

NEWSLETTER OF THE PUGET SOUND CHAPTER  
OF THE AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 3

FALL 2006

**Next Meeting:**

Wednesday October 18, 2006

**Donna Sandstrom** of Orca Alliance will speak on 'the role of the Orphan Orca Fund; lessons we learned that might help other groups and agencies as we face the next generation of issues confronting the whales and their environment.'"

**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 sincerely hope you had a wonderful summer. Surely the Seattle weather did not disappoint. Whether this hints at climate changes or not, I dare not contemplate.

It is October, and that can only mean one thing. Yes! we are resuming our general chapter meeting and Speaker Series. As is tradition, these meetings are held on every third Wednesday of the month.

This month we welcome our friend Donna Sandstrom of Orca Alliance, who will give us a retrospective on A73, better know as "Springer".

In November, we are pleased to have James Ha talk about the social behavior of our southern resident killer whales.

So, come on down to the Phinney Neighborhood Center. Don't miss these presentations. For more information about our speaker program, click on "Speaker Series" at our website [ww.acspugetsound.org](http://ww.acspugetsound.org)

Also, a last reminder of our upcoming ACS National Conference on November, 10-12. If you haven't signed up yet, don't wait any longer. You'll also want to enter your whale and dolphin photos in the contest.

This conference, themed "Whales without Borders", will be held at the Ventura Beach Marriot, Ventura, California.

As the conference venue is located in close proximity to the beautiful Channel Islands, a whale watch trip along this marine sanctuary is offered on Friday, November 10. You will find more information on page 7 and on our chapter website, with a link to the ACS national site and registration page. We hope to see you there.

Thanks, to all of you who attended our Sea Lion movie event at the Seattle Aquarium. We hope you had about as much fun as we did. For a short look back at this event, please see page 2.

Last but not least, in this issue you will find some of Jon Stern's insight and concerns regarding the last IWC meeting in St Kitts. Jon, is our ACS National conservation chair, represented our organization at this crucial meeting. As a well-respected, and experienced researcher (particularly with minke whales), Jon gives us his unique perspective on these proceedings. We think you'll find his reporting interesting and disturbing, and unfortunately, it will reinforce the need to remember that "They're Not Saved Yet!"



## Sea Lion movie retrospective

We would like to thank all of you who attended our special Sea Lions movie event at the Seattle Aquarium on July 23. We sincerely hope you enjoyed it as much fun as we did.

This Seattle premiere of the wonderful documentary “Sea Lions, an unforgettable encounter” by director Alan DeHerrera of Rio Films was held on the weekend of July 22-23. Alan himself presented the movie and was available for a Q&A afterwards.

The documentary is a beautiful and fascinating look into the lives of California sea lions. This film also highlights the relationship between humans and sea lions, both good and bad.

It is hard to believe that this is Alan’s first nature documentary. Alan is currently working on his second documentary, [www.islandoftheseals.com](http://www.islandoftheseals.com), “The Island of the Seals”. This movie will focus solely on the ecology of the four species of pinnipeds that inhabit the Channel Islands. A future project about the migration of humpback whales is also in the works.

A special screening and reception was held on Saturday evening. After the screening, guests had the opportunity to do a behind the scenes tour, followed by a fantastic reception amidst floating jellyfish and a shy octopus.

While the turnout was lower than we had hoped, a strong relationship with the Aquarium is forged. Not enough can be said about the Seattle Aquarium staff and volunteers who made the event go off without a hitch.

We are working with Alan on future screenings of his upcoming works here in Seattle. It is our hope that we can count on your presence once again.



Sea Lion images courtesy Odin Lonning © 2004 All Rights Reserved

If you haven’t changed your records—please note the new (winter 2006) ACS/PS number: 206-734-4737

## *Whulj* “the saltwater we know”

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



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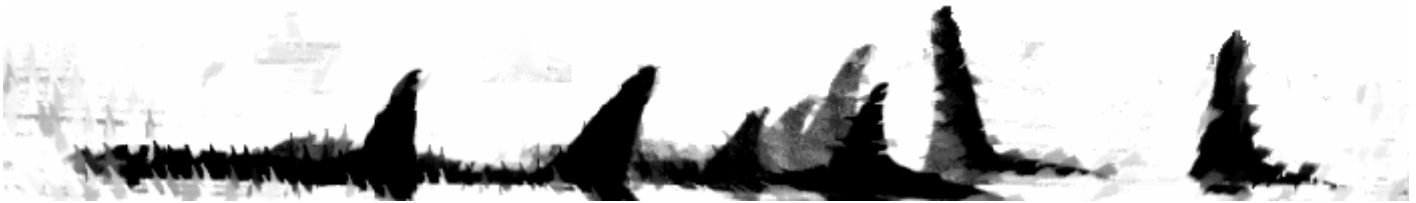
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*Whulj* publication schedule: February, May, August, November

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## The IWC meeting at St. Kitts-Nevis

by Jon Stern, ACS National Conservation Chair

This did take a bit of getting used to...that is for sure. The IWC machinations were new to me, and had to be experienced to be appreciated fully. [ed: ACS National V.P.] Mason's comments were very useful in my preparation for this, however.

Overall, the conservation groups were waiting for something to fall. Morishita, the commissioner from Japan gave a press conference the opening day of the Plenary. His tone was not conciliatory, and a bit confrontational. I felt there was some shoe to fall, likely due to the pro-whaling majority. This was the consensus of many people I spoke with.

**MY CONCERNS-** As I mentioned, my biggest concern is that Japan is singling out whales as THE culprit in the decline of fisheries. Their language is carefully crafted with many "may be" and "might" 's but, the emphasis is clear. Their idea of ecosystem-management models is rudimentary and overly simplistic and top-down heavy. The data required for the model they discuss do not seem to be collected.

What does the ACS do next?

This is a good question. Does the ACS continue to send a representative to the IWC meeting? Given the direction taken by pro-whaling nations, and the renewed energy of other NGO's, I think that ACS needs to maintain its presence at these meetings. It would send a negative message our members. I wonder what other members of the board think about the pooling of resources with other conservation groups. What does it mean to ACS as a group?

One thing that Dan Morast said to me, which was very nice, but...well, whatever. But he thought that my presence at the IWC (I took this to read as the letters after my name), lent some professional legitimacy to the NGO position. Especially with respect to the ecosystem and other science questions. To be sure, politics is relatively new to me, but the science is not. During the NGO meeting, I briefly discussed the short-comings to the proposed ecosystem management model. I offered to discuss these issues with anyone outside of the IWC meeting. So I am in a position, and by default ACS as well, to discuss some of the more complex issues relating to the St. Kitts-Nevis resolution. The argument for the proposed ecosystem management model makes "common" sense. But make little or no sense scientifically, and at best, is pretty weak.

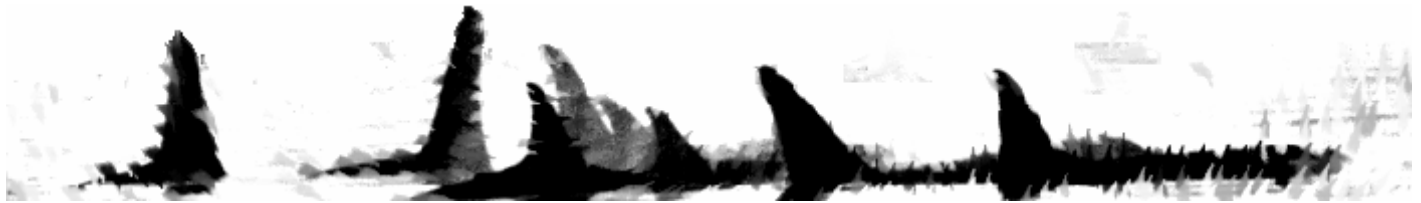
I am actively working on a bio-energetic approach to understanding ecosystems. This requires a mass-balance model of whale energy requirements. This part of the model is finished, and the next step is to address some of the assumptions discussed in JARPAN II. The JARPAN program is used by Japan to suggest whales are eating all the fish. This is the biggest thing, I believe. Japan is touting the idea that killing whales is necessary to provide "nutritional security for nations". I am not kidding, they said this. The science behind this is poor.

So...one of the things I have been thinking about since the IWC meeting is "what next", for ACS. I believe that working with other groups will be in our best interests. I would like to devote a chunk of time thinking about this more, and talking about it with other board members. One the one hand, it is difficult to sit and do nothing. But...and this is pretty hardass of me to say...NGO's seem to be like a chunk of phosphorus on water. They (we) dance around in a frenzy, generating heat and great excitement, and then fizzle out. I really wonder what can be done at the IWC level. I guess the only real recourse is to lobby IWC commissioners, and the public. How best to do this is really the question. I think we (ACS) have to really think about this.

The NGO group has begun putting together some ideas about priorities. The list was "confidential" and not to be shared with anyone outside of the meeting. I am not sure what the hell that is about, but there will be a finalized, and more accessible) version in August. (Gee....I hope I get a secret de-coder ring). I will pass that along as soon as possible. These are mostly common sense ideas about the implications of a change in the voting majority. But, a change in the majority is a change. Democracy in action.

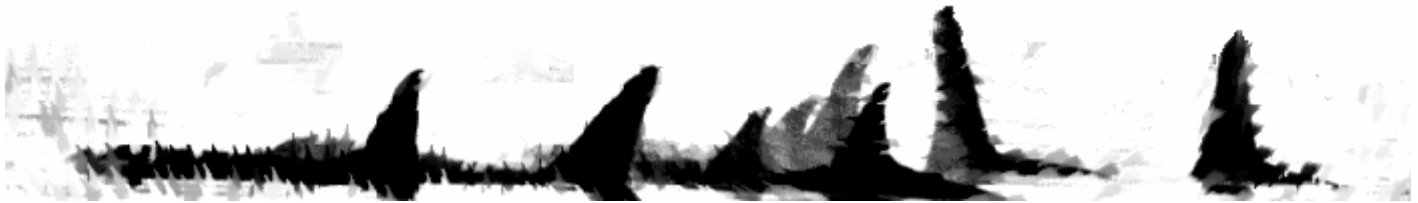
One of the things about the St. Kitts-Nevis resolution which passed, but is non-binding, since it required a 3/4 majority to do so, is the following. The resolution called for "normalization" of the IWC, to return to its mandate to manage whale killing. But warned the IWC that it had 2-3 years to do so. There was an implied "or else" in this statement. One fear would be that Japan would form a "management" body a la Norway and NAMMACO, and break away from the IWC all together.

The voting record by nation is listed on the following two pages.



## 2006 International Whaling Commission Voting by Nation

Nation	Small cetaceans 30-32-1	Secret ballots 30-33-1	Coastal whaling lost	St. Kitts-Nevis 33-32-1	French as language lost
Antigua & Barbuda	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Argentina	No	No	No	No	No
Australia	No	No	No	No	No
Austria	No	No	No	No	No
Belgium	No	No	No	No	No
Belize	No	No	No	No	No
Benin	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Brazil	No	No	No	No	No
Cambodia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Chile	No	No	No	No	No
Cameroon	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
China	Yes	Yes	Abstain	Yes	Abstain
Costa Rica	No Vote	No Vote	Not Vote	No Vote	No Vote
Cote D' Ivoire (Ivory Coast)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Missed	Yes
Czech Republic	No	No	No	No	No
Denmark	Abstain	No	Yes	No	Yes
Dominica	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Finland	No	No	No	No	No
France	No	No	No	No	No
Gabon	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Gambia	Missed	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Germany	No	No	No	No	No
Grenada	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Guatemala	Missed	Missed	Missed	Missed	Missed
Guinea	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hungary	No	No	No	No	No
Iceland	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
India	No	No	No	No	No
Ireland	No	No	No	No	No
Israel	No	No	No	No	No
Italy	No	No	No	No	No
Japan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kenya	Missed	Missed	Missed	Missed	Missed
Kiribati	Yes	Yes	Abstain	Yes	Yes
Korea	Yes	Yes	Abstain	Abstain	Yes



## 2006 International Whaling Commission Voting by Nation

Nation	Small cetaceans 30-32-1	Secret ballots 30-33-1	Coastal whaling lost	St. Kitts-Nevis 33-32-1	French as language lost
Luxembourg	No	No	No	No	No
Mali	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Marshall Islands	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mauritania	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mexico	No	No	No	No	No
Monaco	No	No	No	No	No
Mongolia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Morocco	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abstain	Yes
Nauru	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Netherlands	No	No	No	No	No
New Zealand	No	No	No	No	No
Nicaragua	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Norway	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Oman	No	No	Yes	No	No
Palau	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Panama	No	No	No	No	No
Peru	Missed	Missed	Missed	Missed	Missed
Portugal	No	No	No	No	No
Russia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
St. Kitts and Nevis	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
St. Lucia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abstain	Yes
San Marino	No	No	No	No	No
Senegal	Missed	Missed	Missed	Yes	Yes
Slovak Republic	No	No	No	No	No
Solomon Islands	Yes	Abstain	Abstain	Yes	Yes
South Africa	No	No	No	No	No
Spain	No	No	No	No	No
Suriname	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sweden	No	No	No	No	No
Switzerland	No	No	No	No	No
Togo	Missed	Missed	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tuvalu	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abstain	
United Kingdom	No	No	No	No	No
United States of America	No	No	No	No	No



# BALLOT

## Election of the ACS Puget Sound board 2006

Dear members,

It is time once more to elect your Puget Sound Chapter board. As a member, it is your privilege to give your vote. Simply mark your choice by the name or write-in a candidate.

Perhaps you are motivated to serve as a board member yourself, or know someone who would like to. This is an opportunity to make a positive impact on our world. You do not have to be a whale expert or marine science professional to serve on our board. All we ask for is your commitment and enthusiasm.

Please mail your ballot by **Monday, October 31**, to the address below.

If you have any questions, contact our membership chair, Uko Gorter, at: 425-827-3437 or e-mail him at [uko@ukogorter.com](mailto:uko@ukogorter.com)



American Cetacean Society  
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- President -- Uko Gorter
- (write in) \_\_\_\_\_
- Vice-President -- Ann Staterler
- (write in) \_\_\_\_\_
- Secretary -- Candice Emmons
- (write in) \_\_\_\_\_
- Treasurer -- Joe Olson
- (write in) \_\_\_\_\_

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- Peggy Foreman
- (write in) \_\_\_\_\_
- Darcie Larson
- (write in) \_\_\_\_\_
- Stephanie Norman
- (write in) \_\_\_\_\_
- open
- (write in) \_\_\_\_\_
- open
- (write in) \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like to help save whales, dolphins, porpoises, and Puget Sound, but don't feel like a board position is right for you, please indicate your type of interests:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  educational outreach  public awareness

Phone or Email: \_\_\_\_\_  event assistance or organization  grant program or VHP

other \_\_\_\_\_

## Vashon Hydrophone Project Update and Donor Thanks

Article and photo by Ann Stateler, VHP Coordinator

No, this photo is not an outtake from *Pirates of the Caribbean*, but from a Vashon Hydrophone Project (VHP) work party. Here our dedicated VHP volunteers, Odin Lonning and Stogarita, deploy a float to designate the VHP site. The rowboat and all float components are donated or recycled. Stogarita also serves as the unofficial ACS/PS spokesdog.

In July, Odin, Joe Olson, diver Todd Gateman, and Mark Sears worked together to install a new hydrophone to replace the old one, which was struck by lightning in March.

Orca Blend proceeds and generous donors permitted us to replace our hydrophone in a timely manner. We eagerly anticipate the Southern Residents' autumn return to Vashon waters.

The VHP is grateful for a donation from the Jeff Kuperberg Family in memory of Pete Bailey, and to Eva de Loach of The Vashon

Island Coffee Roasterie for Orca Blend proceeds.

Please visit [www.tvicr.com](http://www.tvicr.com) to support our friends at the Roasterie and order Orca Blend.



## American Cetacean Society 10th International Conference Update

The conference is a perfect opportunity to find out what is going on in the world of whales, from specialists from around the world...we bring in only the best! Meet with fellow whale-loving folks from all around, check out the latest whale books, art and jewelry, and get a whale-of-a-deal on that \*something special\* at the Silent Auction!

It's just two days - and you can't beat the great room rate of just \$99/night at the Ventura (California) Marriott (until October 13th), or save and stay just across the street at the Motel 6 or Comfort Inn.

Lunch on both days has been included in all conference registrations since the Seattle conference in 2002. The *Whulj* editor has had a sneak preview of the menu and it looks great! no need to scramble out to find a quick lunch!

Quite a lot is included in the basic registration (\$194 for ACS members, \$164 for ACS students, with options for just one day and half day registration for those of you in the area but time-limited). Included activities are the

Beach BBQ reception (with more great food and entertainment) on Friday, all spoken sessions, the book signing, art show, silent auction and after-banquet dance! Friday field trips in the Channel Islands and Saturday's banquet are optional extras.

The program outline for "Whales Without Borders" November 10-12, 2006 is as follows. See the ACS National website ([www.ACSONline.org](http://www.ACSONline.org) or [whaleinfo.info](http://whaleinfo.info)) for the list of subtopics and the cast of really interesting speakers from around the country and across the world.

- **Cetacean Borders – Understanding Their World**
- **Cetacean Borders – Threats to Their World**
- **Conflict at the Borders – How Humans and Whales Met (Whaling)**
- **Human Borders– Political & Cultural Borders**
- **Human Borders – Marine Protected Areas**
- **Bridging the Borders – Challenges and Successes**

# AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY



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address label

address correction requested

## SAVE THE DATE—Wednesday October 18, 2006

Please join us at 7pm at the Phinney Neighborhood Center, Room 6 (just north of Woodland Park Zoo)

Donna Sandstrom of the Orca Alliance will speak on 'the role of the Orphan Orca Fund - on lessons learned when reuniting A73 (better known as "Springer") with her family. We hope to see you there!



Photo courtesy Mark Sears © 2002 All Rights Reserved

***PLEASE JOIN US — SAY "YES!" — ENROLL ME AS A MEMBER OF THE PUGET SOUND CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY!"***

Name: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500	Patron
Address: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250	Contributing
City: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	Supporting
State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: (____) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> \$45	Family
E-mail: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35	Active
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	Student/Teacher/Senior

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