

Appendix D

Sealine - TMMC Volunteer Newsletter



The Marine
Mammal Center



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THE VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER OF THE MARINE MAMMAL CENTER

SPRING 2009

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR...

As Executive Director, I often find myself bridging one part of the Center community with another. Thus it was at the recent annual meeting of our Board of Directors. There, I let the directors know what we all had achieved this past year and I gave them my perception as to where we stand now.

As you can imagine, distilling the story of 2008 into a short presentation is no mean feat. I highlighted the 813 patients we treated, the just over 40,000 students we reached, the 22 scientific publications we authored and the amazing 74,736 hours you all contributed. Wow. I called out some of the extraordinary events of the year—the necropsy of the sperm whale and the 450 pounds of netting it had ingested, the rescue of Arctic, the harbor porpoise mortality event, and the leptospirosis and harbor seal research we led. I talked about our new facility and all the positive impressions I've heard from so many of you. And, I spoke about the elephant in the room: the economy and the tough decisions the Center made and continues to make to address its impact on us.

One of the directors had asked me in advance what the theme of the meeting was. A theme can be a course setter, or it can be a description of the course we're currently on. In this case, I believe we have both. There's a palpable energy at

the Center that propels us forward. As I speak to others in the community I find that there's something we have here that sets us apart. Two words, for me, embody a theme for the Center this spring: passion and resolve.

The theme strikes me as a powerful way to describe all of us in our various roles at the Center. We are a group of people who believe strongly—passionately—in the purpose of our work. We feel passionate about each animal we treat and passionate about the higher purpose of our work as well: the science we advance, the children and adults whom we teach and inspire. This passion fuels us, sustains us, and allows us to find optimism in a world that is sorely lacking in that commodity.

I pair passion and resolve because I think that one builds off of the other. Many have been the discussions I've had at the Center where we considered options for how we would move forward. Time and again we've opted for action and resolve, and even boldness, as we've considered what choices are ultimately best

for our patients, for ourselves, and for our organization. We've pushed ourselves to smartly, and with due consideration, drive forward—resolutely.

I visited MBO a couple of weeks ago on the Monday following the rescue of Fanbelt, an animal sadly, but aptly, named for the strap that deeply cut into his shoulders. That day, I met a woman on her first day, another returning on break from college, and several long-standing volunteers. I saw them as they started their day and again ten hours later with a couple of hours work yet ahead of them. In that assemblage of Monday MBO volunteers I saw the faces of the Center—the personification of a theme.

I draw inspiration from all of you, and I thank you for everything you do to make the Center the truly exceptional organization that it is.

Executive Director



News from Stranding

BY ERIN BRODIE, STRANDING COORDINATOR

AS MOST OF YOU KNOW, the Stranding Department offers an internship program for individuals looking to gain some experience with marine mammals. This program began in the spring of 2004 and we have had the pleasure of working with 18 individuals since that time. The interns are here for a minimum of three months, working five days a week doing a combination of stranding, research, lab work and animal care. They all bring something unique to the Center and we are so grateful for all the work that they do. This spring we have two wonderful ladies joining us for our internship program, Sarah Ashworth and Callie Wilder.

Sarah comes to us as a graduate of the University of Washington in Seattle. She has spent the past two years working as a marine mammal observer, data manager and surveyor with the Hawaiian Longline Fisheries and with LGL Limited – Alaska looking for animals in the Bering and Chukchi Seas. Sarah is excited to donate her time to an organization that is committed to preservation of the marine environment and get some hands-on experience with pinnipeds.

Callie comes to us as a graduate of Hawaii Pacific University. She has spent the past three years as a conservation advocate at the Jatun Sacha Biological Reserve in the Galapagos Islands and various fisheries jobs in Texas, Hawaii and Oregon. Most recently she has completed some contract work with LGL Limited –Alaska in the Bering and Chukchi Seas where she worked with Sarah Ashworth, our other Stranding Intern. Callie is excited to be here as she really enjoys the excitement of an ever changing hands-on work environment that keeps her outdoors.

Please welcome the two newest members of Stranding if you see them around.

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The Stranding Department recently attended the NOAA Fisheries Southwest Regional Stranding Meeting, March 16-18 in Santa Barbara. What an event! Three days filled with scientific presentations and updates on items such as sea turtles, entangled whales, research findings and 2008 “year in reviews” from other network participants. This annual meeting is a great place to gather all the live and dead animal responders in the state of California to swap stories and improve collaborations to achieve best practices in our common goal of responding to marine mammals.

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The Stranding Department has been insanely busy with the recent influx of elephant seals and harbor seals in the past six weeks. It is safe to say that the season has definitely arrived! Since March 1st, we have admitted 120 animals into the hospital, often bringing in 10 animals in a day. We would just like to say THANK YOU to all of the Stranding volunteers who have spent countless hours on the beaches, tirelessly working to bring animals in at all hours of the day. We appreciate everything you do. And to the animal care crews, THANK YOU for caring for all the patients we have brought in.

In summary....THANK YOU!

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Support The Marine Mammal Center

We wanted to call your attention to a page on our web site that lists upcoming events by local businesses that will support The Marine Mammal Center — http://www.marinemammalcenter.org/learning/comm/pubeducation_campaigns/fundraisingcampaign.asp .

Please check this page regularly as we are actively working with businesses along our rescue range to support the Center. Our SLO staff member Lisa Harper Henderson has secured a business partner in SLO for an event in July, and we'll have that information on this web page soon.

Monthly Stats

ADMITS through 3/31/09
(includes carcasses and DOAs)

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	TOTAL
ES	1	2	1	0	4	56	64
HS	1	0	1	1	5	26	34
CSL	60	29	17	19	22	15	162
SSL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GFS	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
NFS	11	5	0	0	0	1	17
ST	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
SO	2	0	0	0	0	1	3
C	2	1	0	0	0	0	3
TOTAL	78	38	19	20	31	100	286

RELEASES through 3/31/09
(includes relocations and transfers)

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	TOTAL
ES	1	0	1	0	0	2	4
HS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CSL	27	18	5	3	8	5	66
SSL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GFS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NFS	0	0	9	0	0	0	9
ST	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
SO	2	0	0	0	3	0	5
C	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
TOTAL	30	20	15	3	11	7	86

NECROPSIES through 3/31/09
(includes euthanasia, DOA, died in treatment, and carcasses)

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	TOTAL
ES	0	2	0	0	1	8	11
HS	1	0	1	1	3	3	9
CSL	42	19	14	11	12	8	106
SSL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GFS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NFS	3	4	0	0	0	1	8
ST	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SO	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
C	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
TOTAL	49	25	15	12	16	20	137





The Marine
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THE VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER OF THE MARINE MAMMAL CENTER

FALL 2008

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR...

2009 holds a great deal in store for The Marine Mammal Center—a new facility, the blending of staff and volunteers, and an improved experience for the visiting public. We're in for a shift in operations, work flow, and work dynamics that will impact us here in the Headlands, and all the way up to Anchor Bay and down to SLO. Whether you signed on for it or not, you're heading into what the corporate types call *cultural change*.

When I started in June, I spoke with many of you to learn why you volunteer, what keeps you here, and what priorities you see for us as we move ahead. I did this with the upcoming change in mind. Through these conversations, I learned a great deal about the Center and was able to align your observations with my own instincts and initial impressions. I had similar discussions with staff, and comments from them echoed your own. There was a clear call for two priorities: better communication and better integration. Interestingly, something else significant emerged as well.

To a person, volunteers I spoke with applauded the professional staff and to a person, staff with whom I spoke applauded the volunteers. Fantastic stories of individuals and working relationships, dedication and cooperation made their way into my conversations. A synergistic "mutual appreciation society" became clear right out of the gates. I don't want to suggest that I didn't hear constructive comments about ways to improve the Center, but all of those were heard in the context of a community that has a basic foundation of mutual support and respect—a

great platform for the change and growth ahead of us.

Many times change is thrust upon us. The change here at the Center is something we've seen on the horizon for some time. It's something we can control and shape, something we can make a positive force in defining who we are as a community, how we work together, and how we present ourselves to others. It's an opportunity to hold up our mission and consider how we might become an even better and stronger organization.

Change can be immense or it can be small. Ours will likely be somewhere in between. I wouldn't expect abrupt 180 degree turns, or dramatic, sweeping changes in who we are as an organization. But the mere fact that we will be occupying a new space and rubbing elbows more will prompt both subtle changes and distinct ones. You all know well that sometimes it's the little changes that have the largest impact.

I finish this article with an appeal. As ideas come

to you—especially those of you at the far northern and southern ends of our Center community—as to how to manage our change, improve communication, and better integrate our operations, please let me know. Send me an email, call me, or stop by. I want to hear from you.

2009 is going to be a banner year for the Center and with all that we have ahead of us we're going to need to draw on one another's passion, enthusiasm and energy like never before. I want you all to be a part of shaping our future together—it's essential. We're going to have quite a bit to celebrate in the coming months, and your pride in the Center, I hope, will only grow.

Through it all, please always know how much I appreciate all that you do.

Executive Director



News from Stranding

COMING TO THE RESCUE

BY SHARRON JACKMAN, VOLUNTEER AT SAN LUIS OBISPO

WHAT'S IT LIKE TO BE A MARINE MAMMAL CENTER VOLUNTEER ON THE CENTRAL COAST OF CALIFORNIA?

Our job is somewhat different than volunteers at the other sites because of the long distance to Sausalito. Our animals need to be stabilized if at all possible, due to the long van/truck ride they have to endure to get to the hospital in Sausalito. This often entails keeping them in Morro Bay overnight to allow them to calm down from the stress of the rescue, and giving them fluids and nutrition to help them survive their journey. In the case of a critically ill or injured animal, it means getting into the Center's van and hitting the road immediately to drive our patient to King City, Moss Landing, Monterey, and in some cases, all the way to Sausalito — a 4½ hour drive each way.

Reflecting back on the 12 years that I have been a volunteer here, it is amazing to see how far we have come, from the days when volunteers transported animals in personal vehicles and treated animals in a volunteer's garage, to today's beautiful and functional triage facility. When I retire from the Center at the end of this year, I will take so many experiences, memories, and friendships with me. Working shoulder to shoulder during Domoic Acid outbreaks, climbing down cliffs to get to an injured animal, walking on unstable docks and rock jetties and carrying animals over a mile to get them to the hospital are memories that I will never forget. I would like to thank all of the volunteers I have worked with here, at MBO, and in Sausalito for giving me the opportunity to care for these magnificent animals. I wish you all well in the new facility, and know that the Center volunteers will go on to do even bigger and better things in the future.



Photo by Tim Lytsell

Monthly Stats

ADMITS through 9/30/08 (includes carcasses and DOAs)					
	June	July	Aug	Sept	TOTAL
ES	5	1	2	0	8
HS	13	4	2	0	19
CSL	80	58	78	67	283
SSL	1	0	0	0	1
GFS	1	1	0	0	2
NFS	0	0	0	0	0
ST	0	0	1	1	2
SO	3	1	1	1	6
C	12	12	11	5	40
TOTAL	115	77	95	74	361

RELEASES through 9/30/08 (includes relocations and transfers)					
	June	July	Aug	Sept	TOTAL
ES	19	6	1	1	27
HS	16	9	2	1	28
CSL	40	21	26	19	106
SSL	0	0	0	0	0
GFS	0	0	0	0	0
NFS	0	0	0	0	0
ST	0	0	0	0	0
SO	3	1	1	0	5
C	0	1	0	0	1
TOTAL	78	38	30	21	167

NECROPSIES through 9/30/08 (includes euthanasia, DOA, died in treatment, and carcasses)					
	June	July	Aug	Sept	TOTAL
ES	2	2	1	0	5
HS	6	5	1	0	12
CSL	47	36	46	50	179
SSL	0	0	0	0	0
GFS	1	1	0	0	2
NFS	0	0	0	0	0
ST	0	0	0	0	0
SO	0	0	0	1	1
C	8	4	5	5	22
TOTAL	64	48	53	56	221