

F A L L - W I N T E R 2 0 1 1

seawatch

the Ocean Conservation Society newsletter
www.oceanconservation.org

One Minute Editorial

It's Election Time...ASK QUESTIONS!

What a great time to start publicly asking provocative questions of candidates, journalists, wonks & bloggers. Here are some examples taken from MAHB action page (mahb.stanford.edu/):

1. Do you think climate disruption, toxification of Earth, spread of diseases or the possibility of wars over water and other resources represent serious threats to our children's future?
2. What is education for and is the present system fulfilling those goals?
3. What are ecosystem services and how important is it that they be preserved?
4. Should economists consider the depreciation of natural capital?
5. Should politicians be able to question the scientific quality of National Academy of Sciences documents that express a consensus view among scientists?

Or better yet, make up your own set of questions, then get out there and start asking leaders (and everyone else you can think of) to address the social and environmental issues that will affect all our lives, now and into the future. Don't accept silence. Demand answers! Demand action!

- Charles Saylan, OCS Executive Director



Focus on Education

It's no secret that issues related to climate change have fallen to the bottom of the national priority list.

Current polls show a scary rise in public doubt about the existence and seriousness of global warming, and this translates to a lack of action and interest on the part of our leaders. Economy has upstaged environmental issues and regulation is viewed by many as an obstruction of our free market system.

The science is overwhelming: the problems are real and we are losing biodiversity now, yet our society is generally apathetic regarding climate change.

We, at OCS, believe this is partially due to a lack of effective education. Public schools need to teach us more than how to build profitable careers. Science needs to teach us more than how to conduct research. We think that education should help us to build better, more flexible and humane societies. It should help us live well, regardless of our earning capacity. In the coming months, we will begin to offer educational materials and videos that teachers and others can use to initiate the kind of changes in attitudes we'll need to creatively address these collective action issues. Stay tuned...

Save the Date!

West Coast Marine Mammal Workshop

February 3-4, 2012

The Southern California Marine Mammal Workshop will take place in Newport, California, next February. Presentations will focus on current issues facing marine mammals such as climate change

and fisheries, as well as technological advances in marine mammal research. For more information and updates for this workshop, you can check: <http://socialmarinemammals.org/>



OCEAN CONSERVATION SOCIETY

OCS Facebook Fan Corner

Dear Friends,

The OCS staff would like to thank you for following our OCS Facebook page and for leaving your insightful comments. Please, share our page with your friends and tell them about our updates on dolphin & whale research, environmental events, and info related to ocean conservation issues. The more people know about the problems facing our environment, the better our chances are to improve the status of our oceans. If you would like to become one of our OCS FB friends, go to the Ocean Conservation Society website and click on the Facebook logo, then click "like" next to the page title of OCS FB...



PLEASE, HELP US TO SPREAD THE WORD AND PROTECT CETACEANS

In addition to the risk posed by the shipping lanes to endangered blue whales and other cetacean species along the California Coast, our research staff is also highly concerned about the human harassment of these species in recent months. We all must remember to respect these animals and always maintain a safe distance from them, especially during their feeding activities. It's not only the law, but also a responsibility! Please, tell others to enjoy these magnificent creatures without disturbing their home and disrupting their natural behavior. They already need to deal with too many anthropogenic issues right now, spanning from climate change to overfishing and pollution... For more information about issues facing marine mammals today, please contact us at info@oceanconservation.org.

OCS new scientific paper



OCS President, Maddalena Bearzi, Ph.D., and Executive Director, Charles Saylan, have just published a peer-reviewed paper in the Bulletin of the Southern California Academy of Sciences titled "Cetacean Ecology for Santa Monica Bay and Nearby Areas, California, in the Context of the Newly Established MPAs." The paper offers an overview on cetacean species observed in the bay over a decade of studies and information about the importance of Marine Protected Areas for these species and future conservation efforts. You can download the paper from the OCS website (publication page) at: <http://www.oceanconservation.org/research/publications.htm>.

SEA OTTERS IN SANTA MONICA BAY !

We almost couldn't believe our eyes... After 14 years of marine mammal research in the Santa Monica Bay, our L.A. Dolphin Project team got its first sighting ever of sea otters inside Santa Monica Bay. We were following coastal bottlenose dolphins in a thick fog (and red tide) near the Marina del Rey breakwater when two sea otters surfaced less than fifty feet from our vessel and at about 100 feet from shore.

The California sea otter population - which is still declining - seems to be expanding its Pacific range, both to the north and to the south. Recently, there have been several sightings of sea otters in Southern California, including the San Diego area. This redistribution of a few hundreds individuals (which all seem to be non-territorial males), is also bringing these animals in contact with human pollution along shore as well as creating some conflict with shellfish fisheries.

The L.A.D.P. research team will continue to monitor sea otter population in the Southern California Bight in the near future.



OCS Research

At the beginning of October the L.A. Dolphin Project research team started a new research and monitoring study inside and outside the boundaries of the newly established coastal Marine Protected Areas in Santa Monica Bay and nearby locations, as well as along the coastal corridors frequented by the inshore population of bottlenose dolphins. One of the goals of this project is to determine hotspots for the marine mammal species present in the area.

Our research team already recorded data on both species of common dolphins – always in company of California sea lions – inside the MPAs and regularly observed coastal bottlenose dolphins foraging along the corridors. As usual, we will post current news and photos from our marine mammal on-the-water surveys on the OCS Facebook page.



The OCS main study area and the four recently established coastal MPAs in Santa Monica Bay, California (Point Dume State Marine Reserve, Point Dume State Marine Conservation Area, Point Vicente State Marine Conservation Area, Abalone Cove State Marine Conservation Area).



Our Holiday thanks to...

THE OCS STAFF AND RESEARCH TEAM WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS THEIR GRATITUDE TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS, GRANTORS AND DONORS THAT HAVE HELPED US TO CONDUCT OUR RESEARCH AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS SINCE 1996.

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU GOES TO GRACE WALKER FOR HER VALUABLE LONG-TERM SUPPORT !

THE HOLIDAYS ARE HERE AGAIN !

ADOPT A DOLPHIN, GIVE A GREAT GIFT AND HELP OUR RESEARCH

Yes, is that time of the year once again...

Not sure what would you like to give for the holidays? Are you in need for a gift that is not the usual scarf or candle? Guess what... we have an idea for you. You can adopt one (or more) of our dolphins and make an original and meaningful gift. The kit comes with certificate, sticker, dolphin booklet, information and photo. Your adoption donation will go entirely toward on-the-water dolphin research and the protection of these magnificent creatures. We also have an adoption kit with the popular dolphin Pillow Pet™ for our young friends. Adopt a dolphin kit is easy. Just go to: <http://www.oceanconservation.org/involved/adopt.htm> and follow the instructions.

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