lucky to continue my involvement with ACS through *Soundings*. Please enhance that for me by sending me emails and telling me what you're seeing and what's happening out there. And, I'll be seeing you next summer! Esta Lee Albright, estalee@inreach.com ~

Travel to Whales

This issue of the newsletter has a selection of information about travel to see whales, which can take us to a number of incredibly varied of destinations. ACS National AND our chapter venture out to great places. ACSMB may be thinking of Maine and Northern right whales. Stay tuned.

Go North Along the Pacific Coast for Whale Watching on Land or Sea

Along the Oregon coastline one has the choice of watching gray whales migrate south in the winter or seeing a few spending the summer feeding offshore. In winter, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department's Whale Watching Center in Depoe Bay leads a gray whale count. Winter Whale Watch Week begins in late December and runs into the first part of January. "About 200 trained volunteers will help whale watchers at 28 locations dotted along the coast, part of the parks department's Whale Watching Spoken Here program. Last winter's whale watch week drew 18,000 visitors who spotted nearly 2,100 gray whales. Since the records were started about 18 years ago, the greatest number of whales to pass by was 3,152 in 1994-95," according to the Center.

In summer, some gray whales stop short of Alaska's feeding grounds and have been observed off northern CA, off Oregon, and especially off Tofino, Vancouver Island, where their feeding behavior is studied. This editor had good luck once in July off Oregon – after asking at the Oregon Coast Aquarium, I joined a whale watch out of Newport to see two adult gray whales with calves, all evidently feeding at the edge of the kelp forest. By the way, don't miss that aquarium! It's just south of Newport, OR, across the Yaquina Bay Bridge. The outdoor exhibits of sea birds, pinnipeds and sea otters are without parallel. See www.aquarium.org

If you heading on north to Washington State or southern British Columbia, check out the whale watch companies that belong to the Whale Watch Operators Association Northwest, "Look Before You Book."

The WWOAN is a group of companies dedicated to responsible wildlife viewing. "With the help of marine biologists and researchers we have developed a set of guidelines for operating vessels around the Orcas and other wildlife, for both commercial and recreational boaters. Respecting the wildlife and following these guidelines will help ensure the safety and happiness of the whales for generations to come. ...Washington and British Columbia provide an excellent opportunity to see Orca whales in the wild, and whale watching tours here are more popular than ever. The San Juan Islands and southern Vancouver Island provide beautiful scenery, calm water, and an abundance of different wildlife. There are three pods of resident Orca whales that call this area home- they are known as J, K, and L. These killer whales are obviously the highlight of the local whale watching tours but a variety of other wildlife abounds. (Continued on p. 6)

A personal website for

Whale-Watchers

<http://members.aol.com/whalewatchaddict/>

Gill Sinclair is an avid proponent of marine eco-tourism. From England, her "holidays" are spent among marine mammals and she chooses animal-friendly groups around the world. Her personal web site has news, her photos, and advice on the kind of travel she does. We have her permission to reprint some of her destinations here. There are more at her web site, plus a list of tour companies she has used and some conservation news. Gill came to Monterey Bay with the tour group "Discover the World" for which this editor was a naturalist. *Ed.*

It may sound obvious, but a successful whale-watching holiday depends on being in the right place at the right time! Many species, especially the large baleen whales, are highly migratory, and some toothed cetaceans also move around to some extent to exploit food sources.

Established & experienced holiday companies know the right time & place for each species, so even if you intend to travel independently, their websites are a great source of information.

[See Gill's web site for links. Ed.]

Please note that, although there are usually dozens of species of birds wherever there are cetaceans, we're not birders so we can't list them all here! (Apologies to bird-watching addicts).

Bay of Fundy, Canada

Cetaceans: Northern right whale, humpback, harbour porpoise.

Other wildlife seen: North American beaver, grey squirrel, basking shark.

Best time to go: July to September.

Whale-watching operator: GM Sea-Land Adventures

Gibraltar

Cetaceans: common dolphin, striped dolphin.

Other wildlife seen: Barbary macaque.

Best time to go: May to October.

Whale-watching operator: The Original Dolphin Safari

Snaefellsnes Peninsula, Iceland

Cetaceans: blue whale, orca, humpback, minke whale, white-beaked dolphin, harbour porpoise.

Best time to go: June to August.

Whale-watching operator: Seatours

Saldanha Bay, South Africa

Cetaceans: Southern right whale, Heaviside's dolphin.

Other wildlife seen: Cape fur seal, Cape porcupine, grey squirrel, rock hyrax, springbok, jackass penguin.

Best time to go: October & November.

Note: the usual tourist "hot spots" are Lambert's Bay & Hermanus, to the North & South of Saldanha respectively.

Cardigan Bay, Wales

Cetaceans: bottlenose dolphin, harbour porpoise.

Best time to go: June to August.

Whale-watching operator: Sea Watch Fdn.

Isle of Mull, Scotland

Cetaceans: harbour porpoise (no luck with minke!).

Other wildlife seen: harbour seal, European otter, red deer, mountain hare, Atlantic puffin.

Best time to go: May to August.

Whale-watching operator: Sea Life Surveys.

Bay of Biscay, France

Cetaceans: fin whale, long-finned pilot whale, Cuvier's beaked whale, common dolphin, striped dolphin.

Other wildlife seen: ocean sunfish.

Best time to go: June to September.

Cape Clear Island, Ireland (review by Padraig Whooley)

Cetaceans: harbour porpoise, common

(p.5) dolphin, Risso's dolphin, minke whale, other species occasionally.
Best time to go: all year, but October to January best for larger cetaceans such as humpback, fin or sei whales.
Other wildlife seen: grey seal
Whale-watching operator: West Cork Marine

Marlborough Sounds, Kaikoura & Milford Sound, New Zealand (review by Karen Debler)
Cetaceans: sperm whale, dusky dolphin, Hector's dolphin, bottlenose dolphin.
Other wildlife seen: New Zealand fur seal, New Zealand sea lion.
Best time to go: December to February.
Whale-watching operators:
Dolphin Watch Ecotours (Marlborough Sounds)
Whale Watch Kaikoura
Dolphin Encounter (Kaikoura)

One aspect of Gill's group when they came to Monterey for whale watching: they were prepared. Appropriate clothing, seasick remedies, safety precautions, anticipation and patience. More-over, Gill and several others came with marine mammal guides and already knew basic information about "our" animals. This seemed to increase their pleasure with sightings. One such guide for marine mammals worldwide is: *National Audubon Society Guide to the Marine Mammals of the World*, Pieter Folkens, illustrator.
On the web, a thorough, useful site is: www.cetacea.org.

Become an Eco - Traveler

WorldWildlife Fund newsletter Focus, Sep-Oct '05

Whether you're going on a short trip upstate or trekking through the Himalayas, with a little effort you can have an enjoyable, ecofriendly vacation.

Do your research

+When planning your trip, learn about your

destination and the plants and animals that live there.

+If you're considering a tour or cruise, make sure it is through an environmentally responsible company whose trips benefit the communities in which they take place.

Stay at a "green" hotel.

+Thanks to the demands of guests, many resorts and hotels are becoming more environmentally responsible. When booking your reservation, find out if the hotel has a green program.

+At check-in, let management know that it is not necessary to change your towels and sheets every day. Also, many hotels participate in a green linens program— look for a placard in your room.

+When you leave your hotel room, be sure to turn off the a/c/heat, lights, and TV.

Strap on your walking shoes.

+Instead of renting a car, take public transportation.

+If you must rent a car, be sure to rent a small, economy model. Better yet, find out if the rental car company offers hybrids.

+The best way to explore local flavor is on foot or on a bike. It's great exercise and you won't have to hassle with parking.

Minimize your impact.

+If you go scuba diving, do not touch or walk on coral reefs. The sensitive coral animals – and other wildlife that live on the reef – can be bruised or killed, and stirred-up sediment can choke them.

+Never litter – carry out everything you carry in.

+Be respectful of nature and leave the place you're visiting in its natural condition.

Be a savvy shopper.

+Think twice before you purchase any souvenirs made from wildlife products, including jewelry and figurines made from sea turtle shells, elephant ivory, or coral; skins or furs from spotted cats, seals, polar bears, and certain crocodilians, snakes, etc.; and traditional Asian medicines containing rhino, tiger, leopard, bear musk. Instead, Take Photos. ~

Over the years, various ACSMB speakers have introduced us to other locations to see whales: minke whales off Australia, Atlantic humpbacks on Silver Banks, Dominican Republic, and, coming soon, southern hemisphere humpbacks around Tonga!_ Cetaceans of the world, hooray!

(cont. from p. 3, Travel) Guests have the opportunity to see Transient Orcas, Minke whales, Gray whales, Dall's and Harbor porpoises, seals, sea lions, bald eagles, many kinds of seabirds, and blacktail deer."

This group is linked with **The Whale Museum in Friday Harbor**, the ultimate in information about southern resident orcas. Their hot line will report sightings of the pods daily, as well as minke whales and other marine life. See a wealth of possibilities by visiting the museum and/or reading their informative web site: www.whale-museum.org

Wilderness lovers, maybe by hiking, paddling or boat trips, are drawn to **Johnstone Strait** north of **Vancouver Island**. Across the strait around Alert Bay, BC, is the glaciated coastline of straits, bays and inlets, with whales, dolphins, pinnipeds and bears. Not for the faint of heart, wild passages and tidal bores may lead travelers to a guided whale watch cruise instead of going it alone. Telegraph Cove, on the north shore of Vancouver Island, is a small town that caters to whale watchers. Long known for the "rubbing rocks" at Robson Bite, that area is now protected. Rubbing may be part of the culture of Johnstone Strait orcas, according to scientist John Ford, and it remains a mystery. "In a couple of freshly dead northern residents, Ford and his colleagues did notice strange little cysts in the skin of these dead whales that seemed to be perhaps some kind of embedded parasite. They haven't been able to identify what these parasites are or if they're the reason behind the rubbing, but as Ford says, 'we haven't ruled out the idea that rubbing may serve some important function to the animals.' If Ford had to guess, however, he would chalk up rubbing among *some* killer whales to a cultural tradition that simply doesn't exist in other pods. Not unlike the vocal dialect differences that exist among different whale pods, Ford wouldn't be surprised to find that rubbing is simply a learned tradition in these northern pods. If there are other theories, Ford's not aware of any. But while it's still a bit of a riddle, it's not enough to keep Ford awake at night. And besides, he says, 'I don't think it's particularly cosmic. They just love doing it. You can tell by the sounds that they're making that they enjoy doing it.'" (Discovery Channel Canada's website, 4/5/01)

Trip planning may use the list of companies at the worldwide whale watching site: www.helsinki.fi. For Johnstone Strait, go to Canada- Whale watch, Vancouver Island North. Monterey folks have been happy with trips through Stubbs Island tours. See the rich possibilities in wildlife viewing at www.stubbs-island.com.

There are travelers of all kinds. Whale watching you might like to support but might NOT want to do yourself (and certainly can't drive to on your own) is noted in the following experience, travel most different: 1330 Hours on January 8, 2005 (Australian Western Standard Time):

This morning when the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society's flagship Farley Mowat intercepted the Japanese factory whaling ship Nisshin Maru, the whalers were 36 nautical miles inside the Australian Antarctic Territory. When the Farley Mowat came within a half a nautical mile of the Nisshin Maru, the factory ship began to run north. They have been running all day and they have not been whaling. The whalers are now 17 miles outside of the Australia Antarctic Territory. "We ordered them to leave," said Captain Paul Watson. "And they left." The Farley Mowat continues to pursue them. The last time the Farley Mowat intercepted the Japanese whaling fleet (on Christmas day, Australian time), the whalers fled westward for 11 days and covered over 3,000 miles. They went from the extreme east end of the whaling area to the extreme west end of the area. For 11 days no whales were killed. When the Farley Mowat arrived on the whaling scene this morning, it appeared that the factory ship was off-loading whale meat to the Panamanian registered vessel Oriental Bluebird. "There are sushi bars in Tokyo in desperate need of these 'research materials'," said Captain Watson. "It appears they can't wait for the whaling fleet to return in March." Captain Watson refers to the fact that the Japanese kill whales in flagrant violation of the International Whaling Commission ban on commercial whaling by operating under the guise of scientific research, however, the whale meat is sold to restaurants, markets and school lunch programs. Sea Shepherd Conservation Society regards this whale slaughter as an international crime against nature and humanity. The bottom line - no whaling today and the whalers are on the run once again. ([Www.seashepherd.org](http://www.seashepherd.org) And thanks to Carol Maehr's conservation news service via email)

Volunteers ARE welcome on many cetacean research sights. For example, see **Earth watch Institute**, www.earthwatch.org. See, enjoy, help.

Bon Voyage !

~

(p.7)

SIGHTINGS

January 2006. For an update or for sightings of

previous months, see the web site for Monterey Bay Whale Watch, www.gowhales.com It's obvious this was a busy gray whale migration. With numbers like those below, it was good whale watching from boats, Big Sur cliffs, and even in the bay. Alan Baldridge had a successful day seeing "sneakers," gray whales that hug the coast around Pt Pinos and the western edge of the Peninsula: "Whale Watch boats were far out west but I waited and saw two sneakers close to the kelp at Pt. Pinos." Some gray whales for every watcher !

Date	#	Type of Animal(s)		
1/26 p.m.	16	Gray Whales	1/14 a.m.	8 Gray Whales
1/26 a.m.	18	Gray Whales	1/14 early a.m.	5 Gray Whales
1/25 p.m.	15	Gray Whales	1/13 p.m.	18 Gray Whales
	25	Killer Whales (offshore type)	1/13 a.m.	31 Gray Whales
1/25 a.m.	16	Gray Whales	1/12 p.m.	18 Gray Whales
	25	Killer Whales (offshore type)		1 Humpback Whale
1/24 p.m.	13	Gray Whales	1/12 a.m.	20 Gray Whales
1/24 a.m.	15	Gray Whales		8 Risso's Dolphins
	30	Risso's Dolphins	1/11 p.m.	17 Gray Whales
1/23 p.m.	16	Gray Whales		1 Humpback Whale
1/23 a.m.	14	Gray Whales	1/10 p.m.	10 Gray Whales
1/22 p.m.	14	Gray Whales		1 Humpback Whale
1/22 a.m.	19	Killer Whales (transient type)	1/10 a.m.	12 Gray Whales
	11	Gray Whales		50 Pacific White-sided Dolphins
	35	Risso's Dolphins	1/9 p.m.	31 Gray Whales
1/22 early a.m.	30	Gray Whales	1/9 a.m.	22 Gray Whales
1/21 p.m.	18	Gray Whales	1/8 p.m.	13 Gray Whales
	30	Risso's Dolphins	1/8 a.m.	15 Gray Whales
1/21 a.m.	16	Gray Whales		550 Risso's Dolphins
1/21 early a.m.	26	Gray Whales	1/7 p.m.	17 Gray Whales
1/20 p.m.	46	Gray Whales		45 Pacific White-sided Dolphins
1/20 a.m.	43	Gray Whales		1100 Risso's Dolphins
1/19	34	Gray Whales	1/7 a.m.	12 Gray Whales
1/18	17	Gray Whales		65 Risso's Dolphins
1/17 p.m.	20	Gray Whales	1/6 p.m.	10 Gray Whales
1/17 a.m.	18	Gray Whales	1/6 a.m.	9 Gray Whales
	8	Dall's Porpoise	1/5 p.m.	4 Gray Whales
1/16 p.m.	30	Gray Whales		15 Pacific White-sided Dolphins
1/16 a.m.	36	Gray Whales		300 Risso's Dolphins
1/16 early a.m.	5	Killer Whales (transient type)	1/5 a.m.	5 Gray Whales
	40	Gray Whales		50 Risso's Dolphins
1/15 p.m.	8	Gray Whales	1/4 p.m.	8 Gray Whales
1/15 a.m.	26	Gray Whales		120 Pacific White-sided Dolphins
1/15 early a.m.	23	Gray Whales		400 Risso's Dolphins
			1/4 a.m.	15 Gray Whales
				400 Pacific White-sided Dolphins
				1800 Risso's Dolphins
			1/3	9 Gray Whales

American Cetacean Society
Monterey Bay Chapter
P.O. Box HE
Pacific Grove CA 93950
www.starrsites.com/acsmmb/

At the February meeting,
see inside, the beautiful
sculpture by Randy Puckett.,
Sneak Peak, will go to the
lucky raffle-ticket-holder.
It's not too late to enter.



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Pacific Grove, CA 93950



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American Cetacean Society Membership Application ACS Chapter #24:Monterey Bay

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☐ Lifetime \$750 ☐ Patron \$500 ☐ Contributing \$250 ☐ Supporting \$75 ☐ Foreign \$45 ☐ Family \$45
☐ Active \$35 ☐ Student/Teacher/Senior \$25 ☐ *Soundings* Subscription Only \$15 - no membership benefits

Name _____

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Make checks payable to ACS Monterey Bay Chapter

Return to: Membership Secretary, PO Box HE, Pacific Grove, CA 93950

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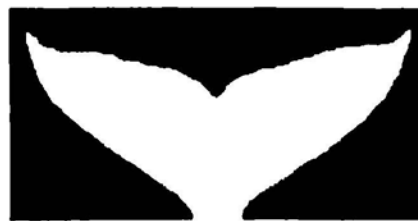
Our benefit whale watch trips have been supported by the following local Whale Watch companies :

Monterey Whale Watching 800 200-2203

And

Monterey Bay Whale Watch Center 831 375-4658

Soundings



American Cetacean Society ~ Monterey Bay Chapter

March 2006

The Newsletter of the Monterey Bay Chapter of ACS
AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY - MONTEREY BAY CHAPTER
Monthly meeting at HOPKINS MARINE STATION, Lecture Hall, Boatworks Building
(Across from the American Tin Cannery Outlet Stores)

Date: Thursday, March 30, 2006

Time: 7:30 p.m. Please join us at 7:00 for refreshments

Speaker: Bryant Austin

Title: The Humpback Whales of Tonga

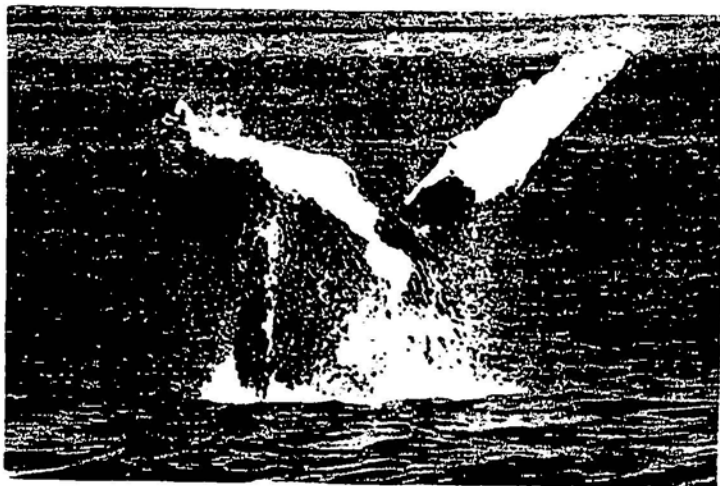
Artist and activist, Bryant Austin, will share his ongoing work with Humpback whales in the southwest Pacific Kingdom of Tonga and the nonprofit organization he founded "Marine Mammal Conservation through the Arts (MMCTA). Austin and Humpback biologist, Libby Eyre, are collaborating to produce life size photographic images of whales for their international "Whales in Public Spaces" campaign. Marine mammals face significant obstacles in their survival as we begin the 21st century and without sufficient continued public outreach, the effect of our growing population on the ocean environment could be catastrophic. Their goal is to reach a new and larger audience which has yet to be inspired by whales and their plight. Austin lives and works in Santa Cruz and has spent the past six years photographing marine mammals with the support of his dedicated volunteer team.

Members should know that these Humpbacks may be taken in the future if proposed Japanese "research whaling" efforts go ahead.

Our speaker works in partnership with the Pacific Cetacean Group which is based locally. Please join us for our first program on the southern hemisphere Humpback and to learn more about how his group is working to help save these and other species of cetaceans.

*Speaker information is prepared by
Alan and Sheila Baldridge.*

*Photo of ventral side of breaching
humpback calf, Monterey, by Esta Lee Albright.
White markings on throat grooves and the
underside of pectoral flipper are common for
North Pacific populations. Compare with
photo of Southern Hemisphere humpback in
this issue and enjoy watching for the
differences during this month's program.
Ed.*



HOPKINS MARINE STATION LIBRARY

MAR 13 2006

CALENDAR

March 30: Regular monthly meeting for this chapter, see cover.

April 27: Regular monthly meeting for this chapter, 7 :00, meeting at 7:30 pm, at 'Hopkins.'

Moss Landing Marine Labs Seminars are held weekly during the school session in the MLML Seminar Room, beginning at 3:30 p.m. For directions or more information see the web site: www.mlml.calstate.edu or call 831 771-4400.

Examples of upcoming seminars:

March 10: Bernie Tershey, UCSC, "Biodiversity conservation on islands."

March 17: Zach Peery, UCB, "Ecology and conservation of Marbled Murrelets."

March 24: Max Boykoff, UCSC, "Anthropogenic climate change and U.S. Media; investigations at the interface of science and policy."

April 7: Jason Smith, MLML, "Molecular mysteries - Domoic Acid production in the diatom genus *Pseudonitzschia*."

April 14: Michael O'Donnell, MSI, UCSB, "Hydrodynamics and habitats on wave-swept shores."

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Calendar web site:

[www.http://bonita.mbnms.nos.noaa.gov/calendar/calendar.html](http://bonita.mbnms.nos.noaa.gov/calendar/calendar.html)

has an interesting mixture of Sanctuary business and natural history events. Here's the posting for March.

4 - Sanctuary Currents Symposium at CSUMB. For more information contact Liz Love at (831) 647-4255

10 - Sanctuary Research Activity Panel (RAP) Meeting, 9am-12pm at USGS. For more information contact Andrew Devogelaere at (831) 647-4213

Natural History Events

Harbor seal pupping season. Gray Whale migration begins northward from Mexico to Alaska. Cow-calf pairs can be seen near shore throughout March.

By mid-march most of the adult Northern Elephant Seals have returned to sea to feed, leaving the pups behind on beaches at Ano Nuevo State Reserve and Piedras Blancas to fend for themselves.

Earth Day will be April 22nd this year. Get ready for special events and make this Ocean Day, too !

'Sneak Peek' goes to Ohio !

The raffle drawing for Randy Puckett's beautiful sculpture was held at the regular February meeting . Allison Loomis drew the name Mikey Sevastos of Beachwood, Ohio. The raffle was a benefit (many continuing thanks to Randy and Gail Puckett) for the ACSMB project to help the school attended by children of San Ignacio Lagoon. We gained more than \$1700 for this project, according to Jerry Loomis, president, who will be delivering some of the school supplies to San Ignacio this month, as he leads a whale watch group for Baja Expeditions. B E will continue transporting supplies during their whale watch tours to San Ignacio this year. Many thanks to the staff of Baja Expeditions, too.

ACS Chapters to Support a Representative to IWC

Chapters of ACS around the country will chip in to send a rep to the next IWC conference, which will be in the West Indies. An ACS rep may be with groups on the sidelines, but s/he adds a voice for conservation and makes sure our interests are heard. Reports from ACS reps are at the ACS National web site: www.acsonline.org.

“Welcome” to the Dolphins, and “Please Stay Around” to the Humpbacks

Sightings this month include numbers of oceanic dolphins, a welcome experience to anyone looking for cetaceans. Monterey has become noteworthy for large aggregations of mixed species of dolphins. The deep water close to shore sometimes brings oceanic species within watching range of people on shore, but usually the dolphins are mid-Bay, west of the Peninsula, or out at the edge of the submarine canyon. Winter whale watch cruises often have the unpredictable asset of dolphins interacting with whales or riding the boat's bow or stern wake.



We expect to be reading and writing about gray whales in February. The end of the southbound migration is expected.... in fact, gray whales have been seen going south on one side of the boat and north on the other, in February. Richard Ternullo, a member of this chapter's Scientific Advisory Committee and captain of whale watch vessel *Sea Wolf II*, says the first northbound gray whale was spotted February 17th this year. The grays' long migration is fraught with danger: transient killer whales, over-eager whale watch boats, Risso's dolphins that harass them. Dolphins seem to playfully, or aggressively, swim fast around whales, bumping, skimming, vocalizing, perhaps even ramming. Pacific white-sided dolphins have been seen in similar activity around larger whales, such as humpbacks, which speed up enough that the dolphins 'bow'-ride. The slower gray whales' speed isn't adequate, evidently, and the grays are likely to stop swimming, roll upside down, and (now here's the unexplained surprise) become sexually aroused to the point that it is obvious which whale is a male.

Richard reports the grays had another adversary in February: *offshore* killer whales. A pod of several killer whales appeared off the Monterey Peninsula; Richard recognized markings on the killer whales that placed them in the seldom-seen “offshore” population. Not much is known about them; they seem to prey on fish instead of mammals. This time they began what may have been aggressive, or playful, behavior toward migrating gray whales off the Monterey Peninsula. The gray whales reacted with the usual stop-roll-arousal response. This may have become a common reaction to odontocetes by the gray whales, but it's the first documented sighting, Richard says, of *offshore* killer whales interacting with gray whales.

Spotting our “summer” whales in winter has been a happy event for a few years. A mom-calf pair of blue whales was seen one January in recent years, but just once. A few humpback whales have been noted each winter for a few consecutive years. Historical reports on whales in Monterey Bay, before their near-extinction, list a few humpbacks wintering over. Whaling records from the 1920-30s show little difference winter to summer in the number of humpback whales killed in Monterey Bay, according to Richard. The humpbacks seem to be feeding in winter as well as in summer. More opportunistic feeders than some other whales, the humpbacks have been enjoying Monterey's krill and schools of small fish consistently. Richard says one to six mostly juvenile humpbacks have been spotted from time to time this winter. He has recorded fluke shots and hopes to match them to whales in the catalog of California humpbacks. Scientists are publishing assumptions that more male than female humpbacks migrate to the breeding grounds. For example: “Scientists claim that the females possibly stay behind in the hopes of feeding and getting bigger, as size is more important than age in the sexual maturity of a humpback.” (John Schaumburg, “Biogeography of the Humpback Whale,” [//bss.sfsu.edu/holzman/courses/](http://bss.sfsu.edu/holzman/courses/) ... citing Miranda Brown, et al. “Evidence for a Sex-Segregated Migration in the Humpback Whale (*Megaptera novaeanglia*).” *Proceedings: Biological Sciences* 259(1355):229-234)

Another first-time-sighting occurred for Richard when he observed ventral lunge feeding by a humpback. Humpbacks' hugely-extended throat pleats supposedly make it difficult-to-impossible for them to lunge at a school of fish while the whale is upside down. Perhaps young whales' throats return to normal position fast enough to allow ventral feeding. Humpbacks are upright in the water column, on either side on the surface, or rising vertically with mouths wide open. It is such unexpected behavior that Richard didn't believe his eyes when he might have seen ventral lunge feeding once before in the distance. But this time there was no mistake: this happened right next to the whale watch boat ! Thanks, Richard. May the surprises continue ! -ed.

The Humpback Whales of Tonga

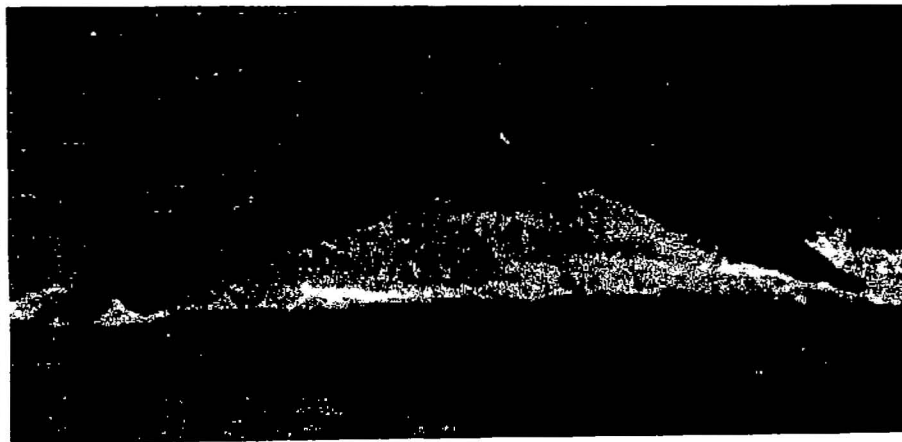
The stark white of the ventral side of a humpback body is always a surprise to those of us expecting a dark brown or black whale when we see humpbacks. Southern hemisphere humpbacks often have bright white markings on the belly and up the sides. The whale below is from New Caledonia. I first saw photos of southern humpback whales at UCSC when Michael Poole, one of Ken Norris' former doctoral students, gave a talk about his work in Moorea, French Polynesia. Since then, we are proud to say Michael has continued whale and dolphin research as director of The Marine Mammal Research Program at the Island Research Center and Environmental Observatory (CRIOBE) on Moorea, French Polynesia. In 2002, French Polynesia's government accepted his long-standing work to create a whale and dolphin sanctuary half the size of the USA. In addition, the IWC and the South Pacific Humpback Whale Project (now re-named The South Pacific Whale Research Consortium) have given attention to the status of the southern humpback whale populations... not always encouraging data. Here are cut-and-paste versions of some publications as they relate to Tonga. Please note the bibliography at the end of the article. -ed.

First, Mark Orams wrote a paper that elaborated on the talk he gave at an ACS conference in Monterey. "The sheltered, warm waters of the Vava'u island group in the Kingdom of Tonga have been an important breeding ground for humpback whales for centuries. It seems likely that these islands are an important breeding area for the population of humpbacks that once migrated close to the shore of New Zealand. This group of humpbacks sustained a significant whaling industry in New Zealand, which between 1911 and 1963 killed over 3600 humpbacks. Many thousands more were killed on the Antarctic feeding grounds, including 48,000 illegally taken by the former Soviet Union in the 1950s and 1960s. By 1964 numbers of the New Zealand/Tonga humpbacks have been reduced from an estimated 10,000 to less than 250 whales. This "collapse" of the population reflected a worldwide trend in humpback numbers as a result of whaling activities. Despite dwindling numbers, whaling practices continued on a small scale in Tonga until 1978 when the King of Tonga imposed a prohibition on whaling. The protection provided by the decision probably saved the humpbacks from complete extinction in Tongan waters." However, numbers of humpbacks in Tonga do not seem to be increasing at the hopeful rate seen around Australia.

Rochelle Constantine of the University of Auckland wrote about research. "In 1994, the South Pacific Humpback Whale Project began research on the humpback whales in the Southwest Pacific Ocean. The research involves photo-identification of flukes, DNA analysis and song profiles in order to establish the recovery rate and migration patterns of the Tongan humpback whales. To date there have been some very interesting findings. We have a low resight rate of the 100 whales we have photo-identified in Tongan waters. This leads to the question of where do the whales go when not in the Vava'u group of islands in Tonga? We have one whale photo-identified in Tonga which has been photo-identified in East Australia and there are elements of their song which are similar but even so, the Tongan whales' song is least like East Australian whales when compared to New Caledonia and New Zealand."

10 good reasons to visit Tonga:

+It is the only kingdom left in Polynesia.
+It has never been colonised. +It has fantastic sailing. +For divers it offers caves, walls, coral gardens that are truly spectacular. + It's a place where you can find a beach just for yourself. +It's the 'new' place for serious surfers. +It has idyllic offshore islands. +English is widely spoken. +It is a safe destination. +Pleasant weather all year.
Tonga Visitors Bureau tvb@kalianet



In Auckland, NZ, in March 2005, the South Pacific Whale Research Consortium met to consider data collected during whale and dolphin research, especially regarding humpbacks. "Overall, the primary purpose of the group is to coordinate and facilitate non-lethal research on large whales in the South Pacific region.Documentation of the basic cetacean biodiversity of Oceania is a primary goal of the Consortium...." The following is a summary of the report from Tonga, surveyed in 2004. "The 2004 field season took place in the Vava'u group, which has been the site of a standardized field season since 1999, and involved two teams of 10 people. A live-aboard catamaran was used as the research platform, from 4-25 September. The methodology employed was the established technique of photo-identification via the ventral surface of the tail fluke; collection of biopsy & sloughed skin samples for DNA analysis; and collection of acoustic data. Despite poor weather, the field season achieved 37.5 hours of humpback whale encounter, with 50 encounters (96 animals) over the 18 days on water. 46 skin samples were collected from humpback whales. 30 photographic identification images were obtained and added to the Tonga catalogue; of these, 10 photo-IDs match skin samples."

White Humpback Whale a Mystery

Most conversations about southern hemisphere humpback whales include wondering about the all-white humpback that has been sighted Down Under. The following is from an article by Jan TenBruggencate in the Honolulu Advertiser, 3/11/02.

"White humpback whales appear to be exceedingly rare and were unheard of until one was seen in the Pacific Ocean in 1991. Since then, the all-white humpback has been seen repeatedly, usually appearing off the coast of Australia on an annual basis. It is part of the Southern Hemisphere stock of humpback whales, appearing to be distinct from the North Pacific whales that visit Hawaii.

"Paul Forestell of the Pacific Whale Foundation said the humpback, which appears to be a male in his late teens, may be albino but the pink eye colouring that would be considered with this has not been confirmed in this animal. Partial white colouring is far more common in Southern Hemisphere humpbacks than in the North Pacific and it's possible that the whale may be white-skinned without being albino.

"Forestell said there has never been a documented case of an albino humpback but albinos have been recorded for about 20 other cetacean species, including bottlenose dolphin, pilot whales, sperm whales, killer whales and spinner dolphins.

"Southern Hemisphere humpback whales spend their winter in tropical waters near the equator, while the northern humpback whales are feeding in Alaska. In the Northern Hemisphere autumn and winter, the North Pacific humpbacks head south to the tropics and the southern hemisphere whales head south to Antarctica." ~

Aw, Mom, Not Whaleloaf Again!

Japanese government trying to unload surplus whale meat

Japan's "research" whaling has led to a market glutted with whale meat. Burdened by 2,700 tons of whale heading for freezer burn, the Japanese government has launched a campaign to overcome an increasingly common sentiment: "To put it simply," says one Japanese diner, "whale meat tastes horrible." The government has issued a pamphlet called -- what else? -- Scrumptious Whale, and is distributing the blubbery meat to schools, homes for the elderly, and pet food stores. Greens are concerned that feeding whale meatballs to students will "create a new constituency that will support whaling in the future," says Sue Lieberman of WWF. Undeterred, or just oblivious, Japan plans to kill some 40 percent more minke whales in 2006 than it did last year. Commercial whaling is illegal internationally, but whaling for research, which Japan claims to do, has been OK'd by the International Whaling Commission.

straight to the source: MSNBC.com, Associated Press, 10 Feb 2006

straight to the source: [The Times](http://TheTimes), Leo Lewis and Mark Henderson, 10 Feb 2006

Thanks to Carol Maier, ACSMB Conservation Chair, for continuing to post items such as this via email.

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Thanks

Many thanks to those who came to Monterey's Fisherman's Wharf during Whale Fest, Jan. 21-2. Special thanks to those who stayed around and talked with visitors, helped with the display and materials, and made a great impression for ACS Monterey Bay's education activities: Jerry Loomis, Sallie Eastham, Harriet Mitteldorf, Sandy Rosenberg.

SIGHTINGS

Dorsals and no dorsals: Risso's dolphins and Northern Right-whale dolphins

Compiled by
Monterey Bay Whale Watch
For updates see
www.gowhales.com



Date	#	Type of Animal(s)
2/27		No trip, poor weather
2/26 p.m.		No trip, poor weather
2/26 a.m.	3	Gray Whales
	1	Humpback Whale
	1	Minke Whale
2/26 early a.m.	11	Gray Whales
	2200	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
	1600	Risso's Dolphins
	800	Northern Right Whale Dolphins
2/25 p.m.	4	Gray Whales
	1	Humpback Whale
	2500	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
	2000	Risso's Dolphins
	1500	Northern Right Whale Dolphins
2/25 a.m.	6	Gray Whales
	300	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
	900	Risso's Dolphins
	250	Northern Right Whale Dolphins
2/25 early a.m.	3	Gray Whales
	200	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
2/24 p.m.	2	Gray Whales
	600	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
	500	Risso's Dolphins
2/24 a.m.	3	Gray Whales
	1000	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
	30	Risso's Dolphins
2/23 p.m.	2	Gray Whales
2/23 a.m.	8	Gray Whales
	1	Humpback Whale
	800	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
	25	Risso's Dolphins
2/22 p.m.	4	Gray Whales
	45	Risso's Dolphins
2/22 a.m.	5	Gray Whales
	75	Risso's Dolphins
2/21 p.m.	3	Gray Whales

	1	Humpback Whale
	50	Risso's Dolphins
2/21 a.m.	2	Gray Whales
2/20 p.m.	1	Gray Whale
	1	Humpback Whale
2/20 a.m.	2	Gray Whales
	2	Humpback Whales
2/19 p.m.	2	Gray Whales
	2	Humpback Whale
	45	Risso's Dolphins
2/19 a.m.	3	Gray Whales
	1	Humpback Whale
	50	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
	12	Short-beaked Common Dolphins
	60	Risso's Dolphins
2/19 early a.m.	2	Gray Whales
	2	Humpback Whales
2/18 p.m.	3	Humpback Whales
	600	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
	500	Northern Right Whale Dolphins
2/18 a.m.	3	Gray Whales
	1	Humpback Whale
	30	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
2/18 early a.m.	180	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
2/17	8	Gray Whales
	150	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
	2100	Risso's Dolphins
	800	Northern Right Whale Dolphins
2/16	2	Gray Whales
	120	Risso's Dolphins
2/15		No trip
2/14	4	Gray Whales
	50	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
	300	Risso's Dolphins
2/13 p.m.	5	Gray Whales
	50	Pacific White-sided Dolphins

	250	Risso's Dolphins
2/13 a.m.	2	Gray Whales
2/12 p.m.	6	Gray Whales
	450	Risso's Dolphins
2/12 a.m.	6	Gray Whales
	20	Risso's Dolphins
2/12 early a.m.	11	Gray Whales
2/11 p.m.	5	Gray Whales
2/11 a.m.	4	Gray Whales
2/11 early a.m.	3	Gray Whales
2/10 p.m.	8	Gray Whales
	15	Risso's Dolphins
2/10 a.m.	9	Gray Whales
	30	Risso's Dolphins
2/9	4	Gray Whales
	1	Humpback Whale
	20	Risso's Dolphins
2/8 p.m.	10	Gray Whales
	55	Risso's Dolphins
	1	Northern Right Whale Dolphin
2/8 a.m.	8	Gray Whales
	10	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
2/7 p.m.	3	Gray Whales
	200	Risso's Dolphins
2/7 a.m.	4	Gray Whales
	1000	Risso's Dolphins
2/6 p.m.	6	Gray Whales
2/6 a.m.	8	Gray Whales
2/5 p.m.	2	Gray Whales
	1	Humpback Whale
2/5 a.m.	6	Gray Whales
	1	Humpback Whale
2/5 early a.m.	400	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
2/4 p.m.	6	Gray Whales
	1	Humpback Whale
2/4 a.m.	4	Gray Whales
	2	Humpback Whales
	4	Harbor Porpoise
2/4 early a.m.	1	Humpback Whale
2/3 p.m.	3	Gray Whales
	10	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
	3	Dall's Porpoise
2/3 a.m.	4	Gray Whales
	25	Risso's Dolphins
2/2	8	Gray Whales
2/1 p.m.	4	Gray Whales
	35	Risso's Dolphins
2/1 a.m.	12	Gray Whales
	1	Humpback Whale
	60	Risso's Dolphins



ID marks on the backs of Gray Whales:

"whale knuckles," mottled skin, white barnacle scars. Prints of photos from Monterey Bay by Esta Lee Albright.

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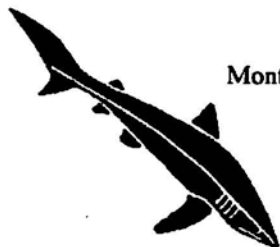
Soundings



American Cetacean Society ~ Monterey Bay Chapter

April 2006

The Newsletter of the Monterey Bay Chapter of ACS
AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY - MONTEREY BAY CHAPTER
Monthly meeting at HOPKINS MARINE STATION, Lecture Hall, Boatworks Building
(Across from the American Tin Cannery Outlet Stores)



Date: Thursday, April 27, 2006 Time: 7:30 p.m. Please join us at 7:00 for refreshments.

Speaker: Kevin Weng, Hopkins Marine Station, Stanford University

Title: Life Styles of White, Salmon, Mako and Blue Sharks in the North Pacific

Have you ever wondered where sharks live? Do they dwell in one location their entire lives or do they like to roam the ocean?

How does their behavior compare between different species?

Learn how researcher Kevin Weng from Hopkins Marine Station and colleagues track the movements of white, salmon, shortfin mako and blue sharks in the North Pacific Ocean. Using cutting edge satellite tracking technology, they were able to follow the movements of these sharks and show that related species have very different kinds of migratory behaviors. Adult white sharks moved from California into the open Pacific as far as Hawaii, while juveniles used the continental shelf of southern California and Baja. Shortfin makos and blue sharks used the California Current system but also made large offshore movements to the south and west. Salmon sharks were more likely to be in the productive waters of Alaska and the Bering Sea but also made rapid long distance migrations south into subtropical waters.

Come and learn about the biology of these fascinating creatures, their unique behaviors, and hypotheses about the factors that drive them to undertake such long journeys during their lifetimes.

Alan & Sheila Baldridge, Kevin Weng and Hopkins Marine Station provided information about this program.)

The small shark graphic is from the web site ClipArtGallery.com. Other shark graphics in this issue are credited to Fiona's Shark Mania at www.oceanstar.com/shark



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CALENDAR

April 22: Earth Day! See local announcements for events.

April 27: Regular ACS MB meeting. See cover.

May 30: Regular ACS MB meeting

Obviously this editor needs input for the calendar! Use the email above to post training, meetings, etc.

BeachCOMBERS Training Begins Apr. 29

Here's a chance to learn and help.

Hello, I am sending this email to let know about an opportunity to join our volunteer beach survey team.

We are offering a training class for the Coastal Ocean Mammal/ Bird Education and Research Surveys (COMBERS) volunteer program. The classes will be held at the main seminar room at Moss Landing Marine Laboratories during four consecutive Saturday sessions 29 April to 20 May 2006 at 2 PM (bring your lunch). Please come to the first class to learn about the program, and how you can become a "citizen scientist". You will learn about the local marine birds, mammals and sea turtles! You also will provide valuable data on the impacts of oil, entanglement, and other mortality factors affecting animals in our marine sanctuary. [Agenda available at the web site below or from this editor as email]

Requirements for our volunteers: 12 month commitment, able to walk 2-3 mile beach once per month, volunteers must provide own transportation to survey site. This program was started in May 1997, for more information see a description on the Sanctuary Integrated Monitoring Network website: <http://www.mbnms-simon.org/sections/beachCombers/index.php?l=n>

See you there!

-Hannah

Hannah Nevins
Moss Landing Marine Laboratories
8272 Moss Landing Road
Moss Landing, CA 95039 USA
831-771-4422



Editor's Note:

It's possible more nature documentaries are filmed around Monterey Bay than 'most anywhere else. If you liked the BBC video series "Blue Planet," you might want to see their new documentary, "Deep Blue." Along with magical micro-photography of cilia on jellies, coral and such, there are multi-species feeding frenzies, great shots of birds, including shearwaters underwater, a polar bear trying for air-breathing belugas.... They may have used some footage from the earlier series: those orcas attacking gray whales looked familiar. Next question: where are the many places they filmed these adventures in addition to Monterey?



Soundings from Ships Gave Way to Satellites and We Got a Map

We hang them on the wall and buy them on greeting cards – the lovely three-dimensional maps showing the contours of the submarine canyon in Monterey Bay. How was it done? An obituary in the New York Times (1/9/06 p. A22) tells how it all began.

“William F. Haxby, who created the first maps of the ocean floor to be based on satellite measurements of the water’s surface and became a master at translating complicated marine data into comprehensible visual displays, died on Wednesday at his home in Westwood, N.J... He was a research scientist at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory at Columbia University since 1978....

“His signal achievement, several ocean scientists said, was the first global ‘gravity field’ map of the world’s oceans, created in 1983 using measurements of the heights of the sea surface collected five years earlier by a satellite called Seasat that carried a then-new type of downward pointing radar that could create images. Dimples and humps in the sea, not discernible up close, but detectable with satellites, are generated by variations in the earth’s gravitational field that are created by seabed features like seamounts, chasms and ridges.

“Before the gravity maps, three dimensional charts of the sea floor were drawn largely by using thousands of individual soundings taken over the centuries from ships – a method involving much guess work and leaving vast gaps.

“Dr. Haxby led a small team that ‘invented the method to convert millions of arcane satellite observations into quantitative grids and then exquisite images,’ said David T. Sandwell, a researcher at the Scripps Institute of Oceanography in San Diego.”

Of all the maps Dr. Haxby evidently generated, the New York Times obituary featured a three-dimensional map of Monterey Bay, which is owned by Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory at Columbia University.

Looking further at maps of the bay, we find one from MBARI (Monterey Bay Research Institute) on their web site at News Releases 13 July 2000. (www.mbari.org/news_releases/2000/jul13_map.html)

“A striking map of Monterey Canyon, imaged in never-before-seen detail by MBARI scientists two years ago has been selected for inclusion in a printed and online gallery of maps recently published by the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI). MBARI geology research technician Norman Maher used ESRI’s GIS software to create the canyon map which includes an overlay of seafloor faults.

The online map gallery also contains information about Monterey Canyon, the surrounding seafloor features, and the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.” This is quite an honor for MBARI. The ESRI map book is the “only publication dedicated to acknowledging the important and innovative accomplishments of GIS users around the world.” Published annually since 1984, “each volume of the ESRI map book showcases a portion of the work presented at the map gallery at the annual ESRI International User Conference.”

(<http://www.esri.com/mapmuseum/>)

Mbari gave *Soundings* special permission to publish the similar map at the right. Permission on file with editor of *Soundings*.

Image:canyon98 high2.jpg

Credit: © MBARI 1998

Description: Satellite image of Monterey Bay canyon



Tiny Food



To Krill or Not to Krill By Jim Ayers and Don Croll

From the *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, Feb. 26, 2006, www.santacruzsentinel.com/archive/2006/February/26/edit/stories/06edit.htm
Posted on the web by Pelican Network www.pelicannetwork.net and on email by Milos Radakovich.

When the water is cold and conditions right, small shrimp-like crustaceans called krill swarm off the California coast by the tens of thousands of tons. These animals serve as a giant food buffet for the sea, providing sustenance for baleen whales, seabirds, rockfish, Pacific salmon, hake, squid and many other fish. Nearly every creature in the sea either eats krill or eats something else that does. Even humans are only one or two feeding levels away from krill.

So, if krill are the foundation of our Pacific food web, why in the world would we do anything that could jeopardize their health or abundance? The answer is simple, we shouldn't — it would be ecologically and economically irresponsible. Yet, when federal fishery managers were approached by managers for the Monterey Bay, Gulf of Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries about protecting krill as part of their revised sanctuary management plans, the fishery managers came back with several management options, including one that would allow commercial fishing for krill.

Beyond the clear danger in exploiting a resource that forms the base of our coastal marine ecosystems, this doesn't make sense from an economic perspective. Commercial fisheries worth millions of dollars depend on healthy krill populations. Ever wonder why salmon flesh is orange? The answer is krill. What are rockfish eating? Krill. And the list goes on. Why would we endanger these important food and economic resources to exploit the species that form the very base of these resources? This is why commercial fishing organizations, such as the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, overwhelmingly oppose the exploitation of krill.

Then there's the recreational and tourism side of the story. Each of those massive blue whales that migrate up our coast every year eat about a ton of krill a day. The breaching humpbacks of Monterey Bay are feeding on krill. The Monterey Bay Aquarium generates more than \$250 million every year to California's economy, with visitors from all over the world coming to see both the aquarium and the exquisite Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. The health of the sanctuary, in part, depends upon the abundance of krill in the cold Pacific waters.

Huge numbers of seabirds such as Sooty shearwaters, Cassin's auklets and common murrens concentrate off the coast of California, Oregon and Washington, and are also dependent upon krill. The consequences of a shortage of krill were foreshadowed last summer when nutrient-rich upwelling currents failed to materialize off the California coast. Without these currents, there were no life-sustaining swarms of krill, and without their normally abundant food supply, large numbers of seabirds died off the California, Oregon and Washington coasts — their emaciated bodies a sad testimony of what can happen if the ocean ecosystem food web is depleted.

While krill abundance may fluctuate, from an ecological perspective there is never a time when there is a krill "surplus." Simply put, there is enough krill for marine life to feed successfully, or, there is a shortage of krill and some marine animals starve.

Knowing this, the states of California, Oregon and Washington all enacted legislation that has prohibited commercial krill fishing in state waters — a move universally supported by scientists, environmentalists, commercial fishermen, recreational fishermen, whale watching businesses, and many governmental marine resource managers. It is time for the federal policy makers to follow suit and ban commercial krill fishing in federal waters. In less than two weeks, the Pacific Fishery Management Council will be deciding the fate of krill in the federal waters off California, Oregon and Washington. We urge them to look at science,

economics and consequences of healthy krill populations.

We all have a stake in what happens with krill. If we damage the foundation of our ocean food web, the whole structure could collapse. The risk simply isn't worth taking. It's time to prohibit commercial krill fishing in the Pacific.

Jim Ayers is vice president of Oceana, which is dedicated to protecting Pacific ocean ecosystems. Don Croll is an associate professor of ecology and evolutionary biology at the UC Santa Cruz Center for Ocean Health.

Plankton Layers: Salad Bars in the Open Ocean

A project funded by the Office of Naval Research Grant # N00014-01-1-0277 to T.J. Cowles at Oregon State University.

http://literacyworks.org/ocean/plankton/project_plankton.html

In the ocean, there are microscopic single-celled plants known as phytoplankton (*phyto*= plant and *plankton*= drifting). Phytoplankton are important for many reasons. They provide nearly half of the oxygen to our atmosphere through a process known as photosynthesis. Phytoplankton also are the main food source for small animals in the ocean. These small animals are known as zooplankton (*zoo* = animal and *plankton*= drifting). Zooplankton are important to the food web in the ocean, because zooplankton are eaten by larger oceanic animals. The health and growth of zooplankton depends on having enough phytoplankton cells available to eat.

Because they are so small, these plants and animals are easily moved about by ocean currents. Oceanographers want to know where large amounts (concentrations) of these plants and animals can be found. Oceanographers also want to know why some locations in the ocean have high concentrations of plankton, and why other locations have low concentrations.

In the last ten years, oceanographers have discovered that phytoplankton often form thin layers (less than 1 meter thick) in the upper 20-40 meters of the ocean. These layers extend several kilometers horizontally, and they last for many hours. Think of these thin layers as long salad bars in a restaurant filled with phytoplankton. The customers at the salad bars are the zooplankton!

This project investigates thin layers of plankton in the northern section of Monterey Bay, California. These shipboard measurements and experiments are part of a larger project funded by the Office of Naval Research. The larger project is called LOCO: Layered Organization in the Coastal Ocean. ~

Blue Whales and Krill

By Lovell and Libby Langstroth, *A Living Bay*, UC Press 2000, p114-5

Blue whales feed only on tiny shrimplike creatures called krill or euphausiids, small crustaceans they strain from the sea with their bristled baleen plates. To understand krill is to understand the blue whale. Every July in this area, a generation of krill reaches maturity, and their behavior then makes them vulnerable to the whales' exploitation. At night krill migrate vertically and disperse in shallow water to feed on phytoplankton, thereby escaping visual predators and presenting a very poor, diffuse target for the whales. During the day, however, they aggregate in dense masses at depths of 150-200 m on the edge of the Monterey Canyon, as we have learned with echosounders. And whales, it turns out, dive to precisely these dense krill masses, where they take the krill with huge gulps, perhaps a thousand krill at a gulp, thirteen gulps a dive, 120 dives a day – all told, a thousand kilograms of krill per day. (Croll 1998: Croll, Don. 1998. Whales, krill, and canyons. Lecture. Monterey Bay Aquarium, July 7, 1998) ~



"Why is there an article about fish?" you ask, "And it's another one from a newspaper besides." Well, we suggest you read the article this time from the viewpoint of fish as food for Odontocetes (eg., dolphins & porpoises) and pinnipeds (eg., Steller sea lions & the controversy over who is eating what in Alaska while sea otter numbers dive). Is this a method to help fish stocks recover – all economics ?

ECO-label for CA Fishermen?

By Emily Saarman

Distributed by Pelican Network after publication in
Santa Cruz Sentinel, March 14, 2006

King salmon and dungeness crabs caught off the CA coast may soon land at fish counters sporting a bright blue "Marine Stewardship Council" label. Fishermen hope the label will give them a green edge on the competition, luring shoppers who want their seafood caught in an eco-friendly way. "We want to offer consumers the best environmental choice," said Mike Sutton of the MSC, an international nonprofit in the United Kingdom. According to the UN, 76 percent of the world's commercial fish species are at risk, despite government management. Sutton believes the future of these fisheries lies in the hands of environmentally conscious consumers. By buying eco-friendly seafood, he hopes shoppers can improve the health of the ocean..... Like organic farmers, sustainable fisheries must meet specific guidelines to qualify for the Marine Stewardship Council label. These criteria assure that fishing will not decimate fish populations or harm the ocean ecosystem. The dungeness crab and king salmon fisheries in CA are on their way to receiving the council's approval. If they do, they will join the 14 council certified fisheries – totalling 4.5 percent of the world catch of wild edible fish..... Getting a MSC certification isn't easy – it can cost thousands of dollars and take as long as four years. "CA salmon fishermen are anxious to see their fishery certified because they believe it will help them compete," said Zeke Grader of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Association in San Francisco. Dungeness crab fishermen are eager for certification also, but some worry buyers who control the crab market will reap most of the benefits from the new label..... There's no question the MSC logo will give fishermen a competitive advantage. After the Alaska salmon fishery got certified in 2000, other Pacific Coast salmon fisheries began to feel squeezed out of the

School Supplies Delivered

School supplies for students at El Centro School, Baja, have been well received this spring. This is the remote school for children of the fishermen's village at San Ignacio Lagoon – the fishermen who protect gray whales in this birthing lagoon. After the successful fund-raising raffle by this chapter of ACS, Jerry Loomis, president, had school supplies and equipment, plus money, for them. Jerry has been in communication with a group in Texas, who are doing a similar project for the school, and followed their suggestions as to what is needed: some public address equipment, classroom supplies, baseballs, things we consider routine. Visiting the school in March, Jerry found old but very clean buildings and cheerful, well-organized staff. Jerry leads annual trips to San Ignacio with Baja Expeditions, whose camp manager, Alex Romero, has been both helpful and grateful re this project. Thanks to the Pucketts and all of You !

high-end eco-market. Soon, fishermen from British Columbia to CA scrambled to follow Alaska's lead. Beyond the logo, the council can provide advice and political leverage. After reviewing a fishery, consultants present fishermen with a report that outlines all the threats..... MSC's third-party opinion may prove important in CA where salmon and crabs are threatened by water pollution, stream degradation and water diversion for agriculture. Certification of the CA salmon and crab fisheries are likely to go smoothly, but some environmental groups have complained that MSC's requirements aren't strict enough. In April 2005 certification of the Alaskan pollock fishery drew criticism from environmental groups worried that pollock fishing would reduce the food available to endangered Steller's sea lions. It took four years and more than 40 corrective actions, but now [some] are confident Alaskan pollock are the best environmental choice in whitefish. Despite criticisms, most experts agree the label is a valuable tool for improving fisheries management because it changes the politics of fisheries to encourage conservation. "I think MSC is very useful in raising public awareness," said Peter Adams, fisheries investigation chief for the National Marine Fisheries Services's Santa Cruz lab. "I study fisheries for a living and it's not abundantly clear to me" what seafood is most sustainably harvested. Many environmentalists, marine scientists and fishermen agree that market driven conservation has tremendous potential. But for fisheries, at least, eco-labeling is still in its infancy.

(for the entire article see www.santacruzsentinel.com/archive/2006/March/14/local/stories/07local.htm) ~

SIGHTINGS

According to Magnum Force captain, **Leon Oliver**, of Monterey Whale

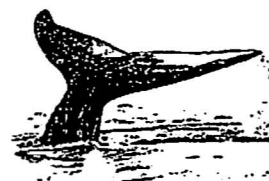
Watching, some days have brought remarkable sightings out on the ocean. On Saturday morning, March 25, the place to be was at the edge of the submarine canyon west of Point Joe. Over an area of about 5 square miles, there was an unusual gathering that consisted of: **50-60 gray whales**, many of them mating or involved in the typical rolling and twisting; **25 - 30 humpbacks** feeding on "bait fish;" with **Pacific white-sided dolphins** and **Northern right whale dolphins** joining in. Leon says the animals were so thick the whale watch boats had to sit with engines at idle to avoid possible harm to them. The diversity of Monterey at its finest. Soon the wind came up and perhaps the whales dispersed but boats were unable to travel offshore. Afterward, reports from fishermen had the humpbacks back north around Half Moon Bay. Otherwise, this was a month of gray whales, as March usually is the height of their northbound migration. Leon also reported gray whales on March 26 that were traveling in opposite directions: 4 were headed northwest and 2 were moving southeast, and the two groups were only about 30 feet apart.

Richard Ternullo, captain of Sea Wolf II, Monterey Bay Whale Watch, commented that the gathering on that Saturday was a once-in-a-lifetime event. You can see his estimates on the huge numbers below. Also, he observed dolphins swirling around gray whales, which has been known to stimulate mating-type activity.

Below is the list of sightings as compiled by Monterey Bay Whale Watch. See their web site at www.gowhales.com for updates. Meanwhile, the winter weather has continued into spring, bringing strong winds that, we hope, may result in productive upwelling. One local weatherman reported 20 days of rain in March. Accompanied by thunder, lightning, and other unusual weather conditions for Monterey, whale watchers have enjoyed what they could in the fine weather between storms. It's always an adventure.

Date	#	Type of Animal(s)
3/26 p.m.	8	Gray Whales
	3	Humpback Whales
	150	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
3/26 a.m.	15	Gray Whales
	4	Humpback Whales
	250	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
3/26 early a.m.	15	Humpback Whales
	2200	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
3/25	30	Gray Whales
	12	Humpback Whales
	2800	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
	600	Northern Right Whale Dolphins
3/24 p.m.	7	Gray Whales
3/24 a.m.	5	Gray Whales
3/23 p.m.	8	Gray Whales
3/23 a.m.	7	Gray Whales
3/22 p.m.	8	Gray Whales
	20	Risso's Dolphins
	3	Dall's Porpoise
	1	Northern Fur Seal
3/22 a.m.	10	Gray Whales
3/21	9	Gray Whales
3/20	3	Gray Whales
3/19		Poor weather
	20	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
	4	Harbor Porpoise
3/18	2	Humpback Whales
	30	Risso's Dolphins
3/17 p.m.	6	Gray Whales
3/17 a.m.	12	Gray Whales
3/16 p.m.	18	Gray Whales

3/16 a.m.	22	Gray Whales
3/15 p.m.	15	Gray Whales
3/15 a.m.	12	Gray Whales
	7	Killer Whales (transient type)
	200	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
	20	Risso's Dolphins
3/14 p.m.	7	Killer Whales (transient type)
	50	Risso's Dolphins
3/14 a.m.	10	Gray Whales
	35	Risso's Dolphins
3/13 p.m.	12	Gray Whales
	30	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
3/13 a.m.	9	Gray Whales
	20	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
3/12 p.m.	5	Gray Whales
	2	Humpback Whales
3/12 a.m.	11	Gray Whales
	25	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
3/12 early a.m.	5	Gray Whales
	18	Humpback Whales
	1200	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
	800	Northern Right Whale Dolphins
3/11 p.m.	6	Gray Whales
	15	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
3/11 a.m.	13	Gray Whales
	60	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
3/11 early a.m.	6	Gray Whales
	8	Humpback Whales
	1100	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
3/10 p.m.	10	Gray Whales
3/10 a.m.	7	Gray Whales
	2	Elephant Seals
3/9		No trip, poor weather
3/8	3	Gray Whales
	20	Risso's Dolphins



Gray whale tail fluke drawn
for Esta Lee Albright, ed. of
Soundings by a Hartnell student.

3/7 p.m.	12	Gray Whales
	4	Humpback Whales
	220	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
	300	Northern Right Whale Dolphins
3/7 a.m.	6	Gray Whales
	20	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
3/6	8	Gray Whales
	120	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
3/5		No trip, poor weather
3/4 p.m.	5	Gray Whales
3/4 a.m.	8	Gray Whales
	20	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
3/4 early a.m.	17	Gray Whales
	5	Humpback Whales
	1	Minke Whale
	800	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
	200	Northern Right Whale Dolphins
3/3		No trip, poor weather
3/2	5	Gray Whales
	230	Risso's Dolphins
3/1	6	Gray Whales
	1	Humpback Whale
	600	Pacific White-sided Dolphins

American Cetacean Society
Monterey Bay Chapter
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Pacific Grove CA 93950
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In this issue:

Program about SHARKS !

Bay map

Krill & plankton needed

Correct salmon

Sightings

Calendar



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American Cetacean Society Membership Application ACS Chapter #24:Monterey Bay

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Thank You ! Thank You !

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Soundings



American Cetacean Society ~ Monterey Bay Chapter

May 2006

The Newsletter of the Monterey Bay Chapter of ACS

AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY - MONTEREY BAY CHAPTER

Monthly meeting at HOPKINS MARINE STATION, Lecture Hall, Boatworks Building

(Across from the American Tin Cannery Outlet Stores)

Date: Thursday, May 25, 2006

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Please join us at 7:00 for refreshments

Speaker: Michelle Jeffries, Associate Curator
of Mammals, Monterey Bay Aquarium

Title: **Sea Otters of Monterey Bay Aquarium**

Photo © Monterey Bay Aquarium Foundation For color photos provided
by Michelle Jeffries, see ACS MB's web site: www.starrsites.com/acsmmb/



Our speaker, who has wide experience in animal behavior, will tell us the "inside" story of the sea otter exhibit at the Aquarium. She will cover the otters in the exhibit, their day-to-day life, what has been learned about their behavior and how this all ties in the Aquarium's Sea Otter Research and Conservation Program (SORAC). Michelle has played an integral part in the training of the otters, believing that behavioral conditioning can be a valuable husbandry tool to improve an animal's care and which can answer questions about their capabilities. She is a firm believer that "the animals have all the answers - all you have to do is ask the right questions".

She has worked with top scientists in the Marine Field including Sam Rigeway, Ken Norris, and Ron Schusterman, and apart from sea otters has experience with a variety of animals such as whales, dolphins, seals, sea lions, primates, manatees, sharks, rays, octopus, and Mola, molas (sunfish).

She will also give us an overview of the plans for the upcoming freshwater otter exhibit., which will open in April 2007. Presently, this temporary exhibit plans to display the Asian Short-clawed and African Spot-necked Otters.

This will be a very interesting presentation and the perfect time to come and ask the expert all those things you've wondered about those charismatic creatures which, for many people, are the highlight of their visit to the Monterey Bay Aquarium.



Conservation: 2 Issues That Need YOU

Fund the National Marine Sanctuary

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary has accomplished noteworthy projects in research, coordination with local groups, monitoring, publications – you name it. And, it's always been done on a comparatively small budget and now things are getting worse. The following letter was drafted by Kaitilin Gaffney of Ocean Conservancy. Our Conservation Chair, Carol Maehr, checked with Jerry Loomis, the chapter's president, then sent copies snail mail from ACSMB to Sam Farr, Feinstein and Boxer. **Letters from individuals or other organizations and states other than CA would be great, too, so Carol checked and found that letters in May would be helpful even if a little far along in the process. Letter-writing time, folks!**

Note: To receive notice that you can help in a timely manner, get on Carol's Urgent List for Email Alerts.

Write Carol at: c.maehr@worldnet.att.net

Sent April 16, 2006 to Congressman Sam Farr

Dear Congressman Farr,

Thank you for your leadership in ocean protection for many years. I am writing to urge you to work to restore the National Marine Sanctuary Program budget to \$51 million for FY 2007. The National Marine Sanctuary Program experienced a dramatic reduction in funding in the FY 2006 appropriations cycle, dropping from \$51 million in FY 2005 to \$35 million in FY 2006. This 30% budget reduction is significant and cannot be sustained without impacts to the services and programs provided by the sanctuary program to communities around the country, including California's central coast.

The Sanctuary has had to reduce resource protection staff positions that may constrain the ability to address significant marine resource management issues and may cut back the multicultural outreach program at a time when more education of diverse ocean users, not less, is needed. Key research monitoring programs, essential for determining and tracking the health of the Sanctuary, may also be curtailed. Implementation of the updated Management Plan developed over the last several years with the input and time of hundreds of local citizens and groups, may be severely restricted.

The National Marine Sanctuary Program is one of our nation's most critical ocean science, conservation and education programs. Adequate funding is needed to continue the scientific research, monitoring, exploration, outreach, and public awareness of our marine heritage.

Unfortunately, the President's request for the National Marine Sanctuary Program is only \$35 million. As you and your colleagues finalize our nation's funding priorities, we hope that you will work hard to increase the budget to \$51 million. We ask that you continue to be a champion for the National Marine Sanctuary Program and ensure that it lives up to its mission of conserving our nation's valuable ocean resources.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, American Cetacean Society, Monterey Chapter Conservation Chair, Carol Maehr

Marine Life Protection Act Promises Ocean Protection

In 1999, California passed a landmark law - the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) - requiring creation of a statewide network of protected areas in the ocean, known as "marine protected areas" (MPAs). A well-designed MPA network can provide havens for ocean wildlife, help restore ecosystems, and protect the biological gems of our coast.

Guided by the requirements of the MLPA and by a team of scientific advisors, over the past year, fishermen, divers, naturalists, educators, conservationists and local citizens have been working to develop proposals for protection. In March 2006, three separate proposals for protected areas along the Central Coast were made to the Fish and Game Commission. By November 2006, the Commission will choose one of these proposals.

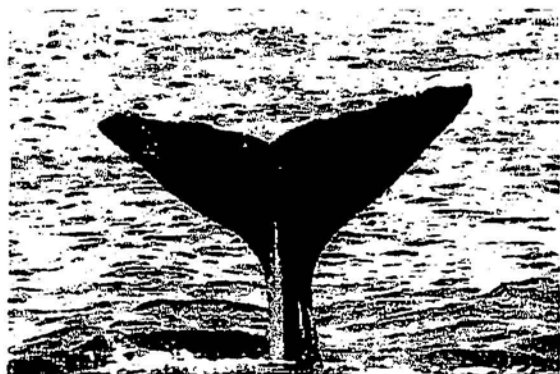
(continued on page 6 under the list of ACS Board Members)

Sperm Whales Of Dominica

A few times a year, Monterey whale watchers may get a glimpse of a wandering sperm whale. Some sightings seem to involve a young whale, probably a male, at the edge of the Monterey Canyon offshore west or along the Moss Landing depths. According to various aerial surveys, there are sperm whales grouped farther offshore. Andrew Armour of Dominica writes about topography that reminds us a bit of our Central Coast (http://www.delphis.dm/crystal_blue/whale.htm): "Dominica's topography is characterized by steep, tall mountains. These contours continue to our underwater landscape and therefore conditions which lend themselves to Sperm Whale adaptations (i.e. deep water bottom feeding) can be found close to the shore." 8-12 Sperm Whales may be in the area year round.

Our correspondent from England, Gill Sinclair, went to see, and she gave us permission to use her email of 4/17/06 and her web site: www.whalewatchers.net The photos are Gill's, used with permission.

"I went to Dominica last month. The weather was lovely and the mountains of Dominica form a wonderful backdrop to the whales & dolphins. Quite a few mother & calf sperm whale pairs, but not as many encounters with dolphins as I expected. However, we did have fantastic encounters with one group of bottlenoses and two groups of spotted dolphins, energetically bow-riding, and it reminded me of the pacific white-sides, northern right-whales and Dall's in Monterey! Re. whaling in the Caribbean, apparently they do still occasionally kill dolphins in Dominica but also, sadly, we did see evidence of Japan's "vote buying" at the IWC - a shiny new harbour constructed for the fishermen of Dominica with Japanese money. I know there is a danger that Norway, Japan & Iceland and their alliance will have a majority at the IWC this year - I really hope that no retrograde decisions are taken. It is a very difficult situation in countries like Dominica where some people are working hard to build a whale-watching industry whilst others are being persuaded to support cetacean-hunting."



Flukes
Mom and calf



Dominicans call it
the "nature island",
a mini paradise of

rainforested slopes and mountain streams running down to an unpolluted sea. This country of banana plantations and artisan fishing celebrated twenty one years of independence from Britain last year, but even as it comes of age Dominica faces accusations that it is sacrificing it's reputation as a guardian of wildlife in return for cash. Dominica lacks the golden sands of other Caribbean countries, instead its selling itself as the nature island. The visitors whose cruise ships dock at the capital have come for the wildlife and Dominica's tropical forests and for an environment as yet unspoilt by development. And they come for the clear warm sea, its corals and its whales. But, amazingly, Dominica uses its national vote to support Japan in the killing of whales elsewhere in the world. Dominica is the smallest of nations, barely 70,000 people live here. But on the International Whaling Commission, Dominica has the same vote as the US or Britain. It's not hard to see why Japan might want to court this country.... A leading politician claims Japan has explicitly used aid to induce Dominica to support whaling. Atherton Martin says he resigned as Environment Minister because his country gave in, albeit to pressure. In his first interview since he left office, he claimed Japan threatened to withdraw future aid unless it got Dominica's vote. *From the transcript of an excellent in-depth report by BBC News, "Buying Votes from Dominica," 2003, now at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/events/newsnight/994507.stm>* In the 2005 IWC, Dominica was one of 23 countries voting in favor of Japan's proposal to resume commercial whaling. 29 countries voted against the proposal. Continued pressure on IWC to withstand Japan and allies is needed. This chapter and others in ACS are supporting a delegate to the next IWC conference in order to strengthen the lobby against commercial whaling. -Ed. ~

MOSS LANDING HARBOR HOSTS NUMBERS OF

People driving across the bridge at Moss Landing harbor, fishermen on the jetties, Monterey Bay Aquarium folks out tracking sea otters, and Tom Kieckhefer of Pacific Cetacean Group, which actually counts the otters from the Moss Landing jetties to Kirby Park in Elkhorn Slough – all agree there are more otters than usual to be seen in Moss Landing harbor area this year. Awareness brought otter observers to join the harbor staff and the Coast Guard on April 1st Opening Day of the salmon season. There was at least one dicey situation, reported in Monterey Herald on 4/11/06. A boater may have deliberately driven into a raft of resting sea otters. Otherwise, observers and law enforcement alike were in boats with bull horns, reminding eager fishermen in boats to SLOW DOWN. This is an annual concern at salmon season opening. This year it was critical.

“A recent count confirmed that nearly 100 sea otters (about 4% of the southern sea otter population) reside in or otherwise use these areas,” writes Andrew Johnson of the Sea Otter Research and Conservation group at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. (1) “In the late 1990s, we saw an increase in otter numbers, mostly males in the slough (up to 75 animals or so); however, those numbers dropped fairly quickly a few years ago, and as recently as early 2005, we often saw only a few animals (e.g. an occasional female with a pup).”

What’s the background of these changes? Tom Kieckhefer shared with *Soundings* the concentrated sea otter counts done by Pacific Cetacean Group’s Sea Otter Ecology Project, 1994 to the present. Sure enough, the count grew from about 4 otters in 1994, to a maximum survey count of 81 otters on 26 Feb. 2000. Then it dropped. Numbers of otters from the Moss Landing jetty to Kirby Park were a mean of 5.5 and other low, low totals.(2)

“Interestingly, aerial surveys conducted by CDFG in Monterey Bay during the spring of 2002 and 2003 documented an increase in otters offshore of Moss Landing.” wrote Tom. And then, this year, 2006, Tom reported 75 otters in the jetty area alone, including a raft of 64 otters, just before the salmon fishing season opened on 4/1. Such a group belongs in the dreams of otter enthusiasts. Maybe early fur traders saw it; most of us haven’t.

“Two obvious reasons exist for otters to move into this area: food and shelter/protection,” writes Andrew Johnson. “The slough is a protected area, and I have not doubt that otters rest in the area to take shelter from storms and rough sea conditions. In addition, kelp gets torn up during these storms, so the protective features of a kelp bed are not available during these times and make it more likely that otters will seek protected areas. As we see with otters in this area and along Cannery Row, and in the Monterey Harbor, it is clear that the animals will acclimate to the presence and proximity of people if they drive an advantage from doing so.

“I suspect that otter numbers in the area dropped as food supplies diminished. Now, it seems that prey species have recovered and the otters are taking advantage. A few years ago, large numbers of otters – perhaps many of those that vanished from the slough – moved offshore to exploit heavy recruitment in Dungeness crabs. Now the food availability in the slough – clams, crabs, mussels (in the harbors), worms, etc. – seems quite good. Although many of the otters exit the slough to forage in the ocean, many others work up the slough and in the various channels to locate food. It’s amazing to think about the volume of shellfish that lives in the slough. It’s definitely a productive area!”

Speaking of sea otters’ foraging habits since 1998, Tom Kieckhefer writes, “Sea otters foraged mainly on Washington clams, followed in decreasing order of occurrence by gaper clams, innkeeper worms, and crabs. From 1998 to 2001, combined clam size shifted from medium-sized individuals to large prey. The number of innkeeper worms consumed increased significantly in 2000; the number of crabs increased significantly in 2001. Since October 2001, we have documented several otters in Monterey Bay feeding on Dungeness crab....

“The initial influx of otters in the Moss Landing Jetty area started mid-Feb. 2005, and correlated with an invasion of green crab the Moss Landing Marine Laboratories’ Benthic Lab documented, AND storm conditions in outer Bay. The increase in January 2006 correlated with the high abundance of innkeeper worms floating in Moss Landing Jetty AND again storm conditions in outer Bay. However, we observed an increase in otter numbers that correlated only to bad sea conditions in outer Bay in February 2000, which makes us think fluctuations of numbers [may be] more food driven than environmental.”(3)

The fat innkeeper worm story caught the attention of Moss Landing folks when a large number of the

SEA OTTERS UNUSUAL FOR THAT AREA



nondescript brown worms became visible instead of stuck in their holes on the harbor bottom. As Tom writes, "During the week of 1/16/06, there were reports of a massive innkeeper worm die-off in Moss Landing Jetty, due to a possible high concentration of agricultural pollutant or domoic acid, but according to MLML Benthic Lab, the innkeeper worms were healthy and alive. John Oliver [of the Benthic Lab] suspects it was due to extreme high and low tides during this time period that caused major erosion, scouring out the worms from their holes and lifting them to the surface." (3) A floating feast for opportunistic sea otters.

So, who are these otters? Rafts in the slough used to be mostly males. Before a male sea otter can challenge another male who controls an area and a number of females, the young male might hang out with other males taking advantage of good eating to build strength and size. Or, perhaps he might go exploring: these juvenile males may be the surprise sightings at the extremes of the sea otter range. Now, it seems there is a mixed crowd in the Moss Landing area. Tom has seen mom/pup pairs in the slough, especially in secluded curves of the shoreline.

The aquarium's SORC staff often track otters that have "graduated" from their program and have been released, or they track wild otters that are part of the research project to monitor their habits. The otters have colored plastic tags attached to the skin between the digits of the flippers, or they have transmitters inserted surgically into the body cavity. Michelle Staedler of SORC writes, "There are a few tagged only and a few transmittered otters in there – they come and go. These include 5 females (though they don't raft up with the males at the inside harbor mouth) and 5 to 6 males. They usually are resting, feeding or 'playing.' Three of the tagged females have transmitters and one, an adult female, came up there on her own from Monterey. She was one of our time-depth recorder females. Of the males, 3-4 have working transmitters..... Generally the group is sub-adult males but scattered about are a few single females, a few old men and three to four adult females who have pups regularly. There is currently one older male hanging around in south harbor close to the Whole Enchilada [restaurant]!" (4)

Observed behavior is an important factor in deciding why an animal is where it is. Tom writes, "From 1998-2003 rest and feed were the most common behaviors observed (47% and 21%), followed by travel (9%), groom/travel (8%), groom (7%), interact (6%), and unknown (2%)." (2)

To illustrate observational data from recent days, Tom sent some of his field notes, adding that Jason Bradley of PCG helped:

Total Elkhorn Slough Count 94 On 3-30-06 (ML, Jetty to Kirby Park). *Note: highest count thus far JETTY ALONE = 75 with a raft of 65 just north 50 m from favorite spot (more sheltered from boat traffic) [Ed.note: Tom writes the "favorite spot" is just around the corner from the north jetty: "They seem to like being in the lee of NW winds and there appears to be a small gyre that keeps them pretty stationary while resting."(5)]

SEAL BEND = 4 mom/pup pairs (1 very small pup est. 1 month old)

MED BOAT TRAFFIC IN JETTY & SLOUGH 3-4 Tagged Otters (only confirmed 1)

12:36 TAGGED OTTERS SIGHTED IN RAFT OF 65 IN JETTY (50m north of favorite spot)

RESTING, INTERACTING..... *Note: OTTER RAFT WAS VERY TIGHT AND SENSITIVE TO VESSELS.

Total Elkhorn Slough Count 73 on 4-7-06 (ML Jetty to Kirby Park)

JETTY ALONE = 55 with a raft of 36 in favorite spot

SEAL BEND = 4 mom/pup pairs at Seal Bend

HIGH BOAT TRAFFIC IN JETTY & LOW IN SLOUGH

5-6 tagged otters, but only 5 confirmed. (3)

For the Sources for this article, please see the list on page 6.

What can we say in conclusion? Sea otters again surprise us, give us questions. Thank goodness we have the Pacific Cetacean Group, the Monterey Bay Aquarium, and other devoted people to try to answer them. ~

ACS Monterey Bay PO Box HE Pacific Grove, CA 93950

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Evelyn Starr, webmaster: www.starrsites.com

Esta Lee Albright, editor, *Soundings*: EstaLee@whalesail.com

Conservation (continued from page 2)

This decision will directly impact the future of California's coastal and ocean habitats and the diverse wildlife and fish populations that live along our coast. The opportunity to protect our rich coastal environment for future generations is right now. The strongest of the MPA proposals being considered (Package 2) provides solid protection while leaving much of the coast open to fishing. It creates the ocean equivalent of Yosemite and Yellowstone Park in iconic ocean places like Año Nuevo, Point Sur and Piedras Blancas. Its supporters include conservation groups, divers, educators, fishermen, the Monterey Bay Aquarium and other local business owners. Other proposals simply do not provide adequate protection to ensure a healthy ocean for the future. This is a historic moment for the future of California's ocean life and habitats. You can help by writing to the Governor to voice your support for the strongest possible ocean protection. For more information and a template electronic letter to the Governor, go to: www.CalOceans.org

Moss Landing Sea Otters (Continued from page 5)

With a great deal of gratitude I wish to commend the scientists who cheerfully and quickly sent me information about the sea otters in Moss Landing harbor: Tom Kieckhefer, Michelle Staedler, and Andrew Johnson, along with Debbie Keller who is the support person for SORC at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. -Ed.

Sources:

(1) Email communication, 4/26/06, Andrew Johnson, Monterey Bay Aquarium, to Esta Lee Albright, editor of *Soundings*

(2) Kieckhefer, T.R., J. Cassidy, J. Hoffman, S.L. Reif, and D. Maldini, Pacific Cetacean Group, Moss Landing, CA, (poster) "Rise and Fall of Southern Sea Otters (*Enhydra lutris nereis*) in Elkhorn Slough, California, 1994-2003."

(3) Email communication, 4/27/06, Tom Kieckhefer, Pacific Cetacean Group, to Esta Lee Albright

(4) Email communications, 4/26-27/06, Michelle Staedler, Monterey Bay Aquarium, to Esta Lee Albright

(5) Email communication, 4/28/06, Tom Kieckhefer, Pacific Cetacean Group, to Esta Lee Albright

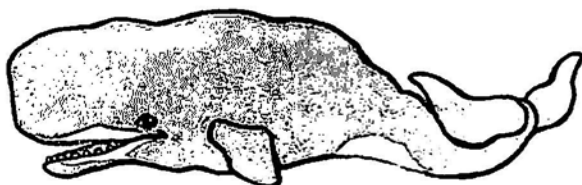
C A L E N D A R

May 6: Natural History Family Fun Day, Pacific Grove Natural History Museum. Did you find ACSMB?

May 25: Regular meeting of this chapter; see cover page.

June 29: Regular meeting of this chapter.

Sep. 8, 9, 10: Instead of an Open House in April this year, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories plan an open house and 40th anniversary celebration. Watch their web site for details: <http://www.mlml.calstate.edu/>



The cartoon Sperm Whale is from Nina Barbaresi's "Whales & Dolphins Stickers."
The sea otter on the preceding page is from Bob Guiliani's "Illustrations of Marine Mammals." Both are Dover Publications.

Date	#	Type of Animal(s)
4/27	4	Killer Whales (transient type, predation on pinniped)
4/26	24	Killer Whales (transient type, feeding on gray whale)
4/25	24	Killer Whales (transient type, predation on gray whale)
4/24	5	Humpback Whales
	2	Killer Whales (transient type)
	400	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
4/23	7	Humpback Whales
	300	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
4/20 p.m.	4	Killer Whales
4/20 a.m.	8	Humpback Whales
	4	Killer Whales (transient type, predation on gray whale)
	60	Risso's Dolphins
4/19 a.m.	8	Humpback Whales
	2500	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
	700	Northern Right Whale Dolphins
4/18 p.m.	4	Humpback Whales
	2200	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
	400	Northern Right Whale Dolphins
4/18 a.m.	9	Humpback Whales
	3000	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
	1500	Northern Right Whale Dolphins
4/17 a.m.	2	Gray Whales
	2	Humpback Whales
	25	Risso's Dolphins
4/17 early a.m.	2	Gray Whales
4/16 a.m.	4	Humpback Whales
	100	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
4/16 early a.m.	2	Humpback Whales
	40	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
4/15 p.m.	4	Humpback Whales
4/15 a.m.	14	Humpback Whales
	1200	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
4/15 early a.m.	15	Risso's Dolphins
4/14 p.m.	2	Humpback Whales
4/14 a.m.	3	Gray Whales
4/14 early a.m.	2	Humpback Whales
	600	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
	100	Northern Right Whale Dolphins
4/13 p.m.	20	Humpback Whales
	2000	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
4/13 a.m.	2	Gray Whales
	8	Humpback Whales
	1800	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
	60	Northern Right Whale Dolphins
4/13 early a.m.	17	Humpback Whales
	2500	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
	400	Northern Right Whale Dolphins
4/12 p.m.	2	Humpback Whales
4/12 a.m.	3	Humpback Whales
4/11 p.m.	2	Humpback Whales
	4	Harbor Porpoise
4/11 a.m.	4	Humpback Whales
	9	Harbor Porpoise
4/11 early a.m.	9	Humpback Whales

SIGHTINGS

Compiled by the staff of
Monterey Bay Whale Watch Center
and posted on web site
www.gowhales.com



4/10 p.m.	15	Risso's Dolphins
4/10 a.m.	2	Humpback Whales
	6	Harbor Porpoise
4/10 early a.m.	4	Humpback Whales
	120	Northern Right Whale Dolphins
4/9 p.m.	4	Gray Whales
4/9 a.m.	4	Humpback Whales
4/9 early a.m.	2	Humpback Whales
4/8 a.m.	6	Gray Whales
	2	Humpback Whales
	400	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
	15	Northern Right Whale Dolphins
4/8 early a.m.	8	Gray Whales
4/7		No trip (poor weather)
4/6 p.m.	1	Humpback Whale
	4	Harbor Porpoise
4/6 a.m.	3	Humpback Whales
4/5		No trip (poor weather)
4/4	7	Killer Whales (transient type)
4/3	4	Gray Whales
	200	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
4/2 p.m.	1	Humpback Whale
	3	Harbor Porpoise
4/2 a.m.	4	Gray Whales
4/2 early a.m.	3	Gray Whales
4/1 p.m.	13	Gray Whales
	1	Humpback Whale
	50	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
4/1 a.m.	10	Gray Whales
	1	Humpback Whale
	75	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
	1	Elephant Seal
4/1 early a.m.	30	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
	450	Risso's Dolphins
	250	Northern Right Whale Dolphins
	8	Dall's Porpoise

American Cetacean Society
Monterey Bay Chapter
P.O. Box HE
Pacific Grove CA 93950
www.starrsites.com/acsmbl/

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In this issue:

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Monterey Bay Aquarium
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Conservation: Funding our seas
Sightings
Calendar

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Ocean View Blvd.
Pacific Grove, CA 93950

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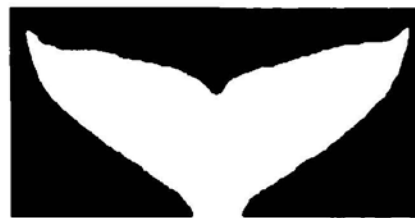
Our benefit whale watch trips have been supported by the following local Whale Watch companies :

Monterey Whale Watching 800 200-2203

And

Monterey Bay Whale Watch Center 831 375-4658

Soundings



American Cetacean Society ~ Monterey Bay Chapter

June 2006

The Newsletter of the Monterey Bay Chapter of ACS
AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY - MONTEREY BAY CHAPTER
Monthly meeting at HOPKINS MARINE STATION, Lecture Hall, Boatworks Building
(Across from the American Tin Cannery Outlet Stores)

Date: Thursday, June 29, 2006

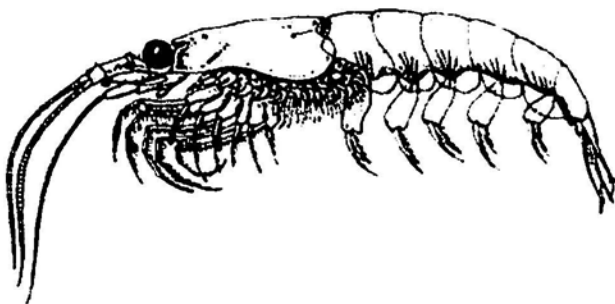
Time: 7:30 p.m.

Please join us at 7:00 for refreshments

Speaker: Dr. Baldo Marinovic, University of California at Santa Cruz

Title: Wind to Whales: the cycle of productivity leading to food abundance for baleen whales in Monterey Bay.

Our speaker is part of a group studying the prey cycle and resulting abundance of baleen whales in the Monterey Bay. This food source, which is wind driven, is highly variable from year to year. Hence the varied numbers of baleen whales at any one time.



Euphausia superba, the krill of the Antarctica, many times magnified, by Richard Ellis, Book of Whales, Knopf, 1980. p. 54.

Ellis has this to say about *Euphausia pacifica*, one of our local species of krill, which has a similar appearance : one pound of *Euphausia pacifica* supplies about 400 calories.... Each individual of *Euphausia pacifica* weighs only one-tenth of a gram, so it takes about 40 million of these krill to sustain one blue whale for one day.

Dr. Marinovic's specialty is the krill part of the equation although his talk will cover the complete system.

Please join us for an interesting and entertaining evening.

Information about the speaker has been provided by Sheila and Alan Baldridge.

HOPKINS MARINE STATION LIBRARY

JUN 13 2006

CALENDAR

June 29: Regular meeting of ACS Monterey Bay. See cover.

July 19: "The Gray Whale Obstacle Course," PBS, KQED 8 pm, Jean Michel-Cousteau's Ocean Adventures.
See <http://www.pbs.org/kqed/oceanadventures/episodes/whales/>

July 22: Big Bar-B-Que and celebration to honor Harriet Mitteldorf

Now here's something to put on your calendar Right Now. Local people know about Harriet and her incredible work for conservation of the spaces we all love. Anyone in the Beachwatch project a few years ago remembers seeing Harriet and her husband standing watch over beached marine mammals. Stay tuned for more amazing biographical notes about Harriet in the July issue of *Soundings*. And meantime start telling your friends about this event. These ACS summer dinners have become a great way to see old friends. Especially, if you know former members of ACSMB, please invite them! Pres. Jerry Loomis (see contact below) tells us the party begins at 5 pm and goes until dark, at Indian Village in Pebble Beach (directions in the July issue). Reservations are necessary: \$15 per person to ACS Monterey Bay, P O Box HE, Pacific Grove, CA 93950.

ACS Monterey Bay PO Box HE Pacific Grove, CA 93950

ACS Monterey Bay web site www.starrsites.com/acsmmb/

ACS Board 2006 :

Jerry Loomis, President & Special Events, email Loomis@mbay.net, phone 831 649-1249

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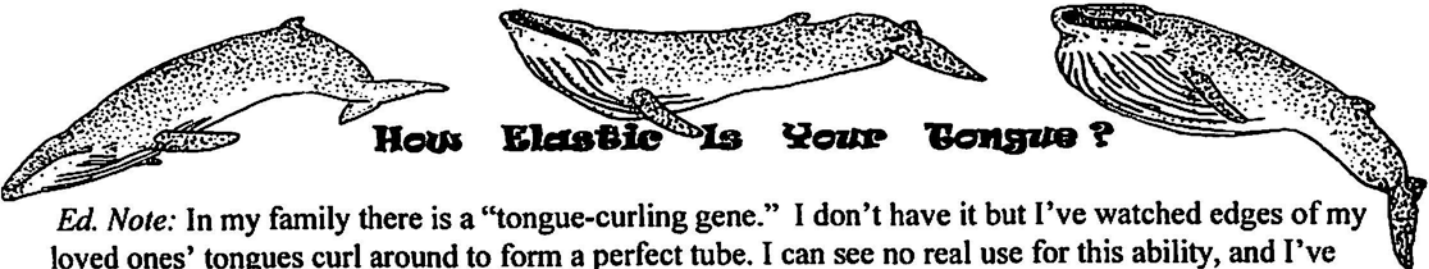
Esta Lee Albright, editor, *Soundings*: EstaLee@whalesail.com

How to explore, enjoy and protect Monterey Bay Sanctuary

Email from Pelican Network www.pelicannetwork.net, excerpts of posting by Rachel Saunders The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary announced today the publication of a new Field Guide to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. The new 12-page tabloid-sized guide was developed by sanctuary staff and is designed for use by both visitors to and residents of communities adjacent to the marine sanctuary. The Field Guide can be used as a travel guide or for educational purposes. Readers will find information on each sanctuary habitat, from sandy beaches to the deep sea, as well as descriptions and photographs of some of the sanctuary's most commonly seen marine wildlife and the best times of the year to view them. It also includes tips for watching marine wildlife responsibly and keeping sanctuary waters clean. The guide includes a detailed map of the central California coast which identifies points of interest, and a feature on things to do in and around the sanctuary. Copies of the Field Guide may be picked up at the sanctuary office at 299 Foam Street, Monterey, Calif. The guide will also soon be available for downloading from the sanctuary's Web site at <http://montereybay.noaa.gov>

About Orca Teeth, from p. 6: Moclips' teeth measure 2 ½ to 3 inches above the jawbone, according to Jeanne Hyde, The Whale Museum naturalist and coordinator of the orca adoption program, who actually measured them through the glass exhibit case for us! Below is Jeanne's email signature statement.

"It is only through an understanding of the orcas' needs for a healthy habitat and plentiful food resources that we can develop the conservation policies which will ensure their survival. The Whale Museum is committed to providing a variety of education programs to share information on how we all can help. Orca Adoptions help support this mission."



How Elastic Is Your Tongue ?

Ed. Note: In my family there is a "tongue-curling gene." I don't have it but I've watched edges of my loved ones' tongues curl around to form a perfect tube. I can see no real use for this ability, and I've wondered what happens to a blue whale's tongue as its throat expands to engulf a swarm of krill. As our speaker this month elaborates on local krill, think how the amazingly elastic tongue reacts to it : as the whale's throat enlarges, the tongue stretches backward and down to form a huge pocket and to lie along the expanded lower throat. From Annalisa Berta & James L. Sumich, Marine Mammals, Evolutionary Biology, Academic Press, 1999. pp. 303-4. Illustrations and references are given in the volume. Blue whale drawings here are by Robin Lee for ACS "Cetaceanery."

"The mouths of all rorqual species [minke, fins, blues, etc.] are enormous, extending posteriorly nearly half the total length of the body. All members of this family have 70-80 external grooves (furrows) in the ventral wall of the mouth and throat, collectively referred to as **throat grooves**. During feeding in blue and fin whales, this grooved mouth floor can open like pleats to lengths of up to four times its circumferential resting length as it inflates with a volume of water equivalent to 70% of the animal's body weight. It has been estimated that a mature blue whale may engulf as much as 70 tons of water at one time. Alternating longitudinal strips of muscle and blubber, both with large amounts of the protein elastin, facilitate this extension. During extension, capillary networks within the tissue give the throat a reddish color. This feature has conferred the name "rorqual" or red throat to the balaenopterids.

"Water and small prey it contains enters the open mouth by negative pressure produced by the backward and downward movement of the tongue and by the forward swimming motion of the feeding animal..... After engulfing entire shoals of euphausiids, sand lances, capelin and other prey in this manner, the lower jaw is slowly closed around the mass of water and prey. Then the muscular tongue acts in concert with contraction of the ventral wall muscles of the mouth (and sometimes with vertical surfacing behavior) to force the water out through the baleen and to assist in swallowing trapped prey. During feeding the tongue is capable of invaginating [the infolding of a layer of tissue so as to form a depression or pocket opening to the outside : Dictionary of Modern Biology] to form a hollow, sac-like structure called the **cavum ventrale** which lines the ventral pouch of the body. In this way the everted, elastic tongue acts to enlarge the capacity of the mouth. Examination of the morphology of the grooved ventral pouch reveals that in addition to fat tissue, thick layers of elastic connective tissue and muscle with layered corpuscles are found closely associated with the grooves. It has been suggested that these corpuscles may have a sensory function in the timing of mouth closure during feeding."

Condors and Gray Whales

Recently some lucky people had a view of condors feeding on a dead gray whale in Big Sur. If the condors had not sported modern tags on their wings, the sight could have passed for Big Sur many many years ago. In addition to the poisons and lead we now know about, here's a reason we lost the condors. From Monterey Bay Area: Natural History and Cultural Imprints by Burton L. Gordon, 2nd ed. 1977, pp.166-7.

"Condors were still plentiful in 1861, when it was recorded in Monterey that hundreds of whale "carcasses have there decayed, fattening clouds of buzzards and vulture [condors]" ...although the humpback season in Monterey began in July, the main whaling season fell between January and mid-April, during the time the gray passes along this coast. Between mid-April and July, there was no whaling (*Santa Cruz News*, March 23, 1860) hence a much-reduced food supply for the condor. The condor may even have become more numerous in the days of cattlemen and shore whalers than it had been in Indian times. Cattle dead in the open fields and whale carcasses on the beaches probably provided more abundant food than dead deer, elk and antelope in the more heavily wooded country of Costanoan times.... the critical decrease in condor numbers occurred as American farming replaced Spanish ranching. The decrease coincides, too, with the near-extirmination of the gray whale, and the collapse of the shore-whaling industry."

C o n s e r v a t i o n

Hey Everybody: **HELP!**

Email message from Milos Radakovich

You may have already seen them, but there are two documents that:

Provide a background of the **MLPA** process

Suggest talking points for a letter to the Governor in support of **Package 2**

[If you haven't, contact Milos Radakovich, see below]

We need your help to generate letters to the Governor along these lines. This is a very important issue, and one that an overwhelming majority of Californians support. The Governor has been supportive of ocean conservation in the past and needs to be reminded (in this election year) that this is still a critical issue to the voters.

There are forces and loud voices that have sought to weaken his tendency to support marine conservation. We need to show him - through personal letters - that he is on the right track and that the **MLPA** process is broadly supported by people in the Monterey Bay area. We particularly want him to know that we feel that, of the three alternatives presented, **Package 2** is the best combination of marine protection and consideration of socio-economic and fishing interests.

Having been personally involved with the **MLPA** process since last summer, I can say that while this is not the most ideal configuration from a pure conservation standpoint, **Package 2** is by far the best of the alternatives being presented for consideration by the Fish & Game Commission, that conforms to the **MLPA** process guidelines.

We want the Governor on our side on this issue, and your personal letters will help him to see just how important these issues are to us.

Thank you for your help and support.

Milos Radakovich
tel: (831) 373-6396
cell: (831) 601-3957
www.mbay.net/~milos

No trees were killed in the creation of this message.
However, many electrons were displaced and terribly inconvenienced.

Some Good News from Surfrider Foundation

Email from Surfrider Foundation 5/19/06

We are thrilled to report that last night the House rejected by a vote of 217 to 203 the irresponsible proposal by Rep. John Peterson (R-Pa.) to lift the moratorium on drilling for natural gas off our coasts.

The charge was led by Representatives from California, Florida and New Jersey, with a bipartisan effort to protect the shores and waters of our coastal states.

Incredibly you generated emails to more than 240 members of Congress, and nearly 2,000 of you contacted your representative. Many of you went the extra step and called their offices.

So this is your victory. Members of Congress need to hear from their constituents on vital issues like this, and when you respond, they respond. Without your voice, this win could not have happened.

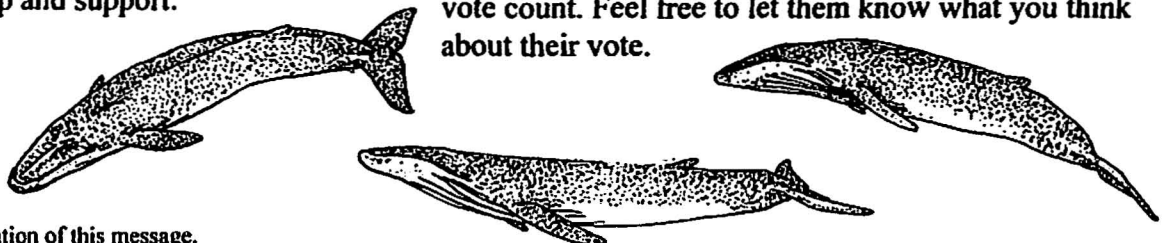
It also took teamwork. Surfrider Foundation worked with organizations from all over the country to reinforce your voice.

Enjoy the weekend knowing that oil and gas rigs won't be rising off our shores anytime soon, and know that you helped make it happen.

For the coast,

Mark Rauscher, Assistant Environmental Director

P.s. If you would like to see how your Representative voted visit <http://www.house.gov/> to determine who your Rep is then go to <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2006/roll170.xml> for the vote count. Feel free to let them know what you think about their vote.



Israel Joins the Ranks of the Whale Defenders

*Email forwarded by Carol Maehr, ACSMB Conservation Chair
from Sea Shepherd Conservation Organization 4/29/06*

With Japan on the threshold of seizing control of the International Whaling Commission, Israel has bolstered the ranks of the anti-whaling nations by joining the International Whaling Commission.

The Israeli decision was the result of a direct plea from the United States to help defend the 20-year old moratorium on commercial whaling. The moratorium came into effect in 1986 after centuries of whaling nearly drove several species to extinction.

Japan, along with outlaw whaling nations Norway and Iceland, have been bribing small, poor nations to join the IWC to vote in favor of resuming commercial whaling operations.

Finally, the whale-defending nations are beginning to do the same except that Israel did not need to be bribed. They were simply asked and accepted.

The International Whaling Commission, established in 1949, is an international organization responsible for the management of whaling and the conservation of whales. It currently has 66 signatory nations, split almost evenly between two camps – the pro-whaling nations, led by Japan, and the anti-whaling nations, led by the U.S. and Australia.

Israel will make this 34-33.

Japanese attempts to reintroduce commercial whaling were narrowly defeated at last year's annual meeting, and both sides have been attempting to shore up support ahead of the annual meeting in May, to be held in St. Kitts and Nevis.

Israel has no whaling industry and to date has yet to formulate an official policy on the contentious issue, but it is certain to join the anti-whaling bloc.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Mark Regev confirmed the American request and said, "Israel is responding to concerns of friends and allies."

www.Seashepherd.org

Tel: 360-370-5650 Fax: 360-370-5651

Address: P.O. Box 2616
Friday Harbor, Wa 98250 USA

Go See "An Inconvenient Truth"

*Email forwarded by Carol Maehr, ACSMB Conservation Chair
from Robert F. Kennedy, jr., of Stop Global Warming*

The truth is coming soon to a theater near you: Al Gore's New Global Warming Movie "An Inconvenient Truth"

Al Gore's critically-acclaimed new film "An Inconvenient Truth" offers the best opportunity we've ever had to capture the immediate attention of all Americans and move this country forward quickly to stop global warming. While the problem is urgent, the solutions are clear, and with American ingenuity and leadership, we can avert disaster and restore the world's confidence in our values. Let's work together to make this movie a success, and turn the audience interest into action.

One easy way to get involved as virtual marchers is to buy a ticket and bring a friend to see this movie. Then help spread the word. The more people go see this movie on opening weekend, the more theaters will pick it up. Bring the power of the Virtual March to movie theaters across the country.

Marching forward,
Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.

OTHER WAYS YOU CAN HELP

- * Email your friends and family to pre-purchase tickets for opening weekend.
 - * Forward this e-mail to everyone in your address book.
 - * Tell your coworkers, book clubs, teachers, classmates, dinner party guests, neighbors, church groups, relatives...shout it from the rooftops!
 - * Organize a group to go (Call the Paramount Group Sales office at 323-956-8896).
 - * Sponsor your office or company to see the film. Sponsor a school, sponsor a science class, sponsor a youth club.
 - * Take someone who you don't think would be interested in going.
 - * Host post-viewing "Take Action" parties.
 - * Blog about the movie in advance, and after you've seen it with your reactions.
 - * Have your own website? Are you on MySpace? Post Online banners, icons, and other info about the movie.
 - * Ask your local theater to show "An Inconvenient Truth" if they aren't planning to already.
-



Orcas Feasting Using Orcas' Teeth

At least 6 times in May killer whales were sighted off Monterey. This spring has not been unusual: killer whales' predation on gray whales and pinnipeds are listed in 'Sightings.' These, of course, are the marine mammal-eating transients. In the past, roaming groups of resident killer whales from Puget Sound have shown up off the outer Pacific coast and this is not all that unusual, too, for the residents spend winters out at sea in mostly unknown locations. The Whale Museum's (Friday Harbor, WA) monitors wait eagerly for the return of resident pods back into the Sound, checking on calves, looking for births, hoping all members of the pods return. The arrival of these pods is an annual cliff-hanger for them (pun intended: go up to the San Juan Islands and watch for orcas from the rugged shorelines). The monthly update from The Whale Museum in April included the following information, written by Jeanne Hyde, Naturalist at Lime Kiln State Park and Coordinator of the Orca Adoption Program. www.whalemuseum.org



In early April, Cascadia Research sent a report to Orca Network of a sighting of about twelve L Pod whales. The whales were off the coast near Westport, Oregon heading north. The number twelve sounds as if it might be the subgroup called the L-12s, but confirmation on that will only come from I.D. photos. There have been no recent sightings of K Pod, nor other sightings of L Pod. In years past it has been common for K Pod and L Pod to return in late May or early June. However, in 2004, K pod did not return until July 8th. They had been on the north west side of Vancouver Island and finally returned to the waters around San Juan Island. The late arrival by K Pod that year may have had something to do with availability of food or that maybe they were just having a feast elsewhere. Speaking of feasting here are some interesting facts and observations about orca teeth.

Orca Teeth Orca teeth are shaped differently than most carnivores/meat eaters. Other carnivores use incisors and canine teeth to grip and bite chunks of food and then use their premolars and molars to grind their food. Orcas, in contrast, have simple conical shaped teeth that are used to grasp their prey. Human teeth meet when the jaw is closed, but orca teeth interlock when the jaw is closed. It is not uncommon for the whales to play with their food and when ready to eat it they will bite their prey, sometimes swallowing it whole and sometimes ripping it, but they don't chew their food.

Kari Koski, Soundwatch Director, had several interesting interactions with Luna (L-98). When first seen by Kari, Luna was about two years old. Did you know that at that time, just like with humans, Luna didn't have all his teeth? In fact, his front teeth had not yet come in. Luna evidently liked to come up to the dock and bring things such as seaweed. Often, he would open his mouth which gave observers a great chance to see his teeth. Not ever having had the opportunity to peer into the mouth of a wild orca before, many observers were concerned about his 'lack of teeth.' Over time people did see that his teeth had in fact come in.

In The Whale Museum Exhibit hall there is the skeleton of Moclips (L-8). He died almost 30 years ago at the estimated age of 20. Through the examination of Moclips' teeth, researchers learned that orca teeth contain growth rings, much like that of a tree. Moclips' teeth are the longest and largest along his bottom jaw beginning at about the fifth tooth back from the front. His front teeth pale in comparison to his mighty side teeth. Think about the size of an adult male orca. How long do you think those teeth of his might be?

(Give up? See page 2 to find out how long Moclips teeth might be.)

The Whale Museum Shop Has an Updated Curriculum Guide www.whalemuseum.org then Store. Lawrence Wade has updated his unusual guide to whales and research worldwide, "Getting to Know the Whales," presented by Whales in the Classroom, Singing Rock Press, PO Box 1274, Minnetonka, MN 2006 \$23.95 "This book is for middle-school-aged students who are interested in whales... most of the activities were developed from actual scientific data contributed by whale biologists.... important terms are italicized in the text, and are defined under "Terms for the Whale Biologist" on the second or third page of every chapter.... included in most chapters is an interview with a scientist, "Up Close and Personal with a Whale Biologist." ~

SIGHTINGS

Compiled by Monterey Bay Whale Watch. For updates see www.gowhales.com

May, for several years now, has been a lively month for sightings. The gray whale mom/calf pairs are straggling by, sometimes attacked by transient killer whales. Humpback whales are arriving back from breeding grounds and are feeding intently. If upwelling and productivity have been good in spring winds, the supply of small bait fish is plentiful for the big whales. Richard Ternullo, captain of *Sea Wolf II*, reports lots of bait offshore, so whale watches have been 'way out at the edge of the canyon and beyond (where Richard also had a Laysan albatross sighting). He estimates more than 20 humpbacks feeding on May 23rd. He also saw 'thousands' of Northern right whale dolphins, one of the most spectacular dolphins to see in numbers because of their sleek leaps, speed and tuxedo-like markings. You never know what you'll see out there, and Richard was interested in watching a Dall's porpoise being chased by 6 killer whales. The porpoise is a prey item for them and is known to be a very fast cetacean. Richard believes this one outswam the killer whales and got away.



Date	#	Type of Animal(s)			
5/31	7	Humpback Whales			
	300	Pacific White-sided Dolphins			
5/30	12	Humpback Whales			
	800	Pacific White-sided Dolphins			
	60	Risso's Dolphins			
	450	Northern Right Whale Dolphins			
5/29	16	Humpback Whales			
	600	Pacific White-sided Dolphins			
	400	Northern Right Whale Dolphins			
5/28	11	Humpback Whales			
	1200	Pacific White-sided Dolphins			
	20	Risso's Dolphins			
	1000	Northern Right Whale Dolphins			
5/27	6	Killer Whales (transient type)			
	20	Risso's Dolphins			
5/26		No trip, poor weather			
5/25	2	Humpback Whales			
	3	Pacific White-sided Dolphins			
	20	Risso's Dolphins			
5/24 p.m.	10	Humpback Whales			
	2000	Pacific White-sided Dolphins			
	50	Northern Right Whale Dolphins			
5/24 a.m.	11	Humpback Whales			
	1000	Pacific White-sided Dolphins			
	200	Risso's Dolphins			
	20	Northern Right Whale Dolphins			
5/23 p.m.	5	Humpback Whales			
	65	Risso's Dolphins			
	1	Northern Elephant Seal			
5/23 a.m.	22	Humpback Whales			
	5	Killer Whales (transient type)			
	1500	Pacific White-sided Dolphins			
	40	Risso's Dolphins			
	1000	Northern Right Whale Dolphins			
	3	Dall's Porpoise			
5/22	10	Humpback Whales			
	400	Pacific White-sided Dolphins			
	350	Risso's Dolphins			
	450	Northern Right Whale Dolphins			
5/21 p.m.	2	Humpback Whales			
	25	Risso's Dolphins			
	2	Dall's Porpoise			
5/21 a.m.	1	Gray Whale			
	3	Killer Whales (transient type)			
	40	Pacific White-sided Dolphins			
5/20 p.m.	4	Humpback Whales			
	6	Bottlenose Dolphins			
5/20 a.m.	6	Killer Whales (transient type)			
	26	Harbor Porpoise			
5/19	6	Killer Whales (transient type)			
5/18	5	Killer Whales (transient type, predation on pinniped)			
5/17	4	Humpback Whales			
	15	Pacific White-sided Dolphins			
	10	Risso's Dolphins			
5/16	4	Killer Whales (transient type)			
	6	Risso's Dolphins			
5/15		Poor weather			
	5	Bottlenose Dolphins			
5/14 p.m.	2	Humpback Whales			
5/14 a.m.	2	Humpback Whales			
	20	Risso's Dolphins			
5/13	12	Killer Whales (transient type)			
	30	Risso's Dolphins			
5/12 p.m.	2	Humpback Whales			
	1	Northern Fur Seal			
5/12 a.m.	3	Humpback Whales			
	5	Killer Whales (transient type, predation on pinniped)			
5/11	1	Humpback Whales			
	5	Harbor Porpoise			
5/10	2	Humpback Whales			
	3	Harbor Porpoise			
5/9	2	Humpback Whales			
	4	Harbor Porpoise			
5/8	2	Humpback Whales			
5/7 p.m.	3	Humpback Whales			
	1500	Pacific White-sided Dolphins			
	40	Risso's Dolphins			
5/6	6	Humpback Whales			
5/5 p.m.	7	Humpback Whales			
5/5 a.m.	1	Gray Whale			
	15	Killer Whales (transient type)			
	50	Risso's Dolphins			
5/4	2	Humpback Whales			
5/3 p.m.	1	Humpback Whales			
5/3 a.m.	2	Humpback Whales			
	30	Risso's Dolphins			
5/2	4	Humpback Whales			
5/1 p.m.	4	Humpback Whales			
5/1 a.m.	4	Humpback Whales			
	2	Gray Whales			

Drawing of Northern right whale dolphin: Richard Ellis, *Dolphins and Porpoises*, Knopf, 1996.

**American Cetacean Society
Monterey Bay Chapter
P.O. Box HE
Pacific Grove CA 93950
www.starrsites.com/acsmmb/**

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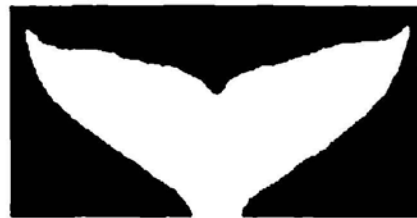
Our benefit whale watch trips have been supported by the following local Whale Watch companies :

Monterey Whale Watching 800 200-2203

And

Monterey Bay Whale Watch Center 831 375-4658

Soundings



American Cetacean Society ~ Monterey Bay Chapter

July 2006

The Newsletter of the Monterey Bay Chapter of ACS
 AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY - MONTEREY BAY CHAPTER
 Monthly meeting at HOPKINS MARINE STATION, Lecture Hall, Boatworks Building

"Atta girl,

Harriet!"



Humpback
 drawing by
 John Green.

Join us for our famous barbecue
 this month instead of our regular meeting.

Time: Beginning 5 p.m

Date: July 22, 2006

Place: Indian Village,
 Pebble Beach

See inside for details.

If you haven't met Harriet Mitteldorf, you can look forward to a special experience. Come to the ACS barbecue honoring Harriet, but also make a point to serve on a committee or in an organization with her. You might have your choice with that, for Harriet has acted on conservation issues over a wide base: saving redwoods, saving wilderness, saving shorelines, saving marine mammals, saving the oceans themselves and including all that in urgent concerns about over-population. There is a sharp mind at work.

So we asked her about the whales. Because of actions of this year's International Whaling Commission (see inside) it is time to gear up again and "Save the Whales." It seems to us that people have become complacent about the whales.... we all know Monterey folks relate best to gray whales because their presence is so obvious in winter and spring, and they have been taken off the endangered species list. There is a political and economic battle worldwide wherein a growing number of countries want a return to commercial whaling regardless. What can we do on such a large-scale issue? Harriet first urges us to know about this year's IWC and the issues behind the votes. Begin with Jonathan Stern's daily email edited for this issue and go on to his report (which will be on the ACS Monterey Bay web site when we receive it: www.starrsites.com/acsmmb/).

"I can only add that I think he [Stern] is right about the value of combining forces with other environmental

(continued on next page)

(Continued from cover page)

groups. ACS has little clout on its own, unfortunately, but maybe we can help push the anti-whaling issue within the larger coalition and achieve more action than any would alone," Harriet said in a recent conversation. She urges ACS to act promptly about working with like-minded groups and, if at all possible, to identify environmental groups in other countries (especially in whaling countries) for joint efforts. She recognizes the drastically different philosophies among the people in those countries, including problems of over-population, lack of agriculture, and the belief that animals were meant to be exploited by Homo sapiens.

Yet, we see their tourists going whale watching out of Monterey .

Always one to act, Harriet no sooner said that than she began. She reports that she went online through Google and learned that there is a Japan Greenpeace. "It might be worth our while to contact U.S. Greenpeace about their thoughts and cooperation with a Japan Chapter." Harriet is in favor of cooperating with Greenpeace and Sea Shepherd when they are more effective than others. "There are also: Japan Wildlife Conservation Society and Ikura (whales) and Kujira (dolphins) Network, not that I'd know how to talk to them."

And what can we do about building on impressions during whale watches, and about the complacency of our own people? Harriet urges us to reach whale watch passengers – raise funds, print information to be given to each passenger, let it be known that there IS a problem and what might be done by individuals. We can begin our own joint efforts right here at home.

So, while some of us sit wondering what to do, Harriet has a plan for us to adopt. Harriet takes action where it's needed. She learns, joins, talks. People know her and learn from her. For the whales, for ourselves, let's do the same.

- Interview with Harriet Mitteldorf by Esta Lee Albright

Pacifica Review: peace, security & global change

Carfax Publishing Company, part of the Taylor & Francis Group

Volume 14, Number 2 / June 01, 2002, pp. 105-120

(Contributed for *Soundings* by Harriet Mitteldorf)



"Why Japan Will Not Give up Whaling" By Mike Danaher

Abstract:

Despite enduring so much foreign criticism for its pro-whaling stance, why does Japan continue to push for a resumption of commercial whaling? By exploring this question we can become more cognisant of the wider influences on Japanese state behaviour from societal groups in domestic politics and accepted cultural traditions. We can then understand why foreign pressure has difficulty in resonating within Japan. This paper analyses Japanese diplomacy at the two recent Meetings of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (1997 and 2000) and the International Whaling Commission (2000 and 2001), and also the apparent paradoxes of Japan's having a popular whale-watching industry and the Japanese public's increasing engagement in whale rescues. From these negotiations, it is clear that Japan's pro-whaling stance underscores the principles that it holds as important, such as respect for self-determination, respect for the legally binding rules of international treaties, and respect for science-based management as the basis for regulating the international use of resources when cultural values and preferences differ so greatly. It also shows that the current misinformation, polarisation, posturing, dogmatism and hostility dominating the whaling debate is not helpful to anyone. Furthermore, the implicit love for living whales which is associated with a whale-watching industry and rescuing stranded whales is not necessarily incompatible with wishing to harvest whales. These apparent inconsistencies can coexist because they link to Buddhist notions of respect for whales. ~

Note: If you have problems finding full text of an article in a specialized journal, try your public library's Interlibrary Loan Service.

American Cetacean Society Monterey Bay



5th Annual ACS BBQ*

honoring

Harriet Mitteldorf, for her lifelong devotion
to conservation of our natural environment

- A real friend of the Earth (other planets too)
- July 22, 5pm Indian Village, Pebble Beach**
(directions at bottom)

\$15 for ACS members / \$20 for nonmembers -
RSVP before July 15

send a check made out to "ACS" to: ACS, Box HE, Pacific
Grove, CA 93950

or call Jerry Loomis: 649-1249 or Carol Maehr: 373-3752 .

This is very important so we don't run out of food!

Raffle proceeds will help fund student Cetacean
Research Programs

*Bring your friends, meet Harriet, enjoy the
setting and meet other whale lovers of the
peninsula*

- Famous, even *sensational*, Raffle prizes
- BYOB—water, juices and sodas provided
- Please bring your own plates, cups, utensils, antacid
PS - If you're attending the Sam Farr event at Point 16, stop by
on your way home.

* chicken, tri-tip and veggie burgers

** Free admission at the Pebble Beach gates: just say you
are going to Indian Village

Directions: Enter Pebble Beach through the Pacific Grove gate on 17
Mile Drive (not Country Club gate). Pass the
Inn at Spanish Bay on your right. Proceed on 17 Mile Drive along the
ocean for 3.2 miles. You will pass 2 signs for
Bird Rock. The next sign on your right is #11, Seal Rock Picnic Area.
Immediately on your left, The Dune Rd. will
appear. Take it. As you head up hill, into the forest, pass the Hansel &
Gretel house on your left. Keep going until you
can go no further. Let the party begin! *If you come in through another
gate, you figure it out :)*

[Ed. note: Many thanks to Milos Radakovich for creating the invitation-
flyer and to the mailing committee who got them sent out.]

CALENDAR

July 15: Open House, Monterey Bay
Aquarium Research Institute,
Moss Landing, Noon to 5 pm.

July 15: Deadline for reservations to our
annual fun-time barbecue.

July 22: The BBQ begins at 5 pm.

August 31: Our next regular meeting.

NOTABLE EVENTS GONE BY:

July 5: City of Monterey's Annual beach clean
up. Catch it next year. (Milos Radakovich)

June 26 and following:

Marine Mammal Protection Act under threat in the
House of Representatives (from Endangered
Species Coalition): Representative Richard Pombo is
at it again. This time the foe of environmental
protection has his sights set on the **Marine
Mammal Protection Act**, a law that protects such
endangered and threatened ocean species as right
whales, stellar sea lions, and manatees. HR 4075
would remove an important deadline by which
commercial fishing operations must reduce their
unintended catch of marine mammals to
insignificant levels. In addition, it is very likely that
numerous bad amendments will be allowed when
the bill comes to the floor the week of June 26th
making the bill even worse. Note: Contact Carol
Maehr to receive notices in time to help:
c.maehr@worldnet.att.net

June 14: The House Appropriations Committee
approved a \$3.4 billion budget for the National
Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration as part of
the fiscal year 2007 Commerce appropriations bill.
The total approved was \$289 million less than the
Bush administration's request to fund NOAA. The
NOAA programs suffering the largest cuts would
include the National Marine Fisheries Service, the
National Ocean Service, and the Office of Oceanic
and Atmospheric Research. Ironically, the proposed
cuts to NOAA came in the midst of the annual
"Capitol Hill Oceans Week," during which an
analysis was released describing the 10 most
urgent policy reforms for ocean health, and calling
on Congress to provide an additional \$747 million
in NOAA funding above the present level. (NRDC)

June 15: In a sweeping decision, President Bush
stunned the conservation community laying to rest
all further debate about the future of the **Northwest
Hawaiian Islands**. By declaring the mostly pristine
1,200-mile archipelago a "**National Monument**,"
the President bestowed the nation's highest level of
protection upon the area and made it the largest
marine reserve in the world. (Los Angeles Times,
June 15, 2006)

A Daily Journal from Our Rep at the IWC

ACS Chapters contributed funds to send an NGO (Non-Governmental Organization) representative to the International Whaling Conference in June in St. Kitts. Jonathan Stern is a marine scientist specializing in minke whales. Whereas we expected news of defeat of whaling propositions, such as what happened at previous IWC meetings, this was different. And disturbing. Below are excerpts from our rep's daily email reports. We think this is the first time we've had daily reports from IWC and we are extremely grateful! The feeling of immediacy, the emotions, an awareness of actions, sharing of incidental work, as well as the official..... there's nothing like it. So, we have kept the email-style in an almost complete reprint of the messages. Also, at *** are 2 expository emails. -ed.

16June2006 Jonathan Stern's email update from IWC

well, some of the anticipated bummer-ness of the 58th annual meeting of the IWC has abated. japan had 2 proposals defeated in voting today. it was close though...the secret ballot initiative lost 30-yes 33-no with 1 abstention; the proposal to exclude small cetaceans from the IWC perview lost 30-yes 32-no; i will give a full accounting later. but i thought you might want to know. i will work on stuff to get to you tonight. there is a reception at the governor's house, but i doubt if i will go. i am going to work on some stuff to send to you guys about the meeting. there is a bunch of press here, from all over the world. pretty interesting. everyone i met said they were glad to see acs at the iwc meeting...not me necessarily, but someone. though i have been on my best behavior. the latest population size estimates for southern minke whales was about 350,000...down a whole bunch(like by half) from the previous estimates. i am not giving exact numbers, since i am doing this from my swiss chees-like memory. but will go through my notes and send it off to you. i spent an hour chatting with inuit bowhead hunters from barrow and pt. hope. their leader might be fun to have at the acs conference. he was talking about crossing the boundary between native knowledge and science. i thought that was really cool...george...something...we are having lunch tomorrow.

cheers, j

Jonathan Stern, Ph.D. 415.250.1040
www.northeastpacificminke.org

Northeast Pacific Minke Whale Project



17June2006

This was one of those days...long... much polite name calling on the part of the pro-whalers. very passionate. I really like the cats in the New Zealand delegation. they are very articulate and right on. the proposal to catch bryde's whales in the northwest Pacific was withdrawn. the one vote was for small coastal commercial whaling, which was amended from the proposed 5 years down to 3, was defeated 30-for; 31- against with 4 abstentions... the proposal needed a 3/4 majority to pass, but Doug DeMaster thought they were putting this up to a vote to see if they could get a simple majority. i may have found THE science issue. the japanese concept of "ecosystem management" (which is big in fisheries right now, and is the kind of modeling i am doing), but anyway, they are planning to implement this through their JARPA II program. they are not managing an ecosystem, actually, they are managing "competition" (the whales eat fish, we want the fish, ergo the whales have to go!) their view is simplistic, not realistic (there are birds in the world, bozo), their calculations about the percent of fish taken with respect to human (whales take 5-6 times what humans take), is wrong and...does not address ecosystem processes. i think there should be a push for a review of jarpa. they are reviewing I but not II (right mason?). i mean if they are taking whales for science, and the science is not good...then what? "oops there goes another rubber tree". there is another party tonight. it is for the ngo's.

i do not want to go, but since i am here representing acs, i should make an appearance... i just want you to know i am "taking one for the team" by going to this party.. i do not sense any sympathy from you guys...but i could be wrong. j

Jonathan Stern, Ph.D.



18June2006

Well hell, the St. Kitts and Nevis Declaration passed by 1 vote...meaning : whales eat a lot of fish (5-6 times what humans eat) thus need to be culled... this is total B.S. moratorium was temporary and no longer valid and the IWC should adopt an RMP-like scheme, the iwc will collapse unless there is sustainable whaling. so the iwc has not be "normalized"... this is non-binding as most countries who voted against it noted they did not associate with the results. so they are also going after ngo's. there were a few threatening emails. all countries were against these threats... i talked to the japaneses delegate and said that personal threats were not reasonable. there are more things happening tomorrow... it was a long day, and i am burned out a bit. i will try to wrote more later... happy father's day guys.... j Jonathan Stern, Ph.D.



19June2006 Email from Gill Sinclair acting in response to the vote

Dear Everyone: Apologies for the "round robin" email, but this is quite urgent. Yesterday at the annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC), Denmark voted in favour of the "St Kitts Declaration" – a proposal by pro-whaling countries which states that the IWC is dysfunctional and the ban on commercial whaling unnecessary. With the vote neck and neck, the Danish vote tipped the balance, with 32 countries against the declaration and 33 for. Yet only 5% of Danish people support commercial whaling. Please go to this web page <http://www.whalewatch.org/en/denmark.asp> and email the Danish Prime Minister, today if you can (the petition message urges the government of Denmark to retract its support for the St Kitts Declaration before the end of this week's IWC meeting). Thank you Gill Sinclair www.whalewatchers.net

20June2006 Email exposition on Denmark's vote from Mason Weinrich, ACS National Board

Hi all – Just to explain Denmark's vote, and why it will likely not be retracted (not that I agree with it)...

Denmark is the country that includes Greenland. Greenland has a long-standing, and controversial, "aboriginal" take of minke and fin whales. It's not necessarily a small take, its one where real numbers are hard to get, and population estimates of the stocks they take are poor, but surprisingly low. The Scientific Committee has repeatedly expressed its concern over the take. This year, in a somewhat surprising move, the Danish government has acknowledged the concern, and offered to reduce the fin whale take – but only if they are allowed to take humpbacks and bowheads in its place. They have asked the SC for its advice on whether this is possible, and if so how many of each species they can take. Of course, once again, population estimates of both species are very low, and it will be interesting to see what the SC does with it next year. But because they are protecting their takes, despite the lack of Danish support for whaling, I doubt the vote will be rescinded. - Mason Mason Weinrich mason@whalecenter.org Whale Center of New England www.whalecenter.org



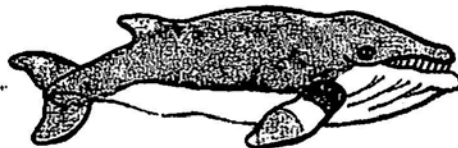
20June2006 from Jonathan Stern

i hate to admit it...but mason hit the nail on the head with this analysis, at least this was the concensus of several NGO representatives i talked to. denmark seemed to be torn on this. the meeting is over, and today was mostly about finance and administration. the funny thing today was the greenpeace ship steaming back and forth in front of the hotel. they were declined permission to land in port...however, around lunch time, the ship did just that and launched 2 zodiaks and people placed whale-tail replicas on the beach. they and the crew of the ship were promptly arrested. i was talking with dan morast about the absurdity of the idea that whales are eating all the fish, and how the models the japanese were using were wrong...(based upon kristin kashner's work), and some basic energetic modeling i am constructing. the only way for whales to be eating so much fish is if their metabolic rates were so high that the greatest cause of natural mortality much be spontaneous combustion. well, there was a meeting of some select NGO's about what to do next. this meeting was set up by dan...well, ACS was invited to this meeting. not being able to contact the acs board, i went on my own volition. i hope this is ok with the board. this group consisted of conservation organizations from around the world. we talked about the obvious...the bummer... it is "save the whales" time again. but do we work as a bunch of independent groups, or do we come up with a unified voice, but (Continued on the next page)

(Continued from the previous page)

each organization with its own interests. we agreed that things are not looking great for whales and whale conservation, and that we are all in the same boat... the issue was how we are going to proceed. we are thinking of a conference call at some point. we left it as a list of organizations interested in the future of whales and whaling, and we would talk at some point soon, and set up a dialog between us. i hope it was ok i had acs join this discussion group. while there may be some negative aspects to this...i see, on balance this is a real positive for ACS. we talked about pooling of resources and talents, at least of some groups. we can market this as "ACS in conjunction with conservation groups around the world....blah blah blah". the people i met are fiercely passionate about these issues, and they were like a swarm of bees throughout the entire meeting..... i think ACS will benefit from this type of association. we all agreed that the "whales are eating all the fish" issue will be a major target of a general campaign. dan introduced me, as an ecosystem modeling person, since that is what i do, so if we move on with this, that will be my role, and by association part of ACS' input (this is something that ACS contributes, and it would only be part of what ACS does...there would be other things as well...it is what we talked about, however)... this is all dependent upon the cooperative set up, and the wishes of everyone's respective boards.... the cruelty issue was favored by some groups, for example. personally, i am whole heartedly in favor of this. the ACS membership is generally coastal in distribution, and fish are part of the local perspectives of the chapters. i think this would be a great and easy way to understand connection with our membership. i think this cooperative will help ACS and, more importantly, the whales. i will prepare a final report of the IWC plenary session when i get home. i hope the stuff i sent was of interest to you guys...check with you later, j Jonathan Stern, Ph.D.

Minke whale cartoon drawings by Nina Barbaresi, Dover Pub.



More About Jonathan Stern and the Northeast Pacific Minke Whale Project

from the web site www.northeastpacificminke.org

Note: This is an excellent web site about minke whales and we thank the project members for letting us use a big chunk of the text about minkes.

One of the "originals" of the minke whale project in the 1980's, Jon's enthusiasm has ensured that the project continues to this day. His particular interest is foraging and search strategies. In addition to the continuation of the San Juan project, Jon is starting another minke whale project off the Northern California Coast. The focus of this study will be residency and rarity, in the context of a larger study of the California-Oregon-Washington minke whale stock. He has also conducted research on killer, pilot, fin, humpback and gray whales as well as bottlenose dolphins. He has also taught marine biology, marine ecology and the dynamics of biological populations at Texas A&M at Galveston and Florida State University. Jon has co-authored a book on minke whales with Rus Hoelzel.

The Northeast Pacific Minke Whale Project continues work done during the first minke project begun by Ellie Dorsey in 1980.

Using the new technique of photographic identification (well, new at the time), Ellie began a study of these elusive i.e. 'slinky' whales. Rus Hoelzel and Jon Stern joined Ellie in what would become the first long-term study of free ranging minke whales. Subsequently, other populations of minke whales were studied by various researchers.

Minke whales grow to a maximum length of 30ft and weight of 10 tons. The minke whale has a distinct narrow, and pointed rostrum with a single prominent dorsal head ridge. Minke whales are slender with a prominent dorsal fin located on the rear third of the body. Their grooved throats allow an accordion-like distension during feeding. Thus they are capable of taking in many gallons of prey-laden water into their mouths. The 230-360 baleen plates positioned on each side of the upper jaw are then used to strain water out of the

mouth, trapping prey inside. Each plate is about 20cm in length and 12cm in width at the base.

Coloration is dark gray on the back and white on the ventral surface. The color boundary on the flank is diffuse, with swaths of gray and white extending from the underside to the flanks (lateral body pigmentation). White patches are found in the middle third of the pectoral fins.

The second smallest of the baleen whales, minke whales consist of two species, and three forms. The southern minke whale (*Balaenoptera bonaerensis*) is found exclusively in the Southern Hemisphere and lacks the characteristic whale flipper patch. The common minke whale (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*) consists of minke whales in the Northern Hemisphere and the dwarf minke whale, which is found in the Southern Hemisphere.

In the Northeast Pacific, minke whales feed on variety of small schooling fish such as herring, capelin and sandlance in addition to a variety of zooplankton. In general, they feed on whatever is locally abundant at the time. In the Southern Hemisphere krill forms a major part of the minke whale diet.

Prey species vary in distribution and behavior, thus minke whales exhibit different feeding behavior which maximize feeding success.

As with other closely related species, minke whales are classified as "gulpers" in which the whale lunges at the prey – often at high speeds with its mouth open and throat grooves extended. The mouth is then closed expelling the engulfed water through the baleen plates and then the trapped prey is swallowed. This behavior occurs either at, or below the surface. The exact method of trapping an individual prey school varies by location and individual. In the San Juan Islands, some individuals search for, chase and trap their own prey. Other individuals prey upon fish schools trapped and congregated at the surface by diving birds.

Minke whales make the weirdest sounds. They are sort of metallic and have been called "Star Wars" sounds. For the longest time, we did not think they vocalized, but Jason Gedamke recorded vocalizations from dwarf minke whales off the Great Barrier Reef and Shannon Rankin and Jay Barlow recorded similar sounds from the minke whales north of the Hawaiian Islands, during what would be their breeding season, and in the area that would be their breeding grounds. This spatial and temporal correlation was similar to that of the sounds Jason recorded.

(For more about Northeast Pacific minke whales, see the web site.) ~

Note: Jason Gedamke spoke at a meeting of this chapter and played some of his recordings of minke whale sounds. Truly creepy. Read about Jason's minke whale research at <http://people.ucsc.edu/~jgedamke/> Hear the sounds on his web site or Google **gedamke minke** for more. -ed.

SIGHTINGS

Strong winds all spring, then fog in June. Leon Oliver, captain of Princess Monterey (Monterey Whale Watching), says some days have been difficult but the foraging humpbacks are out there. During one trip he watched humpbacks lunge feeding to the surface, their huge mouths suddenly appearing above the waves two at once, the boat stationary and whales coming close. At the time this *Soundings* went to the printer, the numbers below were on the web site: www.gowhales.com, compiled by the staff of Monterey Bay Whale Watch. See the web site for frequent updates.

Date	#	Type of Animal(s)
6/15	9	Humpback Whales
	5	Killer Whales (transient type)
	5	Harbor Porpoise
6/14 p.m.	1	Humpback Whale
6/14 a.m.	8	Humpback Whales
	200	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
6/13 p.m.	18	Humpback Whales
	700	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
	800	Northern Right Whale Dolphins
6/13 a.m.	6	Humpback Whales
	150	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
6/12	2	Humpback Whales
	85	Risso's Dolphins
	3	Harbor Porpoise
6/11 p.m.	12	Humpback Whales
	35	Risso's Dolphins
6/11 a.m.	8	Humpback Whales
6/10 p.m.	3	Humpback Whales
	6	Harbor Porpoise
6/10 a.m.	6	Humpback Whales
	25	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
	9	Harbor Porpoise
6/9	3	Humpback Whales
	8	Harbor Porpoise
	1	Northern Elephant Seal
6/8	3	Humpback Whales
6/7	3	Humpback Whales
	9	Killer Whales (transient type)
6/6	4	Humpback Whales
	14	Harbor Porpoise
6/5	16	Humpback Whales
	5	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
6/4	2	Humpback Whales
	110	Risso's Dolphins
6/3	6	Humpback Whales
	3	Killer Whales (transient type)
	550	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
	80	Risso's Dolphins
	120	Northern Right Whale Dolphins
6/2	8	Humpback Whales
	800	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
	1200	Risso's Dolphins
	600	Northern Right Whale Dolphins
6/1	5	Humpback Whales
	250	Pacific White-sided Dolphins

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In this issue:

Come to our annual party !

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on saving whales

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Sightings

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AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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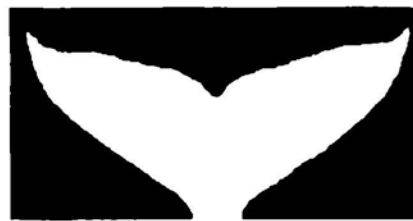
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Enjoy local whales with

companies that have supported our chapter activities.

MONTEREY WHALE WATCHING at 1 800 200 2203 and MONTEREY BAY WHALE WATCH at 831 375 4658.

Soundings



American Cetacean Society ~ Monterey Bay Chapter

August 2006

The Newsletter of the Monterey Bay Chapter of ACS
AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY - MONTEREY BAY CHAPTER
Monthly meeting at HOPKINS MARINE STATION, Lecture Hall, Boatworks Building
(Across from the American Tin Cannery Outlet Stores)

Date: Thursday, August 31, 2006

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Please join us at 7:00 for refreshments

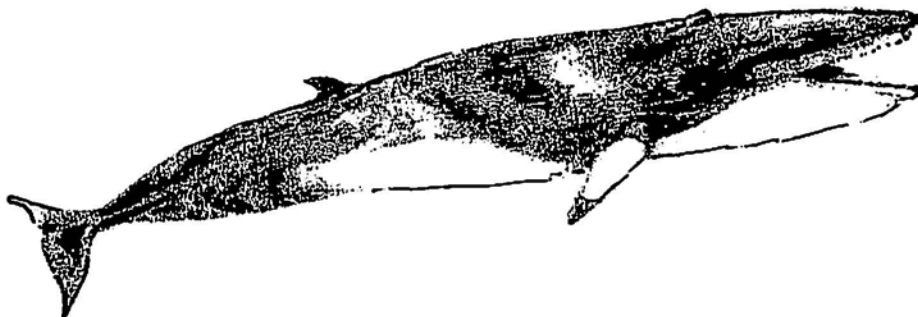
Speaker: Dr. Jonathan Stern

Title: Minke whales — baleen of death

Minke whales are globally the most abundant baleen whale. They are also the most heavily hunted baleen whale. This talk will focus on minke whale biology, management and conservation issues. Local minke whale populations, the California-Oregon-Washington stock, are not hunted and have never been hunted. However, they are not abundant. The reason and implications of this status will be discussed. In addition, Dr. Stern will discuss some of the more important issues arising from the recent International Whaling Commission meeting.

Dr. Stern was introduced to many of us through his daily email reports from this year's IWC (see *Soundings*, July 2006). His research began with the Northeast Pacific Minke Whale Project, which was originated by Ellie Dorsey in 1980, as the first minke whale study project. He has co-authored, with Rus Hoelzel, a book about minke whales.

Dr. Stern has a way with words, so be sure to hear him in this timely program.



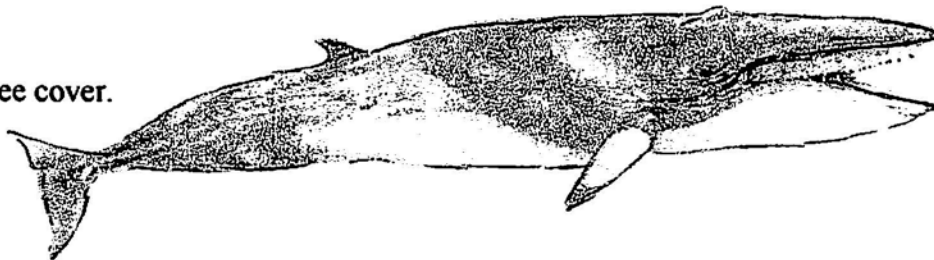
Drawing of minke whale is from www.whaledolphintrust.co.uk See page 2..

CALENDAR

August 31: Regular chapter meeting, see cover.

September 28: Next regular meeting.

September 16: Special Event !



ACS Monterey Bay Benefit Whale Watch Cruise

September 16th Saturday 9 am to 1 p.m.

Check-in time is 8:30 at Monterey Bay Whale Watch Center, Monterey's Fisherman's Wharf (walk almost to the end of the wharf, turn right at the Wharfside, go to red and white bldg.)

For more information, call Jerry Loomis 419-1051 Or Tony Lorenz 648-8968

Make your reservations early !

Send a check written to ACS Monterey Bay to ACS P.O. Box H.E. Pacific Grove, CA 93950
\$45.00 per person

September is known as a time of big whales: blues, humpbacks, even orcas and dolphins!

Soundings will have more information in the September issue. Meanwhile, go to our web site
www.starrsites.com/acsmb/

The cover drawing this month is from the web site for Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust.

"The Hebrides is a group of around 550 islands lying off the western coast of Scotland and covering a sea area of over 40,000 square km.

"Even today some of the islands are quite difficult to access and they remain quite different from the neighbouring mainland. Gaelic was spoken across all these islands until very recently and many old customs and traditions remain.

"The Hebrides is an area of outstanding natural beauty with diverse land and seascapes and abundant wildlife. The Hebridean waters contain a rich variety of marine life. Complex tidal streams, varied topography and the warmer waters from the Gulf Stream all contribute to make this area the most productive coastal area in the UK. It is also one of the most important habitats for whales, dolphins and porpoises in Europe. Twenty-four species – nearly a third of the world total – have been reported in this region, from the mighty blue whale to the tiny harbour porpoise.

"The Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust is dedicated to the conservation of Scotland's whales, dolphins and porpoises and the Hebridean marine environment through education and research, whilst working within the Hebridean communities. One of the Trust's major aims is to promote the sustainable use of the Hebridean marine environment by working with the local communities, promoting sustainable eco-tourism and providing education, training and job opportunities." http://www.whaledolphintrust.co.uk/whales_dolphins/

Minke Whale Key Facts from Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust

Balaenoptera acutorostrata

Gaelic name: Muc-mhara-mhionc

Length: Up to 9.5 metres

Weight: Up to 10 tonnes

Range: All oceans of the world

Threats: Target of commercial whaling, accidental capture in fishing gear, pollution.

(Also, see facts about the NE Pacific minke at Jonathan Stern's "home:" www.northeastpacificminke.org)

The Little Piked Whale and the Whaling Norwegians

Minke whales were known as Piked Whales, or Little Piked Whales, derived from the Old English *pic*, a sharp point. Both the rostrum and the dorsal fin are comparatively sharply pointed. Because they are so heavily hunted today, it's interesting to look back at whaling history for minkes. One source for that is E. J. Slijper, a Dutch biologist, who studied cetaceans aboard whaling ships. His book *Walvisen* was published in 1958 and translated into English by A.J. Pomerans in 1962. It was published in the U.S. that year by Basic Books.

"The 'great' whaling industry had always been uninterested in such 'dwarfs' as the Little Piked Whale or Lesser Rorqual, since the yield from this 30-foot animal was too small to bother about. Externally, the Piked Whale resembles the Fin Whales, of which it seems to be a dwarf replica, except for the fact that it has a white band on the outer surface of the flipper. In whaling circles, it is referred to as the Minke Whale, supposedly because one of Sven Foyn's men, Meincke by name, mistook a school of Piked Whales for Blue Whales. His error so amused whalers the world over that his name became a household word amongst them. It was during the Second World War (1940) that Norway first turned her attention to these whales also. The meat of the Piked Whale is very tasty and the carcass small enough to be flensed aboard the catcher boats themselves. The meat and blubber are taken ashore, which involves carrying enough ice for a trip of two to three weeks. In 1949, the best year, approximately 4,000 Piked Whales were caught, and the Norwegian government was forced to take protective measures. Piked Whales are also caught in other parts of the world, particularly off Japan and Newfoundland, for they occur in most seas."

Minke Whales' Hard-to-See Spout

Minke whales are somewhat familiar to whale watchers in Monterey Bay. For a few years a minke was seen regularly off Cannery Row. Other areas have included west near Pt Pinos and south of Cypress Point. The breathing, especially the concealed blow, make minke-whale-watching a challenge. Lyall Watson describes it in *Sea Guide to Whales of the World*, Dutton, 1981.

"The blow is low and indistinct, often invisible without a dark background. This may be because they start to exhale while still half a metre underwater. While at anchor in Antarctic bays, we have often watched Piked Whales at close range and seen the blow beginning as a plume of white turbulence beneath the surface. The usual breathing sequence consists of 5 - 8 blows at intervals of less than a minute, followed by a deep dive that may last as long as 20 minutes. The first exhalation following a long dive is noticeably louder than the others, sometimes producing a thinly visible blast no more than 2 m (6 ft) high, with a strong fishy smell. The fin always appears simultaneously with the blow and the tailstock is arched high into the air before sounding ; the flukes are never shown unless the whale breaches."

Elusive in Migration

From William F. Perrin and Robert L. Brownell, jr, "Minke Whales," *Encyclopedia of Marine Mammals*, Academic Press, 2002.
"In the North Atlantic, the common minke whale is found in summer as far north as Baffin Bay in the Canadian Arctic, Denmark Strait, and Svalbard in the Barents Sea. The wintering grounds are poorly known but extend at least to the Caribbean in the west and the Straits of Gibraltar in the east. Affinities of minke whales reported from farther south to Senegal are unknown. In the North Pacific, the summer range extends to the Chukchi Sea. In the winter, common minke whales are found south to within 2 degrees of the equator, although those south of central Baja California, Mexico, in the eastern North Pacific are of unknown relationship to the whales farther to the north. In the Southern Hemisphere, the distribution of the dwarf subspecies is poorly known.... Killer whales prey on minke whales... By one Russian estimate, Antarctic minke whales make up 85% of the diet of killer whales in the Southern Ocean (Stewart and Leatherwood, *Handbook of Marine Mammals*. v.3, 1985)"

Rescues from Entanglement

A collection of stories and people in risky efforts.

Last December 14th, the **San Francisco Chronicle** had a story of whale rescue, involving a humpback that had become entangled in crab pots, lines and weights. Excerpts of the story by Peter Fimrite follow.

"A humpback whale freed by divers from a tangle of crab trap lines near the Farallon Islands nudged its rescuers and flapped around in what marine experts said was a rare and remarkable encounter.

"It felt to me like it was thanking us, knowing that it was free and that we had helped it," James Moskito, one of the rescue divers, said Tuesday. "It stopped about a foot away from me, pushed me around a little bit and had some fun."

The 45- to 50-foot female humpback, estimated to weight 50 tons, became entangled in the nylon ropes that link crab pots. It was spotted by a crab fisherman at 8:30 a.m. Mick Menigoz of Novato, who organizes whale watch and shark diving expeditions got a call for help, alerted the Marine Mammal Center, and gathered a team of divers. Rescuers had reached the whale east of the Farallones about 18 miles off the coast of San Francisco by 2:30 p.m. Team members realized the only way to save the endangered leviathan was to dive into the water and cut the ropes.

"It was a very risky maneuver, because the mere flip of a humpback's massive tail can kill a man. I was the first diver in the water and my heart sank when I saw all the lines wrapped around it," said Moskito. "I really didn't think we were going to be able to save it."

Moskito said about 20 crab-pot ropes, which are 240 feet long with weights every 60 feet, were wrapped around the animal. Rope was wrapped at least four times around the tail, the back and the left front flipper, and there was a line in the whale's mouth. The crab pot lines were cinched so tight that the rope was digging into the animal's blubber and leaving visible cuts. At least 12 crab traps, weighing 90 pounds each, hung off the whale, the divers said. The combined weight was pulling the whale downward, forcing it to struggle mightily to keep its blow-hole

out of the water. Divers spent about an hour cutting the ropes with a special curved knife. The whale floated passively in the water the whole time, he said, giving off a strange kind of vibration.

"When I was cutting the line going through the mouth, its eye was there winking at me, watching me," Moskito said. "It was an epic moment of my life."

When the whale realized it was free, it began swimming around in circles, according to the rescuers. Moskito said it swam to each diver, nuzzled him and then swam to the next one.

Whale experts say it's nice to think that the whale was thanking its rescuers, but nobody really knows what was on its mind.

"You hate to anthropomorphize too much, but the whale was doing little dives and the guys were rubbing shoulders with it," Menigoz said. "I don't know for sure what it was thinking, but it's something I will always remember. It was just too cool."

As far back as the 1970s, Canadian scientist Jon Lien became legendary in whale rescue. **These words are only a portion of a fascinating chapter in the book, Among Whales, by Roger Payne (Dell, 1995).**

"During the capelin fishing season, this man works as hard as I have ever seen anyone work, often getting little or no sleep for days at a time. When he approaches a whale in a net, the whale may have been in it for 36 hours or more. All that time it has been struggling with the net, presumably getting more and more frantic, frustrated, exhausted, and out of sorts. When Jon pulls up he is in a rubber boat with a tiny but noisy outboard motor. There is no way he can do anything which the whale might perceive as being of any possible use to it without first getting practically on top of the whale — sometimes his boat is literally on top of it. In order to figure out exactly how the whale is tangled and how to proceed, Jon puts on a face mask and leans over the side of his boat to look about, ducking his head into water so cold there are often icebergs floating nearby. He must immerse his head repeatedly. Each time he sits back up, the water carried in his hair pours down his neck and soaks his clothes (he doesn't wear a wet suit or a dry suit; he has found them to be too constricting). By now he may have made the boat fast to the net or pulled

several broken net lines into the boat and tied them to it, so that if the whale chose to apply its full strength it could capsize the boat or pull Jon under and drown him. Often the lines cut deeply into the whale's flesh – sometime into its mouth, sometimes right across the blowholes or the genital slits. The motions Jon makes in pulling on them must hurt the whale, for it often flinches when he's doing so... During all this John is totally vulnerable, at the mercy of what must by now be an entirely exasperated and panicked animal... At any moment he and his assistant might become entangled in a line and be injured or drown.... Yet in spite of all this –in spite of their experience in rescuing over a thousand whales –no whale has ever hurt them. Not one. Not ever....

"The story he told me which impressed me most, however, concerned a humpback whale that had been in a net for an especially long time and by the time Jon got there had a line cutting so tightly across its blowhole that it had worn a groove several inches deep. Jon managed to cut the rope on both sides of the blowhole, but because it was so deeply and firmly embedded in supporting flesh, he still couldn't free it. He realized that the only way he was going to be able to remove the rope was to reach down inside the blowhole itself, grasp the rope, and draw it out of the wound. The muscles in the walls of a whale's blowhole are awesomely powerful. They must close the blowhole with enough force to prevent the entrance of water at depths where pressures are appalling. Jon knew all this, and he knew that if the whale chose to clamp down with its blowhole muscles, it would probably break every bone in his hand. Beyond that he knew that if the whale then submerged – a not unlikely thing for it to do under the circumstances –it would drag Jon under by his hand. Since he had neither compressed air nor a diver regulator with him, nothing could have saved him – unless the whale relaxed its blowhole muscles, something whales presumably never do underwater. Being Jon, he decided to go for it, reached slowly and with great care into the whale's nostril, grasped the rope, and wrested it out of the wound, an action that required his full strength. He said the whale flinched violently but it did not close its blowhole on his hand. Nor did it loft him and his boat through the air with a toss of its head. (Whales fight by tossing their heads, so it would seem to have been a natural enough reaction for the whale to have made at that moment.)

"I want to be clear on one point: Jon does not

believe he has some sort of mystical rapport with the whales. He simply feels that of the two most likely interpretations of his behavior available to the whale, the whale apparently chooses to believe that Jon is there to help. Jon seems to regard what he does in much the same way someone else might view a job like tending cattle or unsnarling fishing line."

Now, since 1994, a **Disentanglement Network** has been established in the U.S. and Canada to increase the scope of response. Coordinated by the **Center for Coastal Studies** in Provincetown, MA (www.coastalstudies.org) and supported by the National Marine Fisheries in U.S. waters, the network is comprised of first response personnel that have extensive field experience with whales and small boat handling skills. The Center is the only organization on the east coast of the U.S. federally authorized to disentangle large, free-swimming whales, such as the humpback and the critically endangered North Atlantic right whale. Over even longer years, since 1984, the center has freed more than 70 large whales from life threatening entanglements.

The principle disentanglement technique, a modification of an old whaling practice called keggering, involves attaching large floats, or kegs, to the gear entangling the animals. The floats add buoyancy and drag to the animal, making it difficult for it to dive, eventually tiring it out. The desired result is a relatively immobile animal that is more safe to cut free. The keggering system is designed for easy release should the rescue attempt fail.

On the Canadian side, the **Whale Release and Stranding Group** of Newfoundland and Labrador helps fishermen release trapped, and rescues stranded, whales. They also provide technical expertise for fishermen to release trapped whales on their own. See www.newfoundlandwhales.net

In Southern CA, the **Whale Rescue Team** has been busy for 20 years rescuing entangled or beached whales, dolphins, seals, sea lions and sea birds. See www.whalerescueteam.org Gray whales' migration routes bring them within peril of entanglement by fishing tackle of many kinds all along the west coast of the U.S. In addition, southern CA marine life recently has undergone oil spills, domoic acid outbreaks, and effects of pollution. The humpback near the Farallones will not be the last whale in need for rescue from manmade danger off our coast. ~

When is Noise **(^* NOISE *^)**

It was good news that courts stopped the 41 Navy warships off Hawaii from using active sonar that proved harmful to cetaceans in the past, an NRDC call. Below the Navy tells why they want to train with it, and scientists try to test their own noisemakers .

The Navy says that, altho the cold war has ended, and Russian submarines are not a threat, at least 40 countries, including Iran, No.Korea, China, now have the quieter diesel-electric subs that are cheaper to build and harder to detect. The concern is that an attack on, say, a supertanker in a choke point such as the Strait of Malacca linking the Indian and Pacific Oceans could shut down an avenue of commerce, including the daily passage of 11 million barrels of Middle East oil. Such threats are part of military planning today because ' it is not hard to imagine [such a sub] in the hands of a fanatical terrorist organization' and they can attack a civilian target anywhere in the world . Active sonar is part of the Navy training for this eventuality. 'It is critically important that we have been able to turn active sonar on for the rest of the...exercise.' (Outside 25 miles from the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument). **"Navy Heeds Call to Save Marine Life," The Christian Science Monitor, July 12, 2006, p.2**

"Oil Booms," Science News. Washington: Jun 3, 2006. Vol. 169, Iss. 22, p. 341 (1 pp.) Abstract

Email from Conservation Chair Carol Mæhr.

Field tests in the Gulf of Mexico suggest that sperm whales there don't swim away from boats conducting seismic surveys of the seafloor. However, the surveys' noise-typically generated during the hunt for oil and natural gas deposits-may be having subtle effects on the whales' feeding behavior.

Scientists use a device called an air gun to probe the seafloor. A burst of compressed air at the ocean's surface creates intense pressure pulses that travel through the water. The intensity and timing of the echoes from the ocean bottom provide information about buried geological structures. Biologists have been concerned that such pulses may damage a whales hearing or mask the clicks that whales make to home in on food, says Patrick J. Miller, a marine biologist at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland.

To investigate the effects of seismic surveys. Miller and his colleagues tagged eight whales with devices that recorded each animal's depth, orientation in the water, movements, and the sounds that it heard or made. The devices, held on by suction cups, recorded information about each whale for an hour or so before and during nearby seismic surveys.

For most of the tagged whales, diving patterns didn't change after seismic surveys began, Miller reported last week in Baltimore at the spring meeting of the American Geophysical Union. Even when air gun-firing boats passed as close as 1 kilometer, the animals didn't substantially change the direction in which they were swimming. This observation hints that the animals aren't directly harmed by the seismic activity, says Miller.

However, tagged whales expended a little less energy searching for food and emitted fewer clicks associated with homing in on prey during the seismic surveys than they had before those survey commenced, says Miller. Although those differences aren't statistically significant, perhaps because of the small number of whales studied, Miller says that such changes in behavior could reduce the animals' food gathering during seismic surveys. He explains that funding isn't available to continue the work using more whales.

Aquatic creatures may not be as disturbed by noise from seismic tests as people have presumed, says Penny Barton, a marine geophysicist at the University of Cambridge in England. During a seismic survey last year off the coast of Mexico's Yucatan peninsula, she and her colleagues placed a video camera on the seafloor in 20-meter-deep water to observe the fish there. Even though a vessel with its air guns blasting passed within 180 m of the camera, fish didn't change their behavior, she says.

The effort expended to mitigate the effects of seismic surveys on marine life can drastically reduce the effectiveness of scientific expeditions, says Barton. During last year's expedition, her team interrupted data collection 14 times to avoid exposing dolphins and sea turtles to potentially damaging levels of submarine sound. Furthermore, because the researchers had to visually confirm that animals remained at a safe distance, they couldn't fire air guns at night or when waves were high. In all, they collected only about 40 percent of the data that they could have otherwise, she reported at the meeting in Baltimore. -s. PERKINS

SIGHTINGS

Sighting Gray Whales and our Colleagues On PBS

On PBS, July 19, many of us saw JeanMichel Cousteau's Ocean Adventures, "The Gray Whale Obstacle Course." If you missed it you can purchase it from PBS Video 1-800-play pbs

Cousteau followed the gray whale migration northward. It was fun to see the scientists we hear and read about, doing their work. There were ample shots of gray whales in Baja lagoons, with Dr. Jorge Urban of Mexico. Then we saw Alisa Schulman-Janiger and the annual ACS census of gray whales passing the channel islands. Dr. Wayne Perryman talked about counting calves from Piedras Blancas. Nancy Black explained killer whale predation off Monterey. Killer whales gathered around her inflatable boat. Dr. Bruce Mate, famous for satellite tagging, spoke in Oregon about the population. Carrie Newell, of OR State Univ., proved gray whales summer off Depot Bay, OR, and feed on mysid shrimp in the kelp. Dr. John Heyning talked about noise and we got to hear shipping channel noise and active sonar squeals from underwater microphones. John Calambokidis of Cascadia Research in WA showed examples of photo-ID of gray whales and discussed the potential of resident whales that stay to feed vs. whales that feed in the Arctic. He also showed entanglement problems and generally gave the warm, understandable type of talk he's given to this chapter. In the Arctic, scientists at Pt. Barrow have visible evidence of global warming and the shrinkage of the Arctic ice pack. As can be expected, the photography is excellent; the script is enjoyable; it's a worthwhile program. -ed.

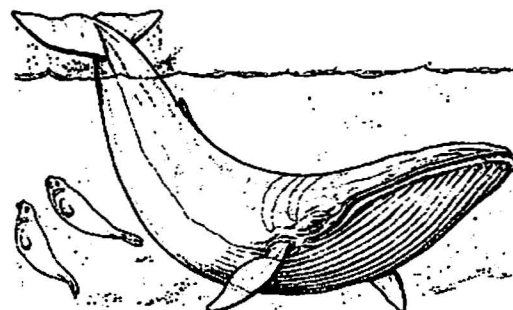
compiled by Monterey Bay Whale Watch

www.gowhales.com

Richard Ternullo of Monterey Bay Whale Watch says the data is true: blue whales are back! So far they seem to be milling around, coming and going, so let's hope they settle down to a feast in the Monterey area soon.

Date	#	Type of Animal(s)	Date	#	Type of Animal(s)
7/21 a.m.	1	Humpback Whale	7/12 a.m.	2	Humpback Whales
	3	Blue Whales	1500		Pacific White-sided Dolphins
	80	Pacific White-sided Dolphins	1600		Risso's Dolphins
	360	Risso's Dolphins	1500		Northern Right Whale Dolphins
	170	Northern Right Whale Dolphins	2		Dall's Porpoise
	2	Harbor Porpoise			
7/20 p.m.	5	Humpback Whales	7/11	4	Humpback Whales
7/20 a.m.	4	Humpback Whales	40		Pacific White-sided Dolphins
60		Risso's Dolphins	5		Dall's Porpoise
2		Harbor Porpoise	7/10	3	Humpback Whales
1		Northern Elephant Seal	900		Long-beaked Common Dolphins
7/19 p.m.	2	Humpback Whales	250		Pacific White-sided Dolphins
	2	Blue Whales	7/9	2	Humpback Whales
7/19 a.m.	7	Humpback Whales	30		Dall's Porpoise
175		Pacific White-sided Dolphins	7/8 p.m.	1	Humpback Whale
180		Risso's Dolphins	7/8 a.m.	5	Humpback Whales
300		Northern Right Whale Dolphins	4		Harbor Porpoise
7/18	2	Blue Whales	7/7 p.m.	4	Humpback Whales
6		Pacific White-sided Dolphins	30		Risso's Dolphins
60		Risso's Dolphins	7/7 a.m.	1	Humpback Whale
7/17 p.m.	2	Blue Whales	220		Pacific White-sided Dolphins
7/17 a.m.	2	Blue Whales	7/6	5	Humpback Whales
10		Pacific White-sided Dolphins	1600		Long-beaked Common Dolphins
2		Harbor Porpoise	300		Pacific White-sided Dolphins
1		Northern Elephant Seal	200		Risso's Dolphins
7/16	7	Humpback Whales	7/5 p.m.	2	Humpback Whales
600		Pacific White-sided Dolphins	7/5 a.m.	3	Humpback Whales
200		Northern Right Whale Dolphins	1000		Long-beaked Common Dolphins
7/15	3	Humpback Whales	7/4 p.m.	1	Humpback Whale
65		Risso's Dolphins	7/4 a.m.	4	Humpback Whales
7/14 p.m.	1	Humpback Whale	70		Pacific White-sided Dolphins
7/14 a.m.	1	Humpback Whale	7/3	7	Humpback Whales
5		Risso's Dolphins	125		Pacific White-sided Dolphins
7/13 p.m.	2	Humpback Whales	6		Dall's Porpoise
1500		Pacific White-sided Dolphins	1		Northern Elephant Seal
50		Northern Right Whale Dolphins	7/2	5	Humpback Whales
7/13 a.m.	10	Humpback Whales	7/1	7	Humpback Whales
1300		Pacific White-sided Dolphins			
800		Risso's Dolphins			
300		Northern Right Whale Dolphins			
5		Dall's Porpoise			
7/12 p.m.	1	Humpback Whales			
500		Pacific White-sided Dolphins			
600		Risso's Dolphins			
500		Northern Right Whale Dolphins			

Hey! Let's give ourselves a pat on the back, for the annual barbecue, July 22nd, was a great success. About 70 people came for fun and food, the raffle was exciting, and seeing old friends was equal to the pleasure of meeting new ones. The chapter netted \$1111.00 for our research and education programs. Thanks everyone!



Minke
whale by
John
Green

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<input type="checkbox"/> Patron, \$500	<input type="checkbox"/> Active, \$35	
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing, \$250	<input type="checkbox"/> Student/Teacher/Senior, \$25	
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting, \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> Subscription only*, \$15/12 issues	
<input type="checkbox"/> Foreign, \$45	(*not entitled to membership benefits)	

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Make checks payable to ACS Monterey Bay Chapter. Send to Membership Secretary
P O Box HE, Pacific Grove, CA 93950

Enjoy local whales with
companies that have supported
our chapter activities.

MONTEREY WHALE WATCHING at 1 800 200 2203 and MONTEREY BAY WHALE WATCH at 831 375 4658.

Soundings



American Cetacean Society ~ Monterey Bay Chapter

September 2006

The Newsletter of the Monterey Bay Chapter of ACS
AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY - MONTEREY BAY CHAPTER

Monthly meeting at HOPKINS MARINE STATION, Lecture Hall, Boatworks Building
(Across from the American Tin Cannery Outlet Stores)

Gray whale tail fluke drawn
for Esta Lee Albright, ed. of
Soundings by a Hartnell student.

Date: Thursday, September 28, 2006

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Please join us at 7 for refreshments

Speaker: Jerry Loomis

Title: The Friendly Whales

Of San Ignacio Lagoon



Most gray whales spend the winter in bays and lagoons along the west coast of the Baja Peninsula in Mexico. Baleen whales give birth in warm water and the gray whales chose Mexico. Of the birthing locations, San Ignacio Lagoon has captured our interest and our hearts because of the "friendly whales" there. Why do the whales of San Ignacio come to the boats? Why do the mother whales bring their calves within petting distance of boat passengers? Are these whales different from gray whales elsewhere?

Another thing Jerry will share with us is the magic of the region. The Vizcaino desert preserve stretches across central Baja from the Pacific Ocean almost to the town of San Ignacio, which is 50 miles east on a dirt road from the lagoon. The preserve is thousands of square miles where rain is so scarce that vegetation has learned to get its moisture from the fogs that blow in from the Pacific. Rocky mesas and broad plains are scattered with stands of yucca, agave, ocotillo, cirio and cactus. The lagoon rim itself has the feeling of being swallowed by white sand and light..... so vast it almost seems as if the people in the camp and the whales are the last left to breathe the clear, light air. By contrast, in one section, there is a mangrove wetlands full of birds and an island with the largest number of nesting ospreys anywhere. It's easy to see why the region brings people back.

Jerry has led trips to the lagoon for 8 years and we have heard updates about the mom/calf pairs from him. Conditions in the lagoons fluctuate and ACS Monterey Bay stays involved. Jerry will tell us about recent efforts to conserve the area, led by National Resources Defense Council and the Mexican government. He also will tell us about the local school for children of fishermen who monitor and protect the whales, and about the whales themselves as numbers and conditions change.

In addition to his role as president of this ACS chapter, Jerry is a skillful photographer and a popular speaker.

Come learn about "our" whales in an easy-listening program.

Marine Life Protected Areas Set

[Excerpts of article by San Jose Mercury News, Santa Cruz Sentinel and an email from Kaitilin Gaffney, The Ocean Conservancy, August 16, 2006]

The California Fish and Game Commission voted to ban or sharply limit fishing in 18 per cent of California's ocean waters from Half Moon Bay to Santa Barbara. Six years of delay, political debate and scientific study went into the decision after a long day of presentation and hearings in Monterey Aug. 15th.

Kaitilin Gaffney summarizes the decision and zones:

"A network of marine protected areas protects approximately 8 per cent of the Central Coast Study Area, from Half Moon Bay to Point Conception, as no-take marine reserves. Another 10 per cent was placed in marine conservation areas that allow limited fishing.

"The Commission adopted the Department of Fish and Game's recommendations (Package P) for Marine Protected Areas at Ano Nuevo and Greyhound Rock off Santa Cruz, Elkhorn Slough, Monterey Peninsula (Ricketts Reserve part of Cannery Row, Hopkins Marine Station and part of Pacific Grove), Carmel Pinnacles in Carmel Bay, Point Lobos, Big Creek, Piedras Blancas, Cambria reserve, Morro Bay, Point Buchon and Vandenburg.

"The Commission adopted the Blue Ribbon Task Force (a special group appointed by the governor to study marine life protected areas) recommendations, Package 3R at Natural Bridges, Soquel Canyon, Portuguese Ledge, Point Sur, and Cambria marine park. And, the Commission adopted a newly configured State Marine Reserve between Point Pinos and Asilomar in Pacific Grove. "

According to the Ocean Conservancy's flyer about the MLPA decision:

"In 1999, California passed the first law of its kind in the country, the Marine Life Protection Act, or MLPA. The law requires the state to improve the way it sets aside ocean areas for further protection. Conservation leaders, scientists, divers, educators and fishermen supported the law. Statewide surveys show that Californians from every walk of life and political interest want more protection for the oceans.

"A key element in conserving our ocean is marine protected areas. The waters off California's Central Coast are some of the most beautiful, inspiring and biologically productive places on our planet. Unfortunately, over fishing, habitat damage, pollution and coastal development threaten our coastal waters. Some fish populations have dropped to less than 10% of their historic levels and many of California's big old fish are gone. Marine Protected Areas are a proven management tool for protecting ocean life and habitat. Thousands of scientists from around the world recommend marine reserves – fully protected MPAs where no fishing or other extraction is allowed – as a necessary tool to help sustain populations of marine life."

The CA Dept of Fish and Game web site provides detailed information: www.dfg.ca.gov

C A L E N D A R

- Sept. 28 Regular ACS meeting; see cover
- Oct. 26 Next regular meeting
- Sept. 9-10 40th anniversary of Moss Landing Marine Labs. Celebration and Open House. For information call 771-4400



Saturday, Sept. 16th, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. is the Monterey Bay Chapter of the American Cetacean Society

Annual Blue Whale Watch

The Monterey Bay Chapter of the American Cetacean Society is pleased to announce its annual Blue Whale Watch. Monterey Bay is considered one of the best locations in the world to observe the largest animal in the history of life on earth, the Great Blue Whale, during its summer and fall feeding season in Monterey Bay.

September also brings a great diversity of cetaceans and marine life to Monterey Bay. Observations possible on this trip include Humpback whales, Minke whales, Fin whales, Killer whales, two species of Common dolphin, Risso's dolphin, Northern right whale dolphin, Pacific white-sided and Bottlenose dolphin species, Dall's and Harbor porpoise, four species of pinnipeds, leatherback sea turtles, numerous species of marine birds, blue sharks, mola mola and various species of jellies.



: Cost \$45, which includes automatic membership to ACS Monterey Bay chapter

Please mail checks to ACS Monterey Bay Chapter, P.O. Box HE, Pacific Grove, CA 93950

: Trip departs from Monterey Bay Whale Watch Center located on Fisherman's Wharf

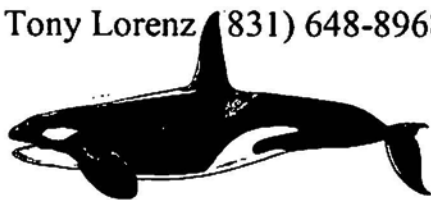
: Naturalists and marine biologists include Captain Richard Ternullo, expert on Monterey Bay seabirds and cetaceans, and Nancy Black, California's pre-eminent expert on killer whales and Monterey Bay Cetaceans.

For reservations and information please contact:

Tony Lorenz (831) 648-8968

or

Jerry Loomis (831) 419-1051



We wish to thank Tony Lorenz for the above information and for accepting a major role in promotion of special events of the chapter. Tony has worked with the chapter in many ways in the past, including excellent issues of *Soundings* newsletter. P.S. Tony loves blue whales!

Research Proposals Funded

ACS Monterey Bay has a long-standing program of funding research proposals from local institutions for research about local species, especially cetaceans. Funds come from our whale watch cruises, barbecues, donations at meetings, and from investment donations by or to honor individuals. In addition, the chapter has begun accepting proposals from students in Baja California, where cetacean research is both widespread and relevant to our local species.

Adaptive genetic Diversity of the Leatherback Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*)

Laurie A. Hall, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories

Alan Baldrige Award \$1000

"We plan to survey adaptive genetic diversity of leatherback turtle populations across different geographic scales by using polymerase chain reaction (PCR) to obtain and analyze nucleotide sequences of MHC loci from leatherbacks sampled throughout their range." Tissue material will be collected from "freshly dead animals, from captive research institutions and rehabilitation centers, and used to synthesize cDNA.....Genetic data from our study can be combined with the data from previous leatherback genetic diversity studies to perform GSI and define ESU for this species. GSI can be used to assess fisheries related mortality of distinct genetic stocks.... data provided by this study will assist policy makers in making informed conservation decisions for leatherback sea turtles."

The importance of seamounts to species of conservation concern.

Sara Maxwell, University of California Santa Cruz

Bethel Award \$1000

"Seamounts, or underwater island volcanoes, are highly predictable destinations for many large marine animals, such as cetaceans, pinnipeds and seabirds..... My aim for graduate research is to form a strong understanding of the use of seamounts by migratory species as a result of rigorous science produced with the help of the latest technologies such as GIS and satellite telemetry. Given the isolation of seamount ecosystems, their potential importance to species of conservation concern such as cetaceans and other marine mammals, and the current lack of science showing how these features interact with the living ocean around them, this research is both timely and essential."

Thermal capabilities of the northern fur seal (*Callorhinus ursinus*): a comparative study.

Heather E. Mostman-Liwanag, University of California Santa Cruz

Brown Award \$1000

"The oceanic environment presents challenges to marine mammals with respect to thermoregulation. In the otariids (fur seals and sea lions), this challenge is met with a combination of fur and blubber in fur seals, and with only a blubber layer in sea lions. This study will determine the metabolic thermal responses of the Northern fur seal, for comparison with the California sea lion.... In the face of global climate changes, it is crucial to understand how otariids respond to temperature changes so that we may better direct conservation efforts."

Use of stable isotope of nitrogen and carbon as a tool to determine the turnover rate of the blue whale skin." Geraldine Rosalie Busquets Vass, Instituto Politecnico Nacional, Centro Interdisciplinario de Ciencias Marinas, La Paz, Mexico

\$800

"Stable isotope analyses have been broadly used to study the diet and the provenance of feeding of many organisms. This is especially useful to help establish the patterns of movement of migratory animals since stable isotopes trace the nitrogen and carbon of the diet that has been assimilated in their different feeding areas and through different periods. The stable isotope signature of each particular feeding area will be reflected in animal tissues depending upon their turnover rate. The skin has been used in stable isotope analyses, nevertheless, the information about its turnover rate is practically non existent.....

"The blue whale (*Balaenoptera musculus*) is the biggest animal on the planet; even so the knowledge of its populations is still limited in view of the fact that they exhibit a wide distribution in the oceans and complex migratory patterns related to their feeding and breeding habits. In the North Pacific there is still a lot of discussion about whether there is more than one population of blue whales. Acoustic data provided by Stafford

and collaborators (2001) suggests that the blue whales from the Northeast Pacific are separate from the ones in the Northwest Pacific.

"A group of whales from the Northeast Pacific feed off the coast of California during summer and fall, by the end of fall they migrate to Baja California and enter the Gulf of California which represents an essential area for calving and feeding... The former is a very general description of the migration pattern of this group of blue whales and there are still many questions about their distribution in the oceans....

"The skin is a tissue that represents only the nutrients that have been assimilated relatively recently in comparison with other tissues. Additionally this tissue is very easy to collect during field work (using a flat leaf net for pools to gather sloughed skin or a crossbow to obtain a biopsy sample which usually includes a piece of skin and blubber)."

"The primary objective of this project is to use the variations in the proportions of stable isotopes of nitrogen and carbon in the blue whale skin to determine the turnover rate of this tissue. We expect to determine the turnover rate of the blue whale skin and through this research characterize the Gulf of California blue whale isotopic signals associated to this tissue as well as implementing a new way to apply stable isotope analyses in future research."

Marine mammal strandings in Magdalena Island, B.C.S., Mexico: relationship with physical and biological factors. Milena Mercuri, Centro Interdisciplinario de Ciencias Marinas, La Paz, Baja California Sur, Mexico \$800

"When a marine mammal comes to the end of its life it will be scavenged and decompose and disappear out to sea, or could be washed ashore and strand. These strandings are a very important source of information about the species and the ecosystem where they live, because the organisms reflect environmental conditions associated to contamination, productivity, interaction with fisheries, etc. Magdalena Island, on the western coast of the Baja California Peninsula, is the scenario of abundant marine mammal strandings; however these beachings have not been studied so far. The general objective of this study is to analyze the frequency, abundance and diversity of the strandings and its potential relation with environmental factors, commercial fisheries and the pattern of presence and abundance of species in the area. We also expect to contribute information about the diversity of marine mammals in the region and to provide a baseline of strandings that helps to understand possible impacts caused by human activities in the area."

Trophic relationships of teutophagous cetaceans and jumbo squid *Dosidicus gigas* in the Gulf of California. Raul Enrique Diaz Gamboa, Centro Interdisciplinario de Ciencias Marinas, Instituto Politecnico Nacional, La Paz, Baja California Sur, Mexico \$800

[teutophagous cetaceans eat squid, ed.] "Cephalopods play an important role in the trophic structure of marine ecosystems. The jumbo squid (*Dosidicus gigas*) is the biggest nektonic cephalopod and most abundant in the Eastern Pacific Ocean, besides being endemic. In the Gulf of California, this squid is subject to artisanal fishery on high level with catches up to 100,000 metric tons per year, mainly in the central zone of the Gulf. The squids are consumed by many marine predators including toothed whales, dolphins, porpoises, seals, birds and fishes, like tunas and sharks. In the Gulf of California, the importance of *D. gigas* has been reported in the diet of several odontocete cetaceans, emphasizing the sperm whale *Physeter macrocephalus*, the short-finned common dolphin *Delphinus delphis* and the spinner dolphin *Stenella longirostris*..... Taking into account the importance of resources that cetaceans and jumbo squid represent in Mexico, especially in the Gulf of California, and considering that the Gulf of California represents the perfect scene to study the predator-prey trophic relationships of cetaceans, this study tries to establish the spaced and temporal trophic relationships of the offshore odontocete community and jumbo squid in the Gulf of California."

Objectives of the study include: "To compare the temporal distribution and abundance of both resources: offshore odontocetes and jumbo squid in the Gulf of California. To establish the trophic relationships of phytoplankton, jumbo squid and offshore odontocetes based in stable isotopes. To establish the trophic level from jumbo squid and offshore odontocetes resources in the Gulf of California."

Descriptions here of all projects are taken from proposals submitted during the Request for Proposals period for Monterey Bay Chapter, ACS, program for 2006.

Sea Lions Taking Advantage of Cetaceans

A technique for finding cetaceans feeding out at sea is to look for flocks of birds "working" the surface – gatherings of fluttering, sitting and diving birds visible at quite some distance on a clear day. This summer we noted tight groups of sea lions, all ages but mostly adults, following humpback whales. The whales found huge "balls of bait" under water at depth, sometimes 300 feet down. The sea lions would cruise the surface, capable of diving for a dinner of fish. As the whales moved around under water, evidently the sea lions followed along on the surface, and the whale watchers kept eyes on the sea lions to catch the humpback spout as the whale surfaced.

For years whale watchers have been aware of sea lions taking advantage of the rounding up of fish by dolphins in the bay. Monterey's famous "multi-species feeding frenzies" often include whales, dolphins, sea lions, and sea birds. Sometimes the boat's depth sounder would show blips that must have been dolphins stirring up fish schools at depth and driving them to the surface, to be rounded up into a tight ball that afforded a mouth of fish to any dolphin swimming through it..... unless the sea lions crashed into the fish aggregation first, scattering it into the water column.

Now these rather entertaining, haphazard observations might be research hypotheses. The following abstract was posted on the Marine Mammal listserv, Marmam.

Bearzi, M. 2006. CALIFORNIA SEA LIONS USE DOLPHINS TO LOCATE FOOD. *Journal of Mammalogy* 87(3):606-617. Abstract

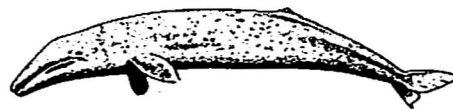
Aggregations by 3 species of dolphins (the bottlenose dolphin [*Tursiops truncatus*], the short-beaked common dolphin [*Delphinus delphis*], and the long-beaked common dolphin [*Delphinus capensis*]) and California sea lions (*Zalophus californianus*) were investigated in Santa Monica Bay, California. Groups were followed and observed during 201 boat-based surveys conducted in 1997–2001 documenting that sea lions were aggregated in 18.6% of the sightings with bottlenose dolphins (150 bottlenose dolphin sightings) and in 45.9% of the sightings with 1 of the 2 species of common dolphins (98 common dolphin sightings). Aggregations of bottlenose dolphins and sea lions were observed in inshore (.500 m from shore) and offshore (.500 m) waters, whereas common dolphins and sea lions were observed only in offshore waters. These aggregations were often recorded feeding near escarpments and submarine canyons, showing a striking preference for these bathymetric features. The results show that sea lions spend a significant amount of time following dolphins, sea lions initiate aggregation and departure from dolphin schools, these aggregations occur more often than is expected by chance, and no aggressive behavior between sea lions and dolphins was ever observed at or near the surface. I argue that sea lions may take advantage of the superior food-locating abilities of dolphins. This paper provides the 1st detailed description of mixed-species aggregations and habitat usage by 3 dolphin species and sea lions. The paper is available through the journal's website:<http://www.asmjournals.org/perlserv/?request=get-pdf&doi=10.1644%2F04-MAMM-A-115R4.1> Maddalena Bearzi, Ph.D. Ocean Conservation Society, President, Marina del Rey, CA mbearzi@earthlink.net www.oceanconservation.org

SIGHTINGS

Compiled by Monterey Bay Whale Watch: for updates see www.gowhales.com

Date	#	Type of Animal(s)
8/17 p.m.	5	Humpback Whales
	3	Killer Whales (transient type)
8/17 a.m.	4	Humpback Whales
	3	Harbor Porpoise
	6	Killer Whales *
8/16	4	Humpback Whales
8/15	12	Humpback Whales
	8	Killer Whales
	2	Bottlenose Dolphins
8/14	11	Humpback Whales
8/13	9	Humpback Whales
	500	Short-beaked Common Dolphins
	50	Risso's Dolphins
8/12	8	Humpback Whales
	250	Risso's Dolphins
8/11	5	Humpback Whales
	200	Risso's Dolphins
8/10	5	Humpback Whales
8/9	2	Humpback Whales
	6	Pacific White-sided Dolphins

8/8	2	Humpback Whales
	200	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
	300	Northern Right Whale Dolphins
8/7	6	Humpback Whales
8/6	26	Humpback Whales
	500	Risso's Dolphins
8/5 p.m.	35	Humpback Whales
	15	Risso's Dolphins
8/5 a.m.	48	Humpback Whales
	20	Risso's Dolphins
8/4 p.m.	1	Humpback Whale
	5	Killer Whales (transient type)
	10	Risso's Dolphins
	3	Dall's Porpoise
8/4 a.m.	1	Humpback Whale
	11	Killer Whales (transient type)
8/3	1	Humpback Whale
8/2	3	Humpback Whales
	1	Blue Whale
8/1	2	Humpback Whales
	6	Killer Whales (transient type)
	30	Pacific White-sided Dolphins
	20	Northern Right Whale Dolphins



For Young Whale Watchers ADELINA'S WHALES, by Richard Sobol, Dutton, 2003.

Ten-year-old Adelina might be one of the children in the school we hoped to support with our raffle. The story is about the fishermen, their children and the whales. In lovely text and vibrant color photos, it's available in various places for \$17.99, and www.amazon.com for \$12.23. Adults who have been or hope to go to San Ignacio will want it, too. "After the first friendly visit with the whales, word quickly spread of the unique encounter between a wild fifty-foot whale and a tiny fishing boat. Scientists and whale watchers started to come to Laguna San Ignacio to see the whales themselves. Perhaps word spread among the whales, too, because now dozens of whales began to approach the small boats. With brains as large as a car's engine, gray whales might even have their own language. They "talk" in low rumbles and loud clicks, making noises that sound like the tappings of a steel drum or the ticking that a playing card makes as it slaps against the spokes of a turning bicycle wheel. Maybe they told each other that it was safe to visit here."

**The Monterey Bay Chapter
American Cetacean Society
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www.starrsites.com/acsmmb/



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Esta Lee Albright, Editor of
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AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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Membership/Subscription

Membership Levels and Annual Dues:

<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime, \$750	<input type="checkbox"/> Family, \$45	ACS Chapter: #24
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron, \$500	<input type="checkbox"/> Active, \$35	
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing, \$250	<input type="checkbox"/> Student/Teacher/Senior, \$25	
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting, \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> Subscription only*, \$15/12 issues	
<input type="checkbox"/> Foreign, \$45	(*not entitled to membership benefits)	

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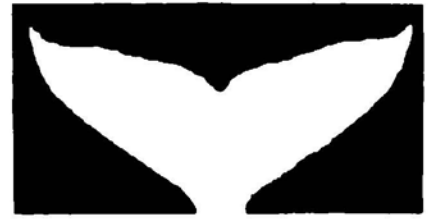
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Soundings



American Cetacean Society ~ Monterey Bay Chapter

October 2006

The Newsletter of the Monterey Bay Chapter of ACS
AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY - MONTEREY BAY CHAPTER
Monthly meeting at HOPKINS MARINE STATION, Lecture Hall, Boatworks Building
(Across from the American Tin Cannery Outlet Stores)

Date: Thursday, October 26 2006

Time: 7:30 p.m.

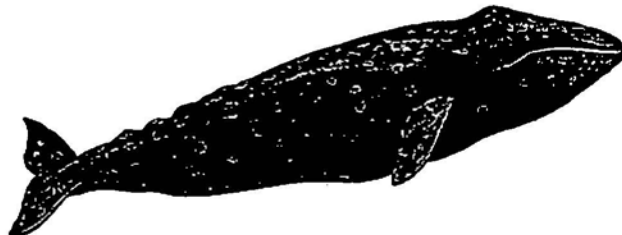
Please join us at 7:00 for refreshments.

Title: Gray Whale Obstacle Course; Jean-Michel Cousteau and Pam Stacey, producers.

Over the years there have been several attempts to film the Gray Whale's story but this newly released PBS Home Video surpasses all the others. The life history details of this uniquely coastal whale species were filmed by Director of Photography Chuck Davis of Pacific Grove and his crew.

The story begins in Magdalena Bay, the southernmost calving lagoon and follows the migration north to Barrow on the shores of the Arctic Ocean. Throughout the film, experts are interviewed, greatly enhancing our knowledge of this species which passes our shores twice each year. These include Jorge Urban (Baja calving lagoons), Alisa Schulman-Janiger and John Heyning (Los Angeles area), local ACS member Nancy Black (Monterey orca predation sequence), Wayne Perryman (female/calf census and energetics) Bruce Mate (feeding off the Oregon coast) and John Calambokidis (Washington and Vancouver Island feeding and photo identification). We also learn more about native hunting including the Makah, northwest Washington State and finally the Barrow, Alaska area and how it will be affected by Global Warming changes. The opportunity to see this beautifully photographed film on a large screen is an added bonus.

Alan Baldridge, long time ACS/Monterey Bay member and co-author of the soon to be published new edition of the Gray Whale (Monterey Bay Aquarium), will introduce the film. We hope you will be able to join us.



Calendar

October 26: Regular meeting.

November and December meetings are combined in a single meeting the first part of December.

December 7: Regular meeting. There will be a Nov.- Dec. *Soundings* newsletter in November.

Wildlife Borders on Land and Sea

Whales Without Borders

American Cetacean's 10th International Conference

November 10-12, 2006

Ventura, CA

We're pleased to announce that the 10th International ACS Conference will be held November 10-12, 2006, in Ventura, California. This year we are especially delighted to announce that the NOAA Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS) is co-sponsoring the event. CINMS provides important habitat for several whale species. The commitment of CINMS to spreading awareness about the value and resources within the sanctuary waters, and what can be done to protect them provides a perfect compliment to the goal of ACS' conferences.

American Cetacean Society conferences have a long tradition of presenting the latest findings and news about whales and other marine life. We also work to promote discussion and thought about the role and conservation of whales in an ever-changing world, and leave attendees motivated to work together for the good of the whales. So come, be energized and enlightened, and immerse yourself in the world of "Whales Without Borders". For more information visit the ACS website at www.acsonline.

Cetacean Borders – Understanding Their World

D-tag & other telemetry devices

Stable isotopes or genetics

From Wind to Whales

Cetacean Borders – Threats to Their World

Overview of worldwide disease outbreaks

Global entanglement & toxins (human impacts on environment)

Global climate change

Conflict at the Borders – How Humans and Whales Met (Whaling)

IWC Management from the past to the future

Scientific Whaling

Bowhead & Native Whaling

How Do We Manage Whaling in the Future?

Human Borders– Political & Cultural Borders

Law of the Commons

Cultural borders – Luna

Human Borders – Marine Protected Areas

MPAs – Theory and Design

MPAs – U.S. National Marine Sanctuary Program

MPAs – International

Whales and MPA's

Bridging the Borders – challenges and successes

Vaquita

North Pacific Right Whale

The neglected minke whale

YONAH/SPLASH

Hopkins Marine Station

Open House 10 am - 4 pm, Oct. 14

Ever wonder what goes on at Hopkins in addition to our monthly meetings in the Boatworks?

Some fascinating, cutting-edge research, that's what !!

The public is not invited into the labs and library all that often, so here's your chance to learn what's at Hopkins and, we think, you'll be amazed at the marine education program, too.

Randy and Gail Pucket Invite You

This from Randy, ACSMB's first chapter president and longtime benefactor:

We are having a studio show/benefit October 7 & 8, to celebrate 29 years of sculpture, 29 years of marriage and my 60th birthday.

If you hear about this in time, you can call Randy at 831 663 4394. Regardless, *Soundings* says.....

Happy Birthday, Young Man Puckett!

Thanks for making your whales a part of ACS Monterey Bay.

Best wishes to Randy and Gail..... They've lived happily ever after with whales, kids, and a beautiful home.

ACS Whale Watch Species List

By Tony Lorenz, Special Events Coordinator

THIS IS MY COMPILED SPECIES ACCOUNT FOR THE ACS MONTEREY BAY CHAPTER ON SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 16TH;
7 HUMPBACK WHALES
40-50 PACIFIC WHITE SIDED DOLPHIN
12 DALL'S PORPOISE
6-8 HARBOR PORPOISE
100'S OF CALIFORNIA SEA LIONS FEEDING IN ASSOCIATION WITH HUMPBACK WHALES
5 HARBOR SEALS
5 SOUTHERN SEA OTTERS
2 POMARINE JAEGER'S
40 COMMON MURRE'S
6 RHINO AUKLETS
50 BROWN PELICANS
20 RED NECKED PHALAROPES
4 ELEGANT TERNS
300 SOOTY SHEARWATERS
50 PINK FOOTED SHEARWATERS
50 BRANDT'S CORMORANTS
SEVERAL SPECIES OF GULLS

Vote Yes on Proposition 84

California is facing enormous population growth in the coming years, with 25 million new residents expected by 2040. But our investment in infrastructure is not keeping pace with our population growth. Current funding for natural resources and environmental protection programs is critically low. In fact, funding for resources makes up less than 1% of the overall state budget.

Proposition 84 - the Clean Water, Parks and Coastal Protection Act makes the investments needed to ensure that all Californians will have:

Access to safe drinking water

Better protection from floods

Opportunities to enjoy parks, natural landscapes and our rivers, lakes, beaches, bays and coastline.

A broad coalition of interests – water districts, conservation and environmental groups, local government entities, business organizations, museum and park interests, elected officials, and civic groups – has been formed to support Proposition 84, the Clean Water, Parks and Coastal Protection Bond Act.

From www.yeson84.com

News and Rumors About Blue Whales

Tony Lorenz looked and listened for reports on blue whales as he prepared for the ACS whale cruise on Sep. 16th. Well, Tony is constantly on the alert for news of blue whales because he has a passion for them. So, here are various bits of information from Tony and his various sources. Thanks, Tony !

A fisherman (looking for sablefish) reported one or two blue whales near Cypress Point during the days before the trip. Tony could not confirm this sighting and he had no reports of blue whales around the Farallon Islands this past weekend. Blues and humpbacks sometimes are seen around those islands offshore of San Francisco when they are not sighted closer to the "mainland."

Tony heard from Bruce Mate of Oregon State University, a grand master of satellite tagging of whales, that Mate tagged 10 blue whales 10 miles west of San Miguel Island off southern California during the second week in September. He intends to return to the spot with more tags. This area has been a "hot spot" for blue whale feeding in the past. When John Calambokidis, of Cascadia Research, Olympia, WA, and keeper of the northern Pacific blue whale ID catalog, spoke at an ACSMB meeting a few years ago, he showed movies of krill swarms and feeding blue whales..... that action was west of San Miguel Island, according to Tony.

A Note from Soundings Editor :

You may have notice No Graphics on inside pages. You may be missing Sightings: do go to the web site for Monterey Bay Whale Watch at www.gowhales.com and click on Sightings for the list. So what happened?

Well, I have been having a wonderful time on vacation in Monterey – whale watching, sailing near feeding humpbacks, learning, talking, absorbing the ocean into my pores. I was not prepared when the Oct. issue was needed quickly ahead of time. So, please accept my apology and look for a "normal" issue in November.

Since I'm usually writing from northern New Mexico, my deadline for materials is the last week of the month before a meeting -- earlier is better. I fling the newsletter into Priority Mail (or online in the future) to the printer on the first day of the month. Send me news. Keep in touch. Esta Lee
EstaLee@whalesail.com

If You See a Large Whale Entangled in Nets or Marine Debris

Call as many of the following as possible:

Moss Landing Marine Lab (Jim Harvey) 771-4400

Joe Cordaro, Natl. Marine Fisheries 562-980-4017

Monterey Bay/Sanctuary 647-4201

1st The Marine Mammal Center 1-415-289-7352

U.S. Coast Guard Guard Monterey 647-7300

National Stranding Network phone number 7 days/week, 25 hours/day 800-853-1964

Ed Lyman of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary gave a workshop and an evening presentation (9/20) for those interested and/or able to help with entanglements. He noted the two recent instances of humpback whales encumbered by crab pots and fishing gear off the Central Coast. In fact, for the years 2001-6, he said, there have been reports of 12 humpbacks, 2 gray whales, and 5 unknown animals entangled in this area. The word REPORT is the big factor: how many were not reported! As our stranding network becomes better known with regard to large whale entanglement, more reports will probably follow. This carries the need for equipment and trained people to deal with the problem. There is a dearth of both those elements but The Marine Mammal Center and others are aware and ready to deal with it. Two instances involving divers in the water to help a whale were attempted because there was no equipment and no trained personnel available. This workshop was well timed.

People should not get in the water with an entangled whale, Lyman emphasized. It is quite dangerous and even trained personnel have been inadvertently killed in various parts of the world. If someone trying to save a whale is injured or killed, Lyman said, the public tends to avoid helping or even reporting whales in trouble. Also, the process requires a permit from the federal government, a legal matter, and the government won't support a process that puts people or animals at risk.

If you are out on the ocean and are sure you have spotted a large whale in trouble, you should do the following:

- *Make contact: call the Coast Guard on your boat radio. Call all the numbers above on your cell phone.

- *Stay back away from the animal. Stay clear of the entanglement.

- *Take photographs and write down as much information as you can: location, description, behavior, others nearby.

- *Stand by. It is very helpful if rescuers can find you and the animal easily.

How big a problem is entanglement? Very big for cetaceans, pinnipeds, seabirds, turtles. A study in SE Alaska found signs of past entanglement on 72% of the whales seen there. In Hawaii, 14 %. A tagged humpback was determined to have dragged gear all the way from Alaska to Hawaii. If entangled animals are not able to release themselves, they may drown, lose the ability to feed, suffer from infections and disease, endure physical trauma, and females may have lower reproduction rates.

The type of gear found on entangled animals includes fishing nets, fish traps/crab pots, gill nets, debris that includes lost or abandoned gear and terrestrial trash, and stuff thrown overboard by ships. Research continues on ways to warn marine life that a net or trap is present. The problem of trash in the ocean is enormous worldwide.

Large whales become entangled and suffer cuts on peduncle (tail stock) and flukes, around the body, around flippers, and across the head, mouth, rostrum area. Ironically, the baleen hanging from the upper jaw sometimes traps lines and nets, and releasing entanglement from the head is usually more difficult than freeing toward the rear.

How do the large whales become entangled? There is no single cause. Gear and whales in the same area of the ocean may bring frequent entanglement, such as whales' feeding areas or migration paths. A whale's navigational mistake may blunder it into nets: whales tend to avoid gear if they know it's there. While feeding, whales may not pay attention to gear, and it should be noted that whales are not after the net's catch. One surprising cause, but a behavior we have noted among humpbacks here, is the tendency to play with objects in the water. Especially the young whales. They will push and nose up and explore the movement of anything from kelp to trash.... to gear.

(These paragraphs are notes made at Lyman's presentation 9/20 by Esta Lee Albright, editor of *Soundings*.)

Northern Fur Seals

Northern fur seals are seen on offshore whale and seabird cruises outside Monterey Bay. We most often spot female fur seals resting at the surface in their "jug" position, with one long hind flipper curled up toward the head.

From Point Reyes Bird Observatory, Russ Bradley, Farallon Program Manager, Sep. 6 2006

As we enter the fall season the island has been

A marine mammal that disappeared from California's North Coast more than 170 years ago has returned in force to the Farallon Islands.

The Farallones once supported hundreds of thousands of breeding northern fur seals -- big marine predators with luxuriant pelts. Their thick, soft fur proved their undoing: In 1834, sealers slaughtered about 200,000 of the animals, delivering their pelts to Fort Ross in what is now Sonoma County. The rest of the seals fled, abandoning their rookeries for more than a century and a half.

A few started returning in the early 1970s, but this year their numbers surged -- an indication of the islands' enduring vitality and proof that a sensitive species can revive under favorable circumstances.

"We're ecstatic to see any marine mammal recovery, but it's especially gratifying when you're talking about a sensitive species like northern fur seals," said Clyde Morris, manager of the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. "Their comeback is probably due to the high protection from human intrusion the Farallones receive."

Fur seals shunned the Farallones, islands rigorously protected as a refuge and research site by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, until a handful of young male

1. Increases fines and penalties for illegal taking or killing of sea otters to up to \$25,000 for each sea otter, raising it to equal federal fines and penalties.

1. Fish and Game Code 5650 prohibits depositing, passing or allowing to pass into the waters of the state any substance or material deleterious to fish, plant life, or bird life. This bill will expand 5650 to include mammals as well.

2. Establishes a tax check off benefiting sea otter research and protection.

3. Shows the intent of the legislature to create a research program administered through the California

inundated with unprecedented numbers of Brown Pelicans (-3000) and there is amazing news about our colony of Northern Fur Seals. Once numbering in the tens of thousands, these pinnipeds were exterminated in the 19th century and only returned to breed in 1996. Our annual ground census on West End just a week ago produced 97 pups (more than double any previous count) and is continued evidence of exponential population growth.

From San Francisco Chronicle Environment Writer, Glen Martin, Glen Martin, Sep. 11, 2006
seals rediscovered the islands about 30 years ago, said Bill

Sea Otter Legislation

From Ocean Action, Monterey Bay Aquarium
Aug. 30, 2006

To keep you updated, the sea otter bill did pass both the Senate and the Assembly, and is headed to the Governor's desk. It is fairly certain that he will sign the bill into law. The bill will establish a tax check-off on the CA tax form to support sea otter research and the implementation of the bill. So I think the best thing you can do is to urge your members to check off that box. We will be sending out an Ocean Action Team alert asking the same thing in early March.

From Fact Sheet, Assembly Bill 2458 (Jones & Laird)

Sea Otters: Saving a California Coastal Treasure

2485 takes steps to stop the numbers of sea otters along California's central coast from a continued decline. The bill increases fines and penalties for the illegal taking of sea otters, creates a research program focused on further reducing sea otter mortality, establishes a tax check off benefiting sea otter research and protection, and increases efforts to lower the level of *T-gondii* entering the sea otter habitat.

Coastal Conservancy to study sea otter mortality from non point source pollution, and treatment technologies for pathogens affecting sea otter mortality.

4. Changes cat litter packaging to encourage landfilling of cat litter and therefore reducing the levels of *T-gondii* in waste water released in the sea otter natural habitat.

Sydeman, the director of marine ecology at PRBO Conservation Science, the lead research group at the Farallones.

Decrease in Essential Plankton and Krill Disrupt Food Chain

- Jane Kay, Chronicle Environment Writer
Friday, June 23, 2006 Excerpts.

This is the time of the year when the ocean off the California coast should be at its most lush, teeming with vast schools of krill to feed whales and salmon as well as plenty of baby rockfish for seabirds, seals and fishermen's nets. But based on new counts from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, federal researchers are reporting an odd summer and a scarcity of some sea life from San Diego to Newport, Ore., for the second year in a row. And some scientists wonder if the warming of the world's oceans and atmosphere is playing a part.

"The upwelling that we normally expect in the springtime hasn't kicked in," said Frank Schwing, a NOAA oceanographer in Pacific Grove. "We think there might be real consequences for the seabirds, fish and mammals."

On the Farallon Islands, krill-eating Cassin's auklets are producing only a few chicks this year. Common murrelets, although plentiful in numbers, for the most part can't find the rockfish to keep their young alive.

Many scientists believe that the years of 2005 and 2006 should have been cold ones in the California Current, the band of coastal water from Baja California to British Columbia, according to calculations of naturally alternating cold and warm periods over the past millennia. By now, the offshore waters should be roiling with plankton and the shrimp-like krill, the foundation of the ocean's food chain. Instead, the researchers say, the organisms appear to be in short supply.

Oceanographers are scratching their heads over the brand-new data. While they believe that global warming may be throwing off natural climate regimes, they don't know how the warming might eventually affect the California Current.

"Is it just natural variability of the climate or is it part of the brave new world that we associate with global climate change?" Schwing said.....

"If it turns out that the entire California Current is having a real low year, there probably could be an effect on a whale population," said Steve Reilly, director of the protected resources division in NOAA's Scripps Institution of Oceanography biologist John McGowan, who started studying ocean conditions more than 50 years ago, said Thursday that there was "a great deal of disruption going on in food webs and it's climate related.".....

Notice the June date. Now, three months later, what do we see in Monterey Bay that relates to this article?

- Esta Lee Albright, observing aboard boats.

In September, the ocean should be in its Oceanic stage, with clear offshore water coming inside the bay, yet the krill should still be hiding in the edges of the canyon for necessary last gulps by blue whales. The blue whales are not here. We heard they stayed along the southern CA waters until mid-summer. A recent call to Santa Barbara told us they aren't there either. Humpback whales are missing the shot of nutrition they usually get from summer krill. In other years we would be watching schools of pulsing jellies, too, and we would be spotting dorsal fins of blue sharks and ocean sunfish. Instead the waters sometimes are blank surfaces. On most days we can look very hard to find seabirds, pinnipeds or a cetacean or two. Long cruises, such as the ACS fund raiser on Sep. 16, are the best hope for multiple sightings of any species. Flocks of Cassin's auklets aren't apparent. The murre chicks are still following their fathers and a number have survived; in other years we saw many more. The sea lions go to sea in search of humpback whales, for the whales, more opportunistic feeders than summer blue whales, have been able to find

schools of anchovies and bait fish for feed. There have been a dozen or so humpbacks between Moss Landing and Seaside, and their sides are round with blubber. Others have been reported in Carmel Bay. For two months humpbacks have had a layer of fast-moving sea lions on the surface above their feeding, taking advantage of the whales' ability to find the fish. Birds see the motion and hurry to circle and plunge dive for fish that come up within range. If humpbacks' gulping spreads fish at the surface... or is it that they "poop" fishparts birds go into a frenzy of feeding at the spot.

Nature cruises are looking as long and hard as seals and birds. For a week in August one adult humpback fed every day offshore of old Fort Ord when others weren't located. Often fish were close enough to the surface that dives were short and the whale's throat pleats could be seen as it raised its head to swallow. Whale watch boats came to depend on it, some going to the area twice a day. It was apparently the "only game in town." *Sea Wolf II* captain Richard Ternullo counted the whale watch boats, the days and the trips. "Over about 4 - 5 days, for those boat companies," he remarked, "That whale was worth about \$12,000."

~

The Japan Times Printer Friendly Articles OUR PLANET EARTH, ECOSYSTEMS IN CRISIS
Marine management is all at sea
By STEPHEN HESSE

<http://search.japantimes.co.jp/member/member.html?mode=getarticle&file=fe20060628sh.html>

Our oceans and seas are in deep trouble, and if the Japanese government is to be believed, part of the blame rests with the whales. This is nonsense, of course. The degradation and resource depletion that threaten marine ecosystems worldwide are solely due to human activity. Still, Japan has struggled for decades to end an International Whaling Commission moratorium on whaling that went into force in 1986, and it is difficult not to sympathize with their frustration, if not with their cause. It's not that Japan can't kill whales. For years they have been harpooning hundreds of minke whales each year as part of a "scientific research" program carried out in the South Pacific and Southern Ocean, and the number killed is increasing steadily. In its own coastal waters, too, Japanese kill thousands of porpoises and dolphins annually. But Japan does not need more whales because people are clamoring for steaks and chunks of fried blubber. These days there is not even enough demand to finish off the small mountain of whale meat that is processed each year. Japan has an embarrassing surplus when it comes to whale carcasses.

So why is the Japanese government still so eager to slaughter?

For years the argument was cultural, that whales are a unique part of Japan's fishing and dietary traditions. That seemed reasonable to many observers, but Japanese mariners still preferred catching more profitable fish, and consumers continued to prefer anything but whale. Government spokespeople then began touting whale meat as a solution to feeding the world's starving masses. That argument, too, seemed reasonable -- but rather disingenuous. After all, Japan had spent years criticizing the cultural imperialism of anti-whaling nations that did not accept the *unique* role whales play in Japanese culture. Now, the same government was suggesting that non-whale eaters change their own diets. Most recently, Japanese delegates to the IWC have been preaching that whales eat far too many fish and threaten the food security of coastal nations. In short, whales are eating *our* fish! The solution? Kill the whales and there will be more fish for human consumption. Fortunately no amount of hubris can change the fact that such simple manipulation of the planet's ecosystems is impossible.

*****ACSMB Board approved a motion by this editor that we contact conservation groups in other countries, especially those in pro-whaling countries, to ask their methods and insights and the IWC and the whaling issue, then to share that information through this newsletter. Knowledge, awareness, what can be done. Keep in touch.-ed.*****

Myriad, constantly evolving interdependencies between plants, animals and natural systems form complex ecosystems that are the foundation of human survival, providing food, fuel, pharmaceuticals and material for clothing and shelter -- the very backbone of our economic system. If marine and terrestrial ecosystems collapse, so too will the economic house of cards we have built upon them.

Yes, there is trouble on the high seas, but the whales are not the problem; they are simply another species, like the tuna, swordfish, salmon and sharks that are falling victim to human ignorance and rapacious consumption.

Even as we recognize that oceans are perhaps our best and last resort for food sustenance, we continue to dump our wastes into them, including industrial and agricultural chemicals, oil waste and petroleum products, heavy metals and radioactive materials.

Incredibly, these are the same waters from which we pull much of the fish and shellfish we eat. Almost 20 percent of the animal protein consumed worldwide comes from seafood. Ocean fisheries are some of the most important resources for food security, and yet we are undermining their survival.

Earlier this month, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Conservation Union (IUCN), an international organization headquartered in Gland, Switzerland that cooperates with 81 nations, 120 government agencies, 800 NGOs and experts in 181 countries, released a report that highlights the Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde nature of our relationship with the planet's oceans. The report warns:

"The conservation and sustainable use of the vulnerable ecosystems and biodiversity in deep waters and high seas are among the most critical oceans issues and environmental challenges today. Immediate impacts and threats, such as those posed by fishing, have to be reduced urgently. Activities that generate long-lasting pollution, alter climate, disrupt oceanic circulation regimes and acidify ocean waters have to be addressed, while we still can."

**The Monterey Bay Chapter
American Cetacean Society
P.O. Box HE
Pacific Grove, CA 93950**

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MONTEREY WHALE WATCHING at 1 800 200 2203 and **MONTEREY BAY WHALE WATCH** at 831 375 4658.

AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

☐ New Membership/Subscription ☐ Renewal Membership/Subscription ☐ Gift
Membership/Subscription

Membership Levels and Annual Dues:

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<input type="checkbox"/> Patron, \$500	<input type="checkbox"/> Active, \$35	
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing, \$250	<input type="checkbox"/> Student/Teacher/Senior, \$25	
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting, \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> Subscription only*, \$15/12 issues	
<input type="checkbox"/> Foreign, \$45	(*not entitled to membership benefits)	

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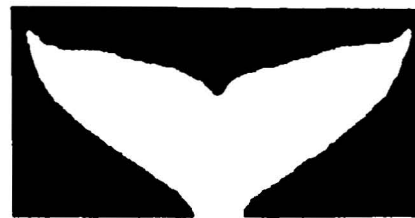
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Soundings



American Cetacean Society ~ Monterey Bay Chapter

November 2006

The Newsletter of the Monterey Bay Chapter of ACS

AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY - MONTEREY BAY CHAPTER

Monthly meeting at HOPKINS MARINE STATION, Lecture Hall, Boatworks Building

(Across from the American Tin Cannery Outlet Stores)

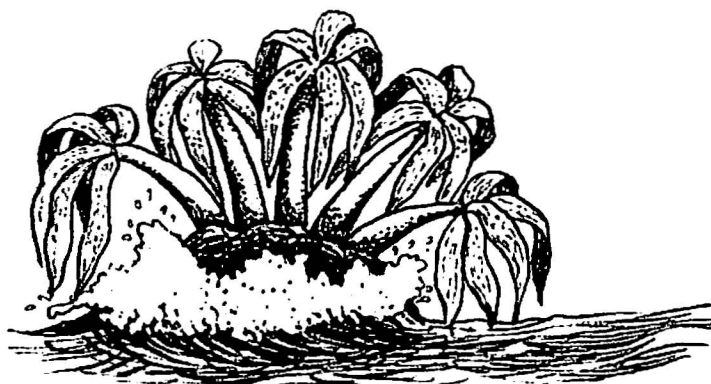
Date: Thursday, November 30, 2006

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Please join us at 7 for refreshments

Speaker: Dr. Michael Graham

Title: Algal diversity manipulations:
how seaweeds structure the rocky shore.



Sea Palms

Now more than ever, we are challenged with finding ways to have effective resource management of the ocean and the organisms which live in it. While the fundamental importance of seaweeds as primary producers is a given, the functional consequences of manipulation of seaweed assemblages and densities on their associated communities is not. Dr. Graham will share with us the initial results on an ongoing multiyear manipulation of perennial algal diversity on intertidal beaches in central California.

Dr. Graham, as an Assistant Professor at Moss Landing Marine Lab, is an active, in the water researcher. His doctorate in Oceanography, Masters in Marine Science and BA in Aquatic Biology/Geography provide a broad basis from which to interpret his observations and findings. He has received several grants to study various aspects of seaweed communities and has many publications relating to seaweeds to his credit.

Please join us to learn about this fresh look at an aspect of the marine ecosystem which may prove to be critical in creating successful management plans for marine conservation.

Program information has been provided by Bob Mannix. The drawing of Sea Palms is from "Seashore Life Illustrations," Dover Publications.

CALENDAR

- Nov. 30: This month's regular meeting. See cover. NOTE: last month the Calendar posted a meeting on Dec. 7, but that was an error. We'll meet the last Thursday in Nov. because Thanksgiving is 'early.'
- Whales Without Borders**, ACS National conference Nov. 10-12; from Monterey, Jerry Loomis, Sally Eastham, Sheila and Alan Baldrige will attend and report at the Nov. meeting.
- Jan. 25, 2007: First 2007 meeting. We skip December this year because of the holidays.
- Jan. 20, 2007: **Gray whale benefit cruise** for ACS Monterey Bay. This is a Saturday during the expected peak of the gray whale migration. In the past this has been a special and popular event. Host: Monterey Whale Watching/Leon Oliver on the Princess Monterey. \$25 per person. Board at 7:45 a.m. 2 hours.

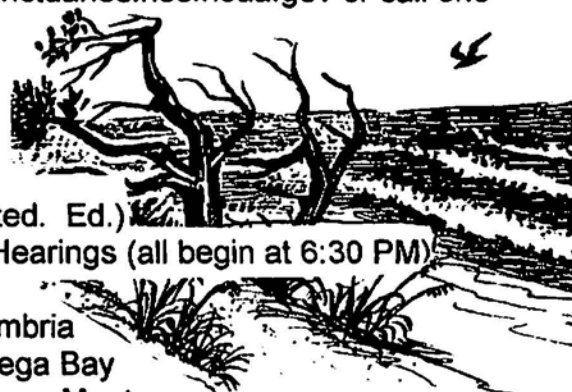
Help Shape Your Ocean's Future!

Contributed by Bob Mannix

The Cordell Bank, Gulf of the Farallones and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries are updating their management plans and need your input! The three sanctuaries are holding public meetings this fall to provide information and to gather specific comments on draft plans, proposed rules and a draft environmental impact statement.

To review copies of these documents on-line please visit <http://sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov> or call one of the following numbers:

- Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary: 415-663-0314
- Gulf of the Farallones NMS: 415-561-6622
- Monterey Bay NMS: 831-647-4201



(Expired Information Workshop dates for October '06 omitted. Ed.)
To express your views, attend one of these formal Public Hearings (all begin at 6:30 PM)

- Nov. 29, '06, Cambria Pines Lodge, 2905 Burton Drive, Cambria
Nov. 29, '06 Bodega Marine Lab., 2099 Westside Rd. Bodega Bay
Nov. 30, '06 Monterey Conference Center, One Portola Plaza, Monterey
Nov. 30, '06 Dance Palace Community Center, 503 B St., Point Reyes Station
Dec. 5, '06 U.C. Santa Cruz Inn and Conference Center, 611 Ocean St., Santa Cruz
Dec. 5, '06 Fort Mason Center, Firehouse (NE corner of Center) San Francisco
Dec. 6, '06 Community United Methodist Church, 777 Miramontes St., Half Moon Bay

For more information on how to Get Involved! See: <http://sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/jointplan>
OR Rachel T. Saunders, rachel.saunders@noaa.gov, Community & Public Relations
Coordinator, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary 831-647-4237

The Marine Mammal Center Phone Number for reporting entangled whales is 415 / 289-SEAL (7325)
(Shelbi Stoudt of TMMC sent email last month with the correction. Below is the complete list of contacts.)

The Marine Mammal Center (415) 289-7325

Moss Landing Marine Lab (Jim Harvey, Marine Stranding Network) (831) 771-4400

Jose Cordaro, Natl. Marine Fisheries (562) 980-4017

Monterey Bay Sanctuary (831) 647-4201 U.S. Coast Guard Monterey (831) 647-7300

National Stranding Network phone number 7 days/week, 24 hours/day 800- 853-1964

Excerpts, *Santa Cruz Sentinel* article of Oct. 18, 2006 by Roger Sideman, Sentinel Staff Writer, see www.santacruzsentinel.com/archive/2006/October/18/local/stories/07local.htm

A Few Points about the Draft Sanctuary Management Plan

for surfers, personal watercraft users, Davidson Seamount ecologists, cruise ship polluters, seawall builders, shark baiters, dischargers of nonnative species, dredgers

A new plan that's been drafted to manage the sanctuary would expand the boundaries by 15 percent and broaden existing restrictions on **shark baiting** and other activities.

But it leaves open the three-year-old question of whether surfers should be able to use personal watercraft to reach big waves in areas like the world-famous break at Maverick's, just north of Half Moon Bay. In response, local big wave surfers are rallying in anticipation of a public hearing on the plan Thursday. Maverick's, which has become an international hot spot for tow-in surfing the past few years, is within the Monterey Bay sanctuary. The meeting presents one of the only opportunities big-wave surfers will have to plea for **personal watercraft access to Maverick's**, sanctuary officials and surfers said Tuesday.

"Thursday is huge for Santa Cruz," said surfer Ed Guzman, who with Peter Mel founded the West Coast Tow Surfing Association to address the proposed changes. Sanctuary spokeswoman Rachel Saunders said to prevent disturbance to nearshore wildlife, the draft plan proposes closing an "outdated" loophole that allows larger, three and four seat personal watercraft in the sanctuary. Those watercraft grew in popularity after the existing rules were formed in 1992 when the sanctuary was created.

Under the proposal, the use of all **personal watercraft** would be limited to harbor mouths at Monterey, Moss Landing, Santa Cruz and Pillar Point.

"We leave the door open for some kind of special use permits at Maverick's," Saunders said, but whether any permits would be available "depends on the response we get." ...Brian Foss, director of the Santa Cruz Small Craft Harbor, opposes the ban. Sensitive wildlife and kelp forests could be protected while allowing greater access to responsible users, he said.

"We say, 'Why not regulate behavior rather than classes of boats?'" Foss said. The state Department of Boating and Waterways also will chime in on behalf of the surfers, Foss said.

The management plan has been under development since 2001, Saunders said, and has been the subject of numerous public workshops. Generally, proposed changes to regulations are intended to strengthen protections for marine habitats, sensitive species, water quality and submerged historic resources.

One of the largest underwater mountains in the world, the Davidson Seamount, would be added to the sanctuary.

"It offers an otherworldly array of plants and wildlife," said Saunders, sanctuary spokeswoman. Located 100 miles southwest of Santa Cruz, it is large enough to fill the Monterey Bay. It rises 1.5 miles off the seafloor; its peak is 4,000 feet below sea level.

Other regulations would cover **discharges from cruise ships, the introduction of nonnative species and the disposal of dredge material.**

The plan includes an "action plan" that discourages coastal armoring by treating **seawalls** as the last resort. Some experts have tied seawalls to beach erosion. The proposal calls for taking preventative measures first, then using alternatives to seawalls, and finally arguing for some preferred forms of seawalls.

Overall, the draft plan reflects a major shift in managing the sanctuary since it was formed around just the obvious threats of pollution dumping and oil exploration, said Kaitilin Gaffney of the Ocean Conservancy, an environmental group.

"The Monterey Bay sanctuary faces a number of problems that either did not exist, or that we weren't aware of, 15 years ago," she said. "The new management plan is designed to both address the threats of today and to anticipate and avoid the threats of tomorrow."

So, attend a hearing and/or make sure you give input to the plan. See dates and information on the previous page.

WHALES FOR KIDS

Once upon a time, ACS Monterey Bay paid active attention to children. There were local events we could join, with information and exhibits, including child-size coloring tables. Through grants from the AT&T we made presentations in elementary school classrooms and took children from Salinas schools, mostly children of farmworkers, whale watching. In keeping with holidays that are magic for children, *Soundings* here spends a little time and print with two children's educational programs available in the local area.

Here's an introduction to a local group that has a focus on children, and "really cool" projects. Brought to our attention by Harriet Mitteldorf, this editor, Harriet and Carol Maehr, this chapter's Conservation Chair, recently visited Maris Sidenstecker and **Save the Whales – Whales on Wheels**.

Take a look at www.savethewhales.org

Maris says on her web site:

Save the Whales was founded in 1977 when Maris Sidenstecker was 14 years old, and focuses on educating the public, especially children, about marine mammals and the fragile ocean environment. Save the Whales believes children, the future of the planet, need to be empowered and know that their actions can promote change. Education is the key to saving whales, oceans, and ourselves.

Many people believe that whales have been protected by the 1986 worldwide ban on whaling.

Don't believe it.

Killings, captures, bombings, and pollution continue to threaten these peaceful creatures.....

No one action will ensure the safety of whales for all time. This is why Save The Whales devotes so much energy to reaching children about whales. So far, over 275,000 school children have learned about whales, and how they can help save sea life through **Whales On Wheels (WOW™)**, an innovative hands-on educational program offered in English and Spanish. The WOW™ experience provides a stimulating learning encounter -- including bones of baleen whales, clicks of cetaceans, pelts of pinnipeds. Skulls of sea mammals and tales of toothed whales. WOW™ has travelled across the nation visiting school children in the Alaska, Arizona, Oregon, Washington, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Virginia and California. WOW™ is now based in Monterey, California.

Since 2003, Save The Whales has been taking students out in the natural environment to observe their local watershed and learn how to observe, take

data and use scientific instruments. This nine-month hands-on opportunity allows students to see how human activities on land cause pollution that can enter creeks and streams and flow to the ocean.

Save The Whales focuses on after-school programs in East Salinas, California as it is one of the highest crime areas in Central California. Offering positive opportunities for students keeps them engaged and allows them to see how they can make a difference in their community.

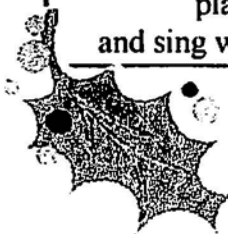
Urban runoff is considered the largest source of ocean pollution. It is caused by pollutants such as: motor oil, antifreeze, pesticides, fertilizers, pet waste, litter, and household chemicals that are dumped or washed into storm drains. Storm drains flow to creeks, rivers, streams and ultimately the ocean.

Students end each field experience by collecting trash from creeks and streets to prevent trash from entering the creek which protects animals from getting caught in plastic six-pac rings or choking on plastic bags. Save The Whales believes these simple actions and the memorable nine-month program will carry throughout the student's life.

Maris offers a download, printable list of "10 Ways You Can Help Marine Life Everyday." Go to

http://www.savethewhales.org/you_can_do.html or contact Save the Whales at 831 899-9957.

From ACS Monterey Bay,
may you have a whale of a holiday,
play like dolphins,
and sing with the gusto of humpbacks



(Whales for Kids continued)

Pacific Cetacean Group has the goal of educating groups and individuals on marine life and their environment. This organization was created as a long-term dream by a network of marine scientists and educators in the Monterey Bay area. PCG research, education and art programs focus on marine mammals and their ecology.

The primary goal is to offer people a unique opportunity to study marine mammals and marine ecology by participating in some of the ongoing research. PCG has recently expanded its mission to include the arts as a means of promoting conservation of marine mammals, and inspiring a sense of responsibility toward the oceans, and offers:

Whale of a Rhythm Programs (WOARP), now funded by a grant and often offered free, introduces the sounds, songs and rhythms of whales and dolphins. It's a hands-on experience to help develop a personal connection between participants and marine mammals. WOARP is presented in schools, at public events, and for other community groups around the greater Monterey, Santa Cruz, Salinas and San Benito counties.

Participants play drums and other percussion instruments along with recordings of cetacean songs and marine mammal vocalizations. They explore the relationship shared with marine mammals by imitating and responding to sounds such as tone, pitch, frequency, pattern, and rhythm. WOARP focuses on the importance of cetacean vocalizations and communication. Participants learn how cetaceans utilize sound to find food, navigate, avoid danger, and maintain complex social structures.

Of growing concern to PCG is the ever-increasing threat of underwater noise pollution to the overall well being of marine mammals. In a 1999 report, *Sounding the Depths*, the Natural Resources Defense Council states that "there exists a threshold of viability— a level at which basic, biologically essential activities are so frustrated as to risk the welfare of entire populations. For some species, as far as we know, it is possible that line has already been crossed." We believe it is crucial to educate the general public, especially the youth, about these

issues in order to protect cetacean species over the long term. It is our hope that through the drums, people will begin to listen more carefully to the voices in our oceans.

Both **Save the Whales** and **Pacific Cetacean Group** give great importance to education but also are active in research – a remarkably adept combination of information and inspiration for any group.

The BWET, Student Water Monitoring project at **Save the Whales**, teaches students to use scientific instruments in the field, record data, and recognize the relationship between problems of land and sea, activities that contribute data for scientific assessment and give students skills and problem-solving ability.

Maris also points to her successful work at stopping the Navy ship shock testing in 1994. She promotes research by other cetacean-oriented groups through links on her web site.

Pacific Cetacean Group has a research goal of monitoring populations of marine mammals through long-term data collected on abundance, distribution, behavior, and feeding/breeding ecology. Two current projects are: (1) Sea Otter Ecology Project -the continuation of records of sea otter distribution and abundance in Elkhorn Slough. Tom and PCG have records that help explain the recent abundance of sea otters in Moss Landing Harbor. *Soundings* carried some of the data in a recent article.

(2) Humpback Whale Feeding Ecology Project - the collection of humpback feeding data and analysis of food content. This has led to collaborating with institutions involved in marine ecological studies, such as domoic acid occurrence. From the point of view of a naturalist on the ocean, this editor is always glad to hear Tom's voice on the ship radio.

(Sources: *Save the Whales* web site: www.savethewhales.org; email from Maris Sidenstecker; *Pacific Cetacean Group* web site:

www.pacificcetaceangroup.org, and email from Tom Kieckhefer, PCG and ACS Monterey Scientific Committee member.) And, of course, the model of education and research in tandem, increasing and benefitting both, has been successfully applied by the **Monterey Bay Aquarium**. Our children live in a grand and inspiring location. ~

Northern Fur Seals

*From Point Reyes Bird Observatory, Russ Bradley,
Farallon Program Manager, Sep. 6 2006*

"As we enter the fall season the island has been inundated with unprecedented numbers of Brown Pelicans (~3000) and there is amazing news about our colony of Northern Fur Seals. Once numbering in the tens of thousands, these pinnipeds were exterminated in the 19th century and only returned to breed in 1996. Our annual ground census on West End just a week ago produced 97 pups (more than double any previous count) and is continued evidence of exponential population growth."

*From San Francisco Chronicle Environment
Writer, Glen Martin, Sep. 11, 2006*

A marine mammal that disappeared from California's North Coast more than 170 years ago has returned in force to the Farallon Islands.

The Farallones once supported hundreds of thousands of breeding northern fur seals -- big marine predators with luxuriant pelts. Their thick, soft fur proved their undoing: in 1834, sealers slaughtered about 200,000 of the animals, delivering their pelts to Fort Ross in what is now Sonoma County. The rest of the seals fled, abandoning their rookeries for more than a century and a half.

A few started returning in the early 1970s, but this year their numbers surged -- an indication of the islands' enduring vitality and proof that a sensitive species can revive under favorable circumstances.

"We're ecstatic to see any marine mammal recovery, but it's especially gratifying when you're talking about a sensitive species like northern fur seals," said Clyde Morris, manager of the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. "Their comeback is probably due to the high protection from human intrusion the Farallones receive."

Fur seals shunned the Farallones, islands rigorously protected as a refuge and research site by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, until a handful of young male seals rediscovered the islands about 30 years ago, said Bill Sydeman, the director of marine ecology at PRBO Conservation Science, the lead research group at the Farallones.

(This article is reprinted from the October issue of *Soundings*, where it appeared garbled beyond clarity.)

Traveling to whale watch this winter?

Drop In At the WhaleQuest on Maui, Hawaii
Feb. 16-18, 2007

Whale Quest Kapalua (free and open to the public) celebrates Maui's most famous visitors, the humpback whale, through lectures, interactive displays and events, art and photo exhibitions (Monterey's Gail and Randy Puckett were there last year), whale sightings and an interpretive walk. Naturalists from scientific institutions join visitors and residents for this fun and interactive weekend. There is a charity golf tournament benefitting non-profit research organizations. Everywhere whales gather, feeding OR breeding, some kind of scientific research is going on. In *Soundings*, we have reported on some of the scientists involved in local work, but are you aware there are three organized groups doing different kinds of cetacean research in Hawaii?

Hawaii Whale Research Foundation

The Hawaii Whale Research Foundation is a small nonprofit group of dedicated volunteers conducting field research on humpback whale social affiliation, behavior and communication in the belief that if the needs of these magnificent animals are more fully understood we may better offer recommendations that protect and preserve them. Five winter months of data collection and photo-documentation in Hawaii are augmented by year-round analysis, frequent scientific publications, public service seminars and educational presentations. ACS Monterey member Peggy Stap is a principle investigator with this group and extends her work to Monterey Bay marine life.

Center for Whale Studies

Center for Whale Studies researchers, Deborah and Mark Ferrari, travel to Hawaii to conduct an annual study begun in 1975. Their work documents the behavior of humpbacks as mothers rest and rear their young, while males battle and challenge each other for position in a complex social hierarchy. Using only benign observational techniques, they take photos, video, and skin samples in the process of identifying humpbacks.

Whale Trust

Whale Trust was formed in 2001 to support field research on whales and their marine environment. Its founders are scientists and explorers who believe that science lies at the heart of environmental education and conservation.

(www.kapalua.com/activities/events/whale_quest...)

SIGHTINGS



Jerry Loomis, president of ACS Monterey Bay and whale watch naturalist, confirms the steady presence of humpback whales this month. Jerry says there are humpbacks in small numbers, scattered, but still feeding on "bait" (schools of little fish). He has seen them at the edge of the submarine canyon. They seem to have shed their constant escorts of sea lions since last month and numbers of sea lions are feeding offshore on their own. Good sightings of dolphins – sightings of mola mola (ocean sunfish) – water temperatures at 60 degrees – a lone minke toward the end of Oct. – seabirds still joining in the general feeding -on -bait excitement.

Daily sightings information is gathered from a variety of boats, compiled by the staff of Monterey Bay Whale Watch, and posted on their web site: www.gowhales.com

Date	#	Type of Animal(s)
10/20 p.m.	7 12	Humpback Whales Dall's Porpoise
10/20 a.m.	8 30	Humpback Whales Risso's Dolphins
10/19 p.m.	6	Humpback Whales
10/19 a.m.	6 30	Humpback Whales Risso's Dolphins
10/18 p.m.	11	Humpback Whales
10/18 a.m.	6 25 10	Humpback Whales Risso's Dolphins Dall's Porpoise
10/17	12	Humpback Whales
10/16 p.m.	7	Humpback Whales
10/16 a.m.	8 50	Humpback Whales Risso's Dolphins
10/15 p.m.	1	Humpback Whale
10/15 a.m.	8	Humpback Whales
10/14 p.m.	7 25 20	Humpback Whales Pacific White-sided Dolphins Risso's Dolphins
10/14 a.m.	7 15 20	Humpback Whales Pacific White-sided Dolphins Risso's Dolphins
10/13 p.m.	8	Humpback Whales
10/13 a.m.	3	Humpback Whales
10/12	6 25	Humpback Whales Risso's Dolphins
10/11 p.m.	4	Humpback Whales
10/11 a.m.	5 10	Humpback Whales Dall's Porpoise
10/10 p.m.	4	Humpback Whales
10/10 a.m.	8 1	Humpback Whales Elephant Seal
10/9	3	Humpback Whales
10/8 p.m.	5	Humpback Whales
10/8 a.m.	6	Humpback Whales
10/7 p.m.	10 250 600 350	Humpback Whales Pacific White-sided Dolphins Risso's Dolphins Northern Right Whale Dolphins
10/7 a.m.	11 250 600 350	Humpback Whales Pacific White-sided Dolphins Risso's Dolphins Northern Right Whale Dolphins

10/6 p.m.	6	Humpback Whales
10/6 a.m.	6 30	Humpback Whales Pacific White-sided Dolphins
10/5 p.m.	6	Humpback Whales
10/5 a.m.	5	Humpback Whales
	25 120 40 4	Pacific White-sided Dolphins Risso's Dolphins Northern Right Whale Dolphins Dall's Porpoise
10/4 p.m.	2 30	Humpback Whales Bottlenose Dolphins
10/4 a.m.	5 500 25	Humpback Whales Risso's Dolphins Northern Right Whale Dolphins
10/3 p.m.	2 120 700 500	Humpback Whales Pacific White-sided Dolphins Risso's Dolphins Northern Right Whale Dolphins
10/3 a.m.	4 120 700 500	Humpback Whales Pacific White-sided Dolphins Risso's Dolphins Northern Right Whale Dolphins
10/2 p.m.	2 60	Humpback Whales Risso's Dolphins
10/2 a.m.	6 30 1000	Humpback Whales Risso's Dolphins Northern Right Whale Dolphins
10/1 p.m.	3 300 20	Humpback Whales Risso's Dolphins Northern Right Whale Dolphins
10/1 a.m.	4 350 50 3	Humpback Whales Risso's Dolphins Northern Right Whale Dolphins Northern Fur Seals

9/30 p.m.	18 2 1	Humpback Whales Blue Whales Northern Fur Seal
9/30 a.m.	31 1	Humpback Whales Northern Fur Seal
9/29 p.m.	9 50 2	Humpback Whales Risso's Dolphins Dall's Porpoise
9/29 a.m.	15 12	Humpback Whales Dall's Porpoise
9/28 p.m.	18	Humpback Whales
9/28 a.m.	2 125 300 25 12	Humpback Whales Pacific White-sided Dolphins Risso's Dolphins Northern Right Whale Dolphins Dall's Porpoise

9/27 p.m.	5 600 1100 120	Humpback Whales Pacific White-sided Dolphins Risso's Dolphins Northern Right Whale Dolphins
9/27 a.m.	6 50 2	Humpback Whales Risso's Dolphins Harbor Porpoise
9/26 p.m.	2 15	Humpback Whales Dall's Porpoise
9/26 a.m.	3 125 1100 450	Humpback Whales Pacific White-sided Dolphins Risso's Dolphins Northern Right Whale Dolphins
9/25 p.m.	8 75 800 350	Humpback Whales Pacific White-sided Dolphins Risso's Dolphins Northern Right Whale Dolphins
9/25 a.m.	9 150 1200 400	Humpback Whales Pacific White-sided Dolphins Risso's Dolphins Northern Right Whale Dolphins
9/24 p.m.	8	Humpback Whales
9/24 a.m.	9 250	Humpback Whales Risso's Dolphins
9/23 p.m.	6 30	Humpback Whales Risso's Dolphins
9/23 a.m.	10	Humpback Whales
9/22 p.m.	5	Humpback Whales
9/22 a.m.	2	Humpback Whales
9/21	6	Humpback Whales
9/20 p.m.	6	Humpback Whales
9/20 a.m.	7 50 250 20	Humpback Whales Pacific White-sided Dolphins Risso's Dolphins Northern Right Whale Dolphins
9/19	5	Humpback Whales
9/18	9	Humpback Whales
9/17 p.m.	1	Humpback Whale
9/17 a.m.	2 75	Humpback Whales Risso's Dolphins
9/16 p.m.	6	Humpback Whales
9/16 a.m.	8 75 120 40 8	Humpback Whales Pacific White-sided Dolphins Risso's Dolphins Northern Right Whale Dolphins Dall's Porpoise

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Happy Holidays from
ACS Monterey Bay!



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