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# Marine Mammal Society Newsletter

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## News, Issues, Opportunities, and Topics of Interest

### From the Immediate Past-President

It has become somewhat of a tradition within the Society for the immediate Past-President to provide the members with a brief review of the highlights of her/his term in office. Needless to say (but of course I have to say it), the two years as President-Elect and the two as President have flown by.

We have seen amazing growth in many sections of the Society. The student members-at-large have done a superb job organizing student activities at the biennial conferences, developing the student web page and coordinating the establishment of regional chapters. The students are the future of the Society.

The biennial conferences have grown from single session meetings to huge multi-day, multi-session meetings WITH pre-conference workshops. The jobs of the volunteer Conference and Scientific Program chairs are close to full-time as the conferences approach. Not everyone comes running up to volunteer for these jobs! We have seen the switch from 35mm slides to PowerPoint presentations. The amount of space we need for the conferences (particularly the poster displays) has grown so much that most hotel conference facilities can not accommodate us and we have to move to the larger (and much more expensive) convention facilities. This, in itself, requires that we plan six years ahead to insure that we have the space when and where we want it. We have also seen a change from no volunteers to host a conference (2003) to three volunteers for 2007. Rumor has it that several sites are interested in 2009 already! In some respects this coincides with the construction of a great many new conference facilities.

Our web site has moved from the University of Central Florida's "club" hosting server to a commercial Internet Service Provider. Not only do we have more server space that allows us to house the main web pages and the student web pages together, but we have an 'online' change of address form and the capability to handle e-commerce for things like conference registrations if we so desire. Beginning this year we began posting our newsletter on the web site as a PDF file. This saves thousands of dollars of printing and postage and allows almost all member rapid access to the latest issues.

We had a significant improvement in the number of members voting in this spring's election. Allowing ballots to be submitted by fax turned out to be a good idea. However, I would like to see a much greater proportion of the membership voting. Any suggestions?

Even though the elections are fresh (relatively) in the memories of the board, the next call for nominations is not that far away. Think about it!

The ever-increasing workload made necessary the hiring of a part executive assistant to provide continuity (aka 'corporate memory') between successive administrations, maintain the web site, do mass emailings, handle conference registration, prepare the membership directory, work with future conference committees, printing and mailing ballots, tasks yet to be discovered and repeatedly reminding me that certain things had to get done. Thanks, Terry!

The administration of the Society for the past two years was made easy because of the teamwork of a dedicated group of individuals – the Board of Governors. I sincerely thank them because without their efforts I would have even more gray and less hair than I do. It has been an honor to follow in the ‘fluke prints’ of Ken Norris and the founders of the Society. The Society is in good hands but we will continue to need the help of new, dedicated individuals to keep it that way.

To avoid post-presidential depression, I’ve become webmaster for the Florida Academy of Sciences ([www.floridaacademyofsciences.org](http://www.floridaacademyofsciences.org)) and I’ve taken up writing research grant proposals again.

See all y’all in Greensboro in 2003!

And remember, you can never have too many cordless drills.

#### **Abnormalities in the Eastern South Pacific: the beginning of “El Niño”**

Since December 2001 different abnormalities have been happening along the eastern South Pacific coast. According to data available, these abnormalities have been produced by the “El Niño” phenomenon.

By the end of November, an unusual Antarctic current was present along the coastline during five weeks, four more weeks than normal. Superficial temperature of the sea (Peruvian central coast) was two degrees centigrade (+6F) above normal and continued to increase. In general, the coast was covered by fog and haze almost all summer. By middle December, South American Fur Seals appeared in their breeding grounds, resulting in a delayed pupping season beginning late in January. By early February, South American Sea Lions moved from their normal breeding/nursing grounds, and located farther north of Peru. In March, unusual tuna fish appeared in the northern coast, giant squid appeared on central coastal waters and the anchovy stock was almost depleted. Krill was found in water samples taken 1 mile away from the central coast. Temperature increased to four degrees centigrade (+12F) above normal in the northern coast by late March. During April and May, and ORCCAMM team found several marine mammals a long the coast with common wounds of predation. Circular wounds were found on juvenile sea lion and fur seal abdomens and necks, and several “bite like”

wounds were found on South American Sea Lion pups. In May, the first stranded marine otter ever found was rescued by the Emergency group, but died due to severe injuries. Porpoises and dolphins with big holes in their sides were also reported. In late May, dolphins that use to remain by the inshore waters moved out of the area, as reported by ORCCAMM researchers. In June, a pod of 44 pilot whales was sighted in southern Peru and north of Chile, engaged in reproductive behaviors. Normally, these pods are commonly seen north of Peru and Ecuador by this time of the year. In July, the United States identified the occurrence of an “El Niño” phenomenon in the North Pacific.

“El Niño” brings different side effects to the world’s environment, and some of those effects can reduce or magnify natural phenomena for species, such as predators. Predators of marine mammals in the Peruvian coast were not reported. Orcas have not been officially reported and sharks have been away from these waters for quite some time, due to the Humboldt current of cold water.

(submitted by Carlos Francisco Yaipen-Llanos, ORCCAMM (Organization for Research and Conservation of Animals: Marine Mammals) Lima, Peru. Email: [orcarlos@orccamm.org](mailto:orcarlos@orccamm.org))

## **From the Committee of Scientific Advisors**

Steven Swartz, Chair

### **Society for Marine Mammalogy – Research Grants-In-Aid Program: Announcement of awards**

The International Society for Marine Mammalogy established in 1999 a program to help support marine mammal research in economically disadvantaged countries. Awards of up to \$1000 (U.S.) will be made annually in the foreseeable future, and continue to be awarded as long as finances of the Society permit. *This is the maximum amount available under this program. Requests for additional funds beyond this amount will not be considered.*

These grants are intended to support the purchase of essential equipment, travel to field sites, or other fundamental components of “getting the job done”. Applications for conference, meeting, workshop travel or salaries will not be considered. The grants-in-aid program is open to all members of our Society. Undergraduate students need to demonstrate an affiliation with established researchers and/or universities that can serve as mentors for the proposed research.

Although we all recognise that all projects in our field, everywhere, could benefit from increased funds — these small awards are intended to support very practical research needs in areas of the world where other support is difficult or impossible to obtain. Established researchers and graduate students at major universities with access to existing funding sources and/or alternative institutional sources of support are asked to refrain from applying for these small grants.

Applications will be reviewed by the Committee of Scientific Advisors and recommendations for awards provided to the Board of Governors of the Society. There is no official application form, however ***APPLICATIONS MUST FOLLOW THE FOLLOWING FORMAT OR THEY WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED:***

Please include the following:

- (1) a CV for the principal applicant including contact information: (a) affiliation and mailing address, (b) telephone and fax numbers, and (c) E-mail address (2-pages single spaced maximum);
- (2) a letter of request that outlines: (a) short introduction, (b) project objectives, (c) methods and procedures to be used, and (d) materials and other

equipment needed for the project (2-pages single spaced maximum);

- (3) a brief budget listing the specific financial requirement that is to be supported and any other sources of support available for the project (1-page).

Grants will be awarded based on NEED and scientific excellence.

One year from the date that an award is made, grantees will be asked to provide the Society with a 250 word summary report on how the small grant funds were used to support marine mammal research, and if the research findings will be published.

Applications will be accepted, reviewed and awards made three times each year. Funds will be distributed to grant recipients by the Society’s Treasurer. The remaining application period in 2002 is September 1 to December 31. Submissions by e-mail are preferred – send documents in Word Perfect 7-9, MS-Word, or Rich Text Format (RTF) formats. Applications should be sent to the Chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee:

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## **From the Membership Committee**

*Phil Clapham, Chair and Terry Odell, Society Administrative Assistant*

### **SMM 2002 Membership Directory**

The 2002 Edition of the SMM Membership Directory has been emailed to all SMM members based on the email addresses provided to Allen Press, or updated via the Society. If you did not receive an email, please notify [members@marinemammalogy.org](mailto:members@marinemammalogy.org). Those with overflowing inboxes should make an attempt to clean them out, or provide an alternative email address that can handle an attachment of approximately 1MB.

Production of the directory as a PDF file represents a significant change from previous editions, which were printed. The PDF format has permitted us to produce and distribute the directory at a greatly reduced cost to the Society and its members. In addition, PDF format allows us to much more easily update the directory, and to correct any errors that may have occurred.

Another change from previous editions is that the current version of the directory does not contain the Society's Constitution and Bylaws. These can be found, together with membership information and many other resources, at the Society's Web site: [www.marinemammalogy.org](http://www.marinemammalogy.org)

Members who submitted calendar year 2002 applications after this spring may not appear in this directory. If you find that your name is not included, or that there is an error in your entry, please fill out the form at the Society's Web site. Similarly, if you have problems accessing this file, let us know at [members@marinemammalogy.org](mailto:members@marinemammalogy.org), and we will try to assist you. Please note that the membership directory is intended for the use of SMM members only, and should not be distributed to others without the written permission of the Society's Board of Governors.

The next Directory will be electronically updated in approximately 6 months. Members are encouraged to keep all their contact information current. **If you need to update your contact information, please do so via the interactive submission form at the SMM web site, [www.marinemammalogy.org](http://www.marinemammalogy.org).**

The following members have provided changes to their contact information. Please note that all records are listed in their entirety although only a portion of the information may have changed.

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Please add **Judith King**, Australia, to the list of Honorary Members. We apologize for the omission

## **From the Past-Secretary**

*D. Ann Pabst*

It is with great sorrow that we report the death of the Society's Secretary, David St. Aubin. David recently lost his battle with a sudden and severe illness, and will be sorely missed by those fortunate enough to have worked with him. The Board of Governors will be working toward identifying the next Secretary for the Society.

### **Minutes from Members Meeting, Thursday, 29 November 2001, 5:42-7:31 p.m. Vancouver, Canada**

In attendance, 107 members of the SMM. Dan Odell brought the meeting to order, and the minutes from the Members Meeting in Maui were unanimously approved.

Dan Odell then recognized the members of our Society that we had lost since our last Biennial - Colin Bertram, Avenir Tomilin, and John Lilly.

Dan announced that John Bengtson, our Treasurer, could not be at the meeting for personal reasons. John had, by phone message though, relayed the information that the Society was in fine financial shape and that it had been unaffected by the recent financial problems in the stock market.

#### Nominations of Officers

John Reynolds introduced the three issues he needed to present to the members: (1) an explanation of the nominations process, (2) the announcement of the Board selected nominees for office, and (3) two proposals to change the By-Laws.

John explained that there were two places where the members could get involved with the elections process. First, they can nominate candidates. This year, John received only two nominations from non-Board members (which was, by the way, 2 more than he received for the last elections!). Second, members can vote! Alas, very few members do vote – only 7-8% of the membership voted in the last election. John asked the members to please let him know if they had suggestions on how to improve the process and to enhance participation.

John then explained the nomination procedure. The Board can only nominate two individuals for each office. John felt that the slate was strong, and welcomed nominations from the floor. John read the

candidates for each position, and then Dan requested nominations from the floor. The Board's candidates were:

President Elect: Kit Kovacs and Glen VanBlaricom

Treasurer: John Bengston (John is the only candidate suggested, because the Board feels strongly that continuity in this position is valuable. John would, if elected, serve his third term.)

Secretary: Daniel Costa and David St. Aubin

Member at Large: Nick Gales and Guiseppe Notarbartolo-di-Sciara

Student Member at Large: Edward Owen and Caryn Self Sullivan

After each of the Board's nominations were read, Dan asked for nominations from the floor.

President Elect: none

Treasurer: none

Secretary: none

Member at Large: none

Student Member at Large: Carolyn Kurle

John would return later in the meeting to discuss other issues of import to the Society.

#### President's Report

Dan Odell announced that the Newsletter Editor, Randy Wells, had requested that the Society consider changing its Newsletter from hard copy to PDF file. The cost of printing and mailing the current hard copy is approximately \$10,000 per year. Thus, changing to PDF would represent a considerable savings to the Society. Announcements of each Newsletter, which

would reside on the Society's website, would be made *via* email to the membership. Any member who requires a hard copy can make that request and it will be printed and sent to them. Dan asked for discussion. Another member asked if the Newsletter could simply be emailed directly, but Dan was concerned about large file sizes. Dan asked for a show of hands in support of a PDF Newsletter on the web site. There was a large show of hands in support of the request, and no negative votes. A member asked about the Ballot, Dan answered that the Ballot would be mailed separately.

The next issue for discussion was that of the Membership Directory. The last Directory was published in 1999. The Board is proposing to have the Directory exist as a PDF file, housed on the Society's website, that a member can access. This strategy ensures that the Directory can be updated on a more-timely basis, perhaps every 6-12 months. The Board's major concern is that of maintaining security of the membership list. Dan asked for discussion. A member asked if the website would be password protected, another if the list could be printed out. Phil Clapham suggested that perhaps the best way to ensure security is to email the PDF formatted directory directly to the members. A member asked if the Board had considered any problems that might occur with emailing internationally. Dan answered that our goal is to ensure that all members get the Directory in a more-timely manner, and that hard copies would always be made available to those without easy access to email. Dan asked for a show of hands in support of this request. There was a large show of hands in support of the request, and no negative votes.

#### Nominations Committee

John Reynolds returned to the podium to propose two changes to our By-Laws that the Board had supported. These required secret ballot, so hard copy ballot was passed out as John presented the changes.

The first vote was to make a change to our voting system. John read the following proposed change to the By-Laws.

“Article V. Votes, Section 3 (pages 61-62). Regardless of the number of candidates running for a particular office, the individual who receives that most votes shall be elected.”

A member asked for a point of order to ask if this change could be made by the vote of the members. John consulted the By-Laws and determined that the answer was yes. A member asked whether this change meant that the winner might not actually have 51% of the vote – John concurred. A member asked what would happen in a tie - John replied a second ballot would be sent out. The secret ballot vote for this change was 100 YES, and 7 NO, thus, it passed.

John then presented the second proposed change to the By-Laws. This change was suggested because many of the candidates for honorary membership have been out of the field for some time, and many of the younger members may not know these individuals. This issue, coupled with a generally low voter response, prompted the Board to consider a new mechanism for choosing Honorary Members. John read the following proposed change to the By-Laws.

“Article X. Honorary Members (page 62). Candidates for honorary membership shall be nominated to the Board of Governors by the Chair of the Membership Committee. To support each nomination, the Chair of the Membership Committee shall compile and provide a synopsis of the accomplishments of each nominee. Honorary Members will be elected upon unanimous recommendation of the Board of Governors, in recognition of distinguished service to marine mammalogy. Honorary Members have all the privileges of Members but are exempt from dues. No more than ten Honorary Members may be enrolled at one time.”

A good discussion ensued! A member asked why the restriction of 10 Honorary Members? John stated in the current By-Laws, although that number may have to be increased. Another member asked if there was an example of a vote where the candidate did not receive the 2/3 required vote? John answered no. The same member stated that he liked the involvement of the members in this important decision, and did not sense the need to change the rules. A member asked why the Board vote had to be unanimous, and John replied that this requirement was consistent with the current requirement of the Board to bring a candidate to the membership for a vote. Another member suggested that the ballot could be a platform to educate members of the contributions of the candidates for honorary membership, and John agreed. A member pointed out that anyone in the membership can nominate a candidate for this honor. Another member

pointed out that it is a larger honor to be voted upon by the entire membership than just the Board. John thanked the members for their discussion, and reiterated that the goal of this change was to simply ensure that we do honor our past. A member suggested that perhaps the better option was to educate people about the Honorary Membership and the importance of these individuals to the field. The question was then called. The secret ballot vote for this change was 40 YES, 60 NO, thus, this change did not pass.

John then asked for the members to participate in a straw-vote. Would the members consider having the elections at the meeting? Ballots would be sent to members who could not attend the meeting. This process may involve more of the membership in the voting process. A member suggested that one possible reason for low voter turn-out might be unfamiliarity with the candidates. Perhaps if the candidates did a brief presentation, more members would vote. John asked for a show of hands – there was not a clear majority vote.

#### Membership Committee

Phil Clapham presented the membership information. As of November 2001, the Society had 1725 members. These included 1114 from the United States, 119 from Canada, 18 from Mexico, and 474 from outside North America.

#### Education Committee

Ed Keith announced that there was going to be an informal meeting of the Education Committee and invited participation from the membership. They requested help in data reduction processes.

#### Awards and Scholarship

Carol Fairfield thanked the judges and stated that it is a huge job! She was happy to be able to announce that the Society was in the process of developing an award in honor of John Twiss. There was then an exciting announcement from Chuck Crumly, from Academic Press. Academic Press had offered authors who had chapters in the new *Encyclopedia of Marine Mammals* the option to donate their royalties to the MMS. Although the “check is not quite in the mail”, it is expected that this contribution will amount to \$3500-4000.

#### Conference Committee

There was no formal report from this Biennial’s committee.

Ed Keith announced that the XV Biennial will be in Greensboro, North Carolina. Michael Tillman, from the Southwest Fisheries Science Center, National Marine Fisheries Service, La Jolla, California, USA, presented the proposal to host the XVI Biennial in San Diego, CA in 2005. This biennial will mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the meeting, which was held in Santa Cruz in 1975. The second meeting was held in San Diego in 1977; thus, it will have historic import to have the meeting in San Diego.

The SWFSC would be the host institution, with sponsorship from NMFS, United States Fish and Wildlife Service the United States Navy, and SeaWorld, which would host the ice-breaker. Michael Tillman would serve as Conference Chair, and Annalisa Berta would serve as Program Chair. The conference would be held in the Sea Port Village area, and the dates would lie within 10-17 December.

Dan announced that it is the Board’s plan to approve this offer to host the biennial. Dan also announced that we have three options for the XVII Biennial from Quebec City, Canada; Cape Town, South Africa; and Algarve, Portugal.

#### Editorial Committee

Don Bowen presented statistics for *Marine Mammal Science*. Don mentioned that we had 151 submissions from November 1999 through 2000, but that submission for 2001 were slightly down (114), which may be, in part, due to the events of September 11<sup>th</sup> (see attached report). The journal is at about 50% acceptance rate overall. The length of time from submission to final decision averages 4.7 months, and to print averages 6-8 months. A new cover would be introduced in January 2002.

#### Student Member at Large Report

Leslie Cornick stated that it had been a challenging and rewarding experience to be the Student Member at Large, and thanked the membership for its support and the Board for having the student involvement. Leslie reported that there are 13 Regional Student Chapters (RSC) and announced the upcoming Leaders

Meeting. Leslie announced that ninety-three eligible applications for student travel funds were received. Thirty were funded from outside of North America and 35 were funded from within North America. She also thanked the Society and the Office of Naval Research for their support of travel grants, totaling \$19,000. Leslie announced the Student Affairs Workshop and thanked the Northwest RSC for their help with the workshop, and especially for their new program to involve undergraduates. Leslie reiterated her thanks to the Northwest Chapter for all their help in this Biennial. Leslie finished by stating that as the Society grows, so do the roles for students. She thanked the Society for increasing student involvement.

He thanked Dan Odell for being a great president, Ann Pabst for her job as secretary, Kit Kovacs for her strength on the Board, Leslie Cornick for her advocacy for students. Paul then recognized John Nightingale for his tireless efforts as the Conference Chair – what a great meeting! Thanks to John Ford and Andrew Trites for their terrific work as Scientific Program Chairs, and to Sheryl Knoedler and Kerry Irish for their tireless work on the Biennial. Lastly, Terry Odell, was recognized as Conference Organizer extraordinaire! There was appreciative applause, and happy rabble rousing all around!

Dan adjourned the meeting at 19:31.

### Scientific Advisory Committee

Steve Swartz briefly reviewed the role of the Committee and asked for input from the membership on topics of concern. He announced that three of the current committee members will be rotating off, and so asked the members to let him know if they had any interest in participating. Steve announced that the SMM Grants in aid of research program has, to date, awarded 16 grants, for \$1000US each. Information regarding the program is posted on the Society web page. Steve reminded the members that the committee works at the request of the Board. The membership should bring its concerns to the Board, and the Board then asked the committee to address the concern.

### NEW BUSINESS

A member asked if the meeting time could be changed. Dan replied that it could be looked into, but that you need considerable prior planning time. A member stated that if the meeting does go to the southern hemisphere, the meeting time might very well change. A member suggested the meeting time should be around the time of the equinox. Any change in schedule will not happen before 2007, due to booking issues.

Dan announced that there was one last official item of business – to recognize the outgoing Board members. Paul Nachtigall and Carol Fairfield offered words of thanks and gifts to all. Paul began with announcement of the next Biennial in Greensboro, North Carolina, and thanked Ed Keith, Conference Chair and Aleta Hohn, Chair of the Scientific Program Committee.

## **From the Student Member-at-Large**

*Carolyn Kurlle*

### **From the Out-going Student Member-at-Large**

Greetings Student Members! This is my last newsletter submission as I turn over the reins to your new Student Member-at-Large! Boy have the last two years gone by fast! But they've been two of the most exciting and challenging years of my student life, and the experience of serving as your Student Member-at-Large has been incredibly rewarding. I hope that you'll all continue to keep in touch, and I look forward to seeing you at the next Biennial!

It is my pleasure to introduce your new Student Member-at-Large – Carolyn Kurlle. I know Carolyn well, and know that she will continue the now-long tradition of student representation on the Board of Governors with enthusiasm and a genuine interest in furthering your interests in the Society and in the field of marine mammalogy.

(submitted by Leslie Cornick)

### **From the New Student Member-at-Large**

Hello to all students affiliated with and interested in the Society for Marine Mammalogy! As your new Student Member-at-Large, let me tell you something about myself. I am a Ph.D. student at the University of California at Santa Cruz and I have a Master's Degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology from Texas A&M University (1996-98) and degrees in Zoology and German Literature from the University of Washington in Seattle (1990-1994). I spent several years as a research scientist for the Alaska Ecosystem Program at the National Marine Mammal Laboratory in Seattle, and my work focused primarily on studying the feeding ecology of northern fur seals and Steller sea lions using stable isotope and fatty acid signature methodology. My return to school was motivated by a desire to ask different scientific questions and become more educated in ecological and evolutionary theory and practice. Therefore, my Ph.D. project is going to be somewhat of a departure from my past work and will include studying the effects of introduced mammalian predators on intertidal communities on islands. So, while I continue to work on issues of pinniped feeding ecology and population monitoring, I am broadening my scientific horizons to study feeding ecology issues in a new system and with different organisms.

I am very pleased to be serving as your Student Member-at-Large and I look forward to working with you and advocating for you. If you have any concerns about the Society and the role of students within its membership, please do not hesitate to contact me. As students, we are all extremely busy, but it is important for us to be an active voice in the Society and it is my job to facilitate that. Thank you!

Update your bookmarks! The SMM's student webpage has moved! The new URL is <http://www.marinemammalogy.org/student/>.

## **Other Conferences, Workshops, Symposia, Courses**

### **Seattle Conference Highlights Orcas, the Culture Of Whales, and the 35<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration For the American Cetacean Society**

As news of the orphaned orca “Springer” continues to attract worldwide attention, the American Cetacean Society (ACS) invites the public to attend its 8th international conference entitled “The Culture of Whales – the Animals, the People, the Connections” on October 4-6, 2002 in Seattle, Washington.

The three-day event includes a diverse program of activities including field trips, presentations and panel discussions, a public art show and silent auction, native dance performances, and a gala party to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the American Cetacean Society, the oldest whale conservation group in the world. August 1 was the deadline for early bird registration discounts and poster abstract submissions. ACS is also offering a special \$35 admission for Sunday afternoon only that includes the Birthday Celebration, art show and auction, celebrity speakers, and special presentation on “Springer” and other killer whale calves. Program and pricing details are available online at [www.acsonline.org/ACSConference.htm](http://www.acsonline.org/ACSConference.htm).

### **Carnivores 2002: From the Mountains to the Sea, A Conference on Carnivore Biology and Conservation**

This conference, sponsored by Defenders of Wildlife, will be held during November 17-20, 2002, in Monterey, California, at the Doubletree Hotel. Marine carnivore issues will be included among the major themes. For more information go to: <[www.defenders.org/carnivores2002](http://www.defenders.org/carnivores2002)>

## **Publications, Reviews, and New Titles**

*Ian Stirling, Book Review Editor, Marine Mammal Science*

In this brief column, I try to inform our membership of books, symposia, institutional publications, etc. which are likely to be of interest but do not warrant a full review in the journal. The following are brief summaries (i.e., *not* analytical reviews) of publications that members, and especially their libraries, might want to be aware of. I encourage anyone knowing of similar books, reports, or workshop proceedings they think would be of interest to forward them to me along with information on cost and how to obtain copies if there are specific instructions that are not enclosed with the book.

**Reeves, R.R., Stewart, B.S., Clapham, P.J., and Powell, J.A. 2002. National Audubon Society Guide to Marine Mammals of the World. (Illustrations by Pieter Folkens).** Alfred A. Knopf, New York. 527 pp. University Press, New York. NY. 320 pp. (ISBN 0-375-41141-0 \$US 26.95) (<http://www.randomhouse.com/knopf/nature/>)

If you want a single handbook that covers the whole gamut of marine mammals at a reasonable price, and don't want to lug the Society's recent and incredible Encyclopedia of Marine Mammals around in your enlarged and reinforced back pocket, then this may be what you have been waiting for. Of course, if your travels are restricted to one region, a regional guide may still suffice, or even be better for local species. However, if you think you are likely to know more about the various groups that we tend to refer to as “marine mammals” worldwide, such as other related or similar species, this is a hard field guide to beat.

The text has been assembled by four well-known experts on marine mammals. The descriptions cover all 120 species of the world's manatees, dolphins, porpoises, seals, sea lions, marine and sea otters, and last, but certainly not least – the polar bear. Each description covers diagnostic features for identification, similar species, behavior, reproduction, basic morphological and demographic characteristics, food and foraging, and status and conservation. The illustrations are outstanding, both in their clarity for identification but also for the additional insights they provide into aspects of the lives of many species in their natural habitats. There are full color paintings of each species by Pieter Folkens whose wonderful posters at the Marine Mammal Conferences are of course well

known. In addition, there are 123 maps and 418 stunning photographs. The photos are also valuable in that they provide additional insight into what the animals actually look like, or how they behave in the wild. For example, the paintings of the South American Fur Seal or the New Zealand Sea Lion would suggest the males are brownish in color when in reality they are quite black.

The book is well edited, readable, and information is easy and quick to locate. One oddity that is difficult to fathom is that the publishers chose not to put the authors' names on the cover which, given how well known they are, could only have added to the authoritative cachet of the book. Instead, they only put on the name of the illustrator, who also warrants recognition there. However, given that the responsibility for writing, researching, ensuring accuracy and quality control, and pulling the whole project together is the responsibility of the authors, this seems bizarre indeed. There is an excellent glossary but no abbreviated bibliography or suggestions for further reading which, in my opinion at least, is a shortcoming.

**Special Issue of collected papers on the rescue, rehabilitation, and scientific studies of an orphaned California gray whale calf. *Aquatic Mammals* 2001, 27(3). \$US 35.**

On 11 January 1997, a young gray whale was rescued near Marine del Rey, Los Angeles, and delivered to SeaWorld California in San Diego. She was in poor condition, had numerous lice and cuts, weighted 758 kg and was estimated to be only a few days old. Although gray whales are not endangered, having a newborn calf in captivity in this circumstance represented a significant research opportunity to learn a lot about a young gray whale, but also possibly learn things that might be important in a future rehabilitation of an endangered whale. Thus, a team of veterinarians and biologists at SeaWorld, and their colleagues in other agencies, undertook an interesting rehabilitation operation.

Following on recovery in captivity, the animal was released into the wild in spring 1998 with the northern migration of gray whales from their breeding lagoons in Baja California. Later, a workshop was held in which papers were given on a host of topics such as medical and nutritional aspects, husbandry, development, growth, hematology, thermoregulation, and post-release monitoring to name a few. The papers were collated and edited by Brent Stewart and published together in this special issue of *Aquatic Mammals*. This is a unique assemblage of information on rehabilitation of a large cetacean and is likely to be an important background document for similar episodes in the future.

Single copies of this issue are available for \$US35.00 directly from the Editor:

Dr. Jeanette Thomas

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**Aquatic Mammals**

*Aquatic Mammals* is the journal of the European Association for Aquatic Mammals, a society that encourages interests in all aspects of biology of these mammals, but also maintains a particular emphasis on research on captive individuals. The journal is published 3 times a year and subscriptions are available at a cost of \$US95 (personal), and \$US140 (agencies) and \$US150 (libraries). While the personal membership seems a bit steep, this is a journal that should probably be held in the libraries of institutions or labs that have marine mammal work as a significant part of their mandates. For further information, check out their web site at: <http://www.eaam.org/> or the Editor, Dr. Jeanette Thomas (J-Thomas@wiu.edu).

## **CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: The Cetacean Behavior and Conservation (CBC) Award Guidelines for the 2002-2003 Competition**

### ***Purpose***

The Cetacean Behavior and Conservation Award was established in 2001 to provide financial support for graduate students studying cetacean behavior and/or cetacean conservation in natural environments. The goal of the award is to encourage original and significant research that focuses on endangered populations or species, or on critically important problems in cetacean behavioral biology.

### ***Award***

A maximum of two awards of a maximum of \$1000.00 US each will be made to successful applicants. The awarded funds may be used for travel, supplies, and/or equipment necessary to support the proposed research. Awarded funds may not be used for stipends or salary for graduate students, research assistants, or any other personnel, nor may it be used for conference expenses. The award must be used for field research; it cannot be used for laboratory research.

The award shall be given only if there is a (are) proposal(s) deemed worthy by the judges in any given year. Thus, there may be years in which no award is made, in which case funds will accrue towards the next years' award(s).

### ***Eligibility***

Applicants must be enrolled in a Masters or Doctoral Program in a University accredited by a regional college association. Applicants must also be members in good standing of one of the following professional societies: Animal Behavior Society or Association of the Study of Animal Behaviour. U.S. citizenship is not required.

### ***Deadline***

All materials must be received by November 1, 2002.

For further details, please visit the Animal Behavior Society web site at <http://www.animalbehavior.org> (Click the Grants link).

### ***Submission of Materials for the Next SMM Newsletter***

The *SMM Newsletter* is published quarterly. Submissions should be concise, and they may be subject to editing to meet space limitations. Text submitted as e-mail attachments, formatted in **Microsoft Word for Windows** is preferred. If you need to update your contact information, please do so via the interactive submission form at the SMM web site, [www.marinemammalogy.org](http://www.marinemammalogy.org). **Address changes should NOT** be sent to the *Newsletter* editor. The efforts of editorial assistant Kim Hull towards preparation of this *Newsletter* continue to be much appreciated. Please send material for the next issue by **1 December 2002** to:

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