

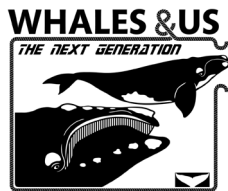
Spyhopper

ACS NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2018



SPECIAL
REPORT



A LOOK BACK
**16TH INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE**



1

A LOOK BACK AT OUR CONFERENCE



6

ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION

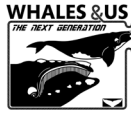


8

CHAPTER REPORTS

20

ANNUAL APPEAL



A LOOK BACK 16TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



KELSEY STONE

Left to right: Whale watching trip attendee photographs a humpback whale as it dives. Pre-whalewatching fun with Bernd and Melanie Würsig and Joy Reidenberg.

Dear ACS Members,

It is hard to imagine that it was a month ago since we wrapped up our 16th International Conference of the American Cetacean Society, “Whales & Us, The Next Generation”. A full year of careful planning, and then it is all over before you know it.

What are the ingredients that make a successful conference? First and foremost, you need a line-up of excellent top-notch speakers. All first-rate researchers and biologists who can deftly communicate the most up-to-date information on research,

and address issues surrounding cetaceans. Then, you need to find a gorgeous venue with a helpful staff eager to work with you. You need a committed and enthusiastic conference planning committee. You need sponsors who believe in the work of ACS! And lastly, you need passionate like-minded cetacean-aficionados with a keen desire to learn even more about whales to sign up and join in.

All these ingredients came together this November at the Hyatt Regency Newport Beach, which culminated in an unforgettable event. Even the weather and

the whales themselves cooperated. What more can you ask for?

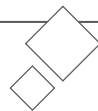
The enthusiasm by our attendees was already palpable (very) early Friday morning before boarding the buses to our ACS Conference Whale Watch. This amazing whale watch trip, provided by Davey’s Locker, daveyslocker.com, yielded excellent close up views of common dolphins and humpback whales!

The evening’s welcome reception at the Hyatt Regency immediately set the stage for our Star-Trek-like subtheme: “The Next Generation”. We heard from some of the

ACS NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Uko Gorter, President
- Diane Glim, Secretary
- Joy Primrose, Treasurer
- Raphael Fennimore
- Sabena Siddiqui, Student Coalition
- Jayne Vanderhagen
- Bob Wilson

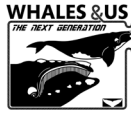
Read more about our Chapters and Board Members at acsonline.org



STAFF BOX

- EDITORIAL POD**
- Diane Glim
 - Raphael Fennimore
 - Uko Gorter, Illustrations
 - Rose Freidin, Graphic Designer

- ON THE COVER**
- Conference images from top to bottom by Kelsey Stone: Bow riding common dolphins. Ted Cheeseman’s presentation. The Kinematics perform Friday night. East Coast conference attendees.



A LOOK BACK 16TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

youngest and brightest whale and ocean advocates, the youngest at the age of eight. Heirs to the Ocean, Aeon for Ocean, and Sena Wazer, all poised, articulate and passionate young people, who are already making a difference and add their voice to the plight of our oceans and whales.

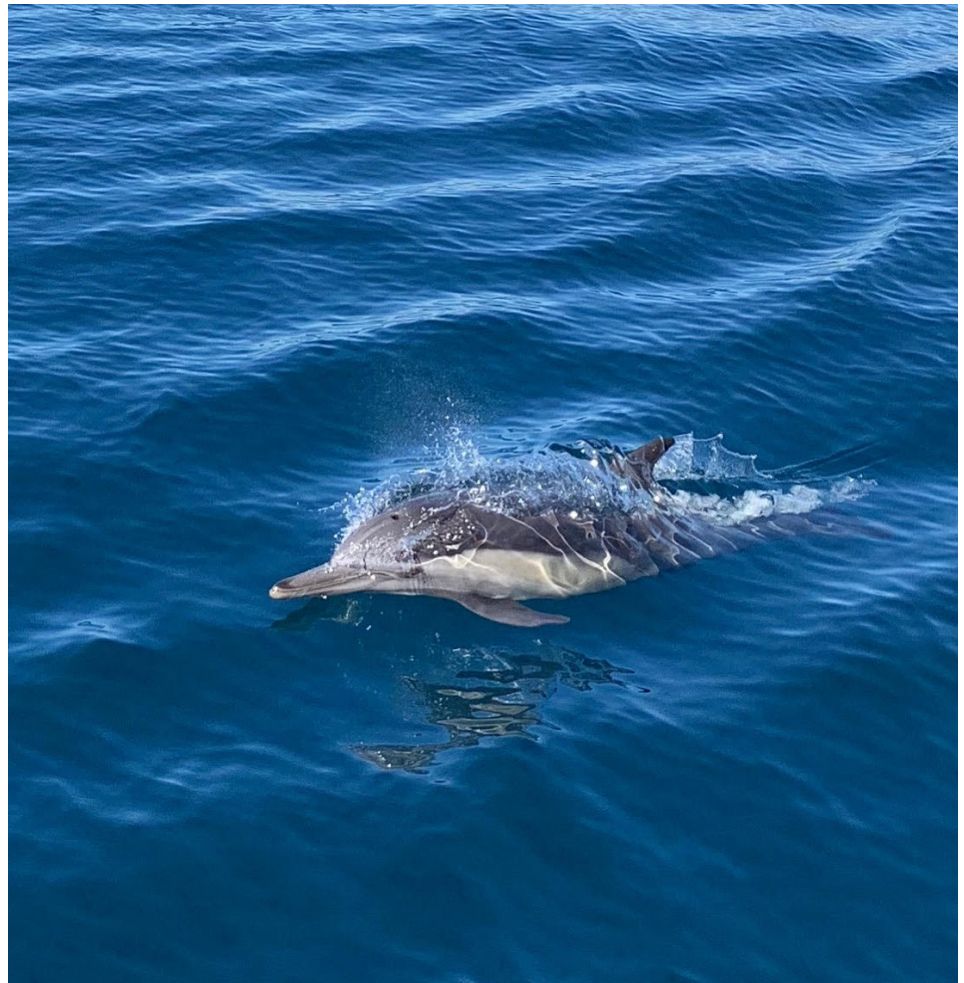
To cap this off, we heard from our own awe-inspiring ACS Student Coalition Leaders who were heralding “A New Era of Cetacean Conservation”: ACS proudly provided funds to bring these passionate ACS Student Coalition Leaders to our conference.

This ‘next generation’ is hugely inspiring and gives us much hope for the future.

The reception ended on a wonderful and unique musical note, provided by the Kinematics. This group is the only musical band in the world made up entirely by well-known whale researchers. Musician-cetologists John Calambokidis, Brandon Southall, Jeremy Goldbogen, and Ari Friedlaender have over 100 years of marine mammal research experience between them. It was a privilege to welcome them.

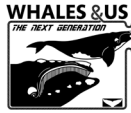
The following two days, well over 200 attendees listened to superb presentations from our invited speakers. They touched not only on their own research work, but also on nearly every aspect of conservation issues, from the Antarctic peninsula (Ari Friedlander) to the Arctic, where bowhead sing their jazzy tunes (Kate Stafford). We learned how a citizen science project (HappyWhale- Ted Cheeseman) has become a unique and amazing tool to get everyone involved.

We marveled about the physiological and anatomical adaptations that help whales move in their environment, vocalize, and mate (Jeremy Goldbogen, Joy Reidenberg, Dara Orbach).



Top to bottom: Common dolphin sighting on the Friday night Whale Watching Trip. Heirs to Our Oceans.

KELSEY STONE



A LOOK BACK 16TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



KELSEY STONE

Left to right: Banquet dinner. First student poster presenter, Alicia Schuler, displaying her work looking at the effects on whale watch tourism on humpback whales to a crowd. Bernd Würsig with his award.

We found out that humpback whales, who have rebounded nicely in the Eastern North Pacific, are finding some new foraging areas. They are however, increasingly threatened by ship strikes and entanglements (Marc Webber, John Calambokidis).

We listened about the further need of implementation of Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs) throughout the world (Giuseppe Notarbartolo di Sciara).

A special panel discussion was convened for Saturday afternoon about the lessons learned from the baiji and the vaquita. This panel discussion, titled: “Cetaceans on the Edge of Forever”, brought together seven experts who gave their views on how we can mitigate and stave off further extinctions. Through Q&A the audience was able to be engaged and participate in the process.

Prior to the evening banquet, we had the opportunity to see the excellent Poster Session, where many students talked about their work. We also had the opportunity to find that unique holiday gift at the Silent Auction and marvel at the Photo Contest entries. Our thanks to Shari Bookstaff and Jodi Frediani (respectively) for organizing these events.

After the evening’s sumptuous banquet,

ACS presented the John E. Heyning Award for Lifetime Achievement in Marine Mammal Science to our keynote speaker, Bernd Würsig. Bernd, who recently retired as professor at Texas A&M University, has a long and distinguished career in marine mammal research. He has guided and inspired countless students, some of whom who have become well-regarded researchers in their own right and presented their talks at our conference.

Bernd Würsig’s career is actually marked by lifelong partnership with his lovely wife Melany. In a sense, this award celebrates both their achievements together.

The gods were with us, when Daylight Savings gave us an extra hour of sleep the next morning.

As we have done in previous conferences, students were given a unique opportunity to meet with scientists. The unprecedented number of students who were in attendance, were split up in smaller groups guided by scientists.

We want to thank all the scientists and biologists who selflessly donated their time and expertise to mentor the

students at our conference. The students themselves expressed their appreciation for this incredible opportunity. This is what ACS is about! I would like to thank Sabena Siddiqui, our ACS Student Coalition Student Chair, for facilitating this important meeting.

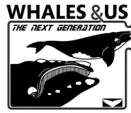
Many students also presented their research posters at our conference, which also provides them with additional experience. ACS Chapters again stepped up with travel funds to make sure students are given the opportunity to present their work.



After the photo contest and research poster awards, we continued hearing from our invited researchers. We learned much about cetacean cultures and challenges posed by climate change (Denise Herzog, Janet Mann, Shane Gero).

In a humorous but sobering way, we found out what the US public really knows and thinks about whales (Chris Parsons). ACS has much more work to do, it seems.

A planned world premiere of a new BBC Wildlife Unit documentary (we had kept secret) fell through, as this promising



A LOOK BACK 16TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



KELSEY STONE



ALISA SCHULMAN-JANIGER



KELSEY STONE

Top to bottom: The “Cetaceans on the Edge of Forever” panel of experts. Beautiful dolphin quilt made by Linna Bernhard, Orange County chapter, donated to the Silent Auction. ACS Social Media Manager, Kelsey Stone, and Keynote Speaker, Bernd Würsig, aboard the ACS whale watch tour.

documentary was not yet finished by the time the conference started. However, with the help of BBC producer, Tom Mustill, Skype-ing in from England, and the featured star, Joy Reidenberg, we were able to screen BBC/PBS documentary “Inside Nature’s Giants: The Sperm Whale”. Joy’s hilarious insight into making this impromptu documentary was a highlight in itself.

Last, and certainly not least, we heard from our own ACS stars. Alisa Schulman-Janiger gave a succinct presentation on the long-running and valuable ACS-Los Angeles Chapter Gray Whale Census and Behavior Project. Our own Sabena Siddiqui gave an overview of the most recent International Whaling Committee Meeting, in Florianopolis, Brazil, which she attended and represented our organization.

With that, another wonderful ACS conference came to a perfect end. We loved seeing so many new faces. Many young students who we may proudly call The Next Generation!

We would like to thank all our excellent speakers for their time and enthusiasm. We are grateful to our conference sponsors, Craigslist and Pacific Life, and we appreciate the staff at the Hyatt Regency Newport Beach for their help and guidance.

Personally, I would like to thank my fellow Conference Planning Committee—Shari Bookstaff, Raphael Fennimore, Jodi Frediani, Diane Glim, Christine Lundgren, Sabena Siddiqui, Joy Primrose, and Jayne Vanderhagen for their unwavering commitment and tireless energy!

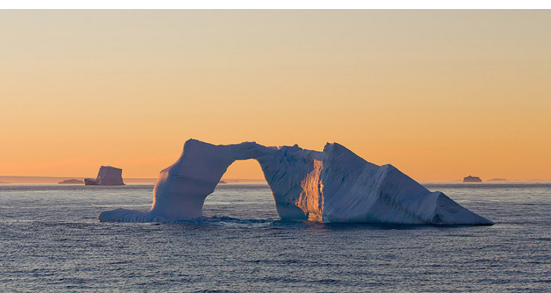
Uko Gorter, President



ANTARCTIC PENINSULA WHALES AND LANDSCAPES EXPEDITION

FEBRUARY 16-MARCH 5, 2019

JOIN MARINE SCIENTISTS, POLAR SPECIALISTS
AND NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHERS
ON THIS SPECIAL EXPEDITION



Landscape photography, time with Humpbacks, Antarctic Minke Whales, Orcas and visits to huge penguin colonies will surpass your wildest expectations. Our priority on this unique expedition is provide you the most time ashore and Zodiac cruising along with a special scientific component and opportunities to engage in citizen science.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Fly over the Drake Passage, with stunning views from above, saving two days of ship travel
- Get up-close and personal with Humpback Whales as they “spy-hop” out of the water to get a better glimpse of you!
- Be a part of the scientific research the marine scientists are conducting throughout the voyage via citizen science opportunities
- Experience beautiful sunrises and sunsets backlighting stunning landscapes
- With fewer than 100 participants, everyone can be on shore or Zodiac cruising together
- Our 16 leaders are marine scientists, polar specialists, photographers, and naturalists that will provide lectures, workshops, and guided excursions



SIGNUP TODAY
cheesemans.com • 800.527.5330

Itinerary, ship details and how to signup
cheesemans.com/trips/antarctic-peninsula-feb2019

In partnership with



JOIN US
FOR THIS SPECIAL
TED CHEESEMAN
LAST EXPEDITION
25 YEARS IN THE MAKING

ANTARCTIC PENINSULA WHALES AND LANDSCAPES EXPEDITION

FEBRUARY 16-MARCH 5, 2019



EXPEDITION LEADERS FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ALL 16 EXPEDITION LEADERS VISIT cheesemans.com/trips/antarctic-peninsula-feb2019



TED CHEESEMAN

Full-time Expedition Leader and Organizer, Conservation Biologist and Founder of Happywhale



DR. ASHA DE VOS

Marine Biologist, Ocean Educator and pioneer of Blue Whale research



DR. FRED SHARPE

Board Member and Research Biologist at Alaska Whale Foundation



JOE KAPLAN

Director and Biologist, Common Coast Research and Conservation



RAPHAEL FENNIMORE

National Board Member, American Cetacean Society and Ocean Advocate



DR. PHIL CLAPHAM

Director, Cetacean Assessment and Ecology Program at NOAA's Marine Mammal Laboratory



KATE SPENCER

Whales and Marine Life Guide, Illustrator and Researcher



DR. YULIA IVASHCHENKO

Research Associate, NOAA's Marine Mammal Laboratory



SIGNUP TODAY

cheesemans.com • 800.527.5330

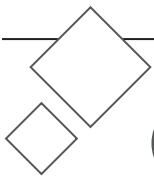
Itinerary, ship details and how to signup
cheesemans.com/trips/antarctic-peninsula-feb2019

In partnership with

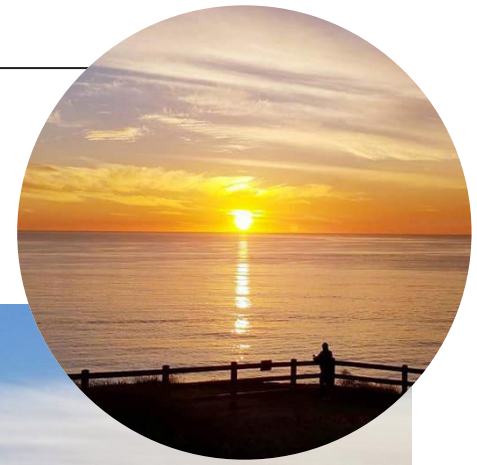


FOCUSED ON WILDLIFE FOR MORE THAN 35 YEARS

Our trips emphasize maximum field time, action-packed photography, knowledgeable leaders, small groups, and custom itineraries.



CHAPTER REPORTS



Los Angeles

CHAPTER REPORT & GRAY WHALE CENSUS AND BEHAVIOR PROJECT REPORT

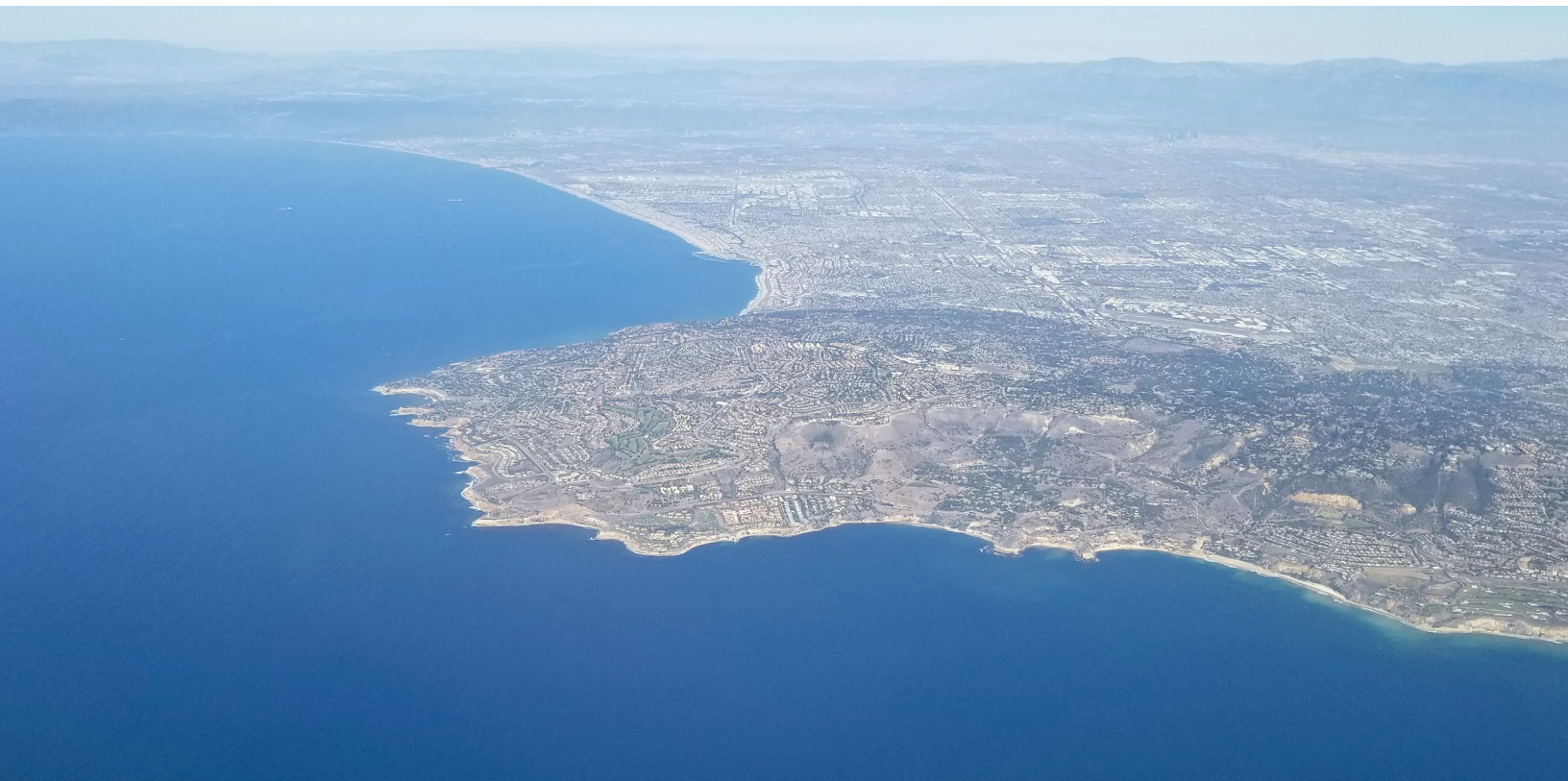
Compiled by Bernardo Alps

At our November 27th General Meeting, we launched our updated website at acs-la.org. We are thrilled to have a new and refreshed site and our members and supporters are pleased too. We encourage you to take a look and hope to hear your feedback.

We feature our three main areas: our exciting General Meetings which include a great lecture as well as lots



ALISA SCHULMAN-JANIGER



BERNARDO ALPS

Top to bottom: Closing out another Gray Whale Census day with a stunning sunset, seen from our observation post at the Point Vicente Interpretive Center. Census volunteers scanning for whales. Left to right: Census Director/Coordinator Alisa Schulman-Janiger, Erlinda Cortez, Carla Mitroff, Corine Sutherland, Joyce Neu, Cynthia Woo, Terri Bidle. The Palos Verdes Peninsula juts out into the Pacific Ocean from the Los Angeles Basin, it is the location of the ACS-LA Gray Whale Census and Behavior Project, now in its 36th consecutive season.

ALISA SCHULMAN-JANIGER



BERNARDO ALPS



ALISA SCHULMAN-JANIGER

ALISA SCHULMAN-JANIGER



Left to right: Inshore bottlenose dolphin pass in through the kelp right in front of our Gray Whale Census observers at Point Vicente. on 4 December, just before sunset. We can sometimes get photo-IDs of their dorsal fins, from shore. Census volunteers scanning for whales. Left to right Terri Bidle, Joyce Neu, Cynthia Woo, Corine Sutherland, Carla Mitroff, and Erlinda Cortez. Visitors to the Autumn Sea Fair/Sustainable Seafood Expo at the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium in San Pedro learn about cetaceans at the ACS-LA Education/Outreach table from chapter Vice-president Louisa Beck. View of the Point Vicente Lighthouse and Santa Catalina Island, from the Point Vicente Interpretive Center: the eastern portion of our field of view for Gray Whale Census observers.

Los Angeles cont.

of socializing; our Gray Whale Census which is in its 36th year; and our Cabrillo Whalewatch naturalist training program conducted in partnership with the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium.

We have plans to continue to build out the site to support the needs of our active chapter. We will be featuring member photos from our LA trips as well as from annual trips to Santa Barbara and the lagoons of Baja, archiving our rich history and recognizing our grant recipients as well as encourage applications for upcoming grants we will provide to researchers and students.

The entire ACS-LA Board of Directors was involved in the development of the new website, we are lucky to have had the expertise and tireless dedication of

Tamara Mason and Sherrie Rohde who delivered a beautiful product.

We kicked off our 36th consecutive full season of the ACS-LA Gray Whale Census and Behavior Project with great excitement 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. More than 100 trained volunteer citizen scientists spot, count, track, and record behaviors and other data on Pacific gray whales as they migrate past our observation post. As of December 21, 2018, they recorded 17 southbound Gray whales and 1 northbound Gray whale.

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), and 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 our sightings, as time allows. On October 2, the Cabrillo Whalewatch naturalists training program kicked off its 48th season, with 160 naturalists. This dedicated group of individuals comes

Los Angeles cont.

to class every Tuesday, from October through April, to learn about and increase their knowledge of marine mammals. In addition to humpbacks, fins, blues and other whales seen in our waters, the Pacific gray whale is the main focus of study, as it migrates along our Southern California coast during the winter months. December 26 will be the first official whale watch of the new season and it's looking very promising, as there have already been many reports of gray whales migrating by. Information in hand, the Cabrillo Whalewatch naturalists will be aboard local whale watching boats and in classrooms sharing their knowledge and love of whales.

Our General Meeting lecture series continues to draw amazing speakers. In September, Tom Jefferson of NOAA and Clymene Enterprises shed light on the evolving taxonomic status of "The long-beaked common dolphin of the eastern North Pacific." Tom was the recipient of the 2017 ACS-LA John E. Heyning Research Grant for this work. Brooke Bessesen gave an engaging and inspiring presentation in October and signed copies of her book "Vaquita: Science, Politics and Crime in the Sea of Cortez." Another endangered cetacean took the spotlight in November when John Fleming from the Center for Biological Diversity explained what led to the lawsuit that his organization filed in a talk titled "Saving the Southern Resident Killer Whales: What Will It Take?"

We are looking forward to an equally strong lineup when our General Meetings resume in the new year. In January, Regina Guazzo of the U.S. Navy will talk about her work monitoring the gray whale migration off the California coast for her Ph.D. at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Risso's dolphins will be the stars in February with the screening of the movie "Scars." We are still waiting to hear if Karin Hartman of the Nova Atlantis Foundation will make it to the screening from her base in the Azores. And in March we are going to cede the stage to our members and supporters to share their "Baja Adventures."



ALISA SCHULMAN-JANIGER



BERNARDO ALPS

Top to Bottom: Another view of bottlenose dolphin pair. A young visitor to the Autumn Sea Fair/ Sustainable Seafood Expo at the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium in San Pedro receives a custom made whale hat at the Whalewatch table, complete with Flukes in the back and a heart-shaped blow in the front. Author Brooke Bessesen speaks about her book "Vaquita: Science, Politics and Crime in the Sea of Cortez" at the ACS-LA October General Meeting in the John M. Olguin Auditorium at the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium in San Pedro, CA on October 30.

The ACS-LA Education/Outreach table participated in two events this fall. On October 7, we attended Cabrillo Marine Aquarium's Autumn Sea Fair/Sustainable Seafood Expo. As is often the case, San Pedro High School students volunteered with our table, teaching the public how baleen works and how blubber keeps whales warm.

On October 13, we were invited by the Channel Islands Maritime Museum to attend their impromptu event, Kikianalia & Family Day. The Kikianalia is a sailing canoe traveling around the world in a "historic three-year campaign circumnavigating the globe with a zero-carbon footprint to inspire greater environmental stewardship across continents." The crew of the canoe enjoyed our table, learning more about the whales they saw on their journey.

ACS-LA was very excited to award three

Student Travel Grants to the ACS 16th International Conference "Whales & Us: The Next Generation" in Newport Beach, CA, on Nov 2-4. The winners received \$250.00 each to supplement their travel funds. Maria Fernando Urrutia Osorio is in the Marine Biology PhD Program at Scripps Institution of Oceanography and has worked on photo identification and distribution of cetaceans in Bahia de los Angeles in the Gulf of California. Diana Alvarado is an undergraduate at UCSC majoring in Marine Biology and is studying the migration of northern elephant seal pups and comparing their migratory paths to their adult mothers. Elizabeth St. Germaine is a second year veterinary student at Western University of Health Sciences in Pomona, CA, interested in practicing veterinary medicine in the aquatic and zoological fields.

Monterey Bay

CHAPTER REPORT

Compiled by Katlyn Taylor

The Monterey Bay Chapter held our regular monthly meeting in October. We are still using new locations in our area as the full renovation of Hopkins Marine Station Boatworks is still underway. We are so excited to get back to our newly improved location in 2019! Dr. Dan Costa spoke to our chapter on October 25th 2018 at the Sally Griffin Center. He gave an incredible talk about Northern elephant seals and a few antarctic species (appropriate for our national fundraiser!). Our members really enjoyed Dr. Costa's talk and were very impressed by all the information.

Our November and December meeting is combined in to one meeting on December 6th 2018 to accomodate for holiday travels. We are excited to hear about cephalopods from author Danna Staaf.

We start off the New Year with Whalefest and our winter whale watch fundraiser in January 2019!

The Leucistic/possible albino Risso's Dolphin was sighted in Monterey Bay several times this fall.



DANIEL BIANCHETTA

© Daniel Bianchetta

Orange County

CHAPTER REPORT

Compiled by Christine Lundgren

The Orange County chapter had a great October! We graduated another naturalist class, enjoyed a great whale watch trip with the new graduates, thanks to Dana Wharf Whale Watching, and we concluded our year with a terrific presentation by Dr. Lei Lani Stelle.

Dr. Stelle presented to our chapter "Whale mAPP: How Citizen Scientists can Contribute to our Understanding of Marine Mammal Ecology". Whale mAPP, a collection of GIS-based web and mobile tools that allows the public to contribute to research on marine mammals. This work complements her ongoing research investigating anthropogenic impacts on marine mammals off Southern California. With the assistance of students and volunteers, her research group monitors the distribution, behavior, and physiology of populations of all local cetacean and pinniped species. Her outreach efforts help to educate the public and research findings contribute to marine mammal conservation and



DESI GREEN

management. Whale mAPP users have reported thousands of sightings from across the globe, and has resulted in four scientific publications.

In November the ACS Conference was held in Newport Beach California. Our chapter was well represented by many members who volunteered their time and many members who attended all three days of the conference. The Conference was so informative and inspirational to all who attended.

Our chapter is dark the months of November and December and will start up again in January 2019.

New Naturalist class with teacher Desi Green in the center. Speaker Dr. Lei Lani Stelle.





Volunteer appreciation tour of the NOAA vessel Bell M. Shimada in Newport, OR.

Oregon

CHAPTER REPORT

Compiled by Joy Primrose

Fall brought a return of the American Cetacean Society-Oregon Chapter Speaker Series.

Our September 22, 2018 speaker was Ted Cheeseman of Happywhale. Several Oregon ACS members have now been contributing to Happywhale and sharing their results with the chapter!

ACS Oregon Chapter member and naturalist, Era Horton, gave an inspiring and informative presentation “A Lay Person’s Guide to Cetacean Photo ID” on October 13th. He has been working with Cascadia Research Collective to identify and record whales he has photographed off the Oregon coast. At least 5 of his photographed whales have been added to the catalog so far. Citizen science is at work!

November 10th brought Lisa Hildebrand, a graduate student in the GEMM Lab at the Oregon State University Marine Mammal

Institute, with her project on gray whales off the Oregon Coast. “A small piece of a large puzzle: investigating the fine-scale foraging ecology of gray whales in Port Orford, Oregon” brought a standing room only crowd.

December 1st our speaker is Katherina Audley, founder and director of the Whales of Guerrero Research Project and a National Geographic Explorer. In addition to our speaker, we will be having a silent auction fundraiser for Student Research and Travel Grant funds for 2019. It is a great opportunity to shop for the whale lovers on you holiday gift list and help students at the same time.

Our meeting for January 26, 2019 will be highlights from the ACS Conference held in November 2018. Great photos from the conference whale watch will also be shown.

Our citizen science project *Whales & Marine Reserves: Education and Awareness* completed the 2018 field season on September 30, 2018. We are now in the reporting phase. Watch for announcements for volunteer training to be held in the spring of 2019 so you too can join in this fun and educational project.

A very special volunteer appreciation event was held on September 16, 2018. Everyone who volunteered during the summer of 2018 was invited to tour the NOAA Pacific Operations Center and museum as well as the NOAA vessel Bell M. Shimada. We had an excellent guide, LT. Cmdr. Rhodes who was a wealth of information.

We are looking forward to 2019 and invite you to join us!

Puget Sound

CHAPTER REPORT

Compiled by Uko Gorter

There is not too much to report from the Seattle area. We were on a hiatus from November to December. Our regularly scheduled monthly Speaker Series will resume on Wednesday, January 16.

In October we welcomed our own ACS/PS board member, Stephanie Norman.

Stephanie Norman, DVM, MS, PhD, is a wildlife veterinarian and epidemiologist, who presented a talk on her ongoing work. Titled, “A Bitter Pill to Swallow: Examining antibiotic resistance in sentinel marine mammals of the Salish Sea”, it highlights the persistent problem of antibiotics making its way in the marine ecosystem. Stephanie’s research is trying to characterize the presence and resistance in marine mammals.

ACS/PS proudly provided two \$500 ACS Travel Grants for students in the Pacific Northwest to present their work at the 16th International Conference of the American Cetacean Society.

Alicia Schuler of the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, presented her poster on “Effects of whale watch tourism on humpback whale behavior and passenger knowledge of regulations in Juneau, Alaska. We need to mention that Alicia won an award for her poster at the ACS Conference!

Lisa Yuodelis, of the Seattle University and Soundwatch (Whale Museum), presenter her poster on “Surface active behaviors of the Southern Resident Killer Whales in response to vessel disturbance incidents”.

San Diego

CHAPTER REPORT

Compiled by Jayne Vanderhagen

The fourth quarter for the San Diego Chapter started off with an outstanding presentation titled “From San Diego to the Salish Sea: A Whale Watching Comparison” by Erin Gless, a marine biologist and the lead Naturalist for Island Adventures Whale Watching in Anacortes, Washington. Because she has worked for successful whale watch companies in both locations, Erin offered a unique and insightful perspective highlighting the differences in operating procedures, viewing regulations, and wildlife sightings between San Diego and the Pacific Northwest’s Salish Sea. In addition, she talked about the “Humpback Comeback,” explained what a “Sounder” is, and gave us an up-to-



NOAA Fisheries/Marjorie Foster, under permit #17355

NOAA

Blue Whale for Dr. Aimée Lang’s presentation.



NOAA

San Diego cont.

the-minute update on the endangered Southern Resident killer whales.

In October, Dr. Christine M. Johnson from the Department of Cognitive Science, Dolphin Cognition Lab at the University of California, San Diego, shared information from two recent studies from their lab. Titled “Dolphin Social Cognition,” her talk featured one observational and one experimental study on social cognition in dolphins. In the experimental study they used animated stimuli to test if the dolphins would make social attributions – such as “help” and “hinder” or “friendly” and “unfriendly” – to those stimuli based on their relative movements. In the observational study, they applied a “biological markets” model to natural partnering behavior, to assess to what extent the dolphins may assess the partner states of others in making their own decisions to maintain social access, or to leave to seek partners elsewhere. Throughout her lecture we were continually amazed at the results and behaviors of the intelligent Bottlenose Dolphins used in the study. We look

forward to inviting Dr. Johnson back in the near future to learn more about dolphin social cognition as her studies continue.

Our chapter did not hold a program in November due to the ACS International Conference in which several San Diego members attended. It was great to pool our talents and efforts and work as a team with the other ACS Chapters to put on the conference which included two full days of extraordinary speakers and a perfect day on the water for the 8-hour whale watch. Between the incredible speakers of all ages, a lot was learned and hope maintained. The San Diego Chapter would like to extend a giant thank you to everyone who helped by volunteering their time and a special thank you to National’s Executive Board members Uko Gorter, Diane Glim and Joy Primrose for their steadfast leadership in organizing and directing the conference. The San Diego Chapter was pleased to award two \$150 Travel Sponsorships to students who participated in the Poster Session at the conference. Congratulations to Brooke Davis who



Top to bottom: Orca for Erin Gless’ talk. Dr. Aimee Lang of Southwest Fisheries Science Center. Dr. Christine Johnson from the Department of Cognitive Science.

San Diego cont.

presented “Characterizing Juneau-Area Humpback whales Via Citizen Science Data” and to Nicole Pegg who presented “Seasonal Distribution of Humpback Whales in the Western North Atlantic Ocean Using Passive Acoustics.” Cetaceans are in good hands with the next generation of students based on the amazing posters submitted.

We are excited to announce that Dr. Aimée Lang, Affiliate Scientist, Southwest Fisheries Science Center will be presenting “Using Genomic Approaches to Delineate Units to Conserve in Blue Whales” at our December Speaker Series Event. This will be the Chapters first “Remote” program as Dr. Lang will be speaking to us from her current home base located in Seattle, Washington. Aimée will report on her ongoing work to use next generation sequencing approaches, including sequencing of the complete mitogenome and genotyping of ~300 SNP loci in ~300 samples, to delineate units to conserve among blue whales and will highlight what some of the remaining gaps in our understanding are and how we might be able to address them in the future.

SAN DIEGO CHAPTER BOARD

Jayne Vanderhagen, President

George Liddle, Vice President

Ric Matthews, Treasurer

Diane Cullins, Secretary
and immediate past President

Cary Strand, Education and
Community Outreach

Sarah Dabydeen, Speaker Programs

Leigh Ann Gibbons, Special Projects



*Top to bottom: Bottlenose dolphin for Dr. Christine Johnson's talk.
Erin Gless photographs the ocean.*

San Francisco Bay

CHAPTER REPORT

Compiled by Gail Koza

The San Francisco Bay Chapter wishes a beautiful holiday season to all ACS members, donors, volunteers and friends!

CONGRATULATIONS 2018 JONATHAN STERN RESEARCH GRANT AWARDEES!

It is with great honor that we announce our inaugural Jonathan Stern Research Grant recipients, Lindsay Young and Anna Costanza. These remarkable San Francisco Bay Area graduate students will be conducting research that will contribute valuable information toward efforts to reduce anthropogenic threats to Pacific humpback whales and harbor porpoises. You can learn more about the grant recipients and their projects on our website. The grants they received will support their research projects in addition to enabling their participation

in the 2018 American Cetacean Society International Conference.

You can help support 2019 cetacean research by making a tax-deductible donation today to our research grant fund. Learn more here. Every donation helps!

MONTHLY SPEAKER SERIES

The San Francisco Bay Chapter enjoys great community participation in our Monthly Speaker Series where scientists, photographers and ocean experts offer insights into important topics related to cetaceans and other marine mammals that share cetacean habitats. We have an amazing line-up of speakers for 2019 and will kick off the year with an exciting presentation by wildlife photographer Jodi Frediani. You can learn more about our upcoming events on our website.

Glorious humpback whale fluke.



GAIL KOZA



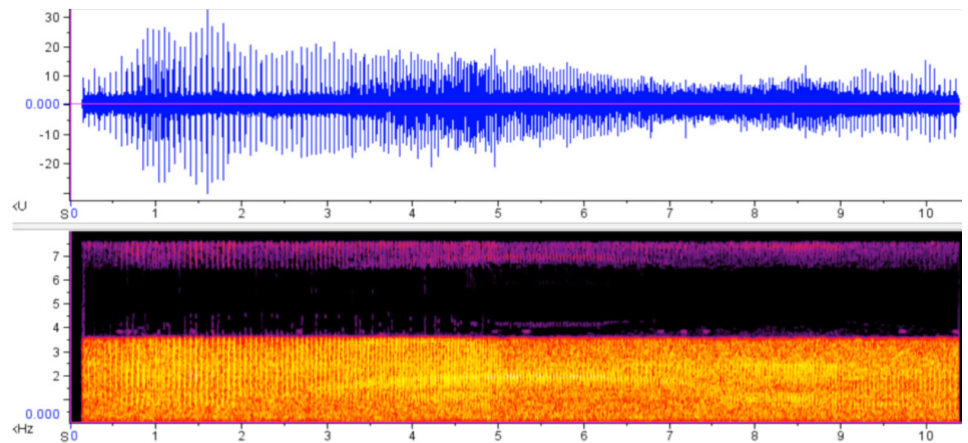
GAIL KOZA

San Francisco Bay cont.

Michael Stocker
“Evidence of Synchronous Chorusing
in North Atlantic Minke Whales”
October 23, 2018

Many rorquals (blue, fin, sei, Bryde’s, and minke whales) communicate with pulses in the low and infrasonic frequency ranges. Research indicates that minke whales synchronize their pulsing with others, forming a chorus. During this fascinating presentation we listened to samples of chorusing of minke whales and several other species as Michael Stocker introduced us to how this minke whale behavior was discovered, and why minke whales might be communicating in this manner.

Michael Stocker is the founding director of Ocean Conservation Research, a scientific research and policy development organization focused on understanding the impacts of, and finding technical and policy solutions to the growing problem of human-generated ocean noise pollution. He is also a Scientific Advisor on the San Francisco Bay Chapter’s Board of Directors.



EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH EVENTS
2018 Wildlife Conservation
Network Fall Expo
October 13, 2018

San Francisco Bay Chapter of ACS proudly participated in the 2018 Wildlife Conservation Network Fall Expo. The Expo provides a unique opportunity to bring together many of wildlife’s most ardent supporters with some of the world’s leading conservationists to connect, share stories, and make life-long friendships. At Expo we heard what it’s like to live and work in some of the

Top to bottom: Magnificent lunge feeding humpback whales. Cornell Laboratory audiograph of chorusing minke whales.

San Francisco Bay cont.

most remote parts of the world while we spread the message of our mission to protect and conserve cetaceans around the world. It was an inspiring day!

BLOG ARTICLES

ACS Grant Recipient's Research Models Humpback Habitat and Shipping Lanes to Inform Strategies for Reducing Ship Strikes
Written by Alaina Lancaster

Andrea Dransfield has never been inside the belly of a whale, but she did get a pretty good glimpse inside several humpback's mouths.

As a graduate student at San Francisco State University's Romberg Tiburon Center for Environmental Studies, Dransfield got a first-hand view of humpback whales lunge feeding right next to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) research vessel. The sighting was not only one of the most gratifying experiences of Dransfield's research, but also it became a data point in her thesis. Between 2011 and 2012, she gathered records on oceanographic properties and humpback whale sightings during data collection cruises, adding to Point Blue Conservation Science's extensive dataset, to create predictive models that could map out humpback whale high-use habitats and reduce the risk of whale ship strikes. Continue reading on our website.

Impacts of Anthropogenic Sound on Marine Life
Written by Kylie West

When we consider major environmental threats to marine life, we often think of issues such as oil spills, overfishing, and plastic pollution. A threat that's likely not as familiar to the general public but holds grave consequences is that of ocean noise pollution. NOAA's National Ocean Service defines ocean noise pollution as "sounds made by human activities that can interfere with or obscure the ability of marine animals to hear natural sounds in the ocean." An article in Yale Environment 360 shares a quote from marine scientist Christopher Clark: "We are injecting so much noise that we are effectively

acoustically bleaching the world's oceans." Continue reading on our website.

VOLUNTEER WITH US

The San Francisco Bay Chapter of ACS is 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. We are currently seeking volunteers to take a more active role in the work of the Chapter in the following areas:

BOARD MEMBER OPPORTUNITIES

Two year commitment

- Volunteer Coordinator

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- Naturalists— staff our table at upcoming events and assist with education programs
- Media Specialist

To learn more about these volunteering opportunities and to apply, please visit our website at www.acs-sfbay.org/volunteer. We appreciate your support!

We at ACS San Francisco Bay Chapter thank all of our members and donors for your constant support of our organization. Your contributions support our education and outreach programs, and enable us to offer research grants to outstanding graduate students and scientists, helping to ensure that important cetacean research continues.



Top to bottom: Russian oil rig, creative commons photo. ACS San Francisco Bay Chapter outreach in action at the 2018 WCN Fall Expo.

ROBYN CARMEL

Student Coalition

CHAPTER REPORT

Compiled by Sabena Siddiqui

The ACS Student groups had a jam packed Fall 2018 semester between their on the ground work on their campuses and their travels to attend the ACS 2018 conference in Newport Beach, CA!

Fitting in with this year's ACS conference was themed "Whales & Us: the next generation", the presidents from all ACS campus groups came together as one powerful #podsquad to kick off the conference on Friday evening with a joint presentation! Becca Katz (ACS-UH Manoa), Shelby Kasberger (ACS-Texas A&M), Kara Henderlight (ACS-UW Madison), Michaela Setzer (ACS-UH Hilo) and Kait Kush (ACS-ACS UH Hilo) joined the student chair and founder, Sabena Siddiqui (ACS board member), all in the same place to support each other, learn from each other, and inspire ACS members at the conference by showing them what the next generation of whale conservationists are capable of! Thanks to funding from ACS, these leaders were able to have this once in a lifetime opportunity to get together, and share their successes with the broader whale community of enthusiasts and scientists.

Remember that new ACS group we announced in our last report? The ACS group at University of Wisconsin-Madison is killin it with new campaigns and events up and running! The group held a party where students wrote postcards to Governor Inslee requesting that he breach the Lower Snake River Dams to help save Southern Resident killer whales. Now that is what we call putting your passion into action! The group also has an animal welfare panel event planned in the Spring with some exciting big name guests, more to come on that event in the next Spyhopper report.

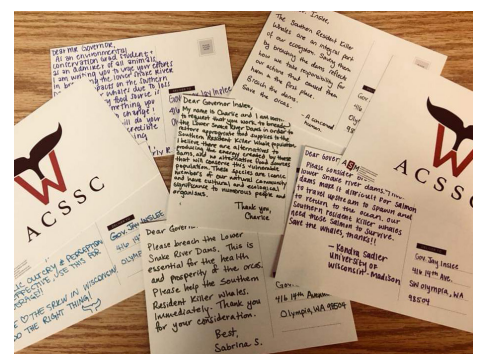
The ACS groups at Texas A&M University Corpus Christi, University of Hawaii-Hilo, and University of Hawaii-Manoa all are



wrapping up a busy Fall 2018 semester with some new student leaders and plans for the Spring. The Texas A&M University Corpus Christi ACS group continued with their comprehensive marine debris and plastics campaign. The University of Hawaii-Manoa group had a busy few months with guest speakers from NOAA, beach clean-ups and community education. If you hop over a few islands, the University of Hawaii-Hilo participated in a strandings response presentation by Ed Lyman and welcomed other guest speakers such as Jim and Alicia Ward from Seethroughsea as well as researchers from Cascadia Research Collective! The group also helped volunteer for Cascadia's shore based efforts on the island.

Make sure to follow the student coalition groups on Facebook and Instagram and stay tuned for further updates on the coalition's plans for the new year and the new groups on the horizon.

If you are interested in joining us or supporting these burgeoning student efforts, check out the "students" tab on the ACS website at aconline.org and get in touch with us!



Top to bottom: ACS/UH Hilo after a beach clean up. All of the ACS student leaders and the ACS student chair together at the ACS 2018 conference. ACS/UH Hilo with guest speaker Jim and Alicia Ward. ACS/UW Madison letter writing party to urge their governor to protect Southern Resident killer whales.



ACS CANNOT DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

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

Those of you who attended our recent ACS Conference in Newport Beach, California, or, attend regular events at one of our ACS Chapters, know first hand what this organization does and what it means to you.

Our commitment to the next generation of whale researchers, biologist, and educators, is reflected in the countless research and travel grants that have been awarded to students by both ACS National and its Chapters.

Your continued support and involvement with the American Cetacean Society is what has kept us going for over 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 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: _____

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

ONLINE DONATIONS
acsonline.org/donate

CONTACT
310-548-6279