



Whales Alive!

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Musings on Madeira: Whaling, Whale Watching, and Whale Wars in the Bar

By Heather D. Rockwell, CSI Board Member & IWC Representative

I arrived on the beautiful Portuguese island of Madeira with high hopes for whales at the 61st Annual Meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC). From wind-blown plateaus to lush green valleys, laurel covered mountains to scenic seaside villages, Madeira seemed the ideal location for finally putting to rest the year-long, closed-door dealings of the Small Working Group (SWG). The SWG has been negotiating with Japan on a compromise to move the IWC forward and out of its supposed deadlock between the pro-whaling and anti-whaling nations. However, I was immediately suspicious of just how productive talks in Madeira would be when I saw the meeting venue – a multi-colored, concrete volcano that housed a casino on the bottom floor, a nightclub on the top floor and our meeting room in between.

I was one of three CSI representatives attending this year's meeting, along with Jessica Dickens and Barbara Kilpatrick. CSI was one of over 35 whale conservation NGOs (Non Governmental Organizations) in attendance to monitor the proceedings of the Commission. I was pleasantly surprised to see lots of new faces in the NGO ranks. Several NGOs from Central and South America had traveled to Madeira for their first IWC meeting with funding from CSI. It was so refreshing to meet these new CSI grant recipients, as well as to chat with old friends that got their start years ago thanks to CSI.

It was clear from the outset of the meeting that outgoing IWC Chairman Dr. William Hogarth's plea for continued consensus building and compromise was going to hold the meeting hostage and prevent the Commission from working on issues that would address the future conservation of whales. This did not bode well for the whales – as important issues

including whale watching, small cetaceans, animal welfare and environmental health concerns took a back seat, while behind the scenes talks continued on how to move the IWC forward. Although these issues were discussed at the meeting, the Commission was focused on pursuing an agreement between the pro- and anti-whaling factions. In fact, only one resolution was proposed and agreed to by consensus at this meeting: a joint proposal by the U.S. and Norway on climate change and its effects on cetaceans.

A few countries seemed reluctant to go along with all

the niceties – most notably Australia, who has continually challenged Japan's bogus lethal whale research in the Southern Ocean Sanctuary and called for an end to their scientific permit whaling in the Antarctic. Australia presented their proposal for a Southern Ocean Research Partnership program that will use non-lethal methods to study cetaceans, and pledged money for several cetacean research projects.

The U.S. delegation did speak up and support Australia's call for the IWC to address the problem of scientific permit



CSI's IWC representatives: Barbara Kilpatrick, Jessica Dickens, and Heather Rockwell.



CSI friend Miguel Iniguez, Alternate Commissioner for Argentina. Photo by Heather Rockwell.

whaling, which along with the Climate Change resolution showed a slight positive change in direction for the U.S. Given that the U.S. has been leading the way forward with the SWG proceedings, CSI looks forward to a new U.S. Commissioner that can help guide the IWC out of this deal-making process and steer the

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CSI is an all-volunteer, non-profit, tax-exempt conservation, education, and research organization with representatives in over 25 countries. Our goal is the "optimum utilization of cetacean resources," as called for in the 1946 Treaty of the International Whaling Commission, through the protection of viable habitat and the cessation of all killing and captive display of whales, dolphins, and porpoises. We support and promote benign activities such as regulated whale watching, nonlethal and humane research, and widespread educational, environmental and observation programs relating to free-roaming cetaceans internationally. Our ultimate objective is the global acceptance of peaceful coexistence and mutual enrichment for both humans and cetaceans.

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IWC back on track as a forum for whale conservation, not whale killing.

Although the 1982 moratorium on commercial whaling remains in place, many countries complained during the meeting that the "status quo is unacceptable," and outgoing Chair Hogarth even went so far as to say that the lifting of the commercial whaling moratorium could help whales. CSI couldn't disagree more with this statement and we believe that both commercial and scientific whaling must end now to conserve whales for the future.

After multiple private commissioners meetings, the Commission agreed to continue the SWG talks for another 12 months and open up the SWG meetings to observers. This was great news for the NGOs for a few minutes, until we learned of the formation of the new SWG Task Force, comprised of 12 nations (U.S., New Zealand, Japan, Iceland, Antigua & Barbuda, Sweden, Australia, Germany, St. Kitts & Nevis, Brazil, Cameroon and Mexico) that will continue to negotiate for a compromise behind closed doors under the leadership of Sir Geoffrey Palmer of New Zealand. So, the IWC will spend another year negotiating and avoiding making decisions, while the world's whales continue to face increased threats from climate change, habitat degradation, increased competition for prey, vessel strikes and more.



CSI's own Jessica Dickens busy "twittering" folks at home about the meeting. Photo by Heather Rockwell.

Most disturbing of all at this year's meeting was Greenland's divisive bid to add 10 humpback whales to their aboriginal subsistence hunt. This was the third year in a row that Greenland has requested an increase to their quota, despite the criticism over how much whale meat is being harvested, the conversion factors being used to determine yield, and whether or not whale meat and products are being sold commercially in Greenland supermarkets. Finally, with no consensus in sight, Chairman Hogarth called for a small scientific work group (SSWG) to convene and analyze available aboriginal subsistence hunt data from Greenland with the intention of presenting the findings from the SSWG at an intersessional meeting to be held before the end of the year. This does not bode well for the humpback whales of the Western North Atlantic.

As William Hogarth steps down after three years at the helm, Cristian Maquieira of Chile begins his term as the new Chair of the IWC along with new Vice Chair Anthony Liverpool of Antigua & Barbuda. Chairman Maquieira has a difficult road ahead of him as he leads the SWG negotiations over the next 12 months, which will include at least one intersessional meeting in October and one next winter.



Some of CSI's South American friends from Argentina, Chile and Brazil: Roxanna Schateinbarg, Barbara Galletti, Jose Truda Palazzo, Jr., Elsa Cabrera and Vanesa Tossenburger. Photo by Heather Rockwell.

Despite the lack of progress on substantive issues and increasing threats facing whales, and the fact that not one step was taken to regulate or curb increased whaling and trade in whale products by Japan, Iceland or Norway at this meeting, there were a few bright spots in Madeira.

Whale watching was a must-do activity for most of the IWC delegates. Considering that whaling was once a thriving industry on Madeira, it was particularly gratifying to see that whale watching is now the preferred use of whale resources on this island. You could choose between luxurious catamarans or sporty zodiacs to carry you into the crystal blue waters off Madeira. A checklist of species seen during multiple whale watches by NGOs included spotted dolphins, short-finned pilot whales, fin whales, Bryde's whales, sperm whales, monk seals, and loggerhead sea turtles.

At the NGO sponsored reception, Jessica and I had a chance to speak with the Honorable Peter Garrett, Australian Minister for



Spotted Dolphins observed during whale watch off Madeira. Photo courtesy of Milko Schwartzman/Greenpeace.

the Environment, Heritage and the Arts. He reaffirmed Australia's commitment to end Japan's scientific whaling in the Antarctic. In addition, he thanked us, the NGOs, for the work we do for whales and he hoped that future IWC meetings would see increased NGO participation.

Screenings of the new award-winning documentary, *The Cove*, were standing-room only affairs for NGOs and national delegates alike. Shocking graphic footage of the annual drive fishery and slaughter of over 20,000 dolphins in the coastal Japanese village of Taiji is interspersed with humorous segments between local Japanese police and former Flipper dolphin trainer Ric O'Barry, along with comical footage of Japanese and Caribbean delegates from recent IWC meetings. The film is a must-see and will be released nationwide in theaters this summer and internationally in the fall. Once you have seen *The Cove*, you will never look at facilities with captive whales and dolphins the same way again (and hopefully, you'll think twice before visiting them as well). For more information on *The Cove*, please visit <http://www.SaveJapanDolphins.org/> and <http://www.TakePart.com/thecove/>.

As this newsletter went to press, Iceland's whaling fleet had reportedly killed 15 minke and 6 fin whales this spring. Meanwhile, Norway halted its whaling season mid-way through (it normally runs through August), after catching less than half of its annual self-allocated quota of 855 minke whales. Rumors are swirling that demand for whale meat is down in both Iceland and Norway. Perhaps, the tide is finally turning in favor of the whales.

Pigeon Holes, Headsets, Consensus and Tea Breaks

By Jessica Dickens, CSI Board Member & NGO Representative

Having sat in on many recaps of International Whaling Commission (IWC) meetings over the years, it really doesn't compare to actually attending a meeting in person. I talked to many of my fellow CSI board members who are IWC veterans. I watched videos of IWC meetings provided by the Director Emeritus, Robbins Barstow. And Barbara Kilpatrick gave me first hand stories of her

first experiences as an NGO rep for CSI at the IWC. Armed with all of my knowledge, I headed to the Portuguese island of Madeira.

The meetings were held in a building aptly nicknamed the volcano. Even though there was an agenda of each day's issues to be discussed, I think there was an underlying concern about the

future of the IWC. In fact, it was an actual item on the agenda, but some agenda items had the potential to break apart the IWC and cause an eruption in the volcano – or so some thought.



The "volcano" building where the IWC meeting was held.
Photo by Jessica Dickens.

A typical day of meetings began at 9:00 am with a tea break around 10:30 am. Then another break for lunch at noon and the meeting resumed around 2:00 pm, followed by an afternoon tea break around 4:30 pm and then reconvening until about 5:00 or 6:00 pm. I didn't understand the breaks at first because once the meeting got underway, we had to break for tea. But during the breaks, delegates had the opportunity to talk to each other about the issues on the agenda and it also gave the NGOs a chance to lobby the delegates as well.

My first day of meetings I learned that there were mailboxes for all the NGOs and Delegates called pigeon holes. I also learned that it may take a couple of headsets to find a working set to hear translations. As we moved from issue to issue, it took me a while to understand the process of the meeting especially as it is a meeting based on consensus where all parties must be in agreement. I assumed that as each issue came up for discussion it would be decided by consensus but what I found out was that a lot of the issues were just commented on with nothing really being voted on. This left me confused at first and I had to rely on the expertise of Heather Rockwell to help me understand the meetings and the process.

I think the item of most concern was Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling. Denmark was asking for a quota for Greenland to take 10 humpback whales, though they tried the same thing last year and the year before and failed. Here it was again rearing its ugly head. I was very impressed with the coordinated effort of the NGOs. We were armed with a lot of information before the meeting and we knew what to look out for as we met several times over the phone and in person. DJ Shubert, who was the NGO rep to the US delegation, worked on keeping us up to date on the issues and setting up meetings with the US delegation. I remember feeling the drama build as Denmark asked for an extra day to deliberate. The volcano had the potential to erupt as rumors about the IWC breaking up over this issue swirled around. And when they finally returned to the table, William Hogarth called for a working group to analyze the data from Greenland and the issue was delayed until a future intersessional.

The bright spots of the meeting were watching the proposal and presentation by the Australian delegation for a Southern Ocean Research Partnership which emphasized the non-lethal use of whales, and the NGOs that spoke during the meeting that represented the side of whale conservation. It was a coordinated effort that I think was effective. And finally meeting many of the people CSI has helped over the years. I felt honored to be a part of a group with such a long legacy and still able to make a difference in the lives of many.

I walked away from the meeting with hope for whales and for the IWC. One of the last comments of the meeting was from a representative from France who called for the NGOs to have a voice and a table, literally, because we sit in chairs in the back and hopefully a place at the table to allow for open discussions with civil society. I think there will be some new changes, hopefully positive ones, as a new chair and vice chair take the helm. The fight for whale conservation continues on and CSI will continue its legacy for whales alive.

We hope you're as pleased and proud of the performance of CSI's team at the IWC as we are. Heather Rockwell, Barbara Kilpatrick and Jessica Dickens superbly represented your concerns about saving whales from whaling. None of CSI's success would have been possible without the special support of our members, one in particular who chooses to remain anonymous. Thank you!

CSI thanks the Animal Welfare Institute and the World Society for the Protection of Animals for contributing to our all-out effort to support the attendance of critical Latin Americans at the IWC meeting. Almost everyone is affected by these economically challenging times, and as the IWC approached it was clear that very few NGOs were able to help participants from Latin America. CSI maxed out our effort, after consulting with key regional NGOs, because we knew the potential for these special advocates to influence their nation's votes at the IWC, and contribute the best available science. The combined support of AWI, CSI and WSPA enabled the following experts to attend: Dr. Yolanda Alaniz, Mexico, COMARINO, Mexican IWC delegation; Dr. Lucia Muriel Gutiérrez Bardales, Guatemala, Asociacion de Biologia Marina de Guatemala; Lic. Rafael Francisco Estrada Reyes, Nicaragua, V.P., Club de Jóvenes Ambientalistas, Rodrigo Garcia Pangaro, Uruguay, Executive Director of Org. Conservación Cetáceos Uruguay, IWC Scientific Committee and Plenary; and Dr. Mariano Sironi, Argentina, IWC Scientific Committee.

Finding Cetaceans

By William Rossiter



Peter Black, meet Zeppelin. What's really happening here? Why is this whale so clearly interacting with this man, moving slowly, almost posturing, later lifting her eye above the surface for a long look? Why has she brought her calf so very close they were under the bowsprit crammed with gleeful people? The easy answer is that she knows this boat well, she has interacted with many other favorites, she wanted to show her calf what the noise was all about, and it was playtime anyway. Salt, perhaps the most famous humpback in the world, is especially known for bringing her new calves to boats she likes, or bringing a favorite boat to her calf by breaching!

But the questions are really about the world-wide phenomenon of interactive cetaceans of many species, most of which are naïve to whale watching. Curiosity is the all-inclusive label that fits the phenomenon, but it deserves better. Literally under our noses is a large variety of very large and active predators motivated to approach and interact with people for motives beyond turf, food, or sex; is this intellectual curiosity?



Photo courtesy of Whale Center of New England.

What other large animals do this? Elephants, chimpanzees, gorillas, wolves, bears and a few others may accommodate to and interact with specific people, but you and I and Peter Black would not expect that any one of them approaching head-on, slowly, was coming close just to say hello. People everywhere are learning, or know intuitively, that an approaching cetacean is not threatening.

Zeppelin has quite a history, but in brief, she was born to Milky Way in 1989, and in recent years has had a calf of her own about every two years. She is one of the majority of Gulf of Maine summering humpbacks who has endured at least one entanglement. During one infamous summer where all the rest of the whales went elsewhere, she sustained the local whale watch industry all by herself. Day after day, either resigned or oblivious to the constant attention, she foraged on Stellwagen Bank's Southwest corner while all the boats took turns watching her. It was comical to watch all the boats run around making believe they were looking for whales they knew were not there, waiting their turn for Zeppelin! The problem is that whale watching makes it look easy to see whales, and it's not, which brings us to:

Whales are in trouble? Prove it! This is the tacit reply to many of CSI's efforts to conserve and protect cetaceans, from the IWC, from official agencies, from noise makers, from the captive display and fishing industries, from anyone who feels the need to use and abuse cetaceans (and of course so much more). Without direct proof people cannot be convinced they are doing harm. Even if convinced, many won't stop unless laws are passed or enforced, but without proof laws are not made or enforced. The Navy took NRDC, CSI and others to the Supreme Court, and won, without ever proving they did no harm, or allowing us to prove it!

This is why much of what CSI does facilitates and supports people that help us find the proof we all need. We find funds to help some, we work covertly to help others, we communicate widely or confidentially, and we are always seeking good people that will make a difference. Do you know someone who needs such help?

The core problem is that science is not capable of adequately detecting and monitoring whales, dolphins and porpoises, much less the specific ways their lives and populations are being impacted by human activity. This is important because, as you have read so often, cetaceans are to the oceans what canaries are to



coal miners: early warning of impending disasters that may affect us all.

How tough is it to detect and monitor cetaceans for science, much less appease tourists with good views? Consider whale watching. Even with highly experienced crews in the best of conditions, it might surprise you to know how many cetaceans are passed by unseen. A resting 70 foot finback shows maybe three inches above the water for the brief but relaxed breath that makes no spout. 100 dolphins simply disappear as they swim slowly, perhaps sleeping, even in glass calm conditions.



OK, how many Sowerby's beaked whales do you see in this photo by John McMurray? Three of the seven whales "here" are at the surface, very, very briefly. Unless you were looking right at the spot you would never know. Statistically only 1% of the beaked whales technically in viewing range are likely to be seen by qualified observers. Active sonars kill beaked whales; the Navy insists they see them all.

A trademark of beaked whales is to surface quietly in the wake of a boat. Apparently they spend much of their lives within the top 70 meters of the oceans, rising to breathe for only a few seconds at a time. It is assumed they actively evade boats by simply holding their breath and hovering below the surface until a boat's noises fade.



Here are two humpbacks resting, or logging, between shift changes of whale watch boats to Stellwagen Bank in Massachusetts. One is known as Triton. Sitting quietly in a small boat you'd hear them breathe gently, snoring in fact. Within a few minutes you'd hear the snores of at least twelve others in all directions, invisible, some over two miles away. Soon enough the whale watch boats approach again, and while still five miles away, some whales get active, and some vanish.

Some cetaceans appear very aware that whatever they do at the surface can attract attention. That truly seems to have motivated Triton to breach here, and may cause others to vanish. In his younger years Triton was one of the boat-approaching humpbacks Cape Cod's waters are famed for. His resting companion simply vanished, unnoticed. If you were to look at the naturalist's logs of



the whales they saw that day you would realize they missed at least half, simply because some did not want to be seen.

What about detecting the sounds cetaceans make? Brilliant idea! That's why it's been around for decades, for example the multiple hydrophone arrays that began to listen to the Salish Sea orcas about 1980. Much sperm whale research is almost totally acoustic. Locating critically endangered North Atlantic right whales has proven to be a wonderfully effective way to help vessels avoid ship strikes. In fact, right whales have been acoustically detected where none had been seen in modern times! The implications for avoiding ship strikes, a major factor threatening the species' survival, are so obvious that even New York State was funding an array to locate whales crossing the gauntlet of New York harbor approaches, until the economic crisis recently stopped the funds.

Several projects are listening for beaked whales, with the hope that detecting their foraging and social clicks might help mitigate harm from active sonar. By now someone must have invented a gadget that can automatically detect beaked whale calls. Recalling the ability of some specialists back in the 80's to identify clans, pods and individual orcas by their calls, we assume there are gadgets that can differentiate different species, maybe individuals.

But at the moment human abilities to detect and monitor cetaceans are woefully inadequate. If you're an inventor here's a useful challenge: help the experts find whales. This is serious stuff.

To quote from "Current Marine Mammal Population Monitoring Effort Is Very Unlikely to Detect Even Precipitous Declines", cited below, "scientists, policy makers, and industrial and military planners all need to have accurate assessment of populations and population trends." But, if a population was declining by "50% over a 15 year period (officially 'depleted'), the percentage of precipitous declines that would *not* be detected as declines by current survey techniques and frequency was 72% for large whales, 90% for beaked whales, and 78% for dolphins/porpoises, 5% for pinnipeds on land, 100% for pinnipeds on ice, and 55% for polar bears/sea otters." The researchers suggested "more diligent focus on indicator species, increase in survey frequency, and most fundamentally, a change in the 'decision criteria'," because current

standards note a decline where none exists only 5% of the time, but “MISS a decline up to 50-90% of the time.” They argue to change the math to increase catching the declines.

Current Marine Mammal Population Monitoring Effort Is

Very Unlikely to Detect Even Precipitous Declines, Barbara L. Taylor, Melissa Martinez, Tim Gerrodette, Jay Barlow, Yvana N. Hrovat. Lessons from monitoring trends in abundance of marine mammals. Marine Mammal Science, 23(1): 157–175 (January 2007).

Cetaceans and Climate Change

By William Rossiter

Whales And Dolphins In Hot Water. A study by Dr. Colin MacLeod, University of Aberdeen, has determined that the effect of climate change on sea temperatures will affect the distributions of 88% of cetacean species, not just polar species like the narwhal and beluga. Whole populations of 17 marine cetacean species may become extinct. For example, because of warmer waters, the white-beaked dolphin is becoming rare in southern parts of its historical range, such as Scotland’s west coast. If the North Sea population’s current range becomes too warm there are no alternative shallow water habitats to move to. Can they adapt? The same dilemma exists for Mexico’s critically-endangered Vaquita, the world’s smallest marine cetacean and one of the rarest. As the upper Gulf of California becomes warmer they must adapt or perish.

Global climate change, range changes and potential implications for the conservation of marine cetaceans: a review and synthesis, MacLeod, C., Endangered Species Research, Vol 7: 125–136, 2009.



White-Beaked Dolphin, courtesy of Colin MacLeod.

MacLeod’s research leads us to ponder:

Current research is defining preferred habitats of several species by very specific water temperature ranges, presumably because that is where they find food and survival needs. White-beaked dolphins suggest some populations would remain in preferred temperatures, wherever that took them, but what if that meant deeper waters, more bad weather, more competition and conflict with other species or populations, or simply no food? On the other hand, we can hope that most will adapt to changes, as future human generations must.

What about Marine Protected Areas? Most MPAs are specific geographic areas of essential habitat for vulnerable species, hammered into law after difficult negotiations with diverse, often conflicting human stakeholders. Every one existing today was

fought over, some bitterly. Warmer water may make the protected species leave the MPA, but can the MPA move with them? That would be complicated on many levels! As an example, northern right whales benefitted from Dynamic Management Areas assigned around every right whale’s known location, with mariners advised and required to avoid the areas. Imagine the complications of proving where the animals exiting many MPAs are going, and then getting some agency to post that information, and then enforce the inevitable conflicts with human activities. The DMA process could not keep up with even slow moving right whales. Some mariners responded to now-vacant DMAs, taking some economic loss in the process, and others sailed too near whales that had moved out of DMAs.

Conflicts between humanity and nature are only reduced when people can be given alternative opportunities to survive and prosper. People first, we are unwilling to suffer to save some other species. As climate change has its overwhelming way it is likely that the deciders will opt to shrug at the loss of Bangladesh and several Pacific island nations, and attention to living resources will be prioritized to what serves us best. Extinctions or extirpations of societies and species may already have been accepted by deciders. Will the vaquita or white-beaked dolphin matter to them?

But life adapts, and we can hope that most affected societies and species will survive climate change, albeit in ways we cannot predict. What did cetaceans do during other recent climate changes in Earth’s history?

MacLeod is quite clear that, while the time line and extent of the changes are impossible to predict, scientists and decision makers must be quick and flexible about defining changes and reacting to them. CSI’s concern is whether both can adapt as they must; today’s ponderous science and politicized decision makers may be unable or unwilling to hustle to meet our universal needs to survive climate change. So what can CSI do to motivate decision makers?

The United Nations Environment Programme’s “Seal The Deal” campaign will try to encourage governments to seal the deal on a fair, balanced and effective climate agreement when they meet in Copenhagen this December. As a 1988 **UNEP Global 500 Laureate**, an award given to especially significant organizations and individuals, CSI has been invited to participate in the “Seal The Deal” campaign, and we will, with enthusiasm! Besides web site links, we will create a short video clip explaining “why we need to seal the deal in Copenhagen”, sign special petitions and join UNEP’s actions during Climate Week from 20-26 September 2009. Contact us if you have great ideas or resources and want to help.

Cetacean News

By William Rossiter

Professor Chris Parsons and his students in the Department of Environmental Science and Policy at George Mason University deserve CSI's heartfelt thanks, for providing Luiz Cláudio Pinto de Sá Alves of Brazil with room and board during May's International Marine Conservation Congress in Washington, DC. CSI had provided Luiz with a travel grant to Washington, but neither of us could afford the costs of his stay. He had been invited to present his research on the exploitive tourism of the Amazon River dolphin in Brazil, exactly the stuff that CSI fights and IMMC participants needed to hear. Thanks, Chris and company!

CSI also wishes to thank Frances Gulland, Vet. MB, MRCVS, PhD, Director of Veterinary Science for the California Marine Mammal Center. Besides being a very busy professional she is co-editor of the *CRC Handbook of Marine Mammal Medicine: Health, Disease, and Rehabilitation*, the bible for marine mammal vets and rehabilitators. CSI had received a request for a copy of the CRC Handbook from Gabriela Marina Bellazzi, President of Fundacion Tierra Salvaje - Wild Earth Foundation (WEF), Peninsula Valdes, Argentina. Gaby's organization has created a marine mammal rescue and rehabilitation center, and the book was sorely needed.

Don't call us cheap, but think of it as saving members' money when CSI posted a request for a used copy to the several thousand members of MARMAM. Dr. Gulland was the first to reply. Not only did she send an autographed book through CSI but she's offered to visit and help the WEF facility in Argentina!

The Marine Mammal Center was impressive enough when I visited in the early eighties, even then operating 24/7 with about 250 volunteers. Everyone interested in helping distressed marine mammals will be awestruck to visit <http://www.marinemammalcenter.org/> for a virtual tour of their new hospital, and even more, visit in person, as from mid-June the new facility is again open for public and special tours.

How many species of whales, dolphins and porpoises are there? We could give you the answer, but instead invite you to dive into the new **World Cetacea Database** now up and running at <http://www.marinespecies.org/cetacea/>. The Database will be updated as changes occur and new taxa are described. The major sections of the database are Synonyms, Sources, Child Taxa [e.g., subspecies], Vernacular Names, Distribution, Habitat, Notes and Images. The vernacular names include obsolete names, again to help with the older literature.

The North Atlantic Right Whale in June was designated South Carolina's state migratory marine mammal. CSI congratulates the children, teachers, and staff of Alice Drive Elementary School in Sumter, SC, along with SC Senator Phil Leventis, for convincing South Carolina legislators to create the unique designation, a last minute compromise to remove the whale's competition with the bottlenose dolphin as the state marine mammal. The designation has been heralded by everyone as a great promoter of

the whale, and as an example of the best of the legislative process. CSI especially thanks the right whale specialists from New England Aquarium whose school visits inspired the children to fight for their whale.

Two North Atlantic right whale critical feeding habitats were protected by Canada in June. Nova Scotia's Roseway Basin and the Bay of Fundy's Grand Manan Basin became listed as critical under the Species at Risk Act, obligating legal protection of the areas from activities that might harm the whales. CSI congratulates members of the Right Whale Consortium, especially Dr. Moira Brown, Senior Scientist at the New England Aquarium, for the campaign by caring experts to make this protection a reality.

Canada's Nunavut bowhead hunting quota was increased in May to three whales per year for the next three years. Before last year's increase to two whales the Nunavummiut could only "harvest" one whale every two or three years. The increase was allowed after results from a 2004 aerial survey suggested the population was stable, and simply ignored more current scientific concerns for climate change on Arctic habitats.

Dolphin-Human Interaction Programs: Policies, Problems and Alternatives is a policy paper released by the Animals & Society Institute in June. The paper is co-authored by Lori Marino, Ph.D., senior lecturer in neuroscience and behavioral biology at Emory University, and Kristin L. Stewart, J.D., Ph.D., an attorney, scholar and consultant concentrating on animal law, policy and ethics. Their conclusions, that current dolphin protection laws are inconsistent, based on unsupported assumptions, and ultimately detrimental to dolphins, may not be new to some advocates, but their scholarly data and arguments make this paper extremely valuable in the longstanding challenge to correct current laws sanctioning dolphin display facilities and swim-with-dolphins programs. To purchase a copy of the paper and support ASI, please go to: <https://plus7.safe-order.net/psyeta/catalog/index.php?cPath=3>

Dolphin Assisted Therapy (DAT) received another blow in June, as Animal-Assisted & Creative Therapies (ACT) announced plans to create a nine-acre facility in Florida to showcase their **Therapeutic Animatronic Dolphin (TAD)**, which will "mimic the reinforcing effects of a live dolphin's interaction with patients", by squeaking and moving slightly. Although other therapies have used dolphin substitutes, ACT's may be the first to use animatronic dolphins "to produce measurable improvements in special needs children and adults with disabilities such as autism, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, and other diagnoses." ACT will continue to use miniature horses and therapy dogs for kids, and special training for parents. While their timing is superb as evidence against DAT continues to mount up, the issue will be convincing parents that haven't heard about all the problems with DAT to try the make-

believe ones. It is expected that parents desperate to help loved ones would be blind to the ramifications of their search for help. The blame lies with the profiteers that exploit them, their children, and dolphins.



Petting pools are one of captive display's greatest abominations, literally small, shallow, unsafe, unsanitary and overcrowded pools where dolphins and small whales beg for fish, conditioned to tolerate tourists teasing and tapping them on the head. Despite repeated requests, petting pools have never been adequately regulated by APHIS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. In July six organizations, including CSI and led by the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society, filed a formal Petition for Rulemaking by APHIS to address the most egregious issues, particularly for human health and animal welfare risks. The petition specifically cites the failure of APHIS to follow the Animal Welfare Act. For a vibrant report of the issue please download *Biting the Hand that Feeds* from either <http://www.wdcs.org/> or <http://www.hsus.org/>.

Solomon Islands continues to permit an export quota of 100 bottlenose dolphins, despite the April recommendation by the Animal Committee of the Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES), to reduce its annual quota of live bottlenose dolphin export to 10. Chris Porter, the man who started this travesty, owns the Gavutu dolphin island in Central Province and may be about to export again. He made a point of welcoming the recommendation, obviously to reduce the competition and increase each dolphin's value in trade. Porter, previously of the Vancouver Aquarium, says lots of things, such as his boast that CITES has authorized the Solomon Island dolphin trade and has endorsed and supported all the work that his company has been doing for the last seven years. Yes, this is an exaggeration off the edge of reason, but some people believe what he says, and so the small, isolated populations of bottlenose dolphins near enough to catch are slowly being destroyed. CSI has learned too much

about the Solomon Islands during those seven years, including their slaughter of dolphins for teeth, and also too much about the inner workings of CITES, which neglected to show enough teeth at the beginning of this farce to stop it cold.

The extinction of Mexico's vaquita remains a very real possibility, because Mexico's recent commitment to remove some fishing boats and provide vaquita-friendly equipment to others may be overwhelmed by the economic crisis and swine flu. 150 or so vaquita live isolated in the northern Gulf of California, unable to sustain current losses estimated at about 30 per year, primarily from becoming entangled in fishing nets. And then there's climate change.

Echo has died. Anyone interested in whales must consider elephants wonderful too, and so we mourn the loss in May of perhaps the best known wild elephant in the world, matriarch of her family for 36 years. First noted in 1973 in a family of seven, by the time of her death her family numbered 40, a sign of her leadership. Old age and a prolonged drought may have caused her death, which surely will cause a disruption in her family. Dr. Cynthia Moss' initial report at <http://elephanttrust.org/> reminded us that Echo was featured in three BBC documentaries about her and her family, as well as several of Moss' books. Echo died while tended by staff of the Amboseli Elephant Research Project, Kenya. For decades Echo had provided the Project, and us, with insights into elephant behavior, leadership, communication, social relations and intelligence.

Within Echo's lifetime humanity's perspective on the value of the life around us has changed, albeit too slowly for some of us. In 1973 the "environmental movement" had only two flags, redwoods and whales. Today the number of flags clamoring for attention and support has diluted everyone's specific dreams, but the trend is towards increased understanding and compassion of other life forms, and a clearer awareness that we fit within the mix, not above it. There must be many cetacean equivalents to Echo, such as the ancient orca matriarchs, but we remain woefully inadequate to recognize the others who, like Echo, could teach us so much if we could only observe.

Which seafood is ocean-friendly? Yes, you should care, because the uncaring consumer is responsible for much of the depletion of critical marine species; if people didn't buy vulnerable seafood fishermen wouldn't catch them, and irresponsible restaurants wouldn't serve them. One of the easiest sources we have found to ensure you remain guilt free but well fed is the Monterey Aquarium Seafood Watch: http://www.montereybayaquarium.org/cr/cr_seafoodwatch/download.aspx. The free regional guide can be printed and carried with you, then flashed in the face of the most arrogant chefs; make a point of it.

Research and Conservation in Brazil

CSI's Latin American and Caribbean Grant Program is alive and well, as evidenced by the continuing support of an anonymous foundation, the 27 current applicants we are processing, very positive comments we received during IWC 61 by previous grantees who are now scientists, delegates or NGO representatives of their nations, and reports like the following, sent by Ana Carolina Meirelles.

In April 2009, the third edition of the "Workshop on Research and Conservation of *Sotalia guianensis* in Northeastern Brazil" occurred in Ceará State, Brazil. CSI was a co-sponsor of the meeting along with Norsul Navigation Company, Northeastern Bank and SESC. The event was organized by Aquasis, a Brazilian non-profit organization that works for the conservation of threatened species and related ecosystems.



Guiana dolphin, courtesy of Marcos Santos.

The Guiana dolphin (*Sotalia guianensis*) is a highly threatened species, but poorly known along many regions in its distribution. In Northeastern Brazil, there are many institutions that work with the species, but some methodologies need to be improved and stimulated. Researchers from other Brazilian regions were also invited to present different methodologies that are not being applied in the Northeast.

So, in order to promote the conservation of *Sotalia guianensis*, researchers from all states of Northeastern Brazil and other Brazilian regions met to discuss important issues and research lines. The event had the participation of 20 re-

searchers, who presented results from their work and exchanged methodologies from different researches with the species (Natural History, Abundance Estimation, Conservation and Human Related Impacts, Ecology and Behavior). Small groups were not formed, and all attendees participated in all discussions. The debate was important so we could identify priority actions and research on the species in each state of this Brazilian region.

After the discussions, needed actions were forwarded and work groups were formed to execute the actions. The primary problem indicated was the international recognition as a species and its conservation status. The Guiana Dolphin has been recently recognized as a different species from the tucuxi (Monteiro-Filho et al., 2002; Cunha et al., 2005; Caballero et al., 2007), but IUCN still considered both as one species. Also, in Brazil and in the IUCN Red List, *Sotalia guianensis* is considered Data Deficient, and the work group will do a re-assessment, so the conservation status of the species can be defined, and propose its modification according to the result of the work. This is a very important issue, since the species suffers from heavily human related impacts along all its distribution and has a high number of mortality records, and in many regions there are enough studies to evaluate its status. The Workshop is a bi-annual meeting, and the fourth edition will be held in Aracaju, Sergipe in 2010.

Besides helping such workshops, and many studies of these dolphins, CSI is actively involved in promoting adequate conservation measures at the regulatory and public levels. At the moment we are working to correct what we see as a problem with the "IUCN Red List" (<http://www.iucnredlist.org/>) Meirelles mentions in her report. Because the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources' Red List defines those species that merit immediate attention, it is the foundation from which many nations create and implement management strategies. Brazil's regulations and policies regarding human impacts on the two *Sotalia* species would be greatly strengthened by the Red List including both species. However, the latest List says: "Recently, it has been recommended that the riverine and marine forms of *Sotalia* be split into two species, *S. fluviatilis* in the Amazon and possibly Orinoco systems and *S. guianensis* in marine and estuarine waters... The evidence for separate species appears convincing and is likely to gain wide acceptance. For immediate assessment purposes, however, the two forms have been treated here as subspecies."

We would appreciate all the help we can get. So would the dolphins.

CSI Hawai'i In Action

By Patricia Sullivan, CSI Board

As part of the volunteer response to stranded and distressed marine mammals here, we recently helped with efforts to recover a critically endangered monk seal, necropsy and dispose of a pygmy sperm whale, and photo-documented the work. Here's how it's done in Hawai'i. Patricia Sullivan & Paul DiGangi. (David Schofield contributed to this article.)

Volunteerism and teamwork are alive and well here in Hawaii, as is Hawaiian Monk Seal known as W34/35. Due largely to volunteer efforts, there is a happy ending to the story of the sighting, search, rescue, transport and release of this less-than-one year old seal between June 15 and June 25, 2009 in the North Kohala region of the Big Island. As part of the volunteer Marine Mammal Response Network (MMRN), I followed Justin Viezbicke on the search. Justin works as the Hawaii Island Sanctuary Programs Coordinator for the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources Sanctuary with funding and authority from the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary (HIHWNMS) and NOAA NMFS PIRO. First spotted by a fisherman on Monday 6/15/09, W34/35 had hauled out and appeared to be trailing fishing line and gear extending from her mouth; experts feared that she had swallowed a fishing hook. The HI Monk Seal (*Monachus schauinslandi*) is listed as *Endangered* on the Endangered Species Act, and *Depleted* on the Marine Mammal Protection Act (NOAA OPR p. 1), so protecting each and every monk seal in Hawaii is critical. The magnitude and intensity of efforts to rescue, treat and release this juvenile female should not be underestimated; according to David Schofield, NOAA/NMFS/PIRO Interim HI Monk Seal Recovery and MMRN Coordinator, there are only about 4-6 on the Island of Hawaii, 100+ (and growing) on the main HI Islands, and ~1000 in the NW HI Islands, with total population about 1100 and declining at 4% per year. The population is in crisis (NMFS Recovery Plan).

The topography of the coastline is especially rugged, making the search precarious. Tuesday: I accompanied Viezbicke and a group of volunteers as they hiked and scoured the coast's countless inlets, outcroppings, bays, cliffs, ledges, coves, and shallows searching for any sign of the seal. The search was grueling for me as I attempted to keep up with 2005 *Ironman* triathlete (and many years my junior) Viezbicke, whose passion and determination to locate this seal were undeniable, and increasingly desperate. The incidental payout for my efforts was gaining access to vantage points to the spectacle and splendor of the North Kohala coast, and Maui in the distance, that I will not likely see again. Efforts to find the seal, however, continued to prove fruitless for other volunteers who hiked and searched approximately 11 miles of coastline on Tuesday through Friday.

Wednesday: I decided to forgo any attempt to chase Viezbicke and opted instead to post *Have You Seen Me?* flyers in a few dozen shops along highway 270. The vast majority of locals and shop owners I met were compassionate and cooperative, and expressed sincere concern.

Saturday: 11AM: W34/35 is sighted by West HI MMRN volunteer and former marine mammal trainer Michele Bane, on her morning hike. Viezbicke speedily summoned staff and volunteers, and with tactical skill and proficiency, rescue efforts commenced.

W34/35 appears healthy, weighing approximately 146 pounds, and is barking mad - "ferocious" as Viezbicke describes her - a good indicator that she is not habituated to humans. (I wonder if I wouldn't bite back too, like an injured dog, if I swallowed a large hook.) The expert team treats her tenderly. They transport her to the HI Islands Humpback Whale NMS site in Kona, and under the care of Dr. Gregg Levine she is triaged, sedated, X-rayed by Big Island Equine veterinarian Brady Bergins and prepped for flight to Oahu. X-rays confirm suspicions; a large, barbed fish hook is lodged in her esophagus. 9:30 PM: Team and seal are given police escort at Kona Airport, where they are transported by pilots and crew of a C-130 (originating from USCG Air Station Barbers Point) to Oahu. There, W34/35 is housed for 6 days at the Waikiki Aquarium thanks to Executive Director Andrew Rossiter and head monk seal keeper Leah Kissel. Volunteers of the nonprofit HI Monk Seal Response Team Oahu (HMSRTO) kept vigil over the animal in 24 hour watches for the duration of her stay at the aquarium. Drs. Gregg Levine and Robert Braun removed the hook successfully and without incident at a marine mammal laboratory located on Marine Corps Base HI. Oahu volunteer Dana Jones, present during the hook removal, described the care and treatment of the animal as "incredible".



**Hawaiian Monk Seal W34/35 being released.
Photo by Patricia Sullivan.**

Thursday: Oahu NOAA team and HMSRTO volunteers accompany W34/35 on the C-130 back to Hilo (east side of HI). Dana Jones details the trip: "There was a Ford F-150 in the main cargo hold, and we were strapped down behind it, next to the seal crate; we keep her watered down with seawater and keep respiration charts. The crate was strapped to the floor and never moved an inch... those Coast Guard guys were as concerned for her safety as they were for any human being on the flight; they kept coming back to check on us all". To prepare for her release, the team was

efficiently dispatched to a small beach proximal to where the seal was first seen. Without incident, hook, line, sinkers or signature barking, W34/35 entered the water at 5:15 PM, and swam away.

I'm amazed at how improbable this may have been were it not for the valiant efforts of all involved, including military personnel and a concerned community. USCG pilots and crew, doctors, NOAA/NMFS/PIRO staff and volunteers made every attempt to make the seal comfortable and ensure that "at no time during her transports, capture, caging or procedures did her demeanor or breathing rates indicate moderate to high levels of stress. Based on data acquired since the time of release, movement patterns to the east, west, and south have indicated she is healthy and behaving normally" (David Schofield).

It's interesting to compare what has been done to help the recovery of the North Atlantic Right Whale to what was done to help monk seal W34/35. I can testify that when we are involved in efforts to protect an endangered species, we rejoice when even one animal is saved.

NMFS/NOAA Recovery Plan for the Hawaiian Monk Seal (2007). <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/pdfs/recovery/hawaiianmonkseal.pdf>

NOAA Fisheries is asking fishermen to use nonbarbed fish-hooks, offered free by calling 808-983-5326.

Monday, June 29th, a few days after the release of HI Monk Seal W34/35, HI Islands Humpback Whale NMS Coordinator Justin Viezbicke and team were busy once again, this time performing a necropsy and removing the carcass of a beached pygmy sperm whale from private property on the northwest shore of the Big Island. Kristi West, Nicole Davis and David Nichols flew in from Oahu and Maui to necropsy the approximately 800 pound animal while the volunteer team helped dissect, bag and

cart away (over beach, rock walls and uphill to the pickup truck) every ounce of the whale. Beginning at slack tide, knee-deep in flies and blood, the team once again operated with surgical precision, removing head, organs and tail stock, separating flesh from bone (easing disposal and removal), and analyzing the entire carcass under a portable picnic tent. The medical team noted that due to the level of deterioration, some samples could not be useful, but they did carefully tie off and remove the esophagus and three stomachs, and other organs and tissue samples for lab analysis. Dr. Kristi West fingered through one of the stomachs and manipulated what she presumed to be squid beaks, a staple in the *Kogia breviceps* diet, and removed several small samples of solid, reddish-brown material from the intestines, suspected to be the solidified "ink" that this whale is thought to eject when fearful or approaching prey.

I hovered over the necropsy team as they whittled away at the carcass, snapping photos of organs and body parts and documenting science in action. By sundown, five hours after the team began, no trace of the whale or the operation remained; the tent, supplies, and a truckload of whale meat had been removed from the site. The rising tide washed away the bloody water, and volunteers hosed off the rocks that served as a lab. In total, about 150 pounds of bones and the 50 pound skull were shipped out via Aloha Air cargo, and 580 pounds of bagged whale meat was disposed of (Viezbicke). Stay tuned to discover if the cause of this whale's death can be determined.

To watch a happier story about the rescue and rehabilitation of Inky, a pygmy sperm whale found stranded in New Jersey in 1993, go to <http://www.viddler.com/explore/aquaweb/videos/13/>. To learn more about Inky and to teach children about the tragedy of marine debris, see the USCG coloring book about Inky the Whale: http://www.uscg.mil/top/downloads/coloring_books/inky/

CSI's New Connection to Google Ocean

By Dan Knaub, CSI Board Member

Submerge yourself in Google Ocean, a resource unimaginable just a few years ago. CSI congratulates Dan Knaub, CSI director and President of the Whale Video Company, for his contributions as a consultant to the new Google Earth resource that includes ocean bottom terrain features, and an increasing plethora of information icons developed by world leading authorities and facilities. Follow the instructions below to get started.

When you're ready for a break, zoom to Monterey Canyon, CA, or any deep area with dramatic contours, open Google's Flight Simulator, and with a little practice (you can't hurt yourself) you can fly into Monterey Canyon at 1,000 knots and do a loop!

I was honored earlier this year by an invitation to become a Google Ocean contributor. Sylvia Earle (Her Deepness), a National Geographic Explorer, was responsible for this new application in Google Earth becoming a reality.

Joining National Geographic are BBC Earth, Cousteau Ocean World and other organizations too numerous to mention here. You

can explore animals, reefs, protected areas and organizations. Teachers and students will find a wealth of new information as contributors update monthly.

I plan to add locations of my favorite ocean life organizations, video clips of various species and behaviors, my favorite named humpback whales and some clips for children to explore the ocean in new ways. I am developing an idea for a new whale name game. Students will view clips of the tail patterns of several whales and using the web sites of sponsoring organizations, try to determine each whale's identity.

Google Earth is an application that must first be downloaded on your computer in order to gain access to Google Ocean.

Using your favorite search engine, find "Google Earth download" and follow the instructions.

Once Google Earth is on your computer the fun begins. Double click on the Earth symbol on your computer desktop. The earth will appear. Navigating to areas of the ocean is simple if you have a few hints.

If there is no side panel click “View”. Then select “Sidebar” - “layers” - “ocean” - and left click in the square box next to “Explore the Ocean”, double click the ocean symbol and you will be taken to North of the Galapagos Islands, however your view is too low to see any features, you will only see water and a single ocean symbol.

Go to the upper right of the window and find the altitude bar (look for plus and minus signs; and left click the bottom, the minus sign. Note: Clicking the minus sign makes you rise above the ocean and clicking plus brings you closer to the surface. As your

view of the ocean expands you have several ways to get to Cape Cod. I keep clicking the minus sign until I see the coast of Florida.

Then you can use the arrows on the second icon on top right to navigate north and east to Cape Cod. Once Cape Cod is centered in the window, you should see one ocean symbol. Then drop back down by using the plus sign to see more of these ocean symbols. Click on each one to view my contributions. Navigate the same way to find other areas of interest, perhaps a favorite coastline, island or reef.

CSI Marine Science Book Awards Presented to 11 Connecticut High School Students

In keeping with its aim to promote education about whales, dolphins, and porpoises, the Cetacean Society International has presented again this year, for the second time, a “Robbins Barstow Marine Science Book Award” to Connecticut high school seniors who have evidenced a special interest in cetaceans.

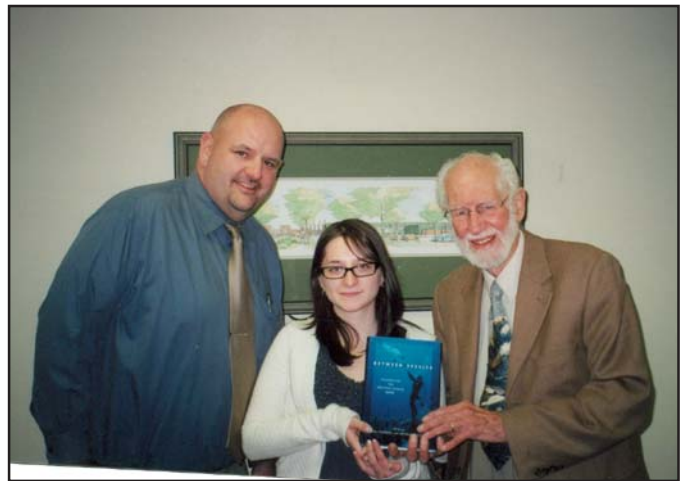
A total of 11 students, recommended by their local high school science departments, received the award this year, a copy of the book, *Between Species: Celebrating the Human-Dolphin Bond*, with a CSI inscribed plaque. Each student awardee has also been offered a complimentary one-year membership in CSI.

A special citation was adopted for **Cynthia Gutierrez O’Connell**, of Conard High School, West Hartford, commending her “for having distinguished herself with volunteer work in support of the Cetacean Society International and its efforts to save the great whales, serving as an alternate member of the CSI Board of Directors, contributing to its quarterly journal *Whales Alive!* and attending last year’s annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission in Chile.”

Other 2009 award recipients are:

Allison Beauchamp, Rochambeau Middle School, Southbury
Justina Caushi, Wethersfield High School, Wethersfield
Takiesha Hicks, East Hartford High School, East Hartford
Brandyn Lucca, South Windsor High School, South Windsor
Brina Matcheski, Coquinchaug Regional High School, Durham
Graham Miles, Kingswood-Oxford School, West Hartford
Nichol Springer, Kingswood-Oxford School, West Hartford

Ashley Tyminski, Staples High School, Westport
Amanda Williams, Oxford School, Oxford



Cynthia Gutierrez O’Connell (center), a graduating senior at Conard High School in West Hartford, Connecticut, was one of 11 student recipients of the 2009 Cetacean Society International Robbins Barstow Marine Science Book Awards. CSI Director Emeritus **Dr. Robbins Barstow** (on right) presented the book to Cynthia on June 16, 2009, in the presence of Conard Principal **Thomas Moore**. Photo by **Margaret Barstow**.

The Cove and You

By William Rossiter

Thinking of going to a dolphin or whale show, or captive swim-with-the-dolphins program, or maybe try dolphin-assisted therapy? Please see *The Cove* first.

If you’re opposed to captive display, swim-with programs and DAT, if you have been thinking about taking up a cause, now is the time, and this is the cause. The information at the end of this piece will get you started, by joining the volunteer program coor-

inated by Earth Island Institute.

If you’re unconvinced even after *The Cove*, and want all the facts before deciding that captive exploitation of dolphins is wrong, download *The Case Against Marine Mammals in Captivity: The Fourth Revised Edition, May 2009* from http://www.hsus.org/marine_mammals/. If you want overwhelming case studies of the horrific Mexican industry and read Spanish contact CSI for a copy

of *Delfinarios*, by Dr. Yolanda Alaniz. If you want a superbly written perspective of what's wrong with swim-with programs read *Rekindling the Waters*, *The Truth About Swimming With Dolphins*, reviewed in this *Whales Alive!*. The evidence is overwhelming; the trend is clear.

But see *The Cove*, and get others to see it as well, because it's an intense and inspiring experience. *The Cove* is an adventure film with a message. The adventure comes from a remarkable team's efforts to film what happens to dolphins and small whales in Taiji, Japan, and how far the government and local people will go to hide what is happening. The message is simple: this is one of the ways dolphins and small whales end up performing in captive displays; every person who buys a ticket to such a place is supporting the industry.

The Cove has received standing ovations and Audience Awards at the 2009 Sundance Film Festival, Toronto's Hot Docs Film Festival, the Newport Film Festival, International Film Festival, the Nantucket Fest, the Sydney International Film Festival, Maui Film Festival and the Seattle International Film Festival, plus Best of Festival at the Blue Ocean Film Festival. There will be more by the time you read this. For an updated preview and list of venues keep checking <http://www.thecovemovie.com/>.

For Nantucket's Film Festival CSI assisted Scott Leonard, of CSI Director Jean Rioux's Nantucket Marine Mammal Conservation Program, by producing brochures to be given to *Cove* viewers as they left, reminders of the things they promised themselves they would do after the movie to stop captive displays. We also produced a petition that will be presented to the Japanese Counsel General in Boston during Japan Dolphin Day protests this fall: The Japanese will again permit the killing dolphins at Taiji from 1 September. Join the protests in Boston, New York, and 70 cities

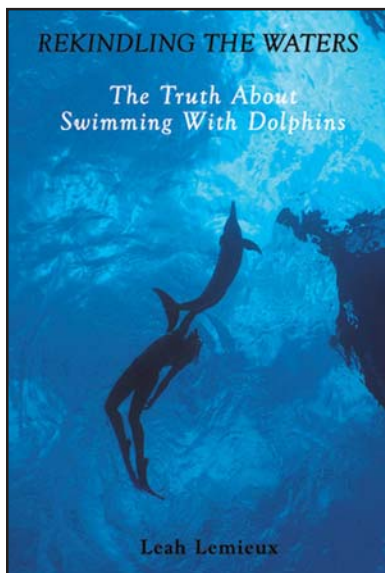
worldwide.

The Cove tells the story of the quest of Ric O'Barry (<http://savejapandolphins.org/>), Hardy Jones (<http://bluevoice.org/>) and others to publicize and shut down the drive fishery for dolphins in Taiji, the largest remaining annual slaughter of dolphins on the planet.

Ric is famous for his facile brilliance with media-friendly sound bites and inspiring protests, such as his silent parade around the plenary session of the IWC a few years ago, with a chest TV display of the Taiji massacres. But what even *The Cove* can't tell is the decades of sacrifice and risks Ric, Hardy, Sakae Hemmi and a very few others have endured for this cause. These people are heroes. But you can be a hero too, by seeing *The Cove* and spreading the word.

The Save Japan Dolphins Coalition needs your help to get the word out about *The Cove* and the campaign to end Japan's dolphin and whale slaughter. *The Cove* will premiere in New York City and Los Angeles the weekend of July 31, and in cities across the U.S. the following weekend. Volunteers are needed in theaters the weekend prior to openings to promote the film, and at the openings and screenings to promote the movie and campaign. Can you volunteer and help the Coalition recruit individuals who will commit to a minimum of a 4-hour shift on behalf of Japan's dolphins? (If you volunteer, you will take home 100% organic cotton Save Japan Dolphins t-shirt and cap!) We are also looking for a volunteer "Cove Captain" who will serve as volunteer coordinator for your city. Are you onboard? Any leads would be appreciated. If you want to help, sign up by contacting: Mary Jo Rice, Associate Director, International Marine Mammal Project, Earth Island Institute, 510-859-9105, fax 510-859-9093, mjrice@earthisland.org.

Book Review



Rekindling the Waters; The Truth About Swimming With Dolphins, by Leah Lemieux, is a wonderful read, a true labor of love; the rare book that is expressed so lyrically, with phrases like poems, that you go back to read some lines again, just for the pleasure of it. The book's about pleasure, in fact, the extraordinary pleasure people feel when swimming with captive dolphins, and the inherent moral dilemma everyone who looks beyond their own pleasure should feel if

they understand what they are supporting.

Leah put her heart and soul into this book, to carry us along on her journey, her quest, to swim with dolphins in Cuba. She was

lucky to find a backwater dolphinarium where, with the help of a kindly trainer, she could join the dolphins freely, far from their show regimen, without buying a ticket. Her rich description of each of their unique personalities carries us along as she comes to understand the torment of their lives, trapped in the dark lake.

Almost from the start, as she and the dolphins were coming to know each other extraordinarily well, her quest changed to trying to help them. Inevitably she was found out, and forced herself to walk away without denigrating her experiences by buying a ticket to see a show.

From here her words somehow remain lyrical while diving into the science, ethics, politics and profit that swirl around what is known as the captive swim-with industry. She asks for and gets cooperation and knowledge from the world's leading experts, researches facilities and issues, and gives us an overview of the knowns and unknowns behind captive dolphin displays, dolphin-assisted-therapy, and swim-with programs. With clear, evocative language Leah digests current facts and perspectives from caring experts, on dolphin intelligence, human ignorance, and the ethical evolution of humanity.

Many years ago I was honored to read some of Leah's first

experiences in Cuba, diaries really. I wondered how she could keep up the pace as she transitioned to becoming a champion for her dolphins. Her quest unleashed a skill with words that is truly rare and gifted, and I can only hope she believes her

book fulfils her promise to help them. It is my honor now to implore you to read her book, her message.

Bill Rossiter

Save Whales (and \$\$): Go On Vacation!

CSI is auctioning a Complimentary Resort Accommodation Certificate worth between \$2048 and \$4025, for a seven night, double occupancy room at one of four outstanding Caribbean resorts, virtually anytime between now and December 20, 2010! What a way to celebrate a honeymoon, anniversary, retirement, or just get away from all the hassles and experience a truly luxurious resort in magnificent surroundings.

The resorts are: The Veranda Resort and Spa (<http://theverandah.com/>), Antigua; The St. James Club (<http://stjamesclubantigua.com/>), Antigua; Long Bay Beach Resort (<http://longbay.com/>), Tortola; and Palm Island Resort (<http://palmislandresortgrenadines.com/>), the Grenadines. Even if you're not familiar with these very-high quality resorts, their web sites will confirm that they are among the best of the best.

We are most grateful to **Elite Island Resorts**, which has contributed the Certificate to CSI to help us raise funds. We guarantee the funds from this auction will be applied where it will help cetaceans, and not be used for CSI's already minuscule operating expenses. After payment of the winning bid to Cetacean Society International, the winner will receive the Certificate from us and Elite Island Resorts will be pleased to assist the winner of the Certificate with travel arrangements.

Anyone wishing to bid on this Certificate must contact CSI at 203-770-8615, or rossiter@csiwhalesalive.org. Include your name, a telephone number, email address, bid amount, approximate travel period (if known), and just how secret we have to keep this if you plan to surprise a loved one with a trip of a lifetime! Because most people planning vacations to resorts of this caliber book even a

year in advance, especially for holidays, and you'll need the Certificate to lock in your desired date, our auction is scheduled to close October 31, 2009. We will post the current highest bid on our web site (without identifying the bidder). We haven't declared a minimum bid yet, but our expectations are high, because this deal is a win for whales and a win for you.

More details are available from CSI, but include the potential for upgrades and a free extra night for arrivals between June and October. Travel is not included, and there is a mandatory all-inclusive supplement of \$100 to \$140 per person that will be charged for all food, beverages, resort activities, service charges, and taxes.

Opportunities like this don't come around often. Go For It!



Palm Island Resort, the Grenadines.

Notes

• **Individualized photographic certificates** are now available for new CSI members. If we know their favorite species of whale or dolphin we will use an appropriate and dramatic image as a background. These are particularly suited to gift memberships, so if you know of someone who might enjoy being part of CSI please let us know.

• CSI's educational flyer on cetaceans in captivity is still available. We will be glad to send one as a sample to anyone who

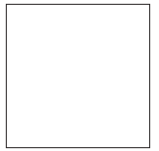
requests it. Contact: CSI, P.O. Box 953, Georgetown, CT 06829 U.S.A.

• Current and previous issues of *Whales Alive!* as well as our Photo Gallery and other features can be found on CSI's web site. Check it out at:

csiwhalesalive.org

Cetacean Society International

c/o Brent Hall
460 Wallingford Road
Cheshire, CT 06410
U.S.A.



FIRST CLASS MAIL



The beautiful Bird of Paradise, the iconic symbol of Madeira, the location of the IWC's annual meeting. See inside for details. Photo by Heather Rockwell.