

Spyhopper

ACS NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2017



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear ACS Members,

Let me begin by thanking all of you who have supported the American Cetacean Society throughout its fifty-year history. Although it is an organization for and about whales, it needs people like you to further our aim to educate the public and help cetacean conservation efforts.

As we are closing our 50th anniversary year, it is good to take a moment to

appreciate the many people who have contributed to, and passionately worked for, our organization, from its beginnings in 1967 by founders Elizabeth “Bemi” deBus and Dr. Clark Cameron, to today. We thank all of you!

One could assume that we would have celebrated our golden jubilee with great fanfare. Instead however, we tried to take stock of where we are today. The world has changed so much these five decades, as does the way organizations like ours communicate with their members and engage with the public at large. Like any long-lived organization, ACS has seen its struggles. How can a whale and dolphin conservation group remain relevant in an ever-changing landscape of social media and endless flood of information?

So, we rolled up our sleeves. We

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JODI FREDIANI

Blue fluke in Monterey Bay.

Letter cont.

partnered with MemberClicks to both more effectively manage our membership and a way for our members to become more engaged with ACS. As a benefit, this will free up staffing hours and save needed dollars for ACS programs aimed at education and conservation.

Apart from our quarterly newsletter, *Spyhopper*, we are also working on reviving our annual full-color journal *Whalewatcher*. Scott Kraus, senior Science Advisor and Chief Scientist for the New England Aquarium, will be our guest editor for our next "Right Whale Issue". North Atlantic right whales face enormous problems and their survival is on the line. Reason enough to focus our next journal to this beleaguered species. We hope to have this issue in the mail in the early part 2018. We are also working on the next exciting ACS conference in 2018, and hope to have more information on dates and location within the next month.

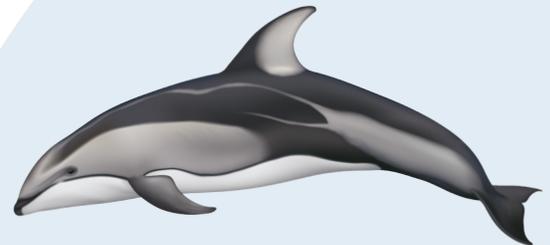
The heart of the American Cetacean Society still remains within our ACS Chapters,

who have worked tirelessly to bring their passion for whales into their communities through meetings, outreach, student grants, and citizen science. You can read all about what our chapters have been up to in this newsletter!

Lastly, and most importantly, we look to the amazingly passionate students within our organization as the generation that will take ACS into the next 50 years and beyond. The ACS Student Coalition is an inspiration to all of us.

Sincerely,

Uko Gorter, president



**ON BEHALF OF
WHALES, DOLPHINS
AND PORPOISES
ACS NATIONAL BOARD
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Read more about our Chapters and Board Members at acsonline.org



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EDITOR

Diane Glim

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Uko Gorter

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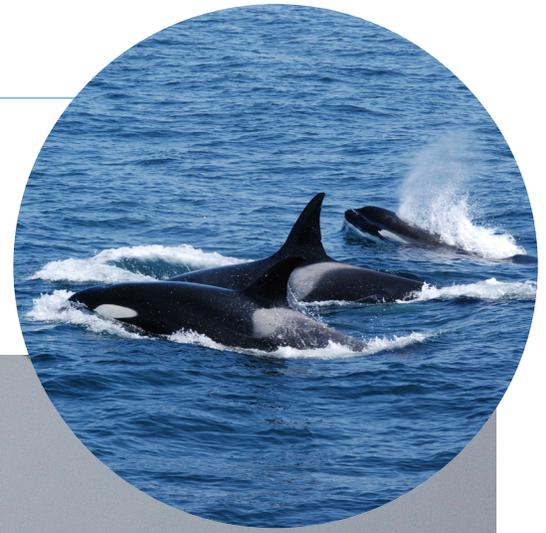
Rose Freidin

ON THE COVER

From Left to Right: Humpback mother and calf pair in Tonga by Jodi Frediani. Sunset fluke by Katie Dunbar from Monterey Bay Whale Watch. ACS/SD member Doris touches a gray whale in San Ignacio. Breaching whale by Jodi Frediani.



ANNUAL CHAPTER REPORTS



JODI FREDIANI

Orcas from ACS/SD trip to Anacortes (top right). Humpbacks lunge-feeding on anchovies in Monterey Bay (bottom).



KARIN CAMPBELL



ALISA SCHULMAN-JANIGER

Census view on May 22, 2017 (top).
Census observers on May 24, 2017 (bottom).

LOS ANGELES CHAPTER **SPECIAL REPORT**

Gray Whale Census and Behavior Project 2016-2017: Highlights

Census Project Director/Coordinator:
Alisa Schulman-Janiger
Email: janiger@cox.net

For a more detailed version of this report
and for information about daily sightings,
visit: acs-la.org

Our second highest southbound calf counts, highest northbound peak counts since 1988, rarely seen offshore type killer whales (traveling with fin whales), and rare looks at false killer whales highlighted our 2016/2017 ACS/LA Gray Whale Census and Behavior Project. This is the 34th consecutive season that the American Cetacean Society's Los Angeles Chapter has sponsored a full season gray whale census project from the Palos Verdes

Peninsula. Our cliffside post is on the patio of the Point Vicente Interpretive Center (PVIC), 125 feet above kelp beds and rocky shoreline, with a seafloor that drops off abruptly nearshore. Trained volunteers collect data on gray whales and other cetaceans, including identifications, counts, and behaviors. All participants use binoculars; several use spotting scopes to confirm/detail sightings. Weather data (visibility, weather conditions, and sea conditions) is recorded twice hourly.

COVERAGE

- December 1, 2016 - May 25, 2017
- 2,128 hours over 176 days, averaging over 12 hours/day

GORDON GATES



Mother and calf on May 10, 2017 (top left).
Bottlenose dolphin helping on May 4, 2017
(top right). Fluking from April 30, 2017
(bottom left). Whiteboard May 25, 2017
(bottom right).

GREGG GENTRY



GREGG GENTRY



- 104 volunteers contributed 10,838 effort hours; 31 volunteers have been with us for over 10 years
- Experienced observers anchor all shifts (observer experience affects whale counts)
- Sixteen core volunteers donated over 200 hours each (totaling 47.9% of our effort hours)
- Fifteen other volunteers donated 100-199 hours each (totaling 17.5% of our effort hours)

GRAY WHALE COUNTS

Northbound counts fell (still was our eight highest count); southbound counts were our fourth highest

- 1,256 southbound (1,430 last season); southbound range: 301-1,902
- 1,990 northbound (2,541 last season); northbound range: 521-3,412
- Gray whale counts fluctuate annually
- Variable feeding ground conditions (especially ice coverage) affect migratory timing and corridors
- More foggy days this season; no visibility during four consecutive days of March northbound peak period
- Locally, most southbound grays prefer offshore corridors; many northbound whales shift nearshore
- Wild populations fluctuate annually, as do the number of whales that complete the migration

- NMFS (National Marine Fisheries Service) estimated the gray whale population at ~20,990 (2010-11)
- Gray whales were removed from the endangered species list in 1994

PEAKS AND TURN-AROUND DATES

SOUTHBOUND

- Fourth highest southbound count; migration started later (after five early seasons)
- Peak southbound dates: 46 on January 14. (Peak range: 15-98)
- Peak southbound week: 218 SB grays from January 31-February 6 (226 last season, a week earlier)

TURN-AROUND

northbound exceeds southbound

- First date that northbound exceeded southbound: February 9
- Official turn-around : February 27 (daily northbound primarily exceeded southbound whales)
- No gap between migration phases; overlap (extended southbound migration)
- We spotted 67 northbound whales during the “southbound migration” phase
- We spotted 105 southbound whales during the “northbound migration” phase

NORTHBOUND

- Eighth highest count! More typical:

earliest ending in six seasons; flukeless whale on March 23!

- Peak northbound dates: 107 on March 20, 105 on March 18 (96 last season); highest peak counts since 1988!

PEAK NORTHBOUND WEEK

- Phase A - main migration pulse: 510 grays from March 18-24 (531 last season - 3 weeks earlier)
- Phase B - cow/calf migration pulse: usually peaks 4-8 weeks after the main migration pulse
- Peak northbound calf week: 60 cow/calf pairs (144 whales): April 20-26

PROBABLE ADDITIONAL GRAY WHALES

13 grays; 1 more southbound calf, 9 more northbound calves

CALF COUNTS

SOUTHBOUND CALVES

- Second highest newborn calf count ; over twice last season’s count!
- 68 southbound calves (5.4% of southbound migrants), from December 25-February 28
- Last season we saw 33 newborn calves (2.3% of the southbound migrants)
- Peak southbound calf dates: 7 cow/calf pairs on January 13
- Record season: 1997-1998, with 106 calves (8.6% of southbound migrants)
- Previous southbound calf counts ranged from 3-60 (0.5%-8.9% of southbound migrants)



DAVE JANIGER

Census observers on May 20, 2017.

- Peak southbound calf week: 18 cow/calf pairs (193 whales): January 9-15

NORTHBOUND CALVES

- Sixth highest count!
- 207 northbound calves (10.4% of northbound migrants), from March 9-May 17
- Peak northbound calf date: 14 cow/calf pairs on April 21
- Record calf count: 2015-2016: 341 calves (13.4% of northbound migrants)
- Other calf counts ranged from 11-318 (0.9%-18.5% of northbound migrants)
- Peak northbound calf week: 60 cow/calf pairs (144 whales): April 20-26

GRAY WHALE BEHAVIORS, HUMAN INTERACTIONS

BEHAVIORS

Milling, rolling, lunging, breaching, spyhopping, head lifting, head slap, pectoral fin slapping, fluke slapping, tail throwing, playing in kelp (“kelping”), bubble blasting, mating, calves on moms’ backs, and nursing behavior (surfacing on alternating sides of the mom).

PODS SIZES CHANGED

Some pods separated or merged.

ENTANGLEMENTS

Tracked 2 entangled grays: January 28 (buoys) and March 20 (pink gillnet); entanglement team responded

HARASSMENT

Boats: 22+ on 13 days - approached grays too closely; several nearly hit them!

Jet skis: 3 jet skis on 2 days;

SUP- approached whales too closely, nearly ran them over!

WHALE REACTIONS

nearly all turned stealthy and became low profile; paused; disappeared; longer dives;

direction changes; spyhopped or lifted heads up; rolled onto side.

OTHER SPECIES SIGHTED

Comparing this season to last season

We saw 12-13 other marine mammal species throughout our 176 observational days (183 days last season)

HIGHLIGHTS

Very rare killer whales (offshore type and ETPs) and false killer whales.

- Common dolphin on 151 days (157) false killer whale on 2-3 days (9)
- Bottlenose dolphin on 134 days (130-131)
- Killer whales on December 19, January 7 (1)
- Fin whale on 107-113 days (113-118)
- Dall’s porpoise on April 29 (1)
- Pacific white-sided dolphin on 48 days (113)
- Probable Risso’s dolphin on December (1)
- Humpback whale on 24-25 days (77-85**)
- California sea lion on 147 days (162)
- Blue whale on 6-13 days (16-20+)
- Harbor seal on 43 days (62)
- Minke whale on 3-4 days (14-17)
- Killer whales: December 19 (Offshore type KWs); January 7 (Eastern Tropical Pacific KWs); obtained ID images

CALIFORNIA KILLER WHALE PROJECT

Please help contribute to this citizen science research project! Send photos and sighting data to: janiger@cox.net. I will match images to our catalog and notify you with results.

PAST SEASONS

Other species sighted included sperm whale, pilot whale, northern right whale dolphin, beaked whale, Steller sea lion, northern elephant seal, and southern sea otter

INTERACTIONS

Gray whales interacted with bottlenose, common, and Pacific white-sided dolphin; sea lions

MIXED SPECIES GROUPS

mixed dolphin species, dolphin/sea lions, and other whales with dolphin/sea lions

MISC

Peregrine falcon* : Nearly daily: mated, raised three chicks (*second year nesting documented at PVIC)

OSPREY

Many days. Peregrine falcons and ospreys displaced resident ravens and red-tailed hawks last season.

SPECIAL THANKS

To anchor Joyce Daniels (daily updates, graphs) and Dave Janiger (computer entries)

PLEASE JOIN US!

Contact Alisa Schulman-Janiger at: janiger@cox.net

Gray Whale Census Volunteers Needed

December 1-May 31; no experience necessary; on-site training in December

Whalewatch Naturalist Training Class

Highly recommended! Meets on Tuesday nights, October-March, at the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium (CMA) 310-548-7562, 548-7770; cabrilloaq.org. Co-sponsored by CMA and ACS/LA.

ACS/LA Free Lecture

Invited specialists, last Tuesday of each month - Cabrillo Marine Aquarium

All Day Whalewatching Trips

Gray whales off Santa Catalina Island in March; humpback and blue whales etc. in the Santa Barbara Channel during the summer (acs-la.org)

Monterey Bay

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Compiled by Diane Glim

Photographer and naturalist Jodi Frediani started Whale Year 2017 with an outstanding presentation about her experiences with humpback whales in Tonga at the January monthly meeting, held at Stanford's Hopkins Marine Station in Pacific Grove. The presentation was enjoyed by over 100 attendees.

Sixth graders, teachers and families from the Salinas Unified School District accompanied ACS Monterey Bay as guests on the annual Gray Whale fundraiser. Through the generous support of Benji Shake and Princess Monterey Whalewatching, Captain Leon Oliver and crew guided approximately 80 participants to observe migrating gray whales, Risso's dolphins and common dolphins, as well as Southern sea otters and California sea lions.

The Gray Whale fundraiser coincided with the annual Whalefest that was held at Custom House Plaza in Monterey on January 28-29, 2017. ACS/MB had a booth with whale activities and information that reached hundreds of participants. Katlyn Taylor served as representative of ACS/MB on the Whalefest planning committee throughout the year. Prior to Whalefest, ACS/MB participated in Christmas on the Wharf with an information table and free vaquita coloring books.

Dr. Maldo Marinovic, research biologist at UCSC's Institute of Marine Science, described his long-term studies of the distribution, abundance and species composition of krill in Monterey Bay at the February meeting. Dr. Marinovic's research has led to a better understanding of what makes Monterey Bay such a productive and biologically rich ecosystem.

Dr. Wallace J. Nichols, Senior Fellow at the Middlebury Institute for International Studies' Center for the Blue Economy and author of *Blue Mind*, discussed his life work as marine biologist, voracious earth and idea explorer, wild water advocate and lover of turtles at the March 2017 meeting.

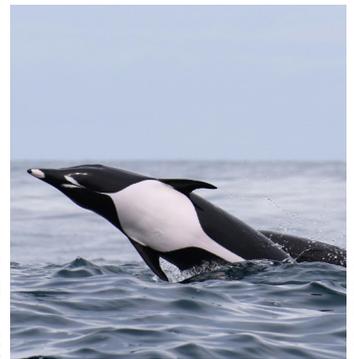
Dr. Barbara Block of Hopkins Marine Station awed the audience about the tuna migration and challenges of tagging tunas at the April meeting. Co-founder of the only facility in North America holding tunas for



JODI FREDIANI



JODI FREDIANI



JODI FREDIANI

Prey abundance and proximity to near-shore submarine canyon bring many species of cetaceans to Monterey Bay.

research, her lab and field research has let to a rapid increase in the understanding of movement patterns, population structure, physiology and behaviours of pelagic fish and sharks as they move across the planet. Recipient of the 2016 Benchley Award in Ocean Conservation, Dr. Block and her team have deployed over 2300 electronic tags on tunas.

In May, Scott Benson discussed the declining populations of the Pacific Leatherback Sea Turtle, which is on the list of NOAA'S eight endangered species most at risk of extinction in the near future. As lead investigator of the leatherback turtle ecology program at Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, Scott coordinates studies of the distribution, abundance, movement patterns, foraging ecology and health of the endangered western Pacific leatherback turtles along the U.S. West Coast and across the Pacific.

Dr. Megan Jensen of Hopkins Marine Station presented 'The Biomechanics of Breaching and Filter-Feeding: Using New Tools to Answer Old Questions' at the June meeting.

Applying engineering principles and techniques to biological questions, the

talk focused on how modern technology, including whale bio-logging devices, CT scanning and 3D printing, enables scientists to answer old questions about breaching and baleen filtration in new ways.

July 8 was International Save the Vaquita Day, and ACS MB had a booth at Fisherman's Wharf in Monterey during the day and a table at the Monterey Bay Aquarium in the evening featuring a life-size model of a vaquita calf.

In July, the Chapter held its annual BBQ at Indian Village in Pebble Beach in honor of Richard Ternullo, ACS Monterey Bay President who passed away in August, 2016.

Discovery Whale Watching generously provided an all-day whalewatching fundraising trip that was extremely well-received with friendly humpbacks nudging the vessel on August 26, 2017. Risso's dolphins were also encountered.

Kip Evans, award-winning filmmaker, photographer and explorer, provided an excellent program about his experiences living in an underwater laboratory as an aquanaut for 17 days and other international adventures. From the seamounts of the high seas to the shallow

sunlit reefs, Kip shared some of his favorite moments during 25 years of undersea exploration at the August meeting.

Artist and international science writer Erica Cirino, presented 'How Plastic in the Ocean is Killing Whales (and Plenty of Other Sea Creatures)' at the August meeting. In her work, Erica explores the topics of wildlife and the environment; specializing in biology, conservation and policy.

Dr. Patrick Robinson, UC Santa Cruz lecturer and the Director of the Año Nuevo Island Reserve, engaged the audience at the October meeting about his quest to determine how marine predators make a living in the open ocean using biologging instruments on free ranging seals and sea lions.

Dr. Robert Schmieder spoke about the 'Natural History of the Cordell Bank: California's Least Known National Marine Sanctuary' at the Nov/Dec meeting. Dr.

Schneider holds a PhD in Nuclear Physics from Columbia University and is the founder of Cordell Expeditions. His work has resulted in the discovery of many new biological records and a previously unknown submarine tunnel.

ACS/MB provides a monthly newsletter, Soundings, in print and online. A website and facebook page is also maintained.

2017 MONTEREY BAY CHAPTER OFFICERS AND BOARD

Melissa Galieti, President
 Richard Ternullo, Immediate Past President
 Katlyn Taylor, Vice-President & Events Chair
 Katy Casagna, Treasurer
 Jennifer Thamer, Secretary
 Sally Eastham, Membership
 Art Haseltine, Research Grants
 Tony Lorenz, Programs & Newsletter Editor
 Dave Zaches, Debbie Ternullo, Diane Glim, At-Large



PRINCESS MONTEREY WHALE WATCHING



JODI FREDIANI

Risso's dolphin (top).
 Killer whale breaching (bottom).

ACS/MB Research Grants 2017

August 1, 2017

Grant Selection Committee: Art Haseltine (Chair), Sheila Baldrige, Diane Glim

The committee selected four projects, for awards totaling \$7,000:

Student (degree) (Research Advisor)	Project Title and Summary	Amount Funded
Brijonnay (Bri) Madrigal (MS) (Alison Stimpert) RICHARD TERNULLO GRANT	"Characterizing acoustic behavior of free-ranging Risso's Dolphins (<i>Grampus griseus</i>) in Monterey Bay, California." Bri will determine if vocalization types are influenced by co-association with other dolphins in Monterey Bay. She will deploy hydrophones to record vocalizations, and analyze data with audio software. Funding is for boat fuel and supplies.	\$2,000
Roxanne Beltran (PhD) (Dan Costa) BALDRIDGE AWARD	"Uncharted territory: The first migration of weanling northern elephant seals." Roxanne will tag 15 pups with light-level geolocation tags on flippers. Tags will detect longitude, latitude, and depth. Tags will be retrieved when seals return to beach. Funding is for purchase of tags.	\$2,000
Sarah Kienle (PhD) (Rita Mehta)	"Geographic differences in the feeding behavior of a large marine predator, the northern elephant seal." Sarah will study NESs from Año Nuevo Is, San Nicolas Is, and San Benito Is. She will compare isotope ratios in red blood cells and whisker samples. This will provide information on migration, feeding location, and trophic levels. Funding is for lab analysis of stable isotopes.	\$1,500
Michelle Modest (PhD) (Ari Friedlaender)	"Effects of climate change driven sea-ice variation on humpback whale movement and foraging ecology." Michelle will study Antarctic humpbacks. Satellite tags, suction cup tags, and remote sensors will be used to analyze krill, and define critical areas of foraging. Funding is to purchase software licenses for analyzing data. Her academic program will begin Sept. 2017.	\$1,500

Orange County

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Compiled by Steve O'Toole

We organized our 1st Annual WhaleGiving fundraiser to benefit the Pacific Marine Mammal Center Whale Entanglement Team. We're hosting NOAA's West Coast whale entanglement/stranding team at our February chapter meeting. NOAA's leadership will present their role as it relates to whale response efforts covering entanglements, strandings, harassment, research, and conservation. Representatives from the WhaleGiving beneficiary, the Pacific Marine Mammal Center, will attend to accept our WhaleGiving donation of \$750.

IN THE WATER FOR 2018

- Expand public outreach through more table events, partnering with Newport Landing whale watch education dept.
- Expand Whale Watch elementary school presentation program. We recruited 2 retired teachers to cover more schools across broader county range
- Revive chapter newsletter every 6 weeks
- Expand certified naturalist program. More Naturalists and new educational whale watch operation from the Ocean Institute



ACS/OC February guest speaker Nancy Caruso from Get Inspired! with the Green Abalone Restoration Project (top). In April, ACS/OC had Eric Austin Yee, a Marine Biologist, discuss his "Rare and Unusual Wildlife Sightings" (bottom).



- On-board Jr. Naturalist booklet handouts to children (coloring, puzzles, connect-the-dots et al)
- Chapter shirts (online ordering/fulfillment using eco cloth such as bamboo and ink). If anyone has vendor ideas, we're all ears!
- Develop chapter committees that provide members participation options based on their interest
- Create chapter press kits. Audience is local orgs to team and partner on mutual-benefit projects
- Monthly meeting chapter field trips aka: local Cooper Center tour hosted by whale Paleontologist

2017 ACS/OC GUEST SPEAKERS

January

Dr. James Sumich, Oregon State University
Twenty Years Later, Reflections on JJ the Gray Whale

February

Nancy Caruso, Get Inspired!
Green Abalone Restoration Project

March

Desi Green, ACS-OC Naturalist Instructor
Welcome New Naturalists!

April

Eric Austin Yee, Marine Biologist
Rare and Unusual Wildlife Sightings

May

Dr. Chris Lowe, Cal State Long Beach
Sharks!

June

Dr. Wendy Marshall
The Joys of Citizen Science

July

Dr. Tom Jefferson of NOAA Fisheries
How Taxonomy Affects Conservation Plus a Vaquita Update

August

David Grant, Newport Harbor Nautical Museum
Historic Seafaring Adventures!

September

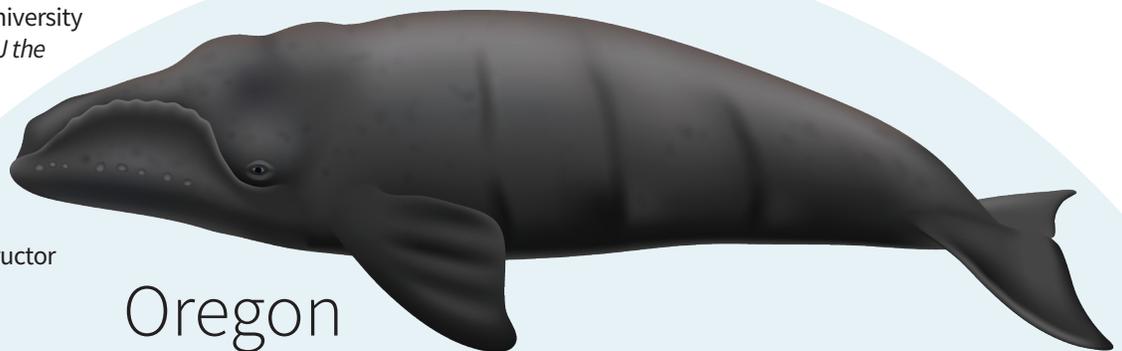
Kurt Lieber, Founder Ocean Defenders Alliance
Working for a Debris-free Sea

A BREACHING 2017 FOR ACS/OC

- Desi Green brought in two diverse, talented Naturalist classes, including seven four-year college students- twice!
- Linna Bernhard Continued to Bring Knowledge of Whales to OC Grade School Students- 17 years running!
- Gave Out \$600 in Scholarship Grants to College Students, OC/ACS 2nd Annual!
- 5th Annual Earth Day Whale Watch Trip with Dana Wharf WW
- Donated \$600 to CSULB Shark Lab, VivaVaquita! and Ocean Defenders Alliance, Ongoing (to ocean orgs)!
- 2nd Annual Newport Landing/Davey's Locker Coupon Fundraiser
- Recruited 2 New Board Members: Christine Lundgren & Daryth Morrissey!
- 1st Annual Holiday WhaleGiving Fundraiser, November 24–December 15. Pacific Marine Mammal Center– Whale Entanglement Team: Goal \$500

SMALL BUT MIGHTY 2017 WHALEVESTMENTS

Student Grants (2)	\$600
Meeting Signage (2)	\$200
Table Skirts (2)	\$200
Projector and Screen	\$400
Whale Figurines	\$220
OC Org Grants	\$600
Event Tent (donated)	\$680



Oregon

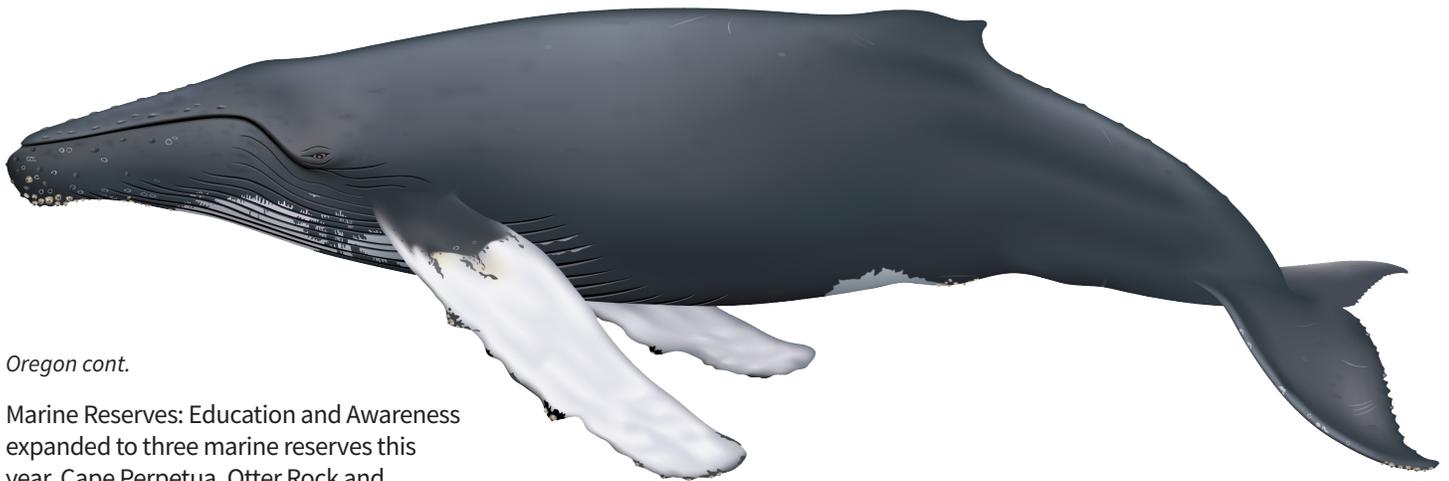
ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Compiled by Joy Primrose

Through our speaker series meetings, displays & educational programs, citizen science project and whale watching our membership has been spreading the word about cetaceans throughout the region. At all of our events the public has expressed their gratitude to us for being there to share information. Just a few

highlights from 2017 follow. We partnered with the Newport Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation for a public showing of the film "A Plastic Ocean". Members Judi and Era gave a short presentation on our citizen science project at the Oregon Shores 2017 Sharing the Coast Conference.

Our citizen science project Whales &



Oregon cont.

Marine Reserves: Education and Awareness expanded to three marine reserves this year, Cape Perpetua, Otter Rock and Cascade Head marine reserves!

We held Orca Awareness Day at the OSU Hatfield Marine Science Center as part of Orca Awareness Month events in Oregon.

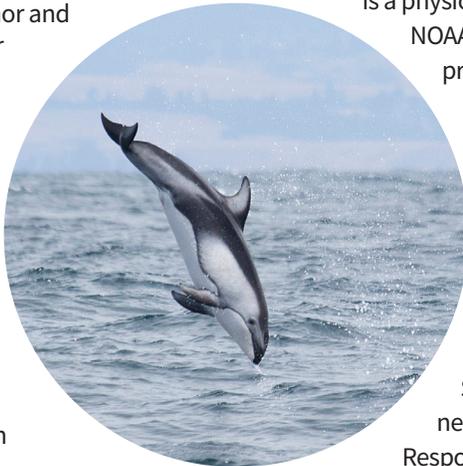
International Save the Vaquita Day tables were held in two locations, the Oregon Coast Aquarium and OSU Hatfield Marine Science Center.

Our sixth annual free shore based Summer Whale Watch Weekend was held on July 29 & 30.

Since the total solar eclipse made landfall on the central Oregon coast, we held our annual beach Clean-up as a Post Eclipse Beach Clean-Up in partnership with SOLVE on August 26th.

One of the many speakers this year, Mark Leiren-Young, author and documentary filmmaker presented the story of Moby Doll. It is both a heartbreaking as well as enlightening look at humans and killer whales in the early 1960's. Mark is an excellent story teller and conservationist.

Please check us out on Facebook at American Cetacean Society-Oregon Chapter.



Dolphin flip.
JODI FREDIANI

Puget Sound

CHAPTER REPORT

Compiled by Uko Gorter

Looking back on 2017, our ACS-Puget Sound Chapter monthly Speaker Series presented biologists, scientists, and authors on a range of excellent topics.

In January we welcome Scott Veirs, who highlighted the ongoing expansion and future of the Salish Sea Hydrophone Network. Something ACS/PS may likely be part of or co-sponsor.

Our own board member Dawn Noren, who is a physiological ecologist at NOAA/NWFSC in Seattle,

presented her talk on the comparative and cumulative energetic costs of responses by toothed whales to human-caused noise.

In March, Doug Sandilands, of the newly-formed SeaLife Response, Rehabilitation, and Research (SR3), talked

about their organization's efforts regarding large whale entanglements. This has become an increasing problem, not only in our waters, but also world wide.

In April, chapter president, Uko Gorter, again presented his talk about whales as a source of raw materials, looking at historic and recent whale products.

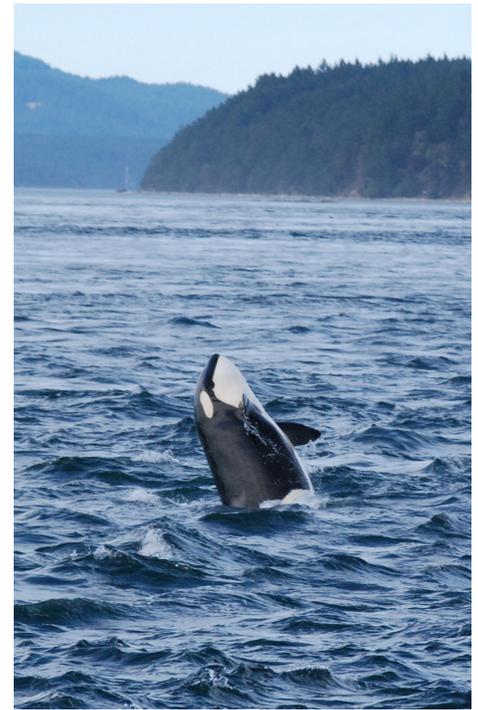
While no meeting took place in May, our past president, Joe Olsen, gave a wonderful talk and slide show of his trip aboard the RV Stenella as part of the Wild Dolphin Project led by researcher Denise Herzing.

After a summer hiatus we resumed our monthly series with David Bonnett, who gave an update on their research trips to the Peruvian Amazon and their work on the acoustics of the "pink" or Amazon River dolphin.

We welcomed, author Mark Leiren-Young, who talked about his recent book: "The Killer Whale Who Changed the World" about Moby Doll, the first captive orca at the Vancouver Aquarium in Canada. Her capture heralded a beginning of many killer whales displayed in aquariums world wide.

Lastly we heard from Ted Cheeseman in November on the ongoing work of the Happy Whale App, which is both an interactive and citizen-science tool to aid with humpback fluke ID matching, and a great platform to increase our knowledge of the movement of humpback whales. It also highlights the many run-ins that humpbacks have with fishing gear, a global problem that seems to be getting only worse.

ACS/PS looks forward to another year of excellent speakers. We hope to increase our educational outreach and find ways to bring our passion of whales to the community.



March 2017 trip to the Baja Lagoons (left). August 2017 trip to Anacortes (right).

San Diego

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Compiled by Jayne Vanderhagen

The San Diego Chapter had a busy and amazing year.

SPEAKERS

Ten excellent speakers presented diverse topics at our Speaker Series Programs due to the tremendous effort of one of our newest board members, Sarah Dabydeen.

ACS TRIPS

Two great trips were planned and enjoyed during the year. Diane Cullins was responsible for putting together an incredible trip visiting the San Ignacio and Ojo de Liebre Lagoons in Baja California from March 10th -14th. Sarah Dabydeen put together an amazing trip to Anacortes, Washington State in August from 11th-14th.

WHALE WATCHES

Due to weather conditions, we ended up with one group Whale Watch in late March.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Three significant events were participated in. Cary Strand-Jack who is responsible for our Community Outreach, organized the Whales, Whales, Whales event at Cabrillo Monument setting up a table and lecture and then

spearheaded setting up and organizing our dynamic booth at Earth Day in April held at Balboa Park. Vanessa James and Meggie Moore, two other board members, led and coordinated the setting up and the manning of four locations in San Diego County for the International Save the Vaquita Day.

FUNDRAISER

Due to the hard work of Diane Cullins, Sarah Dabydeen, and Leigh Anne Gibbons, we had a very successful 1st Annual Fundraiser event. We generated \$825.00 before expenses from raffle sales and from the funds generated through the silent auction of art and RIB Whale Watches.

FIELD TRIP

Leigh Anne Gibbons put together two amazing, private tours on December 2nd to the new Navy Marine Mammal Training and Research Facility.

YEAR AT A GLANCE

JANUARY

4 January Board Meeting

11 Speaker Series Program: Ric Matthews- "Following Gray Whales to Baja a Dozen Year Retrospective".

11 Began Facebook Live - recording the speaker and their presentation.

14 Whales, Whales Whales event Cabrillo Monument: Table and lecture

25 February Board Meeting

FEBRUARY

8 Speaker Series: Jeremy Smith, Naturalist at San Diego Whales Watch and Assistant to Dr. Kelly Stewart in St. Croix for the study of population and genetics of leatherback turtles, Sea Turtle Research in America and his Experience

MARCH

1 Board Meeting

8 Speaker Series- Dr. Barbara Taylor from NOAA's Southwest Fisheries Science Center and Ricardo Rebolledo from MB Tours and Partner of the Whale Museum in La Paz re CPR and Vaquita update

4 & 5 Several ACS members and non-members attended the lectures and whale watches at the Festival of Whales in Dana Point ACS Trip to Baja Lagoons March 10-14

26 ACS Whale Watch trip out of Oceanside

APRIL

5 Board Meeting

12 Speaker Series- Mark Lowry on the Sea Lions from the Channel Islands- 36 years of study

23 Earth Day- booth promoting the awareness of the Vaquita

MAY

3 Board Meeting

10 Speaker Series- Alyson Fleming- James Smithson Postdoctoral Fellow, Cetaceans as Historical Records and Sentinels of Climate Change

JUNE

7 Board meeting

14 Speaker Series-Ann Bowles, Hubbs-Seaworld Research Institute, Are Orca Just Big Dolphins? And Tom Jefferson-brief update about ISVD

JULY

1-4 Several ACS members visited and toured the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society's M/V Farley Mowat vessel

5 Board meeting

8 International Save the Vaquita Day-4 booths in San Diego (Chula Vista, Cabrillo Monument at Point Loma, Seaport Village at San Diego Harbor, Natural History Museum)

29 ACS Whale Watch on the Hornblower (Canceled)

AUGUST

2 Board meeting

11-14 ACS trip to Anacortes, WA

SEPTEMBER

6 Board meeting

13 Speaker Series Program: Dr. Daniel Cartamil, Scripps Marine Biologist and an expert in shark biology presented Baja's Wild Side: Shark research & Conservation Photography on Baja California's Pacific Coast

OCTOBER

4 Board Meeting

8 Speaker Series Program- Dr. Aaron Thode, Research Scientist, Marine Physical Laboratory, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, San Diego presented 'Arctic acoustic studies of migrating bowhead whale calling behavior during oil exploration and drilling'.



Members pet a whale on a trip to the Baja Lagoons (top). August 2017 trip to Anacortes (bottom left). Earth Day at Balboa Park (bottom right).

NOVEMBER

1 Board Meeting

8 Speaker Series Program- Dr. Holly Fearnbach, Marine Mammal Research Director presented "Photographic health assessment of killer whales in the NE Pacific and Antarctic Peninsula"

8 Annual Fundraiser-Raffle and Silent Auction

DECEMBER

2 Two private tours of the new Navy Marine Mammal Training and Research Facility

6 Board Meeting

13 Speaker Series Program- Dr. Matt Edwards Professor & Marine Biology Emphasis Coordinator at San Diego State

University, presented "How the widespread loss of kelp forests impacts ecosystem functioning: a story of two disturbances"

SAN DIEGO CHAPTER BOARD MEMBERS

Jayne Vanderhagen, President

George Liddle, Vice President

Ric Matthews, Treasurer

Diane Cullins, Immediate past president and Secretary

Sarah Dabydeen

Leigh Anne Gibbons

Cary Strand-Jack

Morgane Lauf

Vanessa James

Maggie Moore

San Francisco Bay

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Compiled by Lynette Koftinow

It has been a Whale of a 2017 for San Francisco Bay Chapter!

Lynette Koftinow stepped down as president becoming our Research Board member, consultant (development of Presentations, Naturalist Training Course, and the workings of the chapter) and our ACS National representative.

We had an inspiring 2017 Monthly presentation series which was always well attended by our members and new attendees ranging from organizations, students, to lay people.

JANUARY

Dirk Rosen

Unlocking the Mysteries of the Deep

FEBRUARY

Dr. Wallace J. Nichols

Discussing His Book *Go Deeper: The Seven Ages of Water*

MARCH

Dr. James Sumich

Gray Whales

APRIL

David McGuire

Founder of Shark Stewards
Marine Protected Areas

MAY

Mary T. Crowley

Project Kaisei & Ocean Voyage Institute

JULY

Kathi Koontz George

Oceanic Society
Whale Watching & Citizen Science

AUGUST

Dr. Claire Simeone

Understanding the Role of Sinus Parasites in Cetaceans Stranded Along the California Coast

SEPTEMBER

Kip Evans

Mission Blue Sylvia Earle Alliance

OCTOBER

Nicole Larson

Humpbacks Along The Central California Coast



A Big Congratulations to our 2017 Naturalist Training Class! Unfortunately a picture wasn't taken of our awesome 2017 Naturalist Training class. This picture of our 2016 Class is dedicated to Alexandra Nova who passed in September. Her joy and light will be with us always!

We at ACS-SF Bay Chapter, thank all of you, our members and monthly presentation audience for your constant support of our organization. Your donations allow us to give yearly research and travel grants to outstanding graduate students and young researchers which aid them in their research.

2017 RESEARCH AND TRAVEL (SMM CONFERENCE) GRANT AWARDS

2017 RESEARCH GRANT AWARDEES \$1,000 GRANTS

Alicia Amerson "OneOcean Nexus Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Training Program: Creates Pilots to Assist Large Whale Disentanglement Teams in California"

Katherina Audley "The Whales of Guerrero Research Project (WGRP)"

Cristina Casillas López "Biochemical Role of the Blue Whale in the southwestern Gulf of California"

Logan J. Pallin "Comparative study of humpback whale demography along the Western Antarctic Peninsula and California coast: links to regional environmental variation"

\$500 GRANTS

David Cade "Foraging behavior of rorquals in Monterey Bay, part 2"

Samantha Cope "Evaluating the influence of vessel noise on the underwater soundscape of San Francisco Bay"

Kaytlin Ingman "Long Term Trends in Baleen Whale Observations Near the Farallon Islands"

Michelle Modest "Effects of climate change driven sea-ice variation on humpback whale movement and foraging ecology"

TRAVEL GRANT AWARDEES (SMM CONFERENCE) \$500 EACH

David Cade "Dense, spatially limited but vertically extensive patches of krill drive the formation of super-groups of migrating humpback whales off South Africa's west coast"

Samantha Cope "Mapping vessel distribution in San Francisco Bay for improved spatial risk assessments and habitat suitability modeling of local marine mammal species"

Kaytlin Ingman "Long Term Trends in Baleen Whale Observations Near the Farallon Islands"

Logan J. Pallin "Pregnancy rates of humpback whales along the Western Antarctic Peninsula: Links to a changing ecosystem"

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH EVENTS

Pacifica Beach Coalition Earth Day of Action & EcoFest
April 22

What can be better than joining in on the Clean Ups from 9-11am at citywide sites



Killer whales (top). The ACS/SF Bay Chapter's Annual Farallon Islands Whale Watching Trip with the Oceanic Society (middle). The 7th Annual Discovery Day at AT&T Park in San Francisco (bottom.)

and beach areas. We were one of the educational booths at the EcoFest at Linda Mar Beach, which featured 45 booths with information, kids activities, speakers, live music, and refreshments. It is a perfect venue having our table at the beach with Gray whales traveling by to educate the attendees about Cetaceans, our oceans, and our Chapter!

**Wildlife Conservation Expo
October 14**

The Wildlife Conservation Expo gives us the chance to share our excitement and chapter information to the Expo attendees and participating conservation groups from around the world. Some of the world's leading conservationists protecting endangered species come together to share their stories. This year was special in hosting a panel on climate change and its impacts on wildlife and the work of conservationists worldwide.

**7th Annual Discovery Day at AT&T Park!
November 11**

AT&T Park became a Science Wonderland from when the Bay Area Science Festival opened the gates until the gates were closed! It is always magnificent being part of this amazing event with up to 30,000 people enjoying a non-stop program chock-full of interactive exhibits, experiments, games, and shows, all meant to entertain and inspire! With more than 150 exhibits, there is something for everyone to unleash their inner scientist.

Our Annual Farallon Islands Whale Watching Trip with the Oceanic Society did not disappoint. Everyone had a Whale of a Day! This year has been an incredible whale watching season inside the SF Bay, around the Golden Gate Bridge, and out at the Farallon Islands!

BECOME A SF BAY ACS CHAPTER NATURALIST!

Our March 1, 2018 Naturalist Training class is now taking signups. Our classes fill very quickly so be sure to sign up right away!

For further information and to sign up please email Lynette R.Kofterow: acs.sfbay@gmail.com

We are scheduling our 2018 Monthly Presentation series so check our website soon for updates.

Come join our chapter as a Volunteer or as a Board member. We are an active chapter and our impact is unlimited as long as we tap the vision and creativity of those in the Bay Area who care about cetaceans and our oceans!

From all of us at ACS/SF Bay Chapter to you, Wishing you Joyous Holidays and a Whale of a New Year!

A BIG WELCOME TO OUR NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Christine Fitzsimmons, co-president/ treasurer

Robyn Carmel, co-president/secretary

Anne-Marie Batchelor-Rivers, VP

Giselle Viltz, Presentations

Nicole Larson, Education director

Priya Pratap, Website, communication coordinator/publicity

Matthew Scott, Blog writer

Robert Wilson, Policy

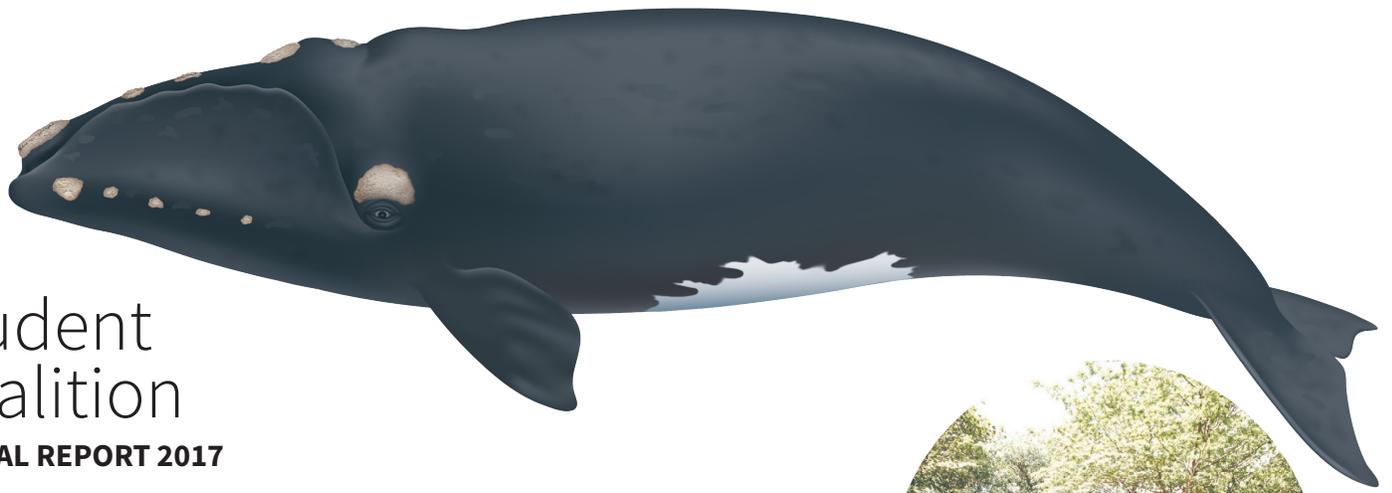
Michael Stocker, Scientific board member

Lynette Kofterow, Research/consultant

OUR CONTINUED GRATITUDE TO OUR COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dave Thompson, Events publicity for our SF Bay ACS Meetup group

Andrea Dransfield, Events Publicity for our Members Bi-Monthly Emails, past SF Bay ACS Research grant awardee



Student Coalition

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Compiled by Sabena Siddiqui

2017 has been a great year for the campus groups that make up the ACS Student Coalition!

We have been busy galvanizing our peers, getting out there on campus and in our local communities, and have worked to network with other groups to strengthen our mission.

The University of Hawaii-Manoa group has continued to lead their Oahu community now for 3 years! The UH Manoa group has held numerous beach clean ups of Oahu's beautiful coastline in collaboration with the Hawaii Society for Conservation Biology. In addition, the group has continued their marine plastics & debris campaign as well as education campaigns on complex topics such as cetaceans in captivity and noise pollution. They toured the NOAA Facility at Ford Island. They will be kicking off 2018 with a strong presence in citizen science through their participation with the NOAA National Humpback Whale Sanctuary Ocean Count. The NOAA Ocean Count is a statewide effort where participants assist with shore based humpback whale abundance monitoring during the humpback whale winter breeding season. During this time, over 10,000 humpback whales migrate to the Hawaiian Islands! The group also has plans to begin afterschool education in local elementary schools.

A few islands away on the Hawaii Island a new ACS campus group has joined the coalition! The ACS University of Hawaii-Hilo has had a great first year. They also partnered with NOAA and introduced their members to the NOAA Humpback Whale

Sanctuary Ocean Count on the shores off Hilo, Hawaii. The Students focused on community involvement and education. The group held naturalist trainings for its members and once whale season rolled in they partnered with the university to educate students while seeing some humpback whales! The leaders held a workshop for university students to learn the basics of using acoustic research software to learn more about cetaceans and communication. This group started strong with a dynamic community Earth Day event in which the members interacted with and educated hundreds of local children about marine conservation and protecting whales!

The UH Hilo group has organized several beach cleanups in which they collected a lot of plastic debris, a sobering experience for many students that attended. The group plans to continue working with local groups on community awareness and will be tackling a campaign on cetaceans in captivity among many other important topics.

The Texas A&M University Corpus Christi ACS group has hit the marine debris & plastics issue head on with many beach clean ups. They have picked up over 50 bags of trash through the year! They will be continuing their fundraising efforts with more t-shirt fundraisers as well as a collaboration with a local Nothing Bundt Cakes bakery to raise additional funds.

If you are interested in joining us or supporting these burgeoning student efforts, get in touch with us!



ACS Student Coalition members from Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi, picked up over 50 bags of marine debris and plastics in 2017 (top). Plastic straws among marine debris picked up by ACS Student Coalition group at the University of Hawaii-Manoa (middle). University of Hawaii-Hilo Student Coalition Group participates in Earth Day event (bottom).



ACS CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

Help ACS protect whales, dolphins, porpoises and their habitats through public education, research grants and conservation actions.

Your continued support and involvement with the American Cetacean Society is what has kept us going for all these fifty years. We once again look to your generosity to help us educate the public about the plight of whales. As an all-volunteer organization, your contributions will directly benefit ACS efforts to protect whales and dolphins through education, research, and conservation actions.

We hope you will consider making a donation during this crucial Annual Appeal to our members and supporters.

A whale-sized Thank You in advance for your dedication to the American Cetacean Society. Together we can make a difference!

Uko Gorter



AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY

Your Name: _____ Email: _____

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I would like to make a tax-deductible donation to the American Cetacean Society in the amount of:

\$25 \$50 \$100 Other

PAYMENT

Check (payable to ACS enclosed) Visa, Mastercard, Discover or American Express

Card #: _____ Security Code: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Billing Zip Code: _____ Signature _____

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