

S P R I N G 2 0 1 2

# seawatch

the Ocean Conservation Society newsletter  
[www.oceanconservation.org](http://www.oceanconservation.org)

## One Minute Editorial

### Check Out 350.org

Long-time environmental activist Bill McKibben is promoting a new website for measurable global action on climate change at [www.350.org](http://www.350.org). They are doing some really excellent work. They hope to help create events all over the world on May 5, 2012 (Climate Impacts Day) and link them together to send a global message to ALL our leaders that these problems need to be addressed NOW. To find out how to get involved with this current effort, see: [www.climatedots.org](http://www.climatedots.org)

Currently, there is little public discourse on climate change and even less legislative action. This needs to change now, while we can still impact the detrimental effects of climate change and environmental degradation.

We must build effective ways to collectively address these issues, and to do this, we'll need creativity, open-mindedness, commitment and drive. This is not a problem for the future, it is OUR problem and we need to deal with it, so let's get busy finding ways to reach people that might not think the way we do and help them understand that it's in everyone's best interest to have clean air, adequate water and food, and a healthy planet to live on.

- Charles Saylan, OCS Executive Director

## Blue Whales and Noise

We all know that anthropogenic noise can impact marine mammals such as whales and dolphins. A recent study conducted by Scripps scientists in our study area of the Southern California Bight shows the vocalization response of endangered blue whales to human noise sources in the mid-frequency range using passive acoustic monitoring. The results explain how blue whales were less likely to produce calls when mid-frequency active sonar was present. The calls were even more reduced when the sonar source was closer to the animal, and the sound levels were higher. This study clearly



shows that anthropogenic noise, even at frequencies well above the blue whales' sound production range, has a strong probability of eliciting changes in whale vocal behavior. Even if the long-term implications of disruption in call production to blue whale foraging and other behaviors are currently not well understood, we must apply the precautionary principle to protect these endangered species.

## Save the Date!

### Earth Day

**April 22, 2012**

More than one billion people around the globe will participate in Earth Day 2012 promoting the protection and conservation of our Planet. You can attend a local Earth Day event and join one of

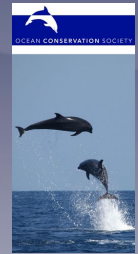
the many campaigns organized worldwide. Tell your friends about Earth Day and the importance to be informed about environmental issues. To know more, check: [www.earthday.org/2012](http://www.earthday.org/2012).



OCEAN CONSERVATION SOCIETY

# OCS Facebook Fan Corner

We passed 1,700 "likes" in our FB page... We are growing everyday and our friends are posting interesting questions. We have noticed that people are particularly interested in local issues regarding marine mammals and environmental problems, news about cetaceans, and short videos on dolphin behavior. Please continue to keep us updated with what you would like to see and post your comments/questions. Also, if you are still not 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...



## OCS GOES TO THE WHITE HOUSE !

**OCS Executive Director, Charlie Saylan, and OCS Scientific Advisor and UCLA Professor, Daniel Blumstein, have been invited to the White House as panelists for the "White House Summit on Environmental Education" (April 16, 2012). Congratulations to both of them !!!**  
 You can follow the conversation on Twitter using #EEweek and @EPAgov. We will also post updates on our OCS facebook page.

**MORE NEWS...**

In a recent article, OCS Director Charles Saylan explains the "nuts and bolts" of vessel donation and how you can claim "fair market value" for a boat donation by donating it to OCS! We'll put the boat to work conducting our on-the-water whale and dolphin research. Please contact us for more information at 310-822-5205, check out our donation page (<http://www.oceanconservation.org/donate/donate.htm>) or read the article posted on the OCS website for more details on boat donations (Saylan, C. Blue Water Sailing Magazine, February, 2012. Should I donate my boat: The nuts and bolts of vessel donation. P. 20-21).

### A new commentary explains why MPAs & cetaceans must go hand in hand



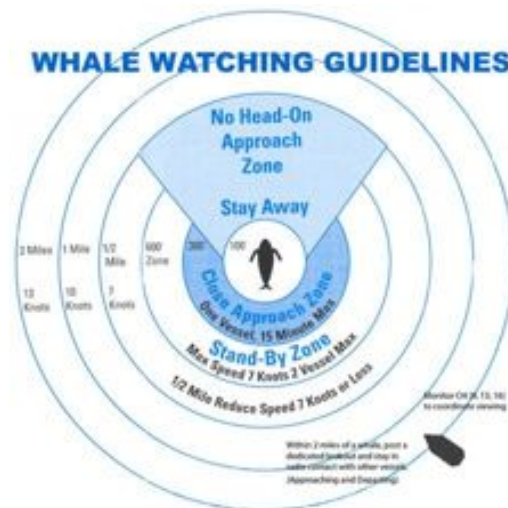
In the last Seawatch Newsletter we talked about our paper titled "Cetacean Ecology for Santa Monica Bay and Nearby Areas, California, in the Context of the Newly Established MPAs." Now, Dr. M. Bearzi, President of OCS, has published a new commentary on Marine Protected Areas and cetaceans for the journal of Ocean and Coastal Management. This commentary highlights why cetaceans must be considered for any decision-making process regarding MPAs and why the definition of MPAs must remain flexible.

*Bearzi, M. 2012. Cetaceans and MPAs should go hand in hand: a case study in Santa Monica Bay, California. Ocean & Coastal Management 60: 56-59.*

### NOAA guidelines on whale watching



Following the interest of our OCS Facebook friends regarding whale watching regulations, we offer this image from NOAA which provides guidelines on approaching whales at sea.



# OCS Research

Although some serious engine problems with the OCS research powerboat reduced the number of monthly surveys, the L.A. Dolphin Project research team was still able to continue its year-round monitoring and data collection inside and outside the boundaries of the coastal MPAs in Santa Monica Bay and nearby locations, as well as along the corridors frequented by bottlenose dolphins. Among the most amazing sightings of the winter, there was a pod of five fin whales foraging a few miles off the beach in Santa Monica Bay that we followed for several hours. In the past months, we also observed an astonishingly high number of gray whales !

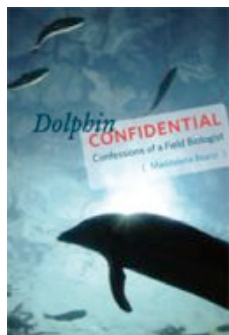


*A fin whale feeds a couple of miles off Redondo Beach, in the Santa Monica Bay, California (photo M. Bearzi@2012 NOAA permit #856-1835)*

## NEW BOOK

by OCS President Dr. Maddalena Bearzi

## DOLPHIN CONFIDENTIAL: CONFESSIONS OF A FIELD BIOLOGIST



*Dolphin Confidential* is now available on Amazon and bookstores around the world.

Who hasn't fantasized about the unique thrill of working among charismatic and clever dolphins in the wild? We need not live this solely in our imaginations anymore. With *Dolphin Confidential* Maddalena Bearzi invites all of us shore-bound dreamers to join her and travel alongside the dolphins. In this fascinating account, she takes us inside the world of a marine scientist and offers a firsthand understanding of marine mammal behavior, as well as the frustrations, delights, and creativity that make up dolphin research.

In this intimate narrative, Bearzi recounts her experiences at sea, tracing her own evolution as a woman and a scientist from her earliest travails to her transformation into an advocate for conservation and dolphin protection. These compelling, in-depth descriptions of her fieldwork also present a captivating look into dolphin social behavior and intelligence. The central part of the book is devoted to the metropolitan bottlenose dolphins of California, as Bearzi draws on her extensive experience to offer insights into the daily lives of these creatures—as well as the difficulties involved in collecting the data that transforms hunches into hypotheses and eventually scientific facts.

The book closes by addressing the critical environmental and conservation problems facing these magnificent, socially complex, highly intelligent, and emotional beings. An honest, down-to-earth analysis of what it means to be a marine biologist in the field today, *Dolphin Confidential* offers an entertaining, never less than candid, and always informative description of life among the dolphins.

*"This is a delightful chronicle of a young ocean lover's journey to turn her passion into a career in science, and that scientist's coming-of-age as she observes an ocean changing around her and the creatures she has come to love and defend. I found it both relaxing and energizing, all at the same time."*—Carl Safina, author of *Song for the Blue*

Ocean Conservation Society  
p.o. box 12860, marina del rey, ca 90295  
ph. 310.822.5205, [info@oceanconservation.org](mailto:info@oceanconservation.org)  
[www.oceanconservation.org](http://www.oceanconservation.org)

### Unsubscribe / Privacy

If you do not wish to receive our e-newsletter in the future, please email [info@oceanconservation.org](mailto:info@oceanconservation.org) with the subject "unsubscribe" and we will remove you from our mailing list. We do not send hard copy mailings or share email addresses with anyone, ever.

Drawing: M. Demma, M. Bearzi,  
NOAA

Logos: J. Bass, J. Artukiewicz

Photos: M. Bearzi, C. Saylan (blue  
whale image: NMFS permit #  
8561835)

Newsletter design: M. Bearzi

