

WHOLE

"The Saltwater We Know"

NEWSLETTER OF THE PUGET SOUND CHAPTER
OF THE AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY

Volume 1, Issue 2

May 2000

Sound News

ACS and Evolving Orca Policy

ACS National is working on a policy statement that is specifically directed towards the threatened southern residence orcas of Puget Sound.

ACS National President Speaks Out on NPR

Katie Penland, National ACS President, recently spoke on NPR concerning the Makah whale hunt and aboriginal subsistence whaling.

Jim Nollman Speaks to Puget Sound Chapter Page 2

Jennifer Quan Gives Talk on Gray Whales

Though hard to distinguish, the Makah have targeted resident gray whales along with other grays that are migrating. Page 2

Dr. Rich Osborne to Speak in Seattle

June 14th Rich Osborne will talk on "Plight of the Orcas." Page 3

OrcaSing 2000 on San Juan Island

City Cantabile Choir's OrcaSing 2000 – An Elegy for "Everett" and His Family, is scheduled for June 24-25th on San Juan Island. Page 4

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Speaks Out Against US Navy.

In an article recently published in the Washington Post, Marc Kaufman reports; **"Navy quietly drops plans to test high-decibel sonar system off N.J."**

"WASHINGTON - The Navy has abandoned plans to test controversial sonar systems off the New Jersey coast following protests by federal regulators and environmental groups that say the intense sounds can harm whales and other ocean life.

The Navy said Friday that its Littoral Warfare Advanced Development test 45 miles offshore will proceed this week but will 'not include active acoustic sources.'

The decision, which environmentalists hailed as a first, marks an escalation in a growing dispute over whether Navy efforts to test new types of sonar submarine-detection systems are dangerous to sea life. It also comes two months after 12 whales stranded themselves on two beaches in the Bahamas one day after Navy exercises nearby used the intense noises."

It is well known in the scientific community and on the street, that the use of such sonar can be extremely hazardous to marine life. The effects of such noise is about equal to a human standing next to a 747 jet on takeoff. The whales use sound to communicate with each other and to locate food sources as well as explore their environment. The use of such systems, as has been tested by the Navy, can irreparably damage sea life.

The article goes on; "...the Commerce Department's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) sent a letter critical of the proposed test off New Jersey to the Office of Naval Research, saying the Navy's assessment of potential environmental damage was inadequate. In addition, a letter to the Navy from the director of the U.S. Marine Mammal Commission... warned of increased public opposition if the Navy didn't do a better job of investigating the Bahamas incident and others like it.... 'This Is the first time where (the NMFS) told the Navy that it cannot move forward because of a failure to comply with the Endangered Species Act.' That according to Joel Reynolds of the Natural Resources Defense Council."



Puget Sound Chapter is Seeking Funds for Research Grants

The Puget Sound Chapter of the American Cetacean Society (ACS/PS) is seeking donations in order to establish a research grant fund. The fund, known as the *Whulj Research Fund*, will be used to help financially support worthwhile research and conservation efforts of cetaceans in the trans-boundary waters of the Pacific Northwest.

OBJECTIVES

The Whulj research fund will be one of the few resources of its kind in the United States solely dedicated to helping financially support cetacean research. It will provide monetary assistance to qualified scientists, students and other individuals in the Pacific Northwest who might not otherwise be able to proceed with their work due to financial constraints. Our chapter would like to contribute to worthwhile cetacean research to help conserve whales, dolphins and their habitats, and to educate the public.

FUND INFORMATION

The fund will be set up and organized by the ACS/PS board members. A board member will be selected to manage the fund, help maintain relationships with donors, and seek out other potential sources of funding.

The chapter will solicit grant proposals from individuals seeking funding. The proposal will be reviewed by the board members. Additionally, experts in the field of cetacean research will be consulted for comments and suggestions when necessary.

The fund-seekers will be responsible for obtaining all necessary permits and paperwork for conducting their research **prior** to applying for a grant. They will be notified in writing of their approval (or denial) of a grant.

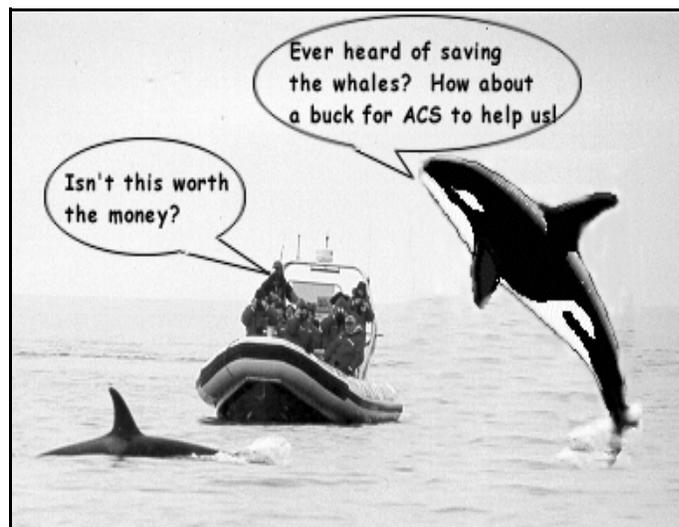
Upon completion of the research, the fund-seeker will be required to submit a brief summary of the work performed (that portion covered by our grant) to the board. This report will be reviewed and subsequently forwarded to the individual(s) who helped fund the research. It will also be presented in a future newsletter and, if the researcher is available, at a general meeting of the Puget Sound chapter.

FUNDING NEEDS

Initially our chapter would like to set up a base fund of \$25,000 for the year 2001. Several requests will be made to foundations, individuals, and service organizations to increase this amount to \$50,000 on an annual basis.

We are asking for donations to help our chapter make this fund a reality, as has been accomplished in other regional chapters of ACS. Our chapter wants to make funds available on an annual basis for many years to come!

A donation to this fund will be acknowledged in an upcoming newsletter. If you would like more information



or want to donate to the *Whulj Research Fund*, please contact Puget Sound chapter president Joe Olson at 206-297-1310 or acs@cetaceanresearch.com.

ACS's mission is to protect whales, dolphins, porpoises and their habitats through research, education and conservation actions. Our chapter focuses on the ecosystem of the Salish Sea.

Management Implications of Makah Whaling and Resident Grays Discussed at ACS Meeting

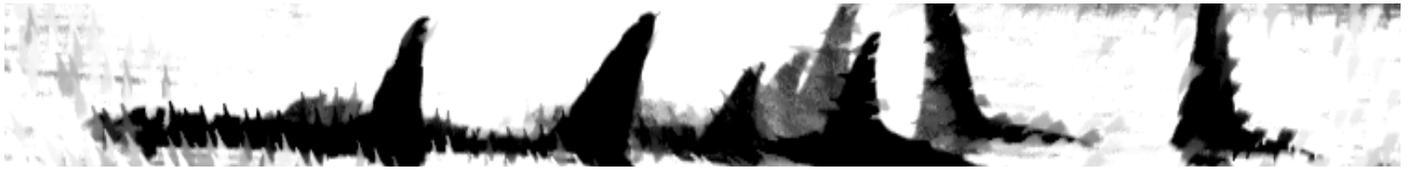
Jennifer Quan of Cascadia Research Collective, based in Olympia, addressed the management implications of Makah whaling and summer resident gray whales at our May 3rd meeting at Odyssey-The Maritime Discover Center.

Several hundred gray whales feed in the waters of Washington State and the Pacific Northwest through the spring, summer, and early fall and are considered "seasonal residents."

Management issues regarding seasonal resident gray whales were highlighted by the resumption of whaling by the Makah Tribe beginning in 1998. The recognition of potential problems associated with killing resident whales has resulted in the Makah developing a management plan for whaling that specifically targets migratory animals. However, procedures and methods for distinguishing between resident whales and those that migrate through our waters remain difficult, if not impossible.

Jim Nollman Talks to Puget Sound Chapter Before Heading Back to Russia

Before heading back to Russia and work on a documentary dealing with Beluga Whales, Jim Nollman, a San Juan Island resident, spoke to an ACS gathering on the Seattle waterfront.



Jim is the head of Interspecies Communications (www.interspecies.com). Jim’s talk was entitled “A brief history of human whale communication: 6000BC to Today.”

Nollman is a conceptual artist and author who uses live music and sounds to communicate with whales and dolphins in the wild. Over the past 25 years, he’s worked with orcas in Canada, Pilot whales in Tenerife, humpbacks in Japan, gray whales in Alaska, and belugas in Russia.

Jim Nollman’s current project involves a unique blend of music, cognitive science, archeology, and ecological preservation in a collaboration with the Russian Academy of Science on the Karelian White Sea. The international team is starting to unravel the complex language of the local beluga whales in an area rich in 6000 year old petroglyphs, some of which show ancient shamans also using music to converse with the ancestors of these same whales. The project is introducing eco-tourism into an area lacking any viable economy, as the most beneficial way to stop the destruction of this distinct whale population.

“Plight of the Orcas” with Dr. Rich Osborne

We have scheduled one more lecture before the end of this school year. Dr. Rich Osborne of Friday Harbor, will present his talk entitled “Plight of the Orcas.” The event will take place on Wednesday, 14 June at 7:00pm at our usual General Meeting location: Odyssey—the Maritime discovery Center on Seattle’s waterfront at Pier 66.

The Puget Sound’s beloved resident orca whales have

dropped in population from 98 to 82 in the last five years. This is our opportunity to join Science Curator of The Whale Museum in Friday Harbor, Dr. Rich Osborne, in an exploration of the natural history of Puget Sound’s orcas, the latest research into how toxic chemicals and dwindling salmon runs may be hurting our whales, and how you can take actions to help turn things around.

Dr. Osborne has participated in studies of the Southern resident community of orcas for 25 years. He was an intern at the old Seattle Marine Aquarium during the “capture era,” worked with Ken Balcomb and the Orca Survey during the initial years of Photo-identification, and most recently worked with The Whale Museum and University of Victoria to piece together the “historical ecology” of these threatened whales.



Bob Wood

They're back! At least J & L

YOU CAN HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Would you like to become more actively involved in the Puget Sound Chapter of ACS? We would love to have your help. Our board members have volunteered to chair various committees and now we need volunteers from the general membership to assist with committee activities. Any amount of time you can donate will help to protect marine mammals and is greatly appreciated.

There are a number of ways in which you can help. The **Newsletter** committee can use assistance with editing, folding, etc. We need help preparing informational literature and setting up for our **General Meetings**. There are numerous pressures affecting the marine mammals of *Whulj* and your input to the **Conservation** committee can be quite valuable. We need help developing and disseminating our **Educational** information for both children and adults. Finally, **Membership** is critical to the success of our organization, so we always need assistance in recruiting energized members.

The Puget Sound Chapter Board

Officers:

President – Joe Olson, acs@cetaceanresearch.com
 Vice President & Conservation Chair – Elizabeth Petras, elizabethpetras@hotmail.com,
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AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY



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LABEL

OrcaSing 2000

An Elegy for "Everett" and his Family

City Cantabile Choir, directed by Fred West, will sing for "Everett" (J-18) and other Southern resident Orca whales who have died recently, beset by toxic contamination and declining salmon runs

Saturday evening, June 24

Lime Kiln State Park

Gathering at 7:30, Program at 8 pm



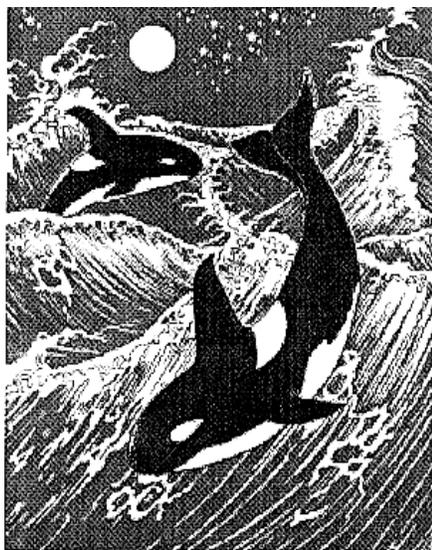
Sunday morning, June 25

9 am-1 pm

City Cantabile Choir will sing on a special voyage aboard San Juan Excursion's vessel "Odyssey."

*RSVP for either or both events to People for Puget Sound
206/382-7007*

*Co-sponsored by
People for Puget Sound, the American Cetacean Society
And Friends of the San Juans*



**YES! ENROLL ME AS A MEMBER OF THE
PUGET SOUND CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY!**

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:
(check one)

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: (____) _____
E-mail: _____

- \$500 Patron
- \$250 Contributing
- \$75 Supporting
- \$45 Family
- \$35 Active
- \$25 Student/Teacher/Senior

Make check payable to ACS and mail to: ACS/Puget Sound Chapter, P.O. Box 17136, Seattle, WA 98107-0836



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