

Spyhopper

ACS NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2021



ACS CONTINUES TO MOVE FORWARD

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear ACS members,

Looking back at this past year, there is much to be proud of what our organization has achieved. However, before I reflect on our accomplishments, I want to acknowledge and thank all the ACS Chapter board members, countless volunteers, and students, who have donated their time and energy to the American Cetacean Society.



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Blue whale fluke in Long Beach, California with Harbor Breeze Cruises on November 7. Image by Alisa Schulman-Janiger.

STAFFBOX EDITORIAL POD

Diane Glim
Jayne Vanderhagen
Uko Gorter, Illustrations
Rose Freidin, Graphic Designer

ON THE COVER

Top: Risso's dolphin mom and calf on October 16 with Monterey Bay Whale Watch.

Image by Alisa Schulman-Janiger.

Middle: ACS former headquarters in Point Fermin Park, San Pedro, California.

Image by Uko Gorter.

Bottom: Humpback whale.

Image by Jodi Frediani.

ACS NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Uko Gorter, President
Diane Glim, Secretary
Ric Matthews, Treasurer
Sabena Siddiqui, Student Coalition
Shelby Kasberger
Joy Primrose
Kelsey Stone
Jayne Vanderhagen
Bob Wilson

Read more about
our Chapters and
Board Members at
acsonline.org

Letter cont.

An organization like ours is larger than the sum of its parts. It only exists because of the efforts by many. We're all volunteers, setting aside valuable time to devote to this organization we believe in. There have been countless extraordinary people throughout our 50-plus year history who have contributed to our success.

Invariably, we mourned the loss of those who have departed. This past year, the ACS San Francisco Bay Chapter suffered two such enormous losses. Earlier this year, ACS/SF president Christine Fitzsimmons passed away, and more recently, we learned about the passing of ACS/SF board member Isidore "Izzy" Szczepaniak. Both were exceptional and passionate souls, who gave their time and expertise to ACS. They have enriched our organization and made it better. Our heart goes out to their family and friends. This year's accomplishments come in the face of a persistent pandemic. Yet both our National organization and our ACS Chapters have proven to be resilient and adaptable. Through shared commitment, ACS continues to move forward.

Below is a brief summary of some of these achievements:

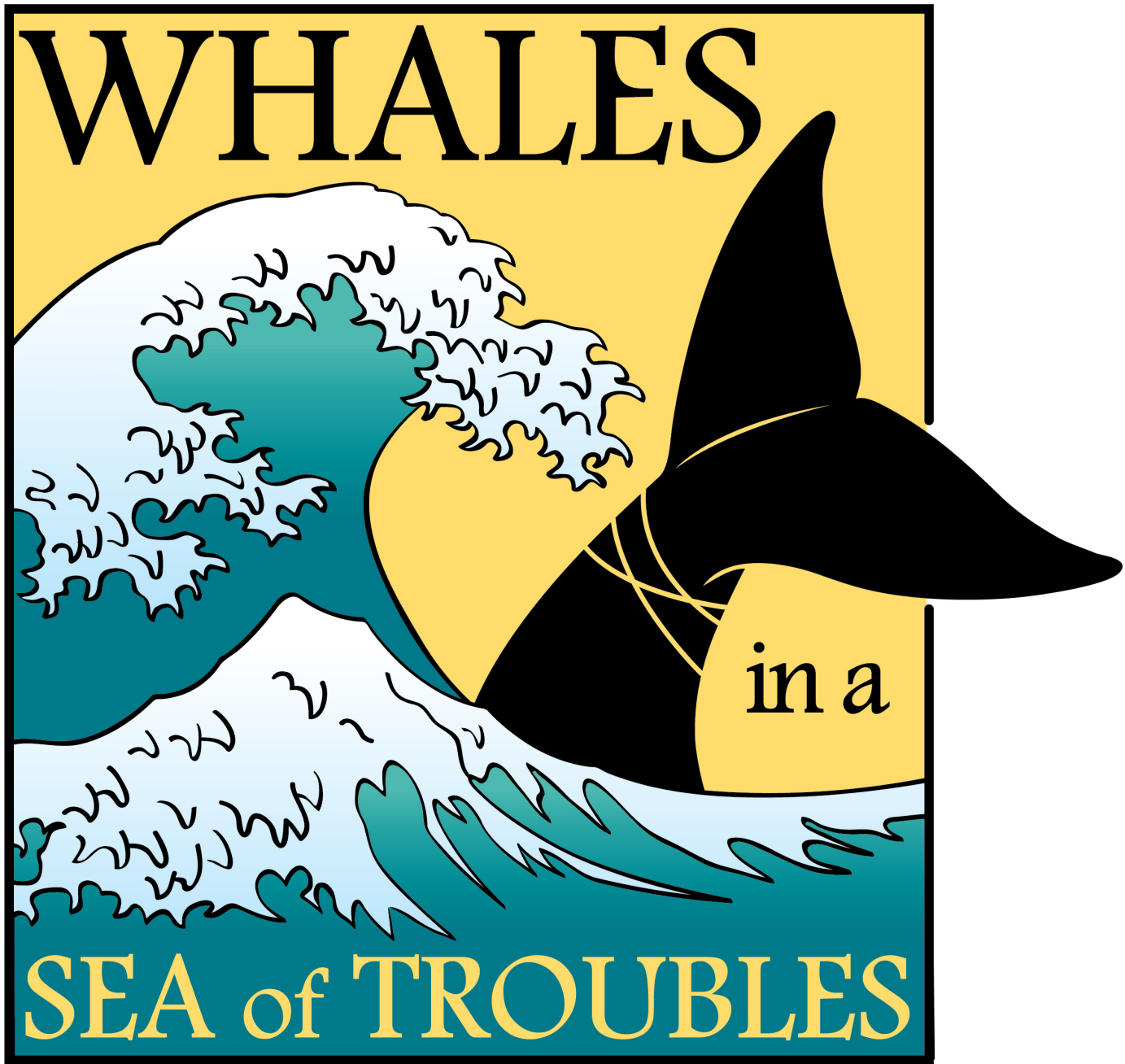
- ✓ On January 30 we presented our exciting virtual conference, *The Science of Whales, Understanding the History-Informing Conservation Today*. The recordings can be found on our YouTube channel.

- ✓ Many ACS Chapters conducted online speaker series via Zoom, with first-rate presenters. All free of charge (donations accepted).
- ✓ Some ACS Chapters are carefully conducting whale watch programs again, as well as education outreach.
- ✓ ACS Chapters continued to award Student Grants for cetacean research.
- ✓ ACS published its phenomenal *Whalewatcher Journal*, special issue on *Right Whales at Risk* with the help of our guest editor, Dr. Peter Corkeron.

If this past year is any indication, 2022 promises to be a great one for our organization, and hopefully for our cetaceans. With your support we can make a difference and continue to build on our successes.

On behalf of all of us at ACS, we wish you Happy Holidays and a Healthy New Year.

Uko Gorter, president



18th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
San Diego, California • November 4-6, 2022



AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY

CLOSING AN ERA

By Uko Gorter, ACS President



POINT FERMIN CAFE, POINT FERMIN PARK, SAN PEDRO, CALIFORNIA

Not all of you may know that the American Cetacean Society had its headquarters located in Point Fermin Park, San Pedro, for over 40 years. Situated on top of a cliff, it has a commanding view of the Pacific Ocean, and in clear weather you can see a

distant outline of Santa Catalina Island. This park is wonderfully shaded by distinctly shaped Moreton Bay fig trees, and home to uniquely preserved lighthouse dating back to 1874. Indeed, a lovely backdrop to our old headquarters building.

However, on Sunday, November 21 of this year, at 12:59pm, we were completely moved out, and closed the doors of this building for good. While ACS is not defined by a building, this remarkable building certainly has defined our organization. Built as a



cafe and adjoining snack bar in the early 1930s, it served this role until the late 1970s, when it was destined to be demolished. Efforts by concerned citizens, like John Olguin (a well beloved public figure in San Pedro and former ACS president), saved this building from the wrecking ball, to become a community building and home for the American Cetacean Society in 1979.

Owned by the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, the building never seemed to be a high priority, and structural and maintenance issues persisted throughout our occupancy. The building did see a fun interior makeover for a movie titled: *50 First Dates* starring Adam Sandler and Drew Barrymore.

After which the structural problems continued unabated. The final straw came when our building sustained significant damage from a storm in 2019. Deemed unsafe the building was closed off and arrangements had to

be made to move out. Alas, the global pandemic wreaked havoc with our plans. The lockdown prevented us to do anything until this year. We managed to

"WHERE ARE YOU MOVING TO?"

salvage our most important historical and archival inventory, as well as our well-stocked marine mammal library.

I need to thank ACS board members Jayne Vanderhagen, Diane Glim, Ric

Matthews, and Bob Wilson for their incredible effort in helping with the move and making arrangements. My thanks also goes to board members of the ACS Los Angeles Chapter, Louisa Beck (president), Cathy Hachigian, and Alisa Schulman-Janiger for salvaging much of ACS/LA's belongings and helping us vacate the building.

It is a bittersweet departure and an unceremonious closure of an illustrious era. Sadness came over me when I closed the building one last time. But I know we will undoubtedly create new memories elsewhere.

I can already anticipate your next question: "Where are you moving to?" Well, at the moment we're eyeing a facility where we potentially could have a small footprint. However, this is something still to be worked out and uncertain at this point. Therefore it would be unwise divulge anything until there is something concrete (no pun intended). Stay tuned...

CHAPTER REPORTS



IMAGES BY ALISA SCHULMAN-JANIGER

LOS ANGELES

CHAPTER REPORT

*Compiled by Louisa Beck,
Chapter President*

They say good things come to those who wait. We are so happy to see all the good things taking place with more on the horizon!

CABRILLO WHALEWATCH

On October 5, 2021, our joint program with Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, Cabrillo Whalewatch, was finally able to start a new season! Approximately 136 people registered for the 2021-2022 season! The

program this year is a hybrid of in person and virtual, modified to adhere to the City of Los Angeles' Covid protocols. We look forward to getting back on whale watching boats as Naturalists doing what we love.....talking about whales!

LAUNCH OF NEW SPEAKER SERIES

American Cetacean Society / Los Angeles Chapter and Cabrillo Marine Aquarium have come together for another great joint venture - "Deeper Dive", a monthly

Top: Humpback whale fluke on October 16 with Monterey Bay Whale Watch.

Bottom Left: Sperm whale on November 11 in San Pedro with Harbor Breeze Cruises.

Bottom Right: Short-beaked common dolphin on November 20 with Dana Wharf Whale Watch.

Los Angeles cont.

webinar series investigating the lives of whales and other marine mammals.

October 2021

Our first speaker of the year was Nick Pyenson from the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History in Washington, DC. Nick's area of expertise is in the evolution and ecology of marine mammals, and he recently authored *Spying on Whales: the past, present, and future of earth's most awesome creatures*. The title of his book really says it all! Nick's research looks at how these

incredible mammals have evolved to be the fascinating animals of today.

November 2021

We were excited to welcome Ari Friedlaender back to our lecture series. Dr. Friedlaender is a Professor in Ocean Sciences at UC Santa Cruz. He received his PhD from Duke University in Ecology, and his research focuses on developing and using new technology to study the underwater behavior of marine mammals. Ari works around the world with a particular focus on the Antarctic

where his long-term research program has been studying the relationships between baleen whales and krill and the impacts of climate change on this marine ecosystem. This lecture was entitled, *Teamwork makes the dream work: A look at the planning and execution of marine mammal research*.

Our next lecture will continue in January 2022.



ALISA SCHULMAN-JANIGER

Sperm whale on November 11 in San Pedro with Harbor Breeze Cruises.



Top Left: Risso's dolphin breach on October 16 with Monterey Bay Whale Watch.
 Top Right: Raven and educational whiteboard, on our foggy opening day on December 1 at Pt. Vicente Interpretive Center.
 Bottom Right: Gray Whale Census volunteers Tricia Horn, Stacie Kortkamp, Colin Gleason, Nancy Johnson, Pam Ryono, and Hugh Ryono, December 1, Pt. Vicente Interpretive Center.



ACS-LA GRAY WHALE CENSUS AND BEHAVIOR PROJECT

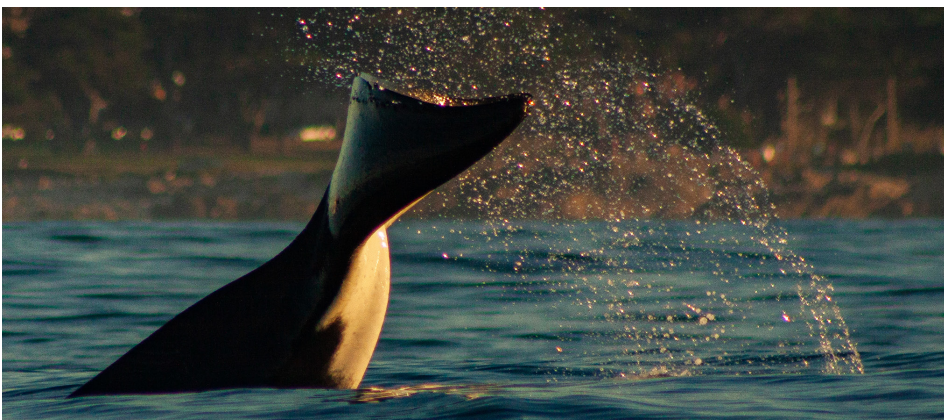
Compiled by Alisa Schullman-Janiger, Project Director

Our 38th full season of the ACS-LA Gray Whale Census and Behavior Project started on December 1, from the back patio of the Point Vicente Interpretive Center (PVIC) on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, located 138 feet above sea level. We were shut down from March 20, 2020 through May 25, 2020, and again from December 2020-May 2021 (COVID), losing the entire season. Like many other research groups, we have a large gap in our data; this is the first time that we had to halt our project since January 1984! About 100 citizen scientists (trained volunteers) spot, count, track, and record behaviors and

other data on Pacific gray whales as they migrate past our observation post. They also identify and record other marine mammals that transit our viewing field, including common dolphin, bottlenose dolphin, Pacific white-sided dolphin, Risso's dolphin, killer whale, pilot whale, false killer whale, northern right whale dolphin, sperm whale, Dall's porpoise, beaked whale, fin whale, blue whale, humpback whale, minke whale, California sea lion, Steller sea lion, harbor seal, northern elephant seal, and California sea otter. All participants use binoculars (most with reticles and compass); some also use spotting scopes to confirm and detail sightings. Weather data (visibility, weather conditions, and sea conditions), is

recorded at least twice hourly. We also educate PVIC visitors about sightings, as time allows. Between December 1, 2021 and December 4, 2021, we spotted 2 southbound gray whales, humpback whales, fin whales, common dolphin, bottlenose dolphin, Pacific white-sided dolphin, California sea lions, and harbor seals. We will be here from sunrise to sunset (as late as 6pm), seven days a week, through late May. The public is welcome to help spot whales!

As we reflect on this past year, we are grateful for friends and family who helped us persevere forward during this pandemic. ACS-LA wishes you all Happy Holidays! We look forward to 2022 with much hope for health, happiness and of course, many sights of whales!



Monterey Bay

CHAPTER REPORT

*Compiled by Brian Phan,
Chapter President*

We continue our Zoom meetings with speakers from all over the United States. In October, we had the pleasure of having Dr. Daniel Palacios from the Whale Habitat Ecology and Telemetry Laboratory at the Oregon State University Marine Mammal Institute. He updated us with amazing science about our humpback whales that live along the west coast of the United States.

We ended 2021 with a presentation with Donna Sandstrom, the founder of Whale Trail. Her talk brought us back to the success story of the rescued orphaned orca Springer, which began the Whale Trail story.

We are looking forward to participating in Whalefest in Monterey on March 19-22, 2022.

Happy Holidays from Monterey Bay!

*Top image: Transient orcas with Brian Phan onboard with Slater Moore Photography.
Middle image: Humpback whales lunge-feeding with Blue Ocean Whale Watch.
Bottom image: Transient orca.
Images by Brian Phan.*

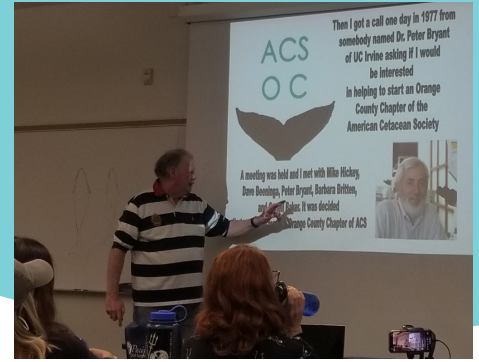
Orange County

CHAPTER REPORT

Compiled by Daryth Morrissey,
Chapter President

Our speaker series for both September and October had the room filled to capacity in our new space at Orange Coast College. It was so great to see former ACS-OC presidents Mike Makofske and Peter Bryant in attendance! Thank you again to Karen Baker and former ACS-OC president Dennis Kelly for your amazing lectures. We go dark for the months of November and December.

Our Naturalist class is in full swing with 51 new participants and 2 returning naturalists who are auditing the class. We have had current naturalists and board members presenting. Jill Lemon kicked things off with Defining our Whales and later on Behaviors Above



Top Left: Presenter Karen Baker. Top Right: Presenter Dennis Kelly.

and Below, Tracie Sugo spoke about all things dolphin-related. Jessica Roame presented Gray Whales. Caitlyn Nieblas, a marine biologist at PMMC, did Pinnipeds, Hannah Rich handled Cetacean Species Recognition and played a fun Kahoot game with prizes! Kendra Leak will cover Sea Birds. Bert Vogler, our resident

geologist, will be covering Geology. Daryth Morrissey will speak about Humans & Whales. After students take the written exam, Hannah Rich will conclude our class with Becoming a Naturalist. A giant thanks for all of the enthusiasm and effort put forth by the students and presenters.



Sperm Whale Sighting

SPECIAL ORANGE COUNTY REPORT

Compiled by Jessica Roame
and Hannah Rich

Images by Delaney Trowbridge

Both Newport Beach and Dana Point made national news after a devastating oil spill in Huntington Beach that shut down our harbors, boating, and local fishing. Our chapter's naturalists did a fantastic job sharing information about the clean up efforts on both social media and with

local news reporters. Many got involved with the ongoing clean up and continue raise awareness about the issue with the public and aboard whale watching boats. Whale watching in both locations has resumed as of November 2021.

Fall in Dana Point has brought some wonderful sightings of humpback whales, fin whales, Bryde's and sei whales, minke whales, a blue whale, and our first handful of sightings of the Pacific white-sided dolphin! We are looking forward to gray whale season and our annual Festival of Whales on March 5th & 6th, 2022 in Dana Point harbor!

On the water over the past few weeks In Newport Beach, we've had a few notable sightings including blue whales, fin whales, humpbacks, and a RARE encounter with a large male sperm whale on Oct. 27th. The last reported sperm whale sighting in Newport Beach was in 2016. This male is the same male, according to photographic records by naturalist Alisa Schulman-Janiger. This distinctive adult male (over 50' long) was previously documented off the Palos Verdes Peninsula in August 2019, January 2020, and February 2020.

Oregon

CHAPTER REPORT

Compiled by Joy Primrose,
Chapter President

We have continued our Speaker Series this fall via Zoom. September 11th was our own Sabena Siddiqui, ACS Student Chair, teaching us about non-song calls of humpback whales off of Hawaii. In October, we had to change our usual meeting day and time to accommodate our speaker presenting to us from New Caledonia! Solene Derville, a post doc at Oregon State University, is part of a

project modeling and predicting large whale distribution off the Oregon coast to reduce risk of whale entanglement. In November, Josh McInnes presented Ecological Aspects of Bigg's (transient) Killer Whales off the Oregon and California coast. Our Speaker Series will resume in 2022 on Zoom.

The ACS Oregon chapter reviewed the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) draft Conservation Plan to be submitted to NMFS as part of their Incidental Take Permit application. Written and verbal comments were submitted to ODFW, the Oregon Fish & Wildlife Commission and NMFS. The

revised draft is expected to be ready by spring of 2022 for submission. We will continue to follow the process as it proceeds forward.

Whales & Marine Reserves: Education and Awareness, the ACS Oregon chapter community science project, concluded its 6th year. The project was altered due to the pandemic but we were still able to spend 84 hours in the field and talked to 316 people from 48 different states. Hopefully we will be able to return to the full project without restrictions in 2022.

Wishing everyone Happy Holidays! Please join in us 2022 for fun and education with fellow whale enthusiasts.



ALISA SCHULMAN-JANIGER

Bigg's transient killer whales CA49Cs, male CA50B, and the CA122Bs on October 15 with Monterey Bay Whale Watch.

Puget Sound

CHAPTER REPORT

Compiled by Uko Gorter, President ACS/PS

Speaker Series

We are very pleased to announce that our chapter in Seattle will resume its monthly Speaker Series meetings on Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 7:30pm.

Our monthly meeting will be held again at the Phinney Neighborhood Center (blue building), third floor - 6532 Phinney Ave, N. Seattle. Our meetings are held every third Wednesday of the month, with the exception of July, August, and December.

Attendees are required to wear a facemask indoors. Seats will be spaced adequately to meet the Phinney Center's COVID-policy.

We are currently working on lining up speakers, so stay tuned. Visit our ACS/PS Facebook page at facebook.com/ACSPugetSound, and/or our website: acspugetsound.org for up-to-date information.

Educational Outreach

We are already set to conduct two educational outreach events for

Leadership Preparatory Academy (LEADPrep) in both their Kirkland and Seattle campus.

The event in Kirkland will be on Wednesday, December 15, and the Seattle event on Wednesday, January 5. Both at 9:30am.

Board members Uko Gorter and Dawn Noren will be on hand to present information on Marine Mammals of the Salish Sea, and Killer Whale Research. More exciting things to come!



JODI FREDIANI

San Diego

CHAPTER REPORT

*Compiled by Leigh Anne Gibbons,
Chapter President*

Monthly chapter meetings are conducted via Zoom on the second Wednesday of each month. Past presentations have been recorded and can be accessed through our website: acssandiego.org.

Past Presentations

On October 13, Geraldine Busquets-Vass, a post-doctoral researcher at the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, presented “Feeding Ecology, Migratory Patterns, and Physiology of Blue Whales in the Northeast Pacific Inferred Using Biomarkers in Their Tissues.” Her research has determined key details, such as adult male blue whales are predominantly regionally localized, while adult females exhibit seasonal migration. The whales feed for seven to eight months of the year in “hot spots” related to their memories.

On November 10 Jodi Frediani, presented us with "Lions & Leopards &

Whales, Oh My!" Photographing marine wildlife around the globe." Jodi is a researcher who also became an award-winning photographer. She indicated following the events of 9/11, she was afforded the opportunity to travel to Africa to swim with the whales. She provided us with spectacular photos of mammals above and below the water in Africa and many other countries. Her works have appeared in national and international publications, including the BBC's "Nature's Weirdest Events," and Carl Safina's National Geographic blog, "Ocean Views." You can see her photography at: jodifrediani.com.

Other Events

On October 27, our very own Ric Matthews provided a presentation regarding the marine mammals found in our area and along the Baja California peninsula to the Seven Seas Cruising Association, "the oldest and largest worldwide organization supporting the liveaboard cruising lifestyle." SSCA was founded in 1952, and their traditions are sharing cruising information, fostering camaraderie, and leaving a clean wake.



RIC MATTHEWS

*Top image: Orca in the foreground with a dolphin flip in the background.
Bottom image: Ric Matthews pictured.*



San Diego cont.

The Intercultural Center for the Study of Deserts and Oceans also made a presentation to the group regarding their work with fisherman and rescue in Puerto Penasco, Sonora, Mexico. More about these organizations can be found at SSCA.org and CEDO.org, respectively.

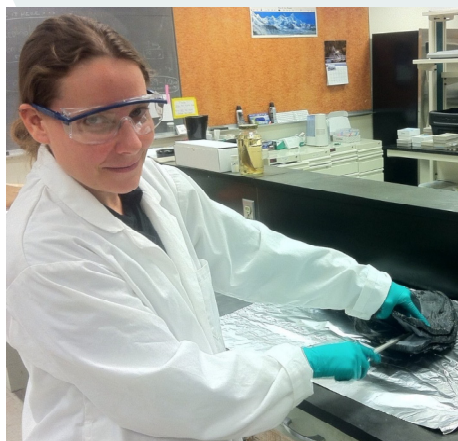
Upcoming Events

On December 5, the National Geographic documentary *Becoming Cousteau* will be available.

We are enlisting volunteers to assist with EarthFair 2022 in Balboa Park, Sunday, April 24, 2022. To sign up, visit our website at acssandiego.org.

Future Presentations

Upcoming presentations include Sabena Siddiqui, a doctoral student who will discuss humpback whale non-song calls and behavior off Hawaii; and Dr. Steven Schwartz who will provide an update on the gray whale in the breeding lagoons in Baja California.



*Top image: Minke whale breach. Image by Jodi Frediani.
Bottom Middle: Geraldine in the lab. Image provided by Geraldine Busquets-Vass.
Bottom Left: Geraldine with baleen. Image provided by Geraldine Busquets-Vass.
Bottom right: Jodi Frediani pictured. Image by Katlyn Taylor.*

S2a

Image



Proposed Matches



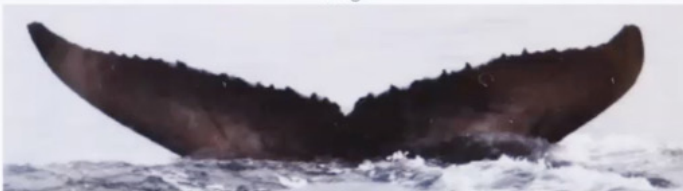
Humpback Whale
ID HW-MN0501827 >

Score: 0.34682



S2b

Image



CRC-15970-CRC-16295-16295_2011CalfofBCX1057_0006.JPG

Proposed Matches



Humpback Whale
Zephyr (WA/BC) >
ID CRC-15970

Score: 0.44566



S2c

San Francisco Bay

CHAPTER REPORT

Compiled by Gail Koza

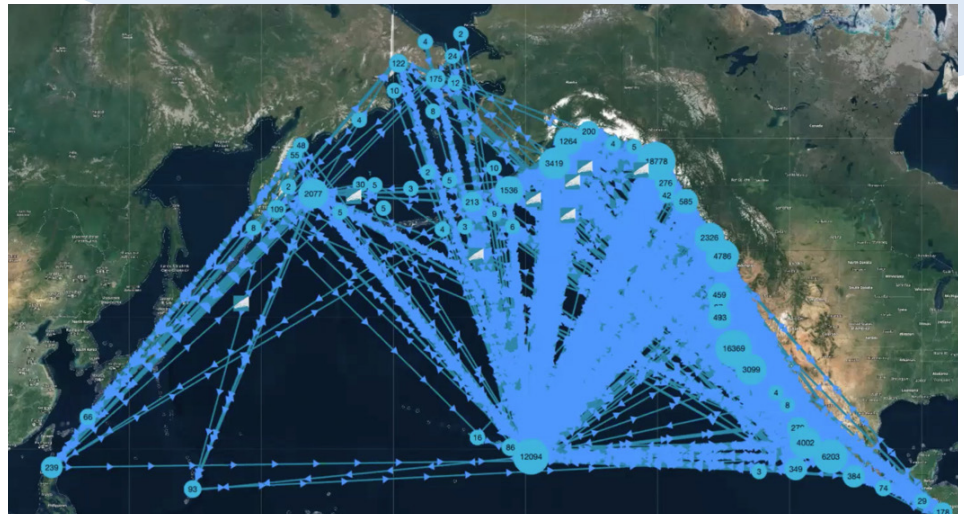
The San Francisco Bay Chapter of ACS is grateful for our guest speakers, volunteers, members, donors, newsletter subscribers, and event participants. We wish our local and international community a heartwarming holiday season!

MONTHLY SPEAKER SERIES WEBINARS

Our chapter enjoys great community participation in our Speaker Series webinars. Learn about upcoming events at .acs-sfbay.org/events or on our Facebook page.

Ted Cheeseman All the Humpback Whales of the Pacific Ocean November 16

We were honored to host a fascinating presentation by Ted Cheeseman, Co-Founder and Director of Happywhale, a research collaboration and citizen science project gathering ID images of



Top image: Difficult Matches Found by Happywhale With Machine Vision Technolog. Bottom image: Visual of all North Pacific humpback whale data in Happywhale.

individual humpback whales worldwide. In the North Pacific, Happywhale has achieved a milestone: the project now has identified the majority of living humpback whales in the entire ocean basin. Individual humpback whales can be identified by unique tail patterns, a powerful tool to learn about their individual lives as they migrate between

wintering areas in the tropics and feeding areas in higher latitude coastal waters. Mr. Cheeseman shared how the public has contributed to whale science, and what can be learned by following an entire ocean's worth of whales.

Watch the webinar here:
bit.ly/AlltheHumpbacks.



SERGEI TOKMAKOV

Top image: Plastic pollution lines a beach.

San Francisco cont.

CHAPTER BLOG

Help Our Oceans- Eliminate Single-Use Plastic

by Susan Hopp,
Board Member and Events Coordinator,
ACS San Francisco Bay Chapter

In early August, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued its latest report on the climate crisis and the impact of CO₂ in our atmosphere from the burning of fossil fuels. Described as a “Code Red for Humanity” and summary assessments from scientists like “We are out of time”, ACS community members might be wondering what can I do?

The good news is each one of us can do many things, and when multiplied by others’ actions we will bring the changes we need to avoid total calamity. One impactful step we can take is to demand a halt to single-use plastic, with foodware as an easy start. While there are so many reasons to feel outraged by plastic waste, most people don’t make the connection between plastic and fossil fuel use – the core of our climate crisis. Yet single-use plastic is made from fossil fuel. Biobased plastic labeled “compostable” but rarely composted, is derived from industrial crops embodying carbon pollution in every step of growing, producing, transporting. Oil and gas companies

see plastic as a replacement revenue stream as we move to renewable energy sources and electric vehicles. This is why the fossil fuel industry has plans to increase plastic production by 40 percent over the next decade with 700 new plants underway.

Visit our website to continue reading and for additional resources and further action to take in order to say no to single-use plastic and climate change. bit.ly/BlogOct2021



Bottlenose dolphin sighting during Texas A&M student trip to Port Aransas, Texas.

Student Coalition

CHAPTER REPORTS

*Compiled by Sabena Siddiqui,
Student Coalition Chair*

Our impassioned and dedicated student leaders across the country have been hard at work organizing events and guest speakers all while adapting to the ongoing pandemic. The newly formed group at the University of Delaware already has garnered a robust student attendance showing how interested and involved students of their generation are about cetacean conservation and advocacy. The group is led by undergraduates Katya Raskin (co-president), Tim Smoot (co-president), Renea Briner (vice president),

Carolina Waples (treasurer), Caldonia Carmello (social media chair), and Katie Fisher (secretary). Using a cetacean trivia wheel, sticker prizes, and QR codes for signing petitions, this group knows how to make learning about cetaceans fun for their campus community! The University of Delaware-ACS students are planning upcoming film screenings, guest speakers and collaborations with local institutes for the new year.

Students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison hosted events that mix education and fun including movie nights and cetacean trivia events for their

community. This group is led by Michelle Chung (president), Amanda Shalit (vice president), Emma Brown (treasurer), and Gaby Johnson (event and outreach coordinator). The group is excited to announce that they will be partnering with local student groups to help execute a mural of the Yahara Watershed. The mural will focus on how activities (e.g., pollution, salts, runoff, etc.) will impact the surrounding local communities and eventually the oceans. Stay tuned for more details on this exciting project in the new year and to hear about their plans to clean up the lakeshore!



Student Coalition cont.

The Texas A&M University Corpus Christi group, advised by Professor Dara Orbach, had an active fall semester that included a dolphin watching trip to Port Aransas, TX, a dolphin watching trip in collaboration with a local middle school using a chartered boat and beach clean ups. The hosted guest speakers were Neil McQueen of Surfrider Foundation, Sabena Siddiqui of ACS and Dr. Dara Orbach of Texas A&M. In addition to real world conservation activities and educational events, the group mixed in cetacean pumpkin carving and a Netflix watch party. The campus community is lucky to have McKenzie Zapata (president), Ally Wilkins (vice president), Oliver Puckett (communications officer), and Liliana Ortiz (treasurer) at the helm

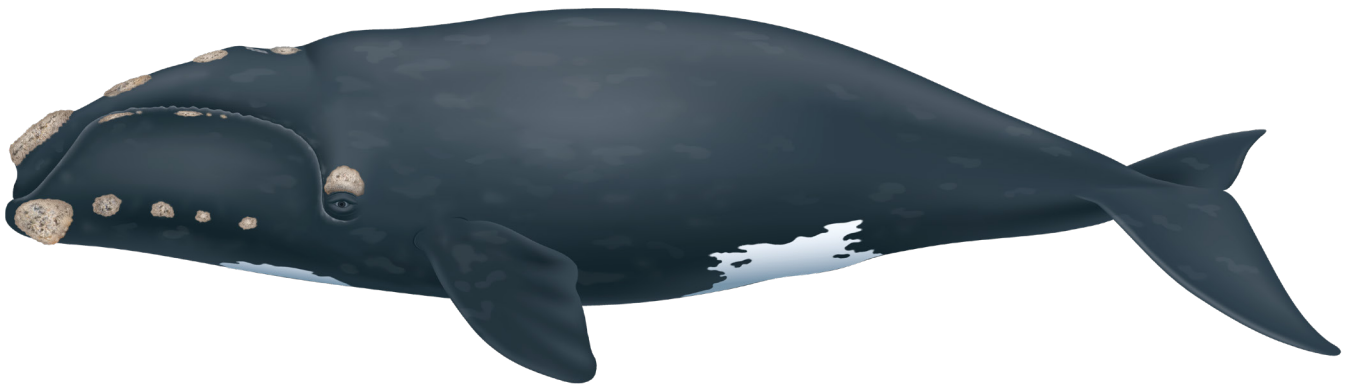
of this group. For the new year, the group plans to host additional beach cleanups, dolphin watching opportunities and guest speakers.

We at ACS would like to thank our student leaders for embodying strength, hope and grace during the ongoing pandemic. Nothing has stopped them from working to protect cetaceans. We also would like to thank you all who support students in large and small ways. Your membership with ACS ensures that we can continue supporting our wonderful student leaders.

If you'd like to learn more about the student coalition, or know a young individual who can learn about opportunities to connect with other students, check out our website at acsonline.org/students



Top image: University of Delaware student leaders tabling on campus with their cetacean trivia wheel. Bottom image: Michelle Chung, president of the University of Wisconsin-Madison group, holding a cetacean themed sugar cookie from their decorating event.



ACS DEPENDS ON YOU

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

Donations to ACS can also be made at acsonline.org

As we close out this challenging 2021 calendar year, I want to take time to thank all of YOU, our American Cetacean Society members and loyal supporters, for maintaining our organization through these trying times.

Your continued support has meant everything to us. It is because of you that ACS and its Chapters and Student Coalitions were able to thrive during a tumultuous pandemic year.

With your support, we managed to produce an extraordinary virtual conference in January and publish a phenomenal *Whalewatcher Journal* on right whales.

Our Chapters have shown enormous resilience and adapted to these times with monthly online speaker series, newsletters, and ongoing support to marine science students with research grants.

The LA chapter resumes the Gray Whale Census this December after a year's hiatus.

I humbly ask you to once again help our organization in any way you can.

In the meantime, our ACS family will continue to educate about the plight of cetaceans; fund student research; organize our next conference in 2022; and passionately advocate for all whales, dolphins, and porpoises on your behalf.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you!

Uko Gorter,
President, American Cetacean Society

AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY

Your Name: _____ Email: _____

Street Address: _____ Phone: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

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 _____

MAIL TO American Cetacean Society
PO Box 51691
Pacific Grove, CA 93950