

Ways of Whales Workshop

January 28, 2012
Camp Casey Auditorium

Agenda/Schedule

9 - 10 am: Registration, coffee and muffins, educational displays

10 - 10:15: Introduction, welcome, logistics

10:15 - 11:10: Shifting Trends in Orca Captivity

Howard Garrett, Orca Network

11:10 - 11:20: Vern Olsen, Shifty Sailor, ***Come Home Lolita*** (Sing along)

11:20 - 11:35: Break

11:35 - 12:30: Using DTAGs to study acoustics and behavior of Southern Resident killer whales

Candice Emmons, NOAA's NW Fisheries Science Center

12:30 - 1:30: Lunch - at Camp Casey mess hall, across from auditorium

1:30 - 1:40: Introduction of non-profit groups in attendance

1:40 - 2:25: Ships, Spills, and Cetaceans: Why You Should Care About Coal Export from Washington's Coast

Matt Krogh and Lindsay Taylor, North Sound Baykeeper Team

2:25 - 2:40: Break

2:40 - 3:35: Endangered feces: How southern resident killer whale scat samples give scientists critical health and population data on this endangered population

Jessica Lundin, Center for Conservation Biology, Univ. of Washington

3:35 - 4:30: Fin Whale Seismology

William Wilcock, School of Oceanography, University of Washington

5 pm - ? No-host post-event social gathering at Captain Whidbey Inn Lounge

Presentation Descriptions

Shifting Trends in Orca Captivity

by Howard Garrett, Orca Network, Whidbey Island, WA

Once feared and often shot on sight, orcas suddenly became hot property 45 years ago when entrepreneurs discovered the public would pay big bucks to see the massive, graceful whales do tricks in stadiums. A specific set of circumstances at the time, and huge revenues at the gate, propelled the trendy fun to a multi-billion dollar international industry with an invincible PR juggernaut and plenty of friends in government. But from the very beginning the performing whales tended to die at tragic rates, and a small segment of the public learned long ago that captivity kills orcas. But only when captive orcas killed humans did the backstory of severe stresses in captivity begin to be told to the general public, with the result that revenues at display facilities are dropping fast.

<http://www.orcanetwork.org/captivity/captivity.html>

<http://ac360.blogs.cnn.com/2011/09/19/video-death-at-sea-world/>

www.theorcaproject.wordpress.com/

www.savelolita.com

Come Home Lolita sing-along

by Vern Olson, Shifty Sailor, Coupeville, WA

<http://www.shiftysailors.net/>

Using DTAGs to study acoustics and behavior of Southern Resident killer whales

by Candice Emmons, NOAA Fisheries NW Fisheries Science Center, Seattle, WA

Several risk factors were identified as part of the ESA listing process for Southern Resident killer whales (SRKWs), and were included in the recovery plan. In particular, a need to accurately measure sound levels received by the whales was first identified at the SRKW research planning workshop in 2004. Specifically, it was noted that a recently developed instrument called the DTAG could provide this type of data and that there is no other approach to accurately characterize received sound levels. The DTAG was developed by Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution specifically to monitor the behavior of marine mammals, and their response to sound, continuously throughout the dive cycle. In the last two summers scientists from NOAA's Northwest Fisheries Science Center, Cascadia Research Collective and UC Davis have deployed these DTAGs on SRKW, and the preliminary results of these deployments will be presented.

http://www.nwfsc.noaa.gov/research/divisions/cbd/marine_mammal/marinemammal.cfm

<http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Marine-Mammals/Whales-Dolphins-Porpoise/Killer-Whales/>

Endangered feces: How southern resident killer whale scat samples give scientists critical health and population data on this endangered population

by Jessica Lundin, Center for Conservation Biology, Univ. of Washington, Seattle, WA

Southern resident killer whales, and other cetacean populations, are highly vulnerable to anthropogenic impacts. As with other marine mammal populations, they spend the majority of their time under water making them difficult to study. Fecal sampling is a powerful non-invasive method for gathering critical population data. From a single fecal sample, researchers can analyze host and prey DNA, hormones, pathogens, and toxicants. Specially trained scat detection dogs (Conservation Canines) are helping researchers find fecal samples, while minimizing disturbance to the whales. To date, the analysis of fecal samples has helped to distinguish between inadequate prey and vessel impacts; current work is characterizing the contamination level in this population and assessing associated disruption of the endocrine system.

<http://conservationbiology.net/research-programs/killer-whales-2/>

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/ConservationCanines>

<http://www.gpb.org/news/2012/01/07/dog-trained-as-ultimate-whale-pooper-snooper>

Ships, Spills, and Cetaceans: Why You Should Care About Coal Export from Washington's Coast

by Matt Krogh and Lindsay Taylor, North Sound Baykeeper Team, Bellingham, WA

Learn about the proposal to build North America's largest coal export facility, the Gateway Pacific Terminal, in the North Puget Sound. If built, this terminal would mean more than 1,000 transits of gigantic Cape and Panamax bulk carrier ships through our Straits and the Salish Sea every year. These waters are home to a wide variety of unique and endangered marine wildlife species, including orcas, salmon, and the Cherry Point herring that spawn in the Cherry Point Aquatic Reserve - all of which will be put at risk.

www.re-sources.org

www.powerpastcoal.org

Fin Whale Seismology

by William Wilcock, School of Oceanography, University of Washington, Seattle, WA

This talk will describe ongoing efforts to deploy long-term seafloor seismic networks off the coast of the Pacific Northwest and the realization that these networks provide an excellent tool to study the larger baleen whales.

<http://scitechdaily.com/seismologists-record-whale-songs-while-listening-for-underwater-earthquakes/>

<http://www.wired.com/wiredscience/2011/12/fin-whales-seismic-network/>

www.ocean.washington.edu

<http://www.ocean.washington.edu/director>