

NEWSLETTER OF THE PUGET SOUND CHAPTER
OF THE AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 3

SUMMER 2005

Next Meeting:
Wednesday October 19th

Next Issue of *Whulj*—November
see www.acspugetsound.org for
speaker series meeting details and
Whulj back issues.

Event Information

All speaker series events meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at the Phinney Neighborhood Center, Room 6, 6532 Phinney Ave. N., Seattle, (just north of the Woodland Park Zoo).

Doors open at 7pm and the program starts at 7:30pm. Plenty of free parking is available in the upper and lower parking lots. Admission is free—donations to offset the room rental costs are gratefully appreciated of course as we operate on a shoestring like almost all nonprofits.

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Chapter Currents

by Uko Gorter, ACS/PS President

We hope that all of you are enjoying your vacation, and above all, the exceptional temperatures in our Puget Sound region. ACS/PS is also on vacation, and as such no meetings/Speaker Series are scheduled until Wednesday, October 19.

Speaking of vacation, we would love to hear from our members. If you have gone on a whale watching trip, or simply observed cetaceans from shore, please consider sharing your experiences with us & write an

article for the Fall or Winter *Whulj*

In this issue you may find that, in the early Summer months, we have been busy with educational outreach, something we would like to increase in the coming years. We hope to count on your continued support, be it monetary or active involvement.

As a way for you to get to know our Puget Sound Chapter board, we have decided to highlight a board member in each issue. Peggy Foreman, our amazing education chair, was unanimously chosen to be our first "victim". Of course, we hope you will take the time and meet all of us in person at our next meeting. — Please enjoy this issue of our *Whulj* — Uko

photo of K14 plus calf
courtesy Mark Seagraves



VHP Update

Vashon-Maury Important for SRKW New Mothers

By Ann Stateler, ACS/PS Vice President & VHP Coordinator

What would Granny (J2) and Ruffles (J1) say? On May 17, I testified at an Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) hearing held on Vashon-Maury regarding Glacier Northwest's proposed expansion of a Maury Island gravel mine. The Puget Sound conservation community generally concurs that gravel

barging and an extended pier at the site, which is in an aquatic reserve, would prove detrimental to the fragile marine ecosystem, from eelgrass beds to Southern Resident killer whales.

Groups that have expressed opposition to the gravel mine expansion
(Continued on page 3)



Board Member Profile

Peggy Foreman

by Uko Gorter

Peggy, who joined the ACS/PS board as our education chair in 2003, is one of those people with contagious enthusiasm. Her upbeat and outgoing personality surely is felt by the lucky students at Einstein Middle School in the Shoreline school district, where Peggy teaches 7th grade math. Prior to teaching at Einstein, she taught 5th and 6th grades at Syre Elementary; while before that she taught English one summer in Hong Kong and two years at the tribal school in Puyallup.

Peggy's background is in marine biology, however. She received her Bachelors of Science from Western Washington University and her Masters in Teaching from the University of Puget Sound. Peggy has worked as a naturalist on board whale watching vessels for the last 13 years. Three summers were spent up in Alaska, and one winter in Maui with humpback whales; the rest were spent in the San Juans getting to know our resident killer whale pods.

As a release of all this energy, Peggy finds time for kayaking—even building one in her living room—and hiking, downhill skiing, & mountain climbing. She has summited Mt Rainier several times! When it rains she contends with indoor soccer or winds down with painting, scrap booking and jewelry making. With all this activity it is no wonder that Peggy lists chocolate as one of her favorite things. Along with orcas of course.

Peggy is also a member of the Northwest Aquatic and Marine Educators, and recently spoke on behalf of ACS during one of their conferences. She has represented our chapter at numerous educational events around the Puget Sound (see her article also in this issue), spreading her knowledge of the marine ecosystem and showing her love for teaching our next generation. We are extremely lucky to have her as our education chair.

Did you know that gray whales have a favorite side while feeding—most gray whales favor their right side while feeding—this was discovered via observation of greater wear on the baleen on the right side of the head, fewer barnacles, and more skin abrasions — from *Whales and Dolphins in Question—the Smithsonian Answer Book*—
© 2002 Smithsonian Institute

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Whulj
"the saltwater we know"

The Newsletter of
the Puget Sound Chapter
of the American Cetacean Society



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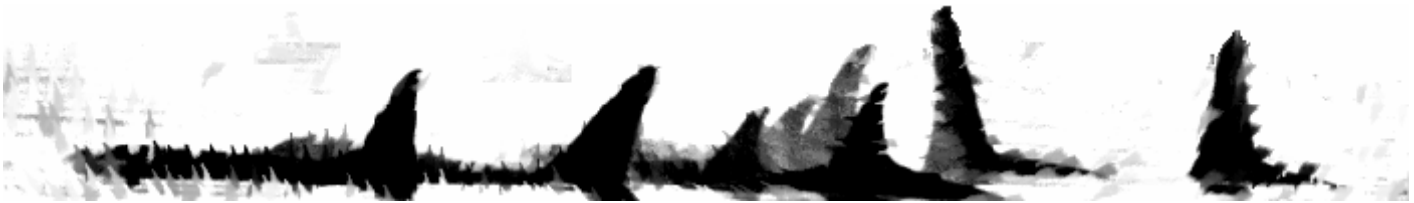
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(a) minke whale, (b) gray whale, (c) Pacific white-sided dolphin, (d) Dall's porpoise, (e) harbor porpoise
answers to questions on pages 4-5

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International Whaling Commission - 57th Annual Meeting Ulsan, South Korea—June 20-24, 2005

an excerpt from the Summary for the ACS National Board by Kate Sardi, ACS National Research Chair

The International Whaling Commission (IWC) meeting opened with a welcome address from the Mayor of Ulsan and the Korean Minister. Following this address, the IWC Chair listed the new nations, nine in total, that joined the IWC since the last meeting. Several nations' Commissioners made an introductory speech, as well.

Following these introductions, the Chair stated that Japan (a leader of pro-whaling nations) proposed eliminating several items from the agenda, including whale killing methods (dealing with humane killing), whale watching, and conservation. A simple majority of voting members would pass changes to the agenda, but the proposal was

declined with 28 votes in favor and 29 against. Japan also proposed to implement secret ballots, a proposal that they have made in many past IWC meetings. There was some debate over this issue, mostly dealing with maintaining the transparency of IWC decisions. The proposal only required a simple majority to pass, but it was rejected, with 27 votes in favor and 30 against. Both of Japan's proposals were rejected, but only by an alarmingly small margin.

The next order of business was a report from the Scientific Committee (SC) (the SC met prior to the main meeting of the IWC and it deals with evaluation of proposed quotas, population estimates, etc.). The SC reviewed population estimates for Antarctic whale populations. There was some debate over the estimate of Antarctic Minke whales and it was agreed that there is no accurate estimate available. In a review of the Antarctic humpback whale population, New Zealand pointed out that there was a big discrepancy between Japan's and other popula-

(Continued on page 5)

Vashon-Maury Important for SRKW Mothers

(Continued from page 1)

include ACS/PS, People for Puget Sound, Preserve Our Islands, and the Sierra Club. In my testimony, I referred to work by researcher Mark Sears and the Vashon Hydrophone Project (VHP) that shows Vashon-Maury waters are critical fall/winter habitat for pregnant and lactating Southern Residents and their newborns. The orcas routinely travel, forage, and rest off the Maury Island shore near the Glacier site. Disturbance from the proposed barging activity and increased underwater noise could impede their access and force them to search elsewhere for food when they are most vulnerable. Southern Resident deaths tend to occur in winter, possibly because food is harder to find.

ACS/PS science advisor Dave Bain provided valuable guidance in crafting my testimony and outstanding documentation on potential harmful impacts to the Southern Residents for the ACOE. Learn more about the issues at www.preserveourislands.org.



photo of K14 plus calf courtesy Mark Sears
photo copyright © 1996 Mark Sears, all rights reserved



Hood Canal Youth Summit

by Uko Gorter

ACS/PS was invited to participate as a presenter at the Hood Canal Youth Summit at Fort Flagler, Marrowstone Island, on June 2nd. This event was organized by the Hood Canal Watershed Project Center. Around 120 students, from the north end of the Hood Canal in Quilcene down to the Skokomish Tribal Lands, through Belfair and Mason County and around Kitsap County, were on hand to present their water quality and special project findings.

The opening ceremony included authentic welcoming dances by the Port Gamble S'Klallam Dancers in which students and presenters were asked to join in. The students then had the opportunity to participate in some of the many workshops offered, such as Salmon Restoration and Beach Exploration classes. Our chapter was asked to present a workshop on Marine Mammals of the Salish Sea, with an emphasis on those in the Hood Canal area.

The twenty minutes allotted proved to be very short. Nevertheless, the students enjoyed touching whale baleen, were fascinated by the Dall's porpoise skull and grossed out by the whale lice. A hundred foot rope extended and marked with a whale picture at different lengths, gave the students an idea of how long a harbor porpoise is compared to a blue whale.

In break-out sessions the students were given a chance to present their findings regarding water quality monitoring within the Hood Canal watershed. The disturbing findings of low dissolved oxygen levels and high temperatures, underscored the problems facing this beautiful fjord. The students made their recommendations, ranging from regulating septic tanks, to riparian restorations. These findings will eventually be posted at the Hood Canal Watershed Project website (www.hoodcanalwatershed.org).

Let's hope that this inspiring and important event will be repeated next year, and that the student's findings will find a receptive ear with policy makers in Olympia. And indeed, Washington Governor Christine Gregoire announced that she is including \$ 5 million in funding for sewer and water projects at Belfair and Hoodspport, to pay for failing septic systems, provide low-interest loans for property owners to fix failing systems and grants to clear up livestock and salmon carcass disposal problems.

Can you identify the cetaceans lined up on the next page? (pg 5)
Yes the illustrations (thank you Uko) are small and aren't in relative scale but ??? hint: all share our Salish Sea — see pg 2

Workshops and Conferences

by Peggy Foreman, ACS/PS Education Chair

Summer workshops and conferences this year have taken me on a few adventures.

First of all, from June 25th-30th I participated in a class called, "Onshore and Offshore: Marine Ecology Workshop for Teachers" sponsored by the Port Townsend Marine Science Center and Sound Experience. The first three days included marine science classes on plankton, invertebrates, forage fish, sand lab, and marine mammals, beach habitat surveys and, how best to promote scientific study of the Puget Sound and the Northwest Straits.

The Port Townsend Marine Science Center in Fort Worden State Park offers hands-on educational programs and operates exhibits in two buildings. The Marine Exhibit on the dock contains open touch tanks of intertidal marine organisms as well as large glass tanks containing local fish. Wall murals and displays highlight forage fish and the local underwater habitat. The Natural History Exhibit across the road from the dock features local beach rocks, fossils, sands of the world, diving birds, the Ice Age, formation of local bluffs and climate changes through the ages.

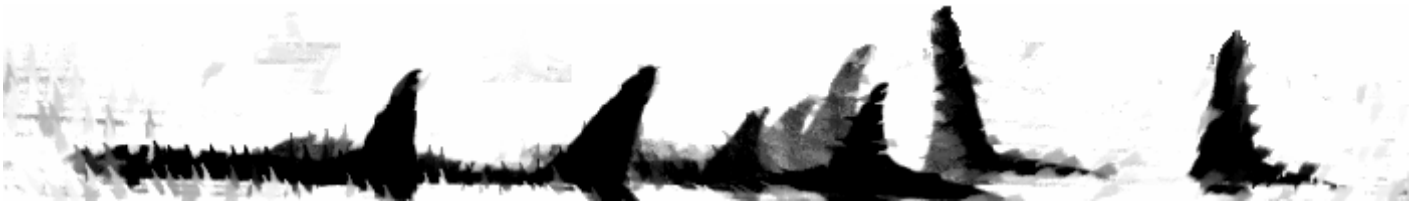
They also have skeletons of a dolphin, seal, and a gray whale which they use to teach a marine mammal comparative anatomy class, which was by far my favorite. We had the opportunity to re-articulate these animals and discuss many aspects of the life history of these animals. If you have never been out there or haven't visited in awhile, I have to say that it was extremely educational and exciting to be surrounded by people who love what they do.

Promoting environmental stewardship and supporting teachers, students, and community members to actively participate in our watershed is only the tip of the iceberg. Next, we spent three days aboard the *Adventuress*, a historic schooner learning more about the programs that these two organizations offer to teachers and the general public. Check them out for more information: www.ptmsc.org and www.soundexp.org.

My second adventure took me up to Bamfield Marine Center up on Vancouver Island for the Annual NAME conference. (Northwest Aquatic and Marine Educators)

People attending this conference were from Alaska, British

(Continued on page 5)



International Whaling Commission Meeting #57 (Ulsan, S. Korea) Summary—continued

(Continued from page 3)

tion estimates. Japan clearly thinks that there has been a huge recovery in Antarctic humpback whales. Australia will host a workshop in 2006 to review this species' population status.

Next was a report from the Whale Killing Methods working group, which met in the week prior to the main IWC meeting. There will be a workshop next year dealing with this issue, because there was some concern about the "Time to Death," or the amount of time between when a whale is first harpooned and when it ultimately dies.

June 21

The second day of the IWC meeting started with a Commissioners-only meeting. There was some debate as to whether "secret" meetings should occur, but it was finally allowed. Some thought that it was a way to stall the meeting in order to gain time for member nations (mostly pro-whaling) that had not yet arrived to join the meeting...

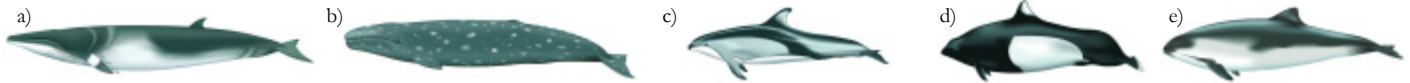
June 22 —The third day of the IWC meeting began with a discussion of the Aboriginal Whaling Subcommittee...

June 23 —Japan again proposed an exemption from the moratorium for Small-Type Coastal Whaling...

June 24 — Development of an RMS, one of the most important and contentious issues at the IWC meeting, was saved for the last day...

Summary — Overall, there were no shocking decisions at IWC 57. The majority of anti-whaling nations continues to shrink and pro-whaling nations might take the simple majority at next year's meeting. If that happens, we could see major changes in the agenda and procedure at next year's meeting. One of the biggest shocks at this meeting was Japan's expansion of their scientific whaling efforts: doubling the quota and adding two new species to the hunt. — Many thanks to the Whale and Dolphin Society (www.wdcs.org) for the info on their web site. For the complete summary and/or an explanation of the following table, see the ACS National site: www.ACSonline.org

PROPOSAL	NEEDED TO PASS	YES	NO	PASS?
Eliminate Humane Killing; Whale-Watching; Conservation	simple majority	28	29	NO
Secret Ballots	simple majority	27	30	NO
Japanese RMS; Lift Moratorium; Eliminate SO & IO Sanctuaries; Unrestricted Scientific whaling		23	29	NO
Revise JARPA II to Only include non- Lethal Methods		30	27	YES
Exemption for Small Coastal Whaling		26	29	NO
Proposal of D, S, F, S, O, K; change RMS		2	26	NO
Proposal of I, G, SA; continuation of RMS As Is		23	3	YES



Workshops and Conferences... Educational Report continued

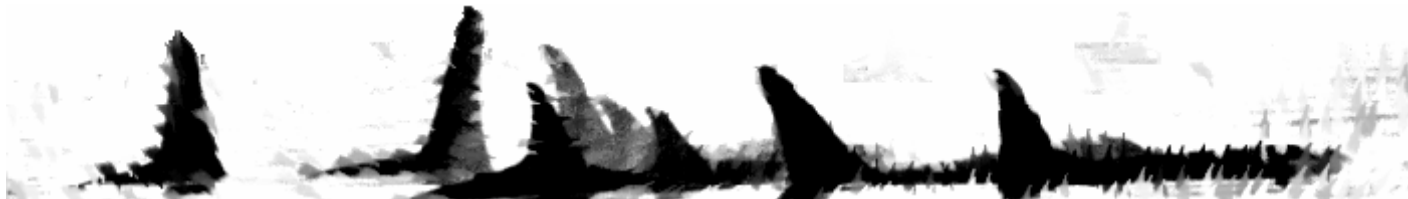
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Columbia, Washington, Oregon, and California. Again this conference was another opportunity to promote ACS and encourage people to learn more about marine mammals in the Pacific northwest and cetaceans around the world.

My favorite building at the research station was called the whale lab, where classes and labs took place daily throughout the year. One whole wall highlighted 6-7 marine mammal skeletons of species found in the Salish Sea. It made me realize how valuable it is to see these exhibits and

recognize the value of having tangible bones, baleen, and teeth samples from local marine mammals. ACS has been actively trying to attain more of these items to help promote our education program and have for display at our speaker series or other outreach opportunities, and we are starting to accumulate some nice exhibits.

If you are interested in learning more about our classroom presentations that we offer teachers and other organizations, please feel free to email and we can discuss ways to help support your efforts of marine education.



Marine Mammal Library: A best-kept secret?

By Uko Gorter

Not many of us seem to know about the existence of the National Marine Mammal Laboratory (NMML) library. Even fewer have actually visited this unique and extensive collection of marine mammal books. "Well, we're open to the public", says Sonja Kromann, the librarian since 1992.

Located in building 4 of the NOAA Fisheries complex at the former Sand Point naval air station, the library is actually part of the Alaska Fisheries Science Center. The library room is not large, nevertheless the collection comprises some 15,000 to 20,000 books, dealing with marine mammals and related issues. It also holds about 30,000 reprints of reports, scientific papers, and periodicals. The foundation of the reprint collection was provided by the well known marine scientist Dr. Victor B. Scheffer (*ed note: Dr. Scheffer is an ACS/PS life member*).

For marine mammal book lovers, the library holds many treasures. Many original out of print works can be found. Some are brittle and must be handled with care. My favorite is Van Beneden's work, "Ostéographie des Cétacés vivants et fossiles", from 1868. This important work on comparative cetacean anatomy, is in effect an atlas of whale anatomy with beautifully illustrated fold out plates accurately depicting skulls and skeletons of whales.

Sonja Kromann clearly loves her work, and goes out of her way to find what you need. But beware, it may result in a huge stack of books in front of you. Unfortunately, nothing may be checked out by the general public, so allow plenty of time to look through.

While the marine mammal library is open to the public, you may find it is not as accessible as your local library. As this is a federal building, here too things have changed since 9/11. You would need to notify Sonja through email (nmml.Library@noaa.gov) and set up an appointment. Guards at the security gates will then be notified of your arrival. This should not dissuade you, as a visit to this wonderful library is worth this minor hassle: 7600 Sand Point Way N.E. -Building 4, Room 2030 Seattle, WA 98115 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. M-F <http://nmml.afsc.noaa.gov/library/>

Summer Conservation Education and Outreach

By Ann Stalder

On May 21, ACS/PS Tlingit artist/educator Odin Lonning and I attended Orca Fest on San Juan Island. We did a talk called *The Importance of Native Wisdom in Killer Whale Conservation* for The Whale Museum's Marine Mammal Conservation Symposium and a short performance of *Keet Shu-ka: An Indigenous Tribute to Killer Whales* at the outdoor Taste of Friday Harbor festival.

We felt privileged that L Pod returned to inland waters for the first encounter this summer season, just in time for Orca Fest! The next day, we enjoyed watching J Pod socialize and flirt with L Pod in Haro Strait. We suspect they were creating future generations of Southern Residents.

On July 9 and 10, Odin and I staffed the ACS/PS booth at Strawberry Festival on Vashon. With chapter president Uko Gorter's illustrations, Odin's artwork, and our cute canine field assistant Stogarita adorning our display, we had some of the best "eye candy" at the festival. We value the supportive comments from our neighbors about the VHP and other ACS/PS programs.

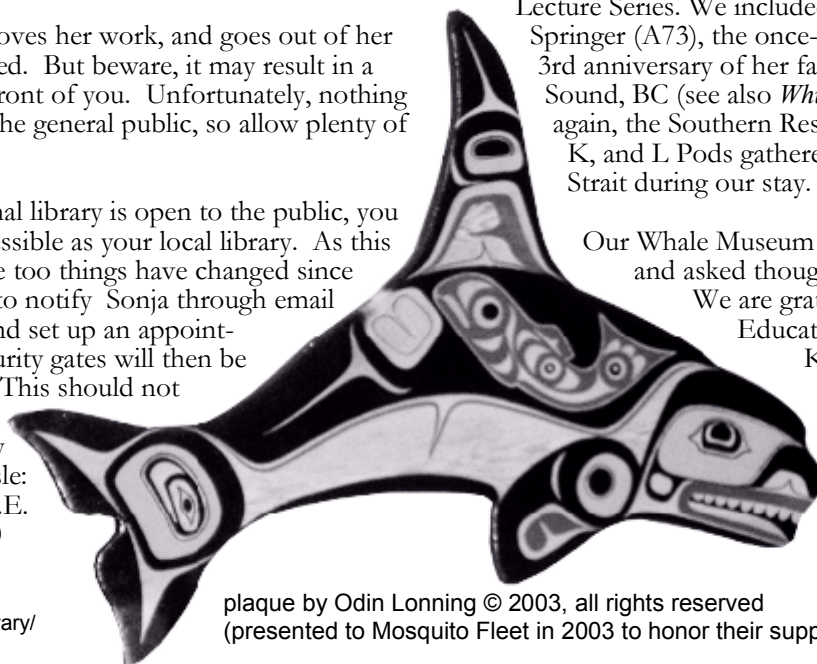
Odin and I returned to Friday Harbor on July 14 to talk about the enduring connections between killer whales and First Nations for The Whale Museum's Summer Lecture Series. We included a brief tribute to Springer (A73), the once-orphaned orca, on the 3rd anniversary of her family reunion in Blackfish Sound, BC (see also *Whulj*, Summer 2004). Once again, the Southern Residents thrilled us when J, K, and L Pods gathered for a superpod in Haro Strait during our stay.

Our Whale Museum audiences were attentive and asked thoughtful, astute questions.

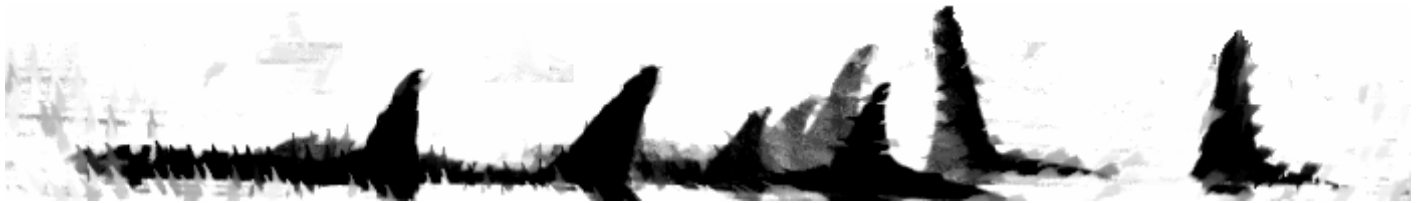
We are grateful for support from
Education Director Marcy
Kober, Museum Director
Rich Osborne, and
Orca Fest
Coordinator
Becki Day.



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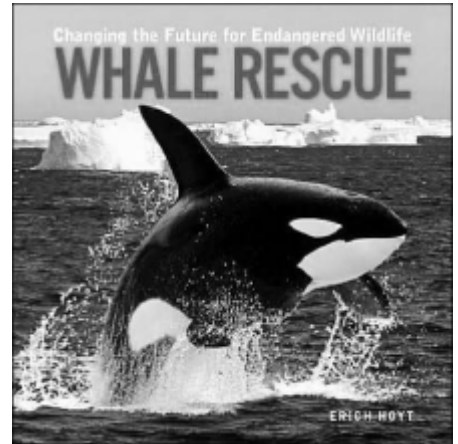


plaque by Odin Lonning © 2003, all rights reserved
(presented to Mosquito Fleet in 2003 to honor their support of ACS programs)



Whale Rescue: Changing the Future for Endangered Wildlife, by Erich Hoyt

Book review by Bonnie Gretz



People all over the world, including scientists, conservationists, politicians, non-governmental organizations, and folks who just love whales have been working hard for the past 40 plus years to save these amazing creatures. Great progress has been made, despite major opposition from some countries who continue to hunt these magnificent animals, and from those who fail to recognize or care that habitat preservation is key to their survival.

In Erich Hoyt's latest book, *Whale Rescue: Changing the Future for Endangered Wildlife*, he uses a simple but very informative format to highlight the latest status of the full range of topics about cetaceans, including their habitats, social structure, and the divisions between the pro- and anti-whaling nations. Each topic is presented on one or two pages, condensing the information into an easily read but thorough examination. For example, in the section *Whale of a Journey*, Hoyt gives a succinct explanation of whale populations and how their often lengthy migrations help sustain healthy populations. In the section *A Whale for the Counting*, he writes how the individual identification methodology was initiated and how crucial it is to species and population research.

The book gives the reader an excellent overview of the good news about whales and dolphins, such as the amazing comeback of the Eastern Pacific gray whale, which was hunted so intensely that they were thought to be extinct in the early 1900s. But by 1994, after being protected by the U.S. Endangered Species Act, the population had rebounded to an estimated 23,100 animals and was removed from the U.S. list. But Hoyt doesn't sugar coat the bad news, explaining how Japan, Norway, the Faeroe Islands, and Iceland continue to hunt many cetacean species, including minke, Bryde's, sei, and sperm whales, as well as killing thousands of dolphins and pilot whales, in defiance of the International Whaling Commission and the majority of public opinion around the world. He also highlights some of the pioneers of whale research, such as

Dr. Robert Payne and Dr. "Stormy" Mayo, noting how their work has made a major impact on the advancement of research in the wild.

Each section of the book is well illustrated with color photographs and Hoyt has included a section of "Fast Facts" about cetaceans, and how the reader can learn more about helping to protect these "magnificent examples of life—beautiful, enormous, intelligent, and highly social."

This small (60 pages) and reasonably priced book will help inform those people who want to know what is going on in the world of whales, dolphins and porpoises without having to read large, technical books, and will most definitely intrigue those readers who want to learn more about each topic presented. While the book is classified as juvenile literature, it will be of great benefit to students as well as anyone who realizes that in order to protect an animal and its habitat, they need to know and understand the full range of threats as well as the complexity of that species' life in the wild.

Whale Rescue: Changing the Future for Endangered Wildlife—by Erich Hoyt—illustrated—published: 2005 Firefly Books (U.S.) Inc., Buffalo, New York, and Firefly Books Ltd., Ontario, Canada—ISBN I-55297-601-7 (hardback), ISBN I-55297-600-9 (paperback)--\$19.95 (U.S.) hardback, \$9.95 (U.S.) paperback.

Erich Hoyt is co-director of the Far East Russia Orca Project and Senior Research Fellow with WDCS, the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society. Author of 15 books, he lives in North Berwick, Scotland.



Summer Conservation Education and Outreach continued ...



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...



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(Continued from page 6)

Thanks also to San Juan Excursions naturalist Caroline Armon and the crew of the Odyssey for inviting us aboard as guest presenters to share First Nations insights about orcas and other marine life. Members of L Pod helped spark audience interest in that talk.

Finally, on July 28, Odin and I had a rewarding experience as presenters for a *Discovering Orcas* teachers workshop sponsored by the Seattle Aquarium and Odyssey Maritime Discovery Center. We discussed the Vashon Hydrophone Project and killer whales in Northwest Coast Native

(Continued on page 8)

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address correction requested

Conservation Education and Outreach—cont. from pg 7

cultures. We thank Cherie Williams of the Aquarium and Cassandra Sandkam of Odyssey for inviting us.

No surprise, the teachers were a splendid audience. Participant Arthur Eshe paid us a lovely compliment: “Outstanding presentation. I enjoy Native American folk history. Listening to the whales/boats, absolutely fascinating.”

Gunalcheesh (Tlingit for “thank you”)! We do our part “because they’re not saved yet.”



J16 and J36, 1999 — photo courtesy Mark Sears, copyright © 1999, all rights reserved

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