

S U M M E R 2 0 1 1

seawatch

the Ocean Conservation Society newsletter
www.oceanconservation.org

One Minute Editorial

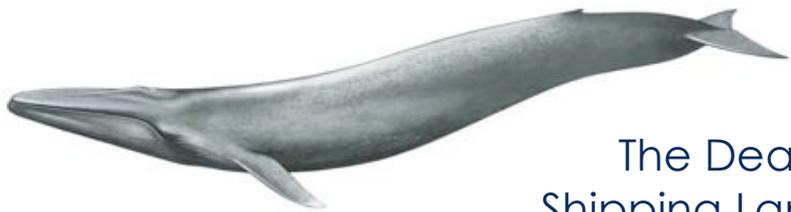
Getting The Word Out

Most of the people reading his editorial are familiar with the environmental problems our planet now faces. Many of us, in fact, try to live sustainably and make consumer choices based on what's good for the environment. But that's not enough to turn the tide on ecosystem degradation.

We need to preach past "the choir." We must talk to people who do not share our world-view or political bias and find ways to communicate the idea that everyone, regardless of who they are or what they think, will suffer the effects of global warming and loss of biodiversity.

This is not easy, but we need to get to it with a vengeance if we hope to mitigate the coming crises. It is not important why someone decides to use less energy or supports environmental protection... Maybe decreasing household costs or increasing homeland security or concern for the future of our kids are good motivators. The "why" doesn't matter. What matters is finding common grounds for discussion with people who do not see themselves as "environmentalists," then finding ways to stimulate personal action.

- Charles Saylan, OCS Executive Director



The Deadly Shipping Lanes

It's well known that cetaceans face increasing threats in the ocean, including potential impacts of vessel traffic such as ship strikes and ship noise. While most collision reports involve whales, dolphins may also be victims of these accidents. In cases such as the endangered North Atlantic right whale population, the problem is becoming so serious it is affecting their population status. In the Southern California Bight, endangered blue whales, as well as other cetaceans, often travel along shipping lanes. Several conservation groups have recently filed a legal petition seeking a mandatory speed limit of 10-knots for large ships traveling through California's marine protected areas. Ocean Conservation Society has recently become involved in this issue and we will keep you up-to-date on our actions and progress through our OCS Facebook page. To know more about the petition: http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/campaigns/ocean_noise/pdfs/Petition_NMS_Ship_Speed_Limits_2011-06-06.pdf.

Save the Date!

Marine Protected Areas

October 1, 2011

This is the date when the new MPAs in Southern California will go into effect. If you want to know more about Marine Protected Areas: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/southcoast.asp>.

Cleanup Day

September 17

Join 80,000+ people for California Coastal Cleanup Day! For details, contact (800)COAST-4U.



OCEAN CONSERVATION SOCIETY



Are you our friend on Facebook ?

Last December, OCS set up a Facebook page for updates on our dolphin & whale research, environmental news & events, and information related to ocean conservation issues. Thanks to those of you who have joined us, our Facebook page is now growing. If you haven't checked us out and you would like to become one of our OCS FB friends, just go to our website at www.oceanconservation.org click on the Facebook logo (left top of each page), then click "like" next to the page title of OCS FB... and you're in. You can spread the word and help us get the news out about our research and outreach work, as well as ocean conservation. Thank you!



Our new research vessel following flukeprints



Meet the Los Angeles Dolphin Project new research boat! This 23-foot vessel with a 200 HP engine is used by the OCS team to conduct coastal surveys on bottlenose dolphins in Southern California. Thanks to its small size and great maneuverability, we can easily approach and study near-shore dolphin schools as well as offshore groups. We are grateful to the L.A. County Lifeguards, who after all our years of research, have come to know who we are. They have always shown great support and collaboration for our dolphin surveys!

CONGRATULATIONS !

OCS Director Charlie Saylan and OCS scientific advisor Daniel Blumstein's book has just been selected by *Time Magazine* as one of the "Summer Reading: 7 Education Books to Take to the Beach" (A.J. Rotherham, Thursday, July 14, 2011). Charlie Saylan has also recently been featured on the Tavis Smiley show (http://www.tavissmileyradio.com/071511/charles_saylan.html). The book is called "The Failure of Environmental Education (and how we can fix it)". As the authors explain, the "failure of environmental education" means that it has not been able to keep pace with environmental degradation.

"Their vision is inspiring: environmental education freed from partisan squabbling, and made creative, flexible, and powerful enough to reach citizens of all abilities and interests."
(Audubon Magazine)

<http://www.amazon.com/Failure-Environmental-Education-How-Can/dp/0520265394>.



OCS Research

Our recent marine mammal surveys have been excellent! We've had at least three sightings every time we've gone out to sea. Our L.A. Dolphin Project research team recorded data on long-beaked and short-beaked common dolphins in company of California sea lions, and observed coastal bottlenose dolphins traveling, feeding and socializing inshore. We had several amazing sightings of bottlenose dolphins mating close to the breaking waves. During one of our recent surveys, we met this sunfish (photo at left), which decided to spend some time with our team... As usual, we will post current news and photos from our marine mammal surveys on the OCS Facebook page.



Helping others... to save the oceans

Ocean Conservation Society is currently trying to team up with other environmental groups in need. We believe that, today more than ever, we need strong collaborations among non-profits if we want to address the environmental mess we are all in. One of the problems we see is that non-profits often work on their own when they would be more effective joining forces. Among our collaborations, we mentioned the Indian non-profit APOWA, Action for Protection of Wild Animals (www.apowa.org). We are helping the Sea Turtle Restoration Project (<http://www.seaturtles.org/>) for their data collection on sea turtles in the Pacific (to know more: OCS FB entry, 7-15-2011). OCS is also in contact with Environmental Defense Center (<http://www.edcnet.org/>) in Santa Barbara to help reducing speed limits for ships along the California coastline.

The sunfish (Mola mola) is the heaviest bony fish in the world, with a brain no bigger than a walnut, a tail shaped like a rudder and two long paddle-fins at opposite sides of its laterally flat body. Its common name "ocean sunfish" comes from this animal's habit of resting near the water surface as if it is sunbathing. Our research team has often seen these creatures bobbing up and down in slow motion and, on a few occasions, opening their parrot-like mouths to grab a passing jellyfish. Sunfish are vulnerable to natural predators like killer whales, sharks, even sea lions. Sunfish are considered a delicacy in countries like Japan, Korea and Taiwan. (The sunfish in this image was spotted a couple of miles off Malibu in Santa Monica Bay; photo C. Saylan@2011).

THE NEW OCS DOLPHIN KIT FOR KIDS (for a limited time only!)



Pillow Pets™ have come to OCS! This 18" dolphin is now part of our new dolphin kit for kids. The dolphin Pillow Pets™ is a plush folding stuffed animal and it's very popular among kids! If you un-velcro the dolphin's belly, it becomes a comfortable pillow. Thanks to a generous donation from Pillow Pets™ we now offer this fantastic opportunity to make a great gift while supporting our work. These kits will be available until our supply runs out. Remember, all adoptions are tax-deductible. Your adoption donation will go entirely toward on-the-water dolphin research and the protection of these charismatic creatures. To adopt a dolphin kit with a Pillow Pet™, go to: <http://www.oceanconservation.org/involved/adopt.htm>

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