

FALL - WINTER 2012

# seawatch

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

## One Minute Editorial

We recently attended a meeting of 350.org here in Los Angeles and if you are not familiar with their work, it is definitely worth checking out at: [www.350.org](http://www.350.org). They are doing some really excellent work, not only to raise awareness, but to directly impact climate change legislation and reduce global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. What they offer are ways for individuals to get directly involved in a global coalition to solve the climate crisis. OCS is not a political advocacy organization and our endorsement of 350.org is not partisan. Climate change, destruction of biodiversity, ocean acidification, overfishing are not partisan issues. They affect everyone regardless of political leanings. It will take a majority to convince our leaders that real action needs to be taken to protect the fundamental eco-systems that support all life. We believe that these issues must be de-politicized if we are to attain that necessary majority. Preaching to the choir will not produce the results we all need for the healthy planet we want to live on. 350.org is one great place to get directly involved. Check them out...

- Charles Saylan, OCS Executive Director

## California dolphin online catalog



A couple of years ago, Ocean Conservation Society spearheaded a collaborative effort to create an online database of coastal bottlenose dolphins along the entire California shoreline. This database is now available online at <http://seamap.env.duke.edu/photoi/cdoc>. The goal of this database is two-fold. First, to exchange data with other researchers and scientists around the world; and secondly, to raise public awareness of bottlenose dolphins and their status along the California coastline, including our study area of Santa Monica Bay. A poster on this collaborative effort among California scientists is also being presented at the American Cetacean Society Conference in San Diego. A PDF copy of the poster is available at: [http://www.oceanconservation.org/research/publications\\_pdf/CDOC\\_Poster\\_ACS-XIII\\_06NOV12AM-v9.pdf](http://www.oceanconservation.org/research/publications_pdf/CDOC_Poster_ACS-XIII_06NOV12AM-v9.pdf)

## Save the Date!



## OCS at the Southern California Marine Mammal Workshop

### February 1-2, 2013

The 2013 Southern California Marine Mammal Workshop will take place in February at 700 Newport Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA. Among the many speakers, members of the OCS staff will lead a panel on "The Art of Science Communication".

This panel will present diverse and innovative ways to communicate scientific concepts to the general public.

For more info, updates and to register for the workshop, check: [www.socalmarinemammals.org](http://www.socalmarinemammals.org)



OCEAN CONSERVATION SOCIETY

## OCS Facebook Fan Corner

The number of our OCS "fans" is growing steadily every month (over 6,000 likes now!) and we hope this has something to do with the type of information that we post almost every day to keep people informed about our marine mammal research, news on cetaceans and other species as well as the problems facing these animals and their habitat. We hope that by informing the public about conservation issues (and what they can do to fix them), it might be more willing to ACT for the protection of the oceans and our Planet...

### Following Dolphin Flukeprints: A Woman's Battle to Protect the Animals She Loves

This is the title of an article recently published by Dr. Maddalena Bearzi, OCS President, in the National Geographic News Watch. Here is an excerpt:  
*"...This intimate life with dolphins, whales, and other creatures has left a profound and beautiful impression on me. Because of them, I often question myself about my place on this planet, and what traces I will leave behind me. I've encountered many animals in my work, some more clever than others, but they all—in their own way—taught me lessons of humility and made me wonder about humanity's conceit and insatiable greed.."*

For the full article:

<http://newswatch.nationalgeographic.com/2012/10/22/following-dolphin-flukeprints-a-womans-battle-to-protect-the-animals-she-loves-2/> Maddalena Bearzi  
 mbearzi@earthlink.net



## BE WHALE AWARE CAMPAIGN! OUR NEW STICKERS ARE ON THE WAY...

We have a new addition to our "Be Whale Aware" campaign and the successful OCS color pocket-sized brochure that explains which species of marine mammals are present in our waters and helps whale enthusiasts and boaters understand how to safely view whales at sea. OCS - in collaboration with Coastal Conservancy - is now in the process of producing and distributing a new sticker for the Southern California boating community with marine mammal viewing guidelines and useful information to help animals in distress.

All boaters need to remember that whales and dolphins are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and we all must pay careful attention when approaching these creatures at sea. It's a violation of federal law to harass or harm them and penalties can include up to one-year imprisonment and fines of up to \$20,000.

For more information about our new stickers, please contact:

[info@oceanconservation.org](mailto:info@oceanconservation.org)

## THINKING ABOUT CHRISTMAS GIFTS?



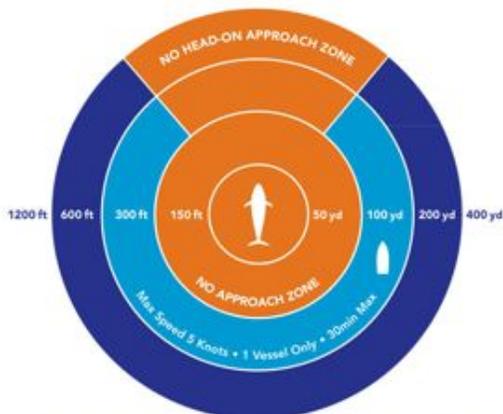
HERE ARE A COUPLE OF GREAT, ORIGINAL AND CONSERVATION-ORIENTED IDEAS...

Give your family or friends... **"A Day in Company of Dolphins"**. OCS offers a remarkable opportunity to see dolphins, whales and other marine life up close and learn about the world of marine biology and oceanography in the field with us! The OCS Ride-Along Program is a unique chance to accompany our researchers and participate "hands-on" in actual marine mammal surveys while supporting our continuing OCS research. LADP staff will explain the methodology and significance of the research, conservation issues, marine ecology and much more. All program fees are tax-deductible contributions and will be used entirely to help continue our studies. Programs are booked on a first come first served basis. For more information, scheduling and prices, please call 310.822.5205 or email us at [info@oceanconservation.org](mailto:info@oceanconservation.org).

If you would rather to give something more "tangible", our "dolphin family" is always ready for adoption! By **adopting one of our dolphins**, you can make a sensible gift while helping OCS to continue its field research. The Adopt-a-Dolphin kit includes: a personalized certificate, a dolphin booklet, OCS stickers, brochure, photo of the adopted animals. You can also opt for our **Adopt-a-dolphin kit for kids** that includes a popular 18-inch dolphin PillowPet™. For more info, call us at 310-822.5205, email us at [info@oceanconservation.org](mailto:info@oceanconservation.org), or check out our site: <http://www.oceanconservation.org/involved/adopt.htm>

### Marine Mammal Viewing Guidelines \*

Please Report Harrassment of Marine Mammals to:



• National Marine Fisheries Service  
 24hr hotline: 800.853.1964  
 • Boaters can use VHF channel 16 to contact local authorities.

**You Can Help Marine Mammals in Distress:**

• If you see a stranded animal, keep your distance and call NMFS Southwest Regional Office: 562.980.3230

• Please report injured, entangled, or ship-struck whales to the 24/7 WET hotline: 877.505.WHALE (877.767.9425)

\* Whales, dolphins and pinnipeds are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972. It is a violation of Federal Law to harass or harm them.

Funded by OCS & Coastal Conservancy  
 Design: [earthlink.net](http://www.earthlink.net)



For more info visit [oceanconservation.org](http://oceanconservation.org) or email [info@oceanconservation.org](mailto:info@oceanconservation.org)

## OCS Research

We just finished our first year of monitoring study inside and outside the four coastal Marine Protected Areas of Santa Monica Bay (thanks to our grantor Save The Coast – Malibu Dolphin Watch Foundation!). Preliminary results from this investigation already show that these protected areas, as well as nearby locations, are highly used by whales and dolphins and represent mating and foraging “hotspots” for several of these species. In



the meantime, we started conducting more research in the pelagic waters off Southern California to photo-identify and record the behavior of the offshore population of bottlenose dolphins as well as other species. In one of our recent surveys, we observed a group of Risso's dolphins which we haven't see for a while in the bay. Our strangest encounter of the last months: we rescued a... message in a bottle !



*This Risso's dolphin was sighted by our OCS research team along the shipping lane off Santa Monica Bay, California. Image; M. Bearzi@2012 - NOAA permit #856-1835*

## THANK YOU, SPONSORS & CO. !

In the last year, we had several sponsors that helped us to make our work at sea (...and on land) easier and better. OCS would like to thank ZHIK and ADVENTURE HAT for their beautiful sailing hats, PERI PURE ECO-RAG INDUSTRY for their original "recyclable-biodegradable-organic" t-shirts, and Lazy Dog Design for their bags. We are also grateful to ECOFABRIK for the organic shopping bags with our OCS logo! They are becoming very popular! Thank you also to our grantor: "Save the Coast- Malibu Watch Foundation", Pacific Life Foundation, Coastal Conservancy, and Whitecap Foundation.

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



### Our ongoing collaborative projects with other organizations...

Since December 2011, OCS has conducted a collaborative project with **Heal The Bay** to collect data on human consumptive and non-consumptive activities recorded inside the boundaries of the four coastal Marine Protected Areas in Santa Monica Bay, California. The project is still ongoing but preliminary results illustrate that the majority of the recorded activities were non-consumptive. Opportunistic observations conducted by OCS during the study and outside the MPAs show that fishermen are generally well aware of the boundaries of the four coastal MPAs.

OCS also began a collaborative project with the **Aquarium of the Pacific** in Long Beach, California, to collect data on marine mammal harassment by recreational boaters recorded in Santa Monica Bay and adjacent areas. Volunteers at the Aquarium were trained by OCS staff and then by the Aquarium of the Pacific staff to collect data on OCS forms starting November 11, 2011. Data collection is still ongoing and information is recorded aboard whale-watching vessels.

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