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**NOAA SCIENTISTS CONTINUE NATIONWIDE LECTURE SERIES ON HUMAN NOISE
IMPACT TO MARINE MAMMALS**

The Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) and scientists from various academic institutions are sponsoring a free national lecture series on marine mammals and human noise. They will hold the eighth lecture in Baltimore, Md. on Sept. 23, 2004.

NOAA Fisheries Acoustics Program and other scientific experts in marine mammals and human noise are hosting the programs at public aquariums and marine laboratories around the country, to help increase public knowledge about human noise and marine mammals. The lecture series, Marine Animals and Human Noise, started in March in Florida, and will continue through November 2004.

"I am very excited about this series of informative programs," said Bill Hogarth, the assistant administrator for NOAA Fisheries. "There is a lot of interest in the affect of human noises on whales, dolphins and other marine mammals. NOAA Fisheries has some of the world's leading experts looking at this issue."

Participating organizations include; the Marine Mammal Commission, Mote Marine Laboratory, New England Aquarium, Long Marine Laboratory (University of California, Santa Cruz), Dolphin Quest Hawaii, Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology (University of Hawaii), Patuxent Research Refuge, National Aquarium (Washington, D.C.), Seattle Aquarium, National Aquarium (Baltimore), Shedd Aquarium, Audubon Aquarium of the Americas, Hubbs-Sea World Research Institute, and the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

The objective of this unique series is to present current scientific information about human sources and uses of sound in marine environments, the physics of sound and hearing, and biological and behavioral factors that relate to noise impacts. Scientists hope that the educational lecture series will facilitate constructive discussions among concerned parties.

"While we continue to work toward understanding some of these complex issues, much has been learned recently about the impact of noise on marine life," Hogarth said. "It is very important to convey this information to the public. Our ultimate goal is to use a balanced approach to share the ocean with marine life, and to conserve and protect these incredible creatures for many years to come."

- The schedule for the lectures is shown below:
- Mote Marine Laboratory, Sarasota, Fla. - March 10, 2004, 6:00 p.m.
Speakers: Dr. Doug Nowacek, Dr. David Mann, and Dr. Brandon Southall
 - New England Aquarium, Boston, Mass. - April 22, 2004, 7:00 p.m.
Speakers: Dr. Peter Tyack, Dr. Darlene Ketten, and Dr. Brandon Southall
 - Long Marine Laboratory, Santa Cruz, Calif. - June 3, 2004, 7:00 p.m.
Speakers: Dr. David Kastak, Dr. Don Croll, and Dr. Brandon Southall
 - Dolphin Quest Hawaii, Waikoloa, Hawaii - June 5, 2004
Speaker: Dr. Brandon Southall
 - Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology, Coconut Island, Hawaii - June 7, 2004
Speakers: Dr. Paul Nachtigall and Dr. Brandon Southall
 - Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel, Md. - June 16, 2004, 7:00 p.m.
Speakers: Dr. Bill Ellison, Mr. David Cottingham and Dr. Brandon Southall
 - National Aquarium, Washington DC - August 5, 2004, 2:00 p.m.
Speakers: Dr. Bill Ellison and Dr. Brandon Southall
 - National Aquarium, Baltimore, Md. - September 23, 2004, 6:30 p.m.
Speakers: Dr. Arthur Popper, Dr. Mardi Hastings, and Dr. Roger Gentry
 - Seattle Aquarium, Seattle, Wa. - September 30, 2004, 6:30 p.m.
Speaker Dr. Linda Jones, Dr. Sue Moore, Ms. Charlotte Smith, and Dr. Brandon Southall
 - University of Delaware "Coast Days" - October 3, 2004, 1:00 p.m.
Speakers: Dr. Adam Frankel and Dr. Brandon Southall
 - Audubon Aquarium of the Americas, New Orleans, La. - October 7, 2004, 7:00 p.m.
Speakers: Dr. Robert Gisiner and Dr. Brandon Southall
 - Shedd Aquarium, Chicago, Ill. - October 21, 2004, 6:30 p.m.
Speakers Dr. Jeanette Thomas and Dr. Brandon Southall
 - Hubbs-Sea World Research Inst., San Diego, Calif. - November 11, 2004, 7:00 p.m.
Speakers: Dr. Anne Bowles, Dr. Jim Finneran, and Dr. Brandon Southall
 - Monterey Bay Aquarium, Monterey, Calif. - November 13, 2004, 6:00 p.m.
Speakers: Dr. Steve Insley, Dr. Dan Costa, and Dr. Brandon Southall

NOAA Fisheries is dedicated to protecting and preserving our nation's living marine resources, and the habitat on which they depend, through scientific research, management and enforcement. Our stewardship of these resources benefits the nation by supporting coastal communities that depend upon them while helping to provide safe and healthy seafood to consumers and recreational opportunities for the American public.

NOAA is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of America's coastal and marine resources.

On the Web:

NOAA: <http://www.noaa.gov>

NOAA's Fisheries: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov>

NOAA's Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program:

http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/prot_res/PR2/Health_and_Stranding_Response_Program/mmhsrp.html