

The Society for Marine Mammalogy Newsletter

Fall 2006

www.marinemammalogy.org

Vol. 14, No. 3

This Issue

- Seeking a new Newsletter Editor
- Renew Marine Mammal Science
- Information on the 17th Biennial Conference
- Logo for the 17th Biennial Conference
- From the Student Member-at-Large
- Report from research supported by the SMM Small Grants-in-Aid Program
- Reviews of recent publications

Submission of Materials for the Next SMM Newsletter

The *SMM Newsletter* is published in March, June, September, and December. 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 or WordPerfect for Windows**, is preferred. Please send material by the first of the month for that issue to **Jason Schreer**, SMM Newsletter Editor, Department of Biology, SUNY Potsdam, Potsdam, NY 13676, Ph: 315-267-2290, Fax: 315-267-3170, e-mail: schreejf@potsdam.edu.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

President

John Reynolds
Ph 941-388-4441
Fax 941-388-5225
reynolds@mote.org

Treasurer

Steven Swartz
Ph 301-713-2363 ext 128
Fax
Kabloona15@comcast.net

Committee of Scientific Advisors

Helene Marsh
Ph 61-747-814575
Fax 61-747-816126
Helene.Marsh@jcu.edu.au

Conference Committee

Peter Best
Ph 27-21-481-3902
Fax 27-21-481-3993
pbest@iziko.org.za

Member-At-Large

Monica Muelbert
Ph 55-53-236-3525
Fax 55-53-233-6601
mamiferos@furq.br

President-Elect

Andrew Read
Ph 252-504-7590
Fax 252-504-7648
aread@duke.edu

Membership Committee

Douglas Nowacek
Ph 850-644-6700
Fax 850-644-2581
nowacek@ocean.fsu.edu

Nominations/Elections Committee

William F. Perrin
Ph 619-546-7096
Fax 619-546-7003
William.perrin@noaa.gov

Scientific Program Committee

Marthan Bester
Ph 27-12-4202067
Fax 27-12-4202534
mnbester@zoology.up.ac.za

Member-At-Large

Mark Hindell
Ph 61-3-6226-2645
Fax 61-3-6226-2745
mark.hindell@utas.edu.au

Secretary

Heather Koopman
Ph 910-962-7199
Fax 910-962-4066
koopmanh@uncw.edu

Journal Editor

Jim Estes
Ph 831 459 2820
Fax 831 459 2249
jestes@ucsc.edu

Education Committee

Glenn VanBlaricom
Ph 425 881 9695
Fax 206 616 9012
glennvb@u.washington.edu

Awards & Scholarship Committee

Nick Lunn
Ph 780-435-7208
Fax 780-435-7359
Nick.Lunn@EC.gc.ca

Student

Member-at-Large
Amanda Bradford
Ph 206-697-0143
Fax 206-616-9012
alb992@u.washington.edu

New Newsletter Editor

The Society for Marine Mammalogy is looking for a new Newsletter Editor. The position would start in the New Year and the first newsletter would come out in March 2007. If interested please contact:

John Reynolds, President - 941-388-4441 - reynolds@mote.org

or

Andrew Read, President-Elect - 252-504-7590 - aread@duke.edu

Renew Marine Mammal Science

Douglas Nowacek, Membership Committee Chair



Don't miss an issue of [Marine Mammal Science](#)...Remember to renew your membership!!!

Our online renewal process is new and improved...
<http://www.marinemammalogy.org/members/>

Society for Marine Mammalogy 17th Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals

Cape Town, South Africa

29 November-3 December 2007

The 17th Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals will be held at the Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC) in Cape Town, South Africa. Materials for pre-registered participants will be available and on-site registration will begin on Wednesday, 28 November; and a reception will take place that evening. The conference program begins on Thursday, 29 November, and ends on Monday, 3 December. A closing dinner and dance will take place on the evening of 3 December.

The Convention Center is located on the Cape Town foreshore, between the popular Victoria and Alfred Waterfront and the city centre. More information about CTICC can be viewed via the link www.cticc.co.za. A conference website is being designed to serve as the primary resource for all information related to the conference, including registration, abstract submission, workshops, travel and accommodation, and vendor exhibits. We will notify you when the site is available. In the meantime, the following information provides some important highlights and deadlines.

Call for Abstracts

Abstracts for both verbal and poster presentations are due **31 May 2007** to allow sufficient time for peer review and notification prior to the meeting. An individual may be the first author on only one abstract and may present only one paper. Abstracts are to be submitted via the conference website. If you are not able to submit electronically, please contact the Scientific Program Chair (sciprogram@marinemammalogy.org) to make alternative arrangements.

There will be triple concurrent sessions, as at the 16th Biennial in San Diego. There also will be time scheduled exclusively for poster presentations.

Workshops and Symposia

Meeting space is being arranged for workshops and symposia prior to the conference, on Tuesday, 27 November, and Wednesday, 28 November. Details of the venue will be posted on the website later. If you would like to organize a workshop or symposium, please contact the Scientific Program Chair. A format for a formal proposal will be distributed. The deadline for proposals is **22 March 2007**. Organizers will be responsible for any financial arrangements related to their workshops, including audio-visual equipment or coffee.

Travel and Accommodation

Conferon is negotiating special room rates for Biennial participants at several hotels in the vicinity of the CTICC: details of these will be posted on the website when they are available. All international or domestic flights (e.g., via Johannesburg) will arrive at the Cape Town International Airport, 22 km from the city centre. Details of visa requirements will be posted on the website, but all delegates are recommended to confirm these with their local travel agent or embassy.

Student Travel Grants

The Society for Marine Mammalogy encourages student participation in the 17th Biennial Conference and has committed funds in the form of Student Travel Grants to help defray travel expenses. Students must be members of the Society and have an abstract that has been reviewed and accepted (either verbal or poster) for the meeting in order to be considered for a travel grant. More information on applying for these grants will be available on the conference web site and in the next newsletter.

Conference Chair

Peter B. Best, Mammal Research Institute, Department of Zoology and Entomology, University of Pretoria, c/o South African Museum, P.O. Box 61, Cape Town, 8000 South Africa
Phone +27-21-4813902, Fax +27-21-4813993
Email: conference@marinemammalogy.org

Scientific Program Chair

Marthán N. Bester, Mammal Research Institute, Department of Zoology and Entomology, University of Pretoria, Pretoria, 0002 South Africa
Phone +27-12-4202067, Fax +27-12-4202534
Email: sciprogram@marinemammalogy.org

Logo for the 17th Biennial Conference

Peter B. Best, Conference Chairman

The logo for the 2007 Biennial was constructed by scientific illustrator Dr. Emese Kazár from Hungary, who was responsible for the design of the logo for the previous Biennial (www.emesekazar.com).

The principal idea behind the design is to celebrate the fact that this will be the first time the Society has met in the Southern Hemisphere, but also to acknowledge that although the Conference will be located in Cape Town, its intention is to be as inclusive as possible of marine mammalogists everywhere. Hence the logo is designed as a globe with the outline of Table Mountain (iconic for Cape Town) at its equator, subtending meridional lines suggestive of southern latitudes. The three marine mammals superimposed (right whale, Heaviside's dolphin and fur seal) are as representative as possible of the main interest groups in the Conference (sorry polar bear, sirenian and sea otter types!). All three species can be found in the vicinity of the Conference, but have congeners elsewhere in the Southern and/or Northern Hemispheres. We look forward to meeting with you all at the foot of Table Mountain.



From the Student Member-at-Large

Amanda Bradford

Greetings SMM students! I am a Ph.D. student at the University of Washington, where I am studying the population and spatial dynamics of endangered baleen whales in the North Pacific. After several years of serving in the main leadership role of the Northwest SMM Student Chapter, it is with great pleasure that I now accept the position as your new Student Member-at-Large.

Please join me in taking a moment to thank the SMM Board and membership for their continued and enthusiastic support of the ever-growing SMM student contingent. This commitment to students has created a dynamic environment where students can actively participate and contribute to the SMM and to our field, while simultaneously learning and growing as professionals. Please also help me to thank the out-going Student Member-at-Large, Nick Kellar, for his representation over the last two years. Specifically, Nick's leadership and dedication led to a very successful Student Affairs Workshop at the 16th Biennial Conference, increased Biennial travel support, and vast improvements to the SMM student website. Thank you, Nick!

Finally, I would like to thank *you* for entrusting me with the responsibility of representing you and your diverse needs. I have taken this trust very seriously and will work hard to serve as your

liaison with the SMM Board and to advocate on your behalf. My short-term goals are to become familiar with the current members and agenda of the SMM Board, to work with Nick for a smooth transfer of Student Member-at-Large responsibilities, and to update the SMM student website www.marinemammalogy.org/student/. Over the long-term, I aim to continue encouraging SMM student membership and Biennial participation, particularly for international students; to increase student financial support; to promote the growth of SMM student chapters; and to foster increased contact between students and professionals in our field. If you have any thoughts, ideas, or advice about these or other topics, please feel free to contact me at alb992@u.washington.edu.

Report from Research Supported by the SMM Small Grants-in-Aid Program

MORPHOLOGICAL COMPARISON OF SKULLS OF COMMON BOTTLENOSE DOLPHINS
Tursiops truncatus FROM PERU AND ECUADOR

Luis Santillán C.

Centro Peruano de Estudios Cetológicos (CEPEC)

lsantillancorrales@yahoo.com, 20020485@lamolina.edu.pe

Tursiops truncatus polymorphism in Peruvian waters implies the existence of an inshore and an offshore form which were described mainly based on skull shape. The same inference has existed for Ecuadorian specimens. Skulls of *Tursiops truncatus* from Peru and Ecuador were examined to explore geographical variation by traditional morphometrics. The skulls belong to the Peruvian Centre for Cetacean Research (CEPEC) and the Ecuadorian Foundation for the Study of Marine Mammals (FEMM). Total sample size was 85 skulls (27 from Ecuador and 58 from Peru). In order to avoid differences related to growth, the sample size was reduced to 52 mature skulls (12 from Ecuador and 40 from Peru). Sexual dimorphism was found in skull width, males being wider. Sexual differences were assessed only for Peruvian skulls because sexual information was not available for Ecuadorian skulls. We assumed that sexual differences were similar in both groups. A principal component analysis (PCA) extracted 8 principal components. Components 1 to 3 explain 50% of the variability. A scatter plot for the extracted components indicated three groups, one of Ecuadorian skulls (EC), one of Peruvian inshore skulls (PI) and one of Peruvian offshore skulls (PO). There is an overlap between EC and PI. The EC skulls seem to exist as two groups, one closer to PI and another farther from them. A cluster analysis using Ward linkage method established two main groups. The first one included most of the EC, most of the PI and two PO skulls; this cluster included three sub-groups one with only EC and the others with a mix of PI and PO skulls. The second main cluster included mainly PO and some EC and PI. Three sub-groups exist within the second cluster; one with only PO, one with PO and EC, and one (the largest) with most POs, one PI and two EC skulls. The evidence suggests that there are small differences between some EC and PI populations. Additionally, morphological affinities between some EC and PO skulls would confirm the existence of this group in Ecuador. Increasing sample size would help to confirm these findings. The SMM Small Grants-in-Aid Program helped with travel expenses to Salinas-Ecuador to permit measuring of FEMM skulls and to buy calipers. CSI also supported this work.

Reviews of Recent Publications

Ian Stirling, Book Review Editor, Marine Mammal Science

In this brief column, I try to inform our membership of books, symposia, institutional publications, etc. that are likely to be of interest but may 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 other 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 or on the web site of the publisher.

*Ian Stirling, Book Review Editor, Marine Mammal Science
Canadian Wildlife Service
5320 122 St
Edmonton, AB T6H 3S5
Canada
Ian.Stirling@EC.gc.ca*

Handbook of Capture-Recapture Analysis. 2005. Amstrup, S.C., McDonald, T.L., and Manly, B.F.J. (Eds.) ISBN: 0-691-08968-X (paper), ISBN: 0-691-08967-1(cloth). \$USD \$49.50 (paper), \$99.50 (cloth). Princeton University Press. www.pupress.princeton.edu/titles/8109.html

In this concise and modestly priced (paper version anyway) book, the Editors/Authors have set out to address a serious and regularly occurring problem, that of the breakdown in communication or understanding between a lot of field biologists and the statisticians they work with to help analyze their data. In this book, they attempt to bridge this gap by describing and explaining state-of-the-art statistical methods for analyzing capture-recapture data to the biologists who collect most of these data in the field. By so doing, their hope is that statisticians will also become more familiar with the design of field studies and with the real-life issues facing biologists.

Reliable outcomes of capture-recapture studies are vital to answering key ecological questions. Is the population increasing or decreasing? Do more or fewer animals have a particular characteristic? In answering these questions, biologists cannot hope to capture and mark entire populations. And frequently, the populations change unpredictably during a study. Thus, increasingly sophisticated models have been employed to convert data into answers to ecological questions. This book, by experts in capture-recapture analysis, introduces some of the most up-to-date methods for data analysis while explaining the theory behind those methods. Thorough, concise, and portable, it seems likely this book will be helpful to biologists, biometricians, and statisticians, students in both fields, and anyone else engaged in the capture-recapture process.

Supplement to Volume 8 of the Journal of Cetacean Research and Management. International Whaling Commission, The Red House, 135 Station Road, Impington, Cambridge, CB4 9NP, England. ISBN 1561-0713. 411 pp. (£45; US\$80; €70, plus postage). Available by mail or from www.iwcoffice.org/publications/pubmain.htm

This extensive tome contains the Report of the Scientific Committee from its annual meeting held from 30 May to 10 June in Ulsan, Korea. In addition, it contains reports from: 1) the Workshop on Future SOWER cruises held in October 2004 in Tokyo, Japan, 2) The Workshop on Habitat Degradation held in November 2004 in Siena, Italy, 3) the Workshop on the pre-implementation assessment of western North Pacific Bryde's Whales held in May 2005 in Ulsan, Korea, 4) the Initial Workshop in the use of Market Sampling to Estimate Bycatch of large Whales held in May 2005 in Ulsan, Korea, and, 5) the Symposium on High Latitude Ice Environments: Effects on Cetacean Abundance, Distribution and Ecology held in May 2005 in Ulsan, Korea.

If you wish to go beyond routine whale-hugging and really learn a lot about current information on a wide diversity of cetacean research and management topics, then rush to your computer and order this or suggest that your library does. Management of most species, but especially high profile charismatic megafauna is rarely simplistic and it is important for students especially to read widely around such subjects and truly try to understand perspectives that might differ from their own. Any library with staff or students with an interest in marine science and marine mammals should have the full series of these reports and The Journal of Cetacean Research and Management, if they don't already.