

Whales Alive!

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Trojan Horses, Offshore Banking, Jersey Cows and Missing Visas: The 63rd Annual Meeting of the International Whaling Commission

By Jessica Dickens and Heather Rockwell, CSI Board Representatives to the IWC

The lovely island of Jersey, a British Isle off the coast of Normandy, France, was the setting for the recently concluded 63rd Annual Meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC). Ancient castles, green fields of potatoes, squawking seagulls, rambling Jersey cows (originators of the delicious local ice cream and butter) and speeding cars along narrow roads are some of the sights and sounds that awaited us on Jersey. One of Jersey's current claims to fame is its status as a tax-free, international money laundering center, which perhaps explains the presence of Russian Mafioso in downtown St. Helier and some nefarious IWC members walking around looking to pay their dues with suitcases full of money. The setting was ripe for intrigue, sabotage and compromises – whether these would be good for whales or bad for whales remained to be seen.

The first order of business facing the Commission before Plenary even began was the question of leadership. Upon arrival in Jersey, it appeared that no one wanted to take over the reins of the IWC, after former Chair Anthony Liverpool resigned amidst allegations of bribery and corruption. Names had been tossed around a few months prior to Jersey and included countries like Switzerland, South Korea and Belgium as potential next Chairs. In the end, Hermann Ooushuizen of

South Africa stepped forward as interim Chair of the IWC for this meeting.

Another issue looming before the Plenary was a situation with many delegations not being able to make it to the



NGOs from around the world show their unity in not wanting to be held hostage by the antics of the pro-whaling member nations of the International Whaling Commission.

Photo: J. Dickens

Isle of Jersey because of issues with Visas. Some delegates made it known that this would be an issue when it became time to vote by consensus on several resolutions that would be presented during the IWC. Many of these nations were from African, Caribbean and Russian delegations. Thus the Chair and the secretariat were asked to put a hold on critical issues until all member nations that wanted to attend were present and it would be unfair to continue without them. But it was pointed out that some of these nations did not have their dues paid up so they would not be able to vote anyway. The secretariat put out a white

paper explaining the issue but as it will be revealed the issue as with many other issues were not discussed.

The vilified U.S. delegation, led by the much maligned Monica Medina, stepped on many toes while on their way to and during their stay in Jersey. First, they sent out their Future of the IWC resolution several months ago after consulting with only two countries at the Like-Minded meeting in Brussels – New Zealand and Chile. While the revised resolution asked nations to “continue to build trust by encouraging

Contracting Governments to coordinate proposals or initiative as widely as possible prior to their submission to the Commission,” they clearly didn’t follow their own advice with this resolution resulting in many nations and NGOs angry at the U.S.’s veiled attempt to keep the failed Chair’s Deal from last year alive and kicking. Although the U.S. denied that this was the resolution’s intent, many international NGOs took to calling this proposal the U.S.’s Trojan Horse – whereby they would lure Like-Minded nations in and then pull the classic bait and switch for a deal with Japan.

After repeated warnings from the U.S. NGOs to withdraw the Trojan Horse, the U.S. kept revising the resolution and shopping



A view from above on the opening day of Plenary at IWC/63/Jersey. Photo: H. Rockwell

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CSI is an all-volunteer, non-profit, tax-exempt conservation, education, and research organization with contacts in over 25 countries. Our goal is the “optimum utilization of the whale resources,” as called for in the 1946 Treaty of the International Whaling Commission, through the protection of viable habitat and the cessation of all killing and captive display of whales, dolphins, and porpoises. We support and promote benign activities such as regulated whale watching, nonlethal and humane research, and widespread educational, environmental and observation programs relating to free-roaming cetaceans internationally. Our ultimate objective is the global acceptance of peaceful coexistence and mutual enrichment for both humans and cetaceans.

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it around to see if consensus could be reached. We even heard that Monica said that “all we need is friendship” during one of their many bi-lateral meetings with other governments. In the end with no consensus in sight, the U.S. pulled the resolution and read the contents of it into the Chair’s Report. The main points being that the Commission agreed to: encourage dialogue amongst members on the future of the IWC; coordinate proposals or initiatives as widely as possible prior to submission to the IWC; and continue cooperation in taking forward the work of the IWC regardless of differing views.

This “let’s all continue to get along” move by the U.S. is setting the stage for next year’s bowhead whale quota that the U.S. must secure for the Alaskan Eskimos. Everyone is trying to play nice, so that the quota will pass without being sabotaged by Japan and its allies. Throughout our U.S. NGO/Delegation meetings during Plenary, we heard from many representatives from the Alaskan Eskimo Whaling Commission (AEWC), along with a few Makah. During Plenary, a PowerPoint presentation was given by a member of the AEWC, and Mike Tillman, a member of the U.S. delegation, gave a presentation to interested commissioners and delegates during lunch as well – a clear message from the U.S. that they hope everyone realizes how important the bowhead quota is to the AEWC.

Keeping the peace and being polite at IWC meetings has been the order of the day for several years now while the Chair’s Deal was being shopped around and ensuring that the U.S. receives its ASW quota next year. Yet, despite how well behaved and bending-over-backwards the Like-Minded countries may be, the same can never be said for Iceland, Norway, Japan and their many puppets from the Caribbean and Africa – and it was no different in Jersey.



Heather Rockwell – CSI Board Member, Nancy Azzam – longtime CSI supporter, and Jessica Dickens – CSI Board Member. Photo: H. Rockwell

But wait, we are getting ahead of ourselves here.

From the beginning, the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society was ever present at the IWC meeting in Jersey. Paul Watson showed up on Sunday at the international NGO meeting with a posse of 30. They almost outnumbered us veteran NGOs! While they couldn’t make it up the hill and into the Hotel de France – our venue for the IWC, Sea Shepherd set up shop down on the road in front of the hotel for the meeting’s duration. Their “honk for the



Interim IWC Chair Hermann Ooshuizen chats with Japan's Joji Morishita, IWC Secretariat Simon Brockington and Senator Alan Maclean of Jersey prior to the beginning of Plenary. Photo: H. Rockwell

whales" campaign was quite popular with the locals. And of course, what IWC meeting would be complete without an amusing PowerPoint presentation from Japan on Safety at Sea issues. Of course, since Sea Shepherd isn't an accredited IWC NGO allowed in to the meetings and since safety at sea issues are not the concern of the Commission, but rather the concern of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), it is absolutely ridiculous that Japan is continually allowed to raise this issue and waste time during Plenary when we could be discussing more important matters affecting whales.

The best news out of Jersey was that the Commission was able to pass by consensus a watered-down version of the U.K.'s Resolution on Improving Effectiveness of Operations within the IWC. Now, we had to listen to hours of bombastic rhetoric by the whalers, most notably the Caribbean nations of St. Kitts & Nevis and Antigua & Barbuda, arguing why we were discussing something as important as transparency while nations were being held at the U.K. border without the proper credentials. Still, the U.K. stood firm despite the stalling tactics and antics of the whalers, to push the IWC to be more transparent and less corrupt. Sadly, the portion of the resolution regarding NGO participation was gutted, but at least Japan's puppets can't show up on the opening day of Plenary with a suitcase full of yen anymore.

The worst news out of Jersey was the total dissolution of the meeting on the last day of Plenary. Japan, Iceland, Norway and other pro-whaling nations walked out of the meeting room at 11:30 am, after Brazil and Argentina requested a vote be taken for the South Atlantic Whale Sanctuary once it was determined there was no consensus. Before the whalers walked out, we did get to hear from Roxana Scheinbarg, an NGO from Argentina, who spoke to the importance of whale sanctuaries and the nonlethal use of whale resources. But what ensued next was nine excruciating hours of waiting around, while the commissioners met behind closed doors to discuss Rules of Procedure and the possibilities of what a quorum could be: is it all members, even those not present and not paid up; is it members present on the first day of Plenary; or is it members present when the vote is called for? This left the NGOs to do such crazy things as talk to each other, eat lunch, swim in the

hotel pool, pack our bags, and gossip. If we had known that this was going to take nine hours, we could have hopped on a boat and visited St. Malo, France for the day. In fact, some NGOs are thinking of writing to the IWC Secretariat and requesting a refund given that we were shut out of the meeting for almost two full days.

When the Commission finally reconvened at 8:30 pm, we were told that the Chair's report would reflect the importance of a South Atlantic Whale Sanctuary to member nations; that the IWC resolves to discuss this issue as the first substantive agenda item at IWC/64/Panama; and agrees that if no consensus is reached on the Sanctuary at IWC/64, a decision will be taken with respect to the Commission's Rules of Procedure. In addition, the Commission will work intersessionally to determine what a quorum is. Yes, we know this all sounds surreal and ridiculous, but it happened and we were there. At this point, the Chair made a few closing remarks, Panama welcomed everyone to next year's meeting by showing a video on Panama, and IWC/63 was finished.



The fresh-faced delegation from Colombia was a welcome addition to the IWC and a strong voice for the conservation of whales. Photo: H. Rockwell

Which leaves one to ponder - why continue attending these annual meetings if substantial and important issues like Environmental & Human Health and the Conservation Committee aren't being given their proper due and credible, non-lethal cetacean research isn't progressing, if nations are only concerned about maintaining "an artificially friendly environment" (thank you Elsa Cabrera of Chile for this wonderful quote that really sums up the IWC at this point). We are being held hostage by several whaling nations trying to block any substantial progress at the IWC.

Most encouraging of all was the strategic move by the Buenos Aires Group (BAG) of Latin American countries to call for a vote for the Sanctuary, which exposed the hypocrisy of the whaling nations, who strive for consensus on their proposals, but not on whale conservation issues. CSI commends the BAG for their continuing strong stances on the nonlethal utilization of whale resources. Even more importantly, CSI is very proud of the work done by the BAG NGOs - several of whom were funded by CSI to attend the meeting in Jersey - and who have proven once again they are fearless, will not be pushed around by the whalers, and that they are willing to stand their ground for the sake of saving whales!!!

Finally, the memory of Robbins Barstow could be felt every-



Heather and Jessica meet the famous Jersey cows in the center of St. Helier. Photo: H. Rockwell

where in Jersey. From remarks made by the U.S. delegation during the Conservation Committee proceedings (see following sidebar) to Robbins' smiling face being flashed on-screen during the almost-didn't-happen NGO reception, Robbins' legacy for the nonlethal utilization of whale resources continues to resound at the IWC.

BREAKING NEWS

Immediate update since the closing of the IWC, in a formal declaration by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke. The U.S. has declared Iceland in defiance of the global commercial whaling ban. The U.S. delegation told the NGOs that there may be some activity on this and we should be on the lookout, but nothing more was mentioned during the meeting in Jersey. But as a result of the declaration, President Obama has 60 days to decide whether or not to impose economic measures, including trade sanctions, against Iceland under conservation legislation known as the "Pelly Amendment." Conservation and animal welfare groups commend Locke's declaration and urge the President to pursue

CSI is extremely grateful to the U.S. delegation for presenting the following statement honoring Robbins Barstow to the IWC's Conservation Committee days before the Plenary session.

Dr. Robbins Barstow

- Mr. Chairman, the U.S. delegation asked for this opportunity to bring to the attention of the Conservation Committee the recent passing of Dr. Robbins Barstow, one of the most significant voices for whale conservation during the 1980s and 1990s.

- As a long-serving member of the US Delegation during those decades, Robbins shall forever be remembered for coming up with the idea that whales were more valuable alive as subjects of whale-watching and other non-lethal uses than dead as commercial products.

- Foreseeing the future, economic potential of these then newly emerging non-lethal uses, he coined the phrase "Whales Alive" to express a complex concept in a simple, straightforward manner.

- To develop and promote his idea, he championed the proposal that the IWC should help co-sponsor a Whales Alive Conference.

- Held in 1983, the Conference's findings and recommendations ultimately established the intellectual and scientific basis for considering that whales are more valuable alive than dead, an idea that has held currency ever since.

- Consequently, for this and his many other singular contributions to whale conservation, through you, Mr. Chairman, I call upon the Committee to observe a moment of silence in memory of our departed friend and colleague.

sanctions. Hopefully, this move by the U.S. government will be followed up by sanctions and cause a shutdown of Iceland's illegal whaling. What a victory this would be for global whale conservation.

Blue Vision Summit 3

By Daniel Knaub, CSI Board, Director of Whale & Marine Life Video Archives

Every other year, hundreds of ocean advocates converge on Washington DC to meet, talk, learn and promote strategies for preserving our oceans. From May 20-23, I was honored to represent CSI at what is becoming the most inclusive of all marine-related conferences.

From the conference jacket: "We who have gathered here do so with the understanding that we get so much from the ocean in terms of recreation, transportation, trade, energy, protein, medicine, security, and a sense of awe and wonder at the marvels of our blue marble planet that we are obliged to give something back, a singular commitment to keep our ocean and the communities that depend on it healthy and abundant for generations yet to come".

This is a conference where policymakers meet scientists, media, fundraisers and foundations. Plenary and workshops dis-

cussed the Gulf after BP, Healthy Oceans and the Economy, Establishing Protected Areas, Ocean Acidification, Seas of Plastic, even Oceans of Faith!

CSI's mission and commitment to protecting cetaceans around the world was shared with every participant, speaker and the media in attendance through a special CD created for this purpose. It included our mission statement, board member contact information, brochures and special publications. It also highlighted special projects being developed by various board members and officers.

This conference was a source of great joy and a moment of controlled terror. It was amazing to spend about ten minutes alone with Sylvia Earle, a National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence and the driving force behind Google Ocean. She expressed inter-

est in my work and asked for a copy of my DVD, Salt & Friends.

But it was during the Plenary on National Ocean Policy that I felt obliged to ask a question before Senator Whitehouse (D-RI), Dr. Larry Robertson of NOAA and 350 attendees. I asked what the Obama administration's policy is towards whaling at this time. Dr. Robertson gave a very weak answer about a recent meeting and not retreating from their position. This "non-response" reinforces my observation that CSI's work to protect cetaceans has never been more important or critical to the survival of all species of whales, dolphins and porpoises.

Thanks to technology and YouTube, you can hear my question and the response. Go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pAv-MX2wG7U> or sign into YouTube and search "Plenary National Ocean Policy Part Two", grab the little timeline circle at the bottom of the video and drag it to 29:05 (min/sec).

For those members of CSI and the general public who wish to view YouTube clips of any of the Plenary or Workshop sessions, just click on the seaweedrebel link on the clip above.



Sylvia Earle and Dan Knaub

Report from the Faroe Islands

CSI and Switzerland's Ocean Care in June helped Leah Lemieux and Hans Peter Roth, two extremely talented and versatile young people, survey the Faroe Islands for local perspectives on the ongoing slaughters of pilot whales and other small cetaceans. Their exceptional non-confrontational methods give us the unguarded Faroese perspective, necessary for us to understand why the slaughters continue, and essential to our goal of facilitating positive changes. This report has been abridged and edited primarily to protect Faroese sources but some grisly descriptions remain as stated by Faroese whalers. - William Rossiter

Faroe Islands June 2011, by Leah Lemieux

During our week long stay in the Faroe Islands, Swiss journalist Hans Peter Roth and I were able to speak with a number of key figures involved in different aspects of the pilot whale hunt as well as a few individuals residing in the Faroes who are actually opposed to the hunt. We found the Faroese open and hospitable and no one we approached refused to meet and speak with us. Much was learned in terms of the changing climate in the Faroes toward the killing of cetaceans and how outsiders might best assist in seeing an end to the slaughter.

The associated health risks are well known and Faroese consumption of pilot whale meat continues to diminish. Based on Dr. Pal Weihe's health recommendations and the percentage of the Faroese population who should or do actually eat the whale meat, it has been calculated that it would only take the meat from about **35 adult pilot whales to fulfill current consumption limits.** This of course begs the question — **what is happening to the rest of the meat from the many hundreds of whales being slaughtered each year?????**

Lack of demand may lie behind the documentation of pilot whale carcasses simply being dumped in bays or along back roads, rather than distributed among the killers or purchased in stores, which exposes the hunt as an increasingly shameful blood-sport being perpetuated by a decreasing Faroese minority to the detriment of the entire nation.

People, who may have eaten whale meat regularly when they were young, may now only eat pilot whale meat once or twice a



Pilot whale meat for sale in Torshavn grocery store.

Photo: Leah Lemieux and Hans Peter Roth

year at special occasions and are certainly aware of the public health risks. Some Faroese living far from whaling bays, or in the cities, would not care if the hunts stopped tomorrow. However, it has been stated that, if activists show up trying to force them not to kill whales, the inclination would be to resist this foreign pressure and persist in killing whales just to prove they still can. While an aggressive approach may ignite dangerous backlash among the

Faroese, the fact is that these people are increasingly sensitive to the ramifications of their international reputation as bloody whale killers...

This vile little volume, furnished with grisly color photos, apparently aims to “normalize” the concept of whale killing to visitors as a response to the problem of whale hunting in relation to tourism. It was found in the bookshop adjoining the Torshavn tourist information office, leering out from among other unassuming guidebooks in the series on the islands’ flora and fauna.

Permission to drive pilot whales into any one of the 23 ordained killing coves in the islands is obtained from local sheriffs who oversee the dif-

ferent areas in question. Hunters had found they could drive the whales easily just by turning on their boats’ fish-finder sonar. Based on the number of whales, the size and shape of the nearest coves and the weather and tides, the “right” place must be chosen to accommodate the number of whales, men, and boats involved.

Adult Faroese men often come to have different roles in the hunt: boat drivers, gaffers/draggers, rope pullers and those who actually commit the act of killing the whales. These roles require different levels of experience and skill. Locals who “just want to get their hands wet” a bit and be entitled to a share of meat, will be pullers, who tow the slain whales out of the shallow water and up onto the beach. Those who want to have a try at a more dangerous and difficult aspect like actually killing the whales, are often but not always related to the killers and when they are of age, are given the opportunity to “practice” though lack of skill and familiarity, not to mention the thrashing of the powerful and agonized pilot whales, can make for particularly cruel and drawn out deaths.

There is a distinct internal schism in the Faroese whale-hunting community between the “old timers” who seem to try continuing to drive, gaff and kill whales the old way — resulting in prolonged and unnecessary suffering of the whales — and those who have been working to improve the killing methods and reduce the whales’ suffering. Some whalers believe that a recent kill of over 100 pilot whales in Klaksvik was managed extremely poorly, to the point of being shameful. It went wrong for a number of reasons: Too many whales in too small a cove; a rockier rather than sandy shoreline, making it difficult for the men to stand and kill the whales and where the fleeing whales would beach right up onto the rocks, further injuring and stressing them before death.

In the words of one whaler: “It is a bloodbath....it really is a bloodbath...” The young pilot whales scream when they are cut and this sound haunts and disturbs him. He said the older whales

are silent when killed, but not the younger ones.

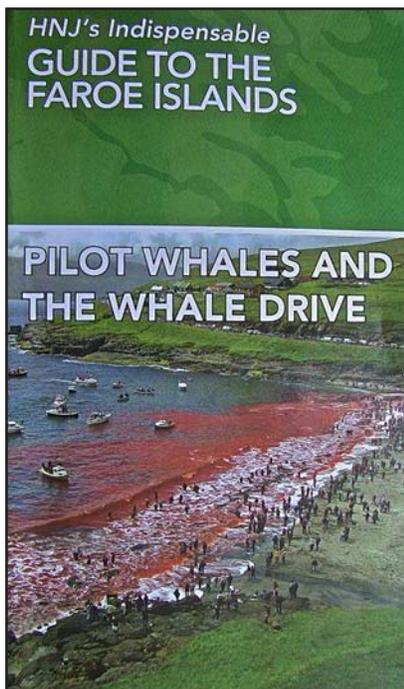
To help us understand the apparent discrepancy between the seemingly friendly, mild mannered Faroese and this frenzied and bloodthirsty adherence to killing pilot whales, the man we asked explained the tremendous surge of excitement that fills the people when the whales are first spotted, from land or boat, an excitement that builds as hurried preparations for the killing are made and word spreads. He said it’s this adrenalin that surges through the men, transforming otherwise quiet and kindly suburban and rural men and propelling them into a killing rage. As they hurl themselves at the hapless pilot whales, they do not feel the cold of the water or the wounds they often inflict on themselves or each other. Most whale killers have many scars from the fray — not of course from the whales, but from carelessly wielding the various hooks and knives. He described an episode where right in front of him a man’s finger was cut off in the fray by the back stroke of someone else’s razor sharp weapon, and in the killing frenzy and bloody water, the man did not notice until he pointed out this injury. He also told us that it’s this killing rage that would make it so dangerous for activists to directly intervene in a kill.

Faroese websites for updates on hunts and associated issues:

<http://www.heimabeiti.fo/default.asp?menu=45>

<http://aktuelt.fo/>

<http://portal.fo/>



Conclusion

Despite the wishes of the remaining die-hard whale killers, there has been a general trend in the populace away from participation in the hunting and eating of pilot whales. This is due in no small part to the health warning advisories issued by Dr. Pal Weihe. Also, as the affluent Faroese become an increasingly modern, traveled and more Europeanized society, the grisly and antiquated business of whale slaughter leaves an increasing gap between the younger generations and older ones. Finally, aside from a perhaps increasingly indifferent majority who it seems would not much miss the pilot whale hunt if it were gone tomorrow, there are those who are keenly aware that the Faroese push for independence away from reliance on Denmark for public funds, and understand the islands would depend instead on a corresponding increase in tourism. At least some policy makers are aware that the Faroese’ international reputation has been soiled through its continuation of the pilot whale slaughter, which in this light becomes a distinct liability against the increase of national income from tourism. At the present rate, the pilot whale hunt does seem fated to end, though whether this might be in five, ten or fifteen years is difficult to say. However, there may be specific ways in which this desired outcome might be encouraged and supported.

Recommendations

* Education: To make more information on cetacean intelligence, self-awareness available and accessible to the Faroese public, which will help these people to understand the reasons so many are opposed to the killing of dolphins and whales.

* This education includes establishing common ground — the Faroese value family, community, safety and culture. Connect-

ing the dots — whales and dolphins share these same values with us and are entitled to enjoy them without persecution.

* Igniting wonder, understanding and appreciation of cetaceans. Disseminating stories and images of dolphins rescuing people and of benign interspecies interaction may represent a powerful tool in helping the Faroese better understand the nature of cetaceans and why such powerful opposition to the pilot whale killing exists.

* Envisioning a better future, one that includes whale watching rather than killing, to contribute to a healthier populace and economy.

* The above can include circulating videos and documentaries via Internet / YouTube and DVDs about cetaceans to inspire wonder and connection rather than condemnation.

See example:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=flkFiXHQDEo>

It would be great to get some of these films aired on Faroese TV (we know they do watch the National Geographic channel).

* Perhaps offering specific educational materials to the Museum of Natural History in Torshavn, which are severely lacking. At present, visitors to this museum are unable to come away with any decent appreciation of cetaceans.

* Public events: For example, a screening of *The Cove* to educate and encourage public discussion and allow a forum for like-minded Faroese people to meet and create a support network against the killing of cetaceans. Most effective if sponsored by Faroese people, perhaps to benefit benign local causes.

* Directed Protest: Carefully directed international public outcry against pilot whale slaughter targeting especially The Faroe Islands Board of Tourism Bryggjubakki 12 P.O box 118 FO 110 Tórshavn Tel +298 306100 /Fax +298 306105 visitfaroeislands@mfa.fo [Prime Minister Kaj Leo Johannesen P.O. box 64 FO-110 Torshavn Teli-+ 298-306-000 email: info@tinganes.fo]

This can serve as a strong reminder that this bloody and outdated tradition continues to affect their reputation in the eyes of the international community and negatively impact tourism revenues.

* Send friendly “missionaries” to help circulate the above materials, talk in a non-confrontational way with locals to educate them and support those in Faroese society who would like to see the pilot whale hunt end.

Figures provided by the Faroes’ own whaling website (www.whaling.fo) say that around 500 tons of meat and blubber can be obtained from 1,000 pilot whales (on average, more than this are killed each year). If shared equally amongst the entire population of 50,000 Faroese, this would work out at 10 kg per head per year – much more if one takes into account the numbers of girls, women and children who no longer eat it and the increasing number of younger people who are against the grindadráps (the pilot whale kill).

“**The Mermaid and the Dolphins**” is another example of the non-confrontational ways CSI is trying to affect the slaughter of dolphins in the Faroe Islands, as part of an international campaign to stop the slaughter of dolphins and whales worldwide. CSI recently supported the Danish voice-over of the animated video so as to better reach Faroese children. We are grateful to Birgith Sloth for her translation services and dedication to bring the Danish version to life.

Written and directed by Ran Levy-Yamamori, the story is told through the eyes of a fisherman’s daughter in a place where they kill dolphins every year. It is a compassionate and moving account of the transformation that can occur when one is awakened to the beauty and importance of the life around us, and the resounding impact our individual choices can make.

In association with several NGOs, CSI welcomes this positive and touching approach towards finding sensitive and collaborative ways to move forward on the difficult issue of the dolphin drive hunts. Available as a book, the animated video is now available for free download in English (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=00jLyIFAeWI>), Japanese (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kWnA4njlfBM>), and Danish (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4xvdUFWGJuM>).

CSI Presents at the National Marine Educators Association Conference

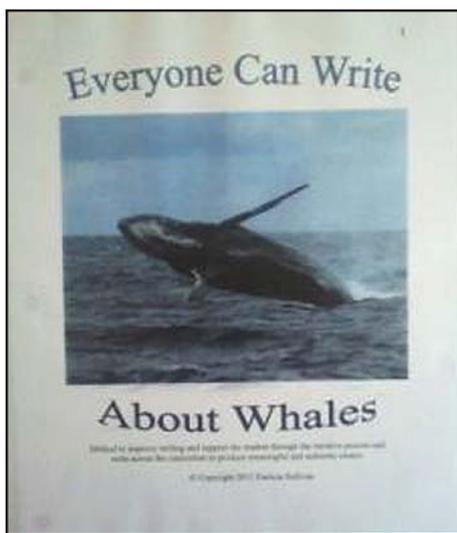
June 27-July 3, 2011: CSI Directors George Upton, Barbara Kilpatrick and Patricia Sullivan tabled at the National Marine Educators Association annual conference held at Boston’s Northeastern University. Sullivan was honored to present *Everyone Can Write About Whales* writing curriculum which she created and presented to students in grades three through eight in Connecticut, Hawaii and Abu Dhabi, UAE. The inclusive, cross-curricular, comprehensive method to teach writing has proven to increase test scores on high-stakes tests, is aligned to educational standards, and is a collaborative showcase of the work of CSI’s own Dan Knaub’s whale videos *Awesome Whales for Kids* and *Salt and Friends*, Paul Knapp’s humpback whale recordings *One and Mostly One* and *Listening to Humpback Whales* and Taffy Williams’ *No Balloons* campaign. Two species have been included in

the newest edition of the curriculum, the vaquita - the world’s most endangered marine mammal - and the False Killer whale or *Pseudorca*. Hawaii’s insular population of *Pseudorca* has declined from about 500 to 150 individuals.

Synchronicity acknowledged, Saturday’s keynote speaker was Daniel Barstow, son of CSI’s beloved co-founder and Director Emeritus, Dr. Robbins Barstow. The President of the Alexandria, VA Challenger Center for Space Science Education, Barstow dedicated his captivating talk about the contrast of space and marine science entitled *Simulating an Ocean Mission – How Real Can it Get?* to his father, who passed away October 2010. 136+ topics were presented at this year’s conference entitled *Cape to Cape: In the Hub of Marine Education*, and covered the spectrum of marine education, issues and species such as corals, pelicans, eels,



Dan Barstow presenting a view of the Earth from space.
Photo by P. Sullivan.



turtles, whales, fish, plankton, tsunamis, squid, sturgeon and oiled animals. Presenters and attendees were just as diverse, coming from Chile to Hawaii and Newfoundland to Australia.

The NMEA forum was well-timed and apropos. IWC 63 opened July 5-12 on the heels of the NMEA conference with a moment of silence as a tribute to Robbins Barstow. (See the report in this issue

for the gloomy news about the IWC's continuing dysfunction and ineffectual whale protection.) And, as this goes to press, the Center for Biological Diversity and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's recently finalized historic agreement to speed protections for 757 species was hobbled by House Republicans who placed a rider in the appropriations bill for funding that would prohibit the government from spending any money to list new species as endangered or designate their habitat critical. Named the "extinction rider," the bill would shackle the Endangered Species Act and disable potential protections for hundreds of species diving toward extinction.

To contact your U.S. congressional representative and urge him or her to oppose the extinction rider, visit http://action.biologicaldiversity.org/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=7368 to take action.

Samples of *Everyone Can Write About Whales* can be requested by visiting our website <http://www.csiwhalesalive.org/>.

For the first time in many years, CSI has gotten exposure in a public way in back to back to back events. Coming off a year that was a bit more active than usual, we are at it again. You may recall in the last twelve months, CSI partnered with the Connecticut Children's Museum with a celebration of CONNY, the life size Sperm whale on the museum campus. A month later in the summer of 2010, CSI cosponsored a music event with the Roaring Brook Nature Center, an evening with Don Sineti and songs of the Sea. In January 2011, CSI played a prominent role in the People's Music Network Winter Gathering in Hartford, CT. Much exposure and many friends made. As part of the Tee shirt sales promotion, CSI gained many new memberships; new faces for CSI to reach out to and to keep involved with the issues facing all whales, worldwide, big and small.

CSI Gets Active on the Streets

By David Kaplan, CSI Board

For the first time in many years, CSI has gotten exposure in a public way in back to back to back events. Coming off a year that was a bit more active than usual, we are at it again. You may recall in the last twelve months, CSI partnered with the Connecticut Children's Museum with a celebration of CONNY, the life size Sperm whale on the museum campus. A month later in the summer of 2010, CSI cosponsored a music event with the Roaring Brook Nature Center, an evening with Don Sineti and songs of the Sea. In January 2011, CSI played a prominent role in the People's Music Network Winter Gathering in Hartford, CT. Much exposure and many friends made. As part of the Tee shirt sales promotion, CSI gained many new memberships; new faces for CSI to reach out to and to keep involved with the issues facing all whales, worldwide, big and small.

In this summer of 2011, CSI is at it again. On June 30th, CSI was invited by Rachel DeCavage to participate in a rather unique event. Rachel is a CSI member active in MAST (the Marine Animal Survival Team, a subgroup of CSI that has recently been serving as a committee to coordinate local CSI events). Evergreen Design Co., a sustainable design initiative founded by Rachel, hosted an eco-friendly fashion show held at the Trash Museum in Hartford. Dubbed a 'Trashion Show', over three hundred guests were entertained with music, comedy and 100+ looks of earth friendly fashion. CSI had a table in the main lobby, a chance to make new friends and talk about the issues of the environment, of recycling and of whales. Fifty VIP guests at the event received canvas tote bags, each with the CSI logo displayed on one side.

That weekend, July 1-3, was the National Marine Educators

Association annual conference in Boston, MA. Patricia Sullivan, CSI Board Member and Education Director, was a conference participant. Patti conducted a workshop for teachers on writing and whales (*Everyone Can Write About Whales*). CSI had a table of sights, sounds and educational items, all related to cetaceans. The whale cookie cutters were a particularly popular item.

As a direct result of the CSI participation at the Trashion Show, CSI was invited to participate at An Eco Celebration in Groton, CT on July 22nd. We had only a few days notice. No problem in that CSI is getting rather adept at participation in public events. A table was quickly designed to include photos of breaching humpbacks, Tee shirts, a fact sheet on New England ports that harbor whale watching operations, whale cookies and a sign-up sheet for those interested in whales (a way of having CSI connect with interested folks even after the event has passed). To make the table

clearly a place to talk about whales, we had the large wooden cutout of a Sperm whale, created by Don Sineti all those years ago. Once again, CSI made new friends.

The MAST committee will meet again in the next few days to discuss and critique the pros and cons of these three events and to plan for the next series of local events where CSI might participate. One immediate goal of the MAST committee approach to raising the local presence of the CSI “brand” is that new faces and new energy have come forward with new ideas. Where in the recent past, the Board was the only vehicle to plan, meet and create local activities, now a CSI committee can do the “leg work” and report to the Board. This frees the Board to concentrate on other CSI business and not miss a beat in the new reentry into public hands-on activities. A win win no matter how we look at it.

“Cape Cod’s Winter Bonanza”

By Dr. Stormy Mayo, Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies

“Cape Cod’s Winter Bonanza” is one of the most lyrical and evocative scientific articles we’ve read, presented here to give you a taste of what North Atlantic right whale research is really like in the teeth of winter, and maybe a respite from your summer’s heat and humidity. Dr. Stormy Mayo, Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies, is a world authority on the species and a gifted writer, so we’ve lifted his article straight from May’s “Right Whale News” (19:2) to offer it as a superb example of how raw science can be presented with feeling.

I’m always amazed each January and February that these are the months when right whales choose to enter Cape Cod Bay, on the threshold of the bitter New England winter. Nevertheless these hot animals faithfully come each year to a cold sea when the sun hangs low all day, the waves are shards edged in indigo and emerald, and the heavy winter wind bites deeply at the surface. For those of us studying right whales, January is the cruelest month (T.S. Eliot notwithstanding), when our time at sea is strictly controlled by the passage of continental fronts, snow squalls rise wraith-like over hills in the grey interior, the decks are slick with frost and ice, and the treachery of the ocean declares itself in every swell and gust. The right whales, forever vagabonds, have for millennia come to Cape Cod during the winter and spring, arriving at the unwelcoming season, compelled by natural cycles that we, insular and sheltered, can barely sense — the flowering of fields of phytoplankton and the awakening of oil-rich copepods.

The early winter of 2011 started in the customary way, cold and cruel and offering little encouragement. As usual we were prepared to go to sea hoping to find just the first few wanderers of what months later would become a seasonal procession of whales. But when, in January, the whales arrived, the circumstances were not usual and our sightings were not of solitary whales but of numbers — 10 on one aerial survey, 17 on another. Cape Cod Bay, a federally designated critical habitat for right whales is seasonally host to 150 to 200 individuals and hence critically important to the future of the species, but we’ve not seen days or weeks of residency of numbers of whales in the early winter since we first found the them deep in the bay in 1984; yet 2011 started with

many our team matching whales to the New England Aquarium catalog kept rising as did the sightings recorded during each cruise and flight. Working their old haunts in the eastern bay, the right whales entered the near-shore shallows feeding on surface layers of zooplankton so dense that the orange patches could be seen from the beach. Nearly all whales observed over the many months of the extended 2011 season were feeding, mouths gaped at the surface. It was a bonanza for the whales, with a food resource unusual in all respects, in its density and persistence, and in its depth and breadth. Though the results of the study are preliminary, photo matching suggests that more than 300 individuals of the estimated remaining population of around 475 whales were recorded by the PCCS vessel and aircraft survey teams in the near vicinity of Cape Cod. Furthermore, given an intermittent field effort and the difficulty of executing full surveys in fickle winter conditions, it seems likely that the total number of whales in Cape Cod waters in 2011 was substantially higher than documented. Compared to the 27 years of our research and though truncated by periods of wild weather, the 2011 season in Cape Cod waters revealed to us the largest number of right whales recorded in historic times, the longest residency (January to mid May), the greatest biomass of zooplankton extending over the largest part of the bay, and the greatest number of individuals recorded during one air survey of the embayment (127).

The messages gleaned from the data and observations from the 2011 season are not yet clear and the very pressing questions that always surround the mystery of the right whales persist.

The Amazon River Dolphin

To help explain why Latin American river dolphins need help, and why CSI supports science, conservation and education projects related to the river dolphins of Amazonia, we asked Fernanda Carneiro Romagnoli to report on the work she is doing.

ENVIRONMENTAL INTERPRETATION AND INVOLVEMENT OF LOCAL RESIDENTS: ECOTOURISM AS A TOOL TO AMAZON RIVER DOLPHIN CONSERVATION, *Inia geoffrensis*

Fernanda Carneiro Romagnoli¹, Vera Maria Ferreira da Silva², Glenn Shepard Jr³, Sherre Prince Nelson⁴

1. Ministry of Education- Brazil

2. National Institute of Amazonian Research (INPA)- Brazil

3. Museum Paraense Emílio Goeldi- Belém, Brazil

4. University Center North- Manaus, Brazil

Whalewatching and other tourism activities that involve observation and interaction with whales and dolphins represent a branch of ecotourism that is growing quickly around the world. This kind of tourism is often touted as having a great potential to contribute toward conservation. However, if not carried out cautiously, it can be potentially harming. An intense and unregulated tourism that disturbs the animals while they are feeding, caring for young or having some kind of social behavior can disrupt these activities and possibly lead to long-term problems of these populations. The big problem is that in many countries where this type of tourism occurs, there is still no specific legislation regulating the activity and limiting their impacts. Therefore, among the proposed measures for cetaceans' conservation is the identification and monitoring of tourism impacts, regulation and supervision of tourism activities focused on their observation, environmental education for tourists and involvement of host communities. Thus, a possible alternative to whalewatching tourism is to become sustainable, using ecotourism principles.

In the Brazilian Amazon, the river dolphin, *Inia geoffrensis*, or boto, is the main aquatic mammal species involved in interactive tourism. Endemic to the region, the river dolphin is important to local ecology and culture. It awakens great curiosity in people due to its unique behavioral characteristics and assets, such as pinkish color and flexible body. The boto explores diverse habitats, the flooded forest (igapós) and flooded plains (várzeas) and shallow places, tertiary consumer, top of chain, not predated on by any other animal, it is extremely important for maintaining the stability of the Amazonian ecosystem. The boto has a reputation as a villain by disrupting fishing, removing fish from fishing nets and chasing boats, on the other hand, is enhanced by the presence of fish stocks and chase piranhas. In addition to carrying out a relevant ecological function, the boto is part of the culture and traditional knowledge of the Amazon population. Magical and supernatural powers are attributed to him, which earned him the name "enchanted". There are many beliefs about this animal: it is believed that body parts have magical properties (their genitalia and eyes are considered powerful amulets to attract the loved one) and killing it brings bad luck. Traditional taboos against harming river dolphins by local people have been eroded, and today intentional capture of dolphins as bait is one of the most significant direct human threats to the species. In addition, other threats are the accidental capture in fishing gear, contamination of the rivers,

changes in habitat (especially by the damming of rivers for the construction of hydroelectric plants and deforestation of its margins), increasing river traffic, overfishing, killing in retaliation to the damage of fishing nets and boto products (such as eyes, blubber and genitalia). In general, the boto is not consumed, because its meat is too strong and considered "stinky" (it has an unpleasant odor) by the Amazonians, but human consumption has been detected on small scale.

Ecotourism may prove to be a useful tool in river dolphin conservation among some local human populations by promoting an economic value through indirect use. But education is important to ensure that such tourism activities will be guided by an ethical and scientific approach that does not cause harm, while also increasing the tourists' awareness of issues surrounding dolphin conservation. Two key principles in this kind of tourism are *environmental interpretation*, whose objective is to improve tourists' awareness about the broader environmental issues involved in conservation, and *involvement of local residents*, to promote environmental conservation at the local level through direct economic benefits.



Therefore, a research was conducted at the National Institute of Amazonian Research (INPA), Brazil, where the main goal was to verify the importance of these two principles in interactive dolphin tourism with *Inia geoffrensis* in the Brazilian Amazon, in the City of Novo Airão. The core of the study consisted of semi-structured interviews with tourists and tourist guides. Analysis of interview results with tourists suggests that they are open, even eager

to learn about the biology and conservation of the river dolphin, but that their actual ecotourism experience provides them with little accurate scientific or conservation information. However we did note that tourists who were integrated into an excursion presumably with some kind of guide service had more positive experiences than those who came on their own, revealing the importance of guides toward promoting a positive interaction. Interviews with guides further reinforced deficiencies in the accuracy of their scientific knowledge about dolphins. The second set of interviews concerned local residents' perceptions *about the river dolphins*, about *dolphin tourism* and about their *knowledge and concern for dolphin conservation*. Most residents (especially women) perceive dolphins as mysterious and even dangerous animals, a clear relic of traditional beliefs about dolphins as enchanted beings that, though eroding through time, still influence popular perceptions. Curiously, there seemed to be no correlation of people's attitudes toward dolphins and their connection or not with dolphin tourism. Most residents perceive dolphin tourism as a benefit to the town, even though few actually benefit economically from it. This study shows that the dolphin tourism by itself does not generate specific environmental awareness relevant to the species' conservation, however the tourism activity does seem to generate a general positive attitude and receptiveness on the part of both tourists and local people to such information were it to be available. Additionally, proposals were listed to change the tourism involving the Amazon River dolphin, so that this activity becomes closer to the

ecotourism precepts.

We see a tremendous but underexploited potential for environmental education (for local residents as well as tourism guides and tourists) to promote dolphin conservation in this and other sites in the Amazon.

Today, Brazilian governmental agencies for environmental protection (Ministry of Environment, Brazilian Institute of Environment and Renewable and Natural Resources; IBAMA and Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation; ICMBio) are developing a normative instruction to regulate this type of activity.



THE BLIGHT OF BALLOONS: Mesmerizing A Culture

By Taffy Lee Williams, CSI Board, Director of New York Whale and Dolphin Action League

The growing barrage of mass balloon releases infiltrating society has compelled NY4WHALES to step up its NO BALLOONS campaign. Advertising is permeated with images of balloons rising to the sky in endless attempts to market everything from birth control pills to video games and even foreign language software! A casual internet search reveals how shockingly ubiquitous these releases have become. Once just a wedding or birthday novelty, balloons are now being released by the thousands at charity fundraisers, sporting events, health industry venues and perhaps most distressingly, at memorial services. The organizers, however, are silent on the issue of who will pick up the litter of fallen balloons, and how many seabirds, turtles, dolphins and even fish will die after being strangled by the ribbons and strings or eating the latex fragments. The perception conveyed to the public is that balloons simply "go away" and there's no harm done. Sadly, without the reality-check that these releases are destructive and present a huge littering and wildlife survival problem, our culture will continue embracing the released balloon as a cherished symbol of freedom, of perhaps "rising heavenward". Regrettably, the rarely more than 30 seconds of releasers' pleasure - the time it takes a helium-filled balloon to rise out of sight - translates to hours, days and weeks of costly cleanup, and an extended period of even more expensive and heartbreaking wildlife recovery.

The balloon industry has effectively convinced the public that latex balloons are "environmentally friendly" and "100% biode-



Image Credit: Karen Dias/Gulf News
Dubai's breast cancer walkathon is the site of the annual release of thousands of pink balloons. (Dubai turns into sea of pink for breast cancer campaign. <http://gulfnews.com/news/gulf/uae/general/dubai-turns-into-sea-of-pink-for-breast-cancer-campaign-1.706929>)

gradable." Yet despite the "no harm done" mantra, they concede this dissolution occurs at the same rate as an oak leaf, or 6 months. In reality, biodegradability of latex (and oak leaves) can actually

take several years, especially when in water.

The shelf life of a rotting oak leaf is two years or more, said Kelly Thorvalson, South Carolina Aquarium sea turtle hospital manager. "Balloons can do a great deal of harm in that time period." <http://wildshores.blogspot.com/2011/01/do-balloon-releases-kill-marine-life.html>

In fact, Mylar, as well as the ribbons and strings fastened to those cute balloon bouquets are not at all biodegradable. Fallen balloons easily resemble jellyfish, plankton or kelp to hungry animals and they are actively pursued and ingested.



Is it a squid? An octopus? A jellyfish? No! It's an exploded balloon on a Singapore reef!

(Photo courtesy Ria Tan, <http://www.wildsingapore.com/>)

While ribbons and strings entangle the feet, necks and bodies of wildlife, the indigestible materials block intestines and stomach processes, and the animal either chokes or starves to a painful death with the balloon (in whole or in fragments) inside. Baleen whales take in many thousands of gallons of water during feeding,

yet they cannot pick the balloons or fragments out of their mouths. On the New Jersey coast, a rare pygmy sperm whale was found dead with a Mylar balloon lodged in its intestines. One sea turtle was found with 4 kinds of balloons in its body, while the dead bird below was horribly strangled after entangling itself in a massive wad of fallen balloons.

During the most recent of one annual event, 21,915 black balloons were released, one for every day of Israeli occupation of Palestine, in several cities at the



same time! At a memorial release of thousands of balloons by the Discovery Learning Academy in Bluewater, in the Florida panhandle, [Director] Langston told the children, "Think of your hurt as a balloon.... When your balloon does not come back to you it is because it is gone." <http://www.nwfdailynews.com/articles/family-41822-held-bay.html#ixzz1SZp0YTPf>



Photo courtesy Nick Tomocek, Daily News.

How does one combat the senseless acts of pollution in the face of the grieving, despite the blatant message that it's OK to create litter and literally think nothing of it?

A culture embracing airborne litter-dispersing balloon releases is epitomized by memorial services. <http://www.nwfdailynews.com/sections/article/gallery/?pic=1&id=41822&db=nwfdn>

Is the public becoming wise to the problem of balloon litter? Just ask THQ, Inc., who faced angry residents after releasing 10,000 balloons in San Francisco to promote their new video game. The balloons failed to rise and landed in nearby San Francisco Bay, setting off a barrage of complaints and protests by locals who are conscious of the litter and threats to marine life that balloons cause.

Helium-filled balloons rise because the gas is lighter than air. This rare noble gas took 4.5 billion years of radioactive decay to create, and its increasing scarcity is an emerging problem:

And then there's the helium inside, which is totally benign – and totally irreplaceable. At present rates of consumption, the world's supply of helium could be exhausted in three decades. "Once it is released into the atmosphere, it is lost to the earth forever," Nobel physicist Robert C. Richardson explained in a recent lecture. The world may be able to survive without Mylar party favors (which, if Richardson had his way, would cost \$100 each), but helium is essential to many less-frivolous products: MRI machines, liquid-fueled rockets, microchips, and fiber-optic cables. Scientists are already complaining that helium shortages are delaying research and driving up cost. <http://dashkaslater.blogspot.com/search/label/balloons>

Many now believe helium should be banned from any non-

essential use.

Ironically, besides the planners of funerals and memorials, one of the greatest offenders of the global balloon environmental insult is the medical and especially hospice industry. NY4WHALES recently learned of several mass balloon releases in and around Morgantown, West Virginia that were sponsored by a Hospice Care Center and a local memorial group. The four releases involved several thousand helium filled balloons in bunches of Mylar and latex balloons tethered together with ribbons and strings as well as single ribbon-tied balloons.

As NY4WHALES explained in a plea to cease these mass balloon memorial releases, West Virginia's balloons can and will likely travel dozens to hundreds of miles, depending on weather conditions, far from participant releasers, and unfairly become another organization and state's litter problems. One group's balloon release only creates another's woes. After the fundraising party, race, or memorial event where the balloon release takes place, the burden falls on non-profit organizations who bear the expense of cleaning up the mess, recovering the wildlife, performing necropsies and burials, or (for the fortunate few) costly rehabilitation.

As in every state, there are anti-littering laws in West Virginia, but the release of balloons doesn't have to be an anti-litter enforcement issue, involving fines and penalties from both the place of origin and the recovery location. If balloons are filled with air, not helium, they will fall back to the earth quickly where they can be easily retrieved and disposed of properly. Sending the balloons up with helium is an exercise in creating airborne litter, an environmental assault that does end up killing wildlife and even livestock, despite the originating innocuous memorial events. In the UK, a farmer found his dead cow with a balloon, string and school label attached hanging out of its mouth. 50 miles away, the Lyndhurst Primary School in southeast London had sent hundreds of balloons into the air to support charity Comic Relief. The school's insurer initially refused to compensate the farmer, so he took the case to the courts, and won. The balloon industry no doubt hoped this case would just "go away" - as they would have the millions of balloons released around the world annually. Instead, the celebrated case has brought international attention to many who had been unaware that there's any problem at all with balloon releases. Farmers and conservation groups in the UK and abroad are now demanding a ban on mass balloon (and Chinese lantern) releases because of the potential harm to their animals.

Volunteers for the New Canaan Nature Center combed a two-mile stretch of Long Island Sound beaches and filled 30 large garbage bags with balloon debris. The facility has banned balloon releases at its events and parties, stating they can take up to 4 years to degrade.

Ironically, balloons have been banned in many hospitals due to adverse reactions to latex, yet even health industry personnel continue to promote the close handling of balloons at releases, allowing skin-on-latex contact as children write messages on or attach notes to the latex before releasing. The American Latex Allergy Association warns us:

Latex allergy is problematic in that it gets worse with every exposure, symptoms can include life-threatening swell-

ing of the airway, and there is no cure. Allergy shots have not been approved by the FDA.... The powdered gloves are especially problematic because the latex protein binds to the powder, which can then hang in the air after the gloves were used. The powder containing the latex protein can then be inhaled and cause allergic reactions.

Latex balloons also contain powder to facilitate inflation. The latex protein attaches to the balloon powder and hangs in the air after the balloon is inflated or deflated. Many research studies have tested and proven this and most hospitals have banned latex balloons. Many schools are also banning latex balloons because of the choking hazard they present, as well as because increasingly larger numbers of children are testing positive for latex allergy. (It's estimated that at least 50% of children with spina bifida have latex allergy because of frequent latex exposure from surgical procedures and medical supplies.) <http://www.latexallergyresources.org/resourcemanual/section7/samplerrestaurantletter.cfm>

Ironically, one of the Morgantown releases took place next to the WVU children's hospital.

Lance Ferris, from Australian Seabird Rescue documents these balloon assaults on wildlife, at <http://www.fourthcrossingwildlife.com/WhatGoesUp-LanceFerris.htm>:



The balloon (inset) was removed from inside the Giant Petrel.

Ethically speaking, balloon releases send the wrong message to our children: - that one need not think about the consequences of our actions, that others will clean up the mess we leave behind, and that killing wildlife is well, just OK. Balloon releases have become "all the rage," and industry planners actually boast of the record 1.4 million balloons released - a Disney stunt - at a single event! Local law enforcement is now being asked by outraged residents everywhere to closely monitor events for litter law violations. While wildlife suffers and the events and parties go on, no one speaks of the releasers cleaning up their mess. No one men-



© Lance Ferris

This is the SAME balloon, which was removed from the Giant Petrel in May 2006 - 10 MONTHS LATER. (Image dated 25 March 2007)

tions that distant non-profits have not been compensated for the cost of cleanup, or dealing with decimated wildlife.

Jerry Tupacz saw the ribbon first, dangling from the mouth of a petrel frantically flapping on the beach at Cape Island, one of the remotest islands in the remote Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service bio-technician was out on a sea turtle nest watch patrol last summer. The bird was too distressed to ignore, too desperate to fly off when Tupacz approached to pick it up. The ribbon, as it turned out, hadn't entangled the bird. The ribbon had been swallowed.

"I pulled and pulled and pulled and along came a string of shriveled-up, bright red balloons," Tupacz said. The bird died two hours later; Tupacz couldn't say if the balloons played a role in killing it. But the problem is endemic, he said. "We pick up balloons every day. I can easily pick up two or three or four balloons on that island any day of the summer."

How do they get there? Cape Romain - the island grounds



© Lance Ferris

This helium balloon travelled 660km [410 miles] before it deflated and came to land.

for more than 1,000 sea turtle nests each summer - is so directly downstream of predominant summer winds in the Charleston area that the state has placed an air-pollution monitor there. Sea turtles, among other wildlife, will eat shriveled or exploded rubber balloons; they look like jellyfish. <http://wildshores.blogspot.com/2011/01/do-balloon-releases-kill-marine-life.html>

What can you do to stop mass balloon releases? Speak up to friends or groups you know are planning such an event. Then contact ny4whales@optonline.net and sign the petition at <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/3/Help-Stop-Mass-Balloon-Releases/>. Can we clean up the world, one balloon at a time?

Books and Films

By William Rossiter

Dolphin Diaries is the one book you must read if you love, like or care about dolphins. This is Dr. Denise L. Herzing's much-anticipated narrative of her first 25 years literally immersing herself in the lives of a unique community of Atlantic spotted dolphins off the Bahamas. *Dolphin Diaries* is an unequalled exploration of the generational lives of the dolphins she knows, and who know her, proof of the accolades comparing her to Goodall, Moss, Fossey, Strum and the very few others who have revolutionized our knowledge of the lives of creatures we think of as different, but with whom we share so much. Like them, she built relationships, etiquette and rapport, to gain the dolphins' trust and interest.

On one level *Dolphin Diaries* is like a novel written through the eyes of a lyrical observer strolling through a small village,

meeting friends, making sense of what's on people's minds as they interact with each other, occasionally invited into a game, discussion or party, all while painting vignettes that makes the scene vividly real. But *Dolphin Diaries* is fact, not fiction, and while it's about dolphins the point Herzing gets across well is that we share with them more than some humans are comfortable to admit. About an event involving Zigzag, a young male, she writes: "It would be impossible to not be self-aware and empathetic for such an event to occur. There is no doubt in my mind that dolphins are both."

On another level this book has more scientific facts about these dolphins than any single scientific paper, but it's such easy reading you may not be aware that you're learning the very leading edge, not just about this species, but about the value of long-term interactive research conducted "in their world, on their terms".

She laments that “the process of spending time with the natural world is in jeopardy, causing us to lose sight of it while at the same time we are trying to measure it.” She thinks “it is a loss for the world, to reduce animals to data, instead of telling their story”. Herzing recognized from the start that her scientific obligation to describe her observations accurately required her to make use of cetology’s scarlet letter “A”, and by example she sets the professional standard for using anthropomorphic terms properly to communicate the reality of dolphin life. Until someone invents a suitable vocabulary for non-human animal behavior no scientist is justified to ignore what is obvious, but they do.

And there’s another level, as Herzing accounts for her decades of struggle to create, fund and manage what amounts to a yearly research expedition to find highly mobile creatures in a vast, remote region, always to do no harm, to stay as long as it’s safe, and to bring back reams of data about a world humans are ill-equipped to sense, understand, or survive. She expresses this as her “moving between the human world and the dolphin world, finding different types of food that feed my soul”. As rare as her qualities are my hope is that a kindred spirit will be inspired by her example, as she was by Goodall, to take on another species “in their world, on their terms”.

And last, she advocates, freely filling the end of her book by taking on many of the issues of concern to CSI and so many others today. Again she stands out from most of her peers, as very few professional scientists go beyond gathering data they might hope someone will use, but they don’t voice their opinions or advocate

their concerns. Herzing’s status among peers will amplify what she says, and truly help cetaceans and the oceans.

Her Wild Dolphin Project is a continuing reality because of her unique abilities, hard lessons learned well, and of course the support of many people and foundations that have fairly judged this single project to be worthy of their dedication. She also gets to lead dolphins once in a while, by their choice, having respectfully earned her place among them. She makes it look easy, but it’s far, far beyond what most could do.

OK, so I liked the book! In fact I’ll read it again. Thanks, Denise!

CSI is most pleased to promote *A Fall From Freedom*, the first film to expose the long and sordid history of the captive whale and dolphin industry; a history that continues to this day. Narrated by actor Mike Farrell, and produced by the San Francisco-based EarthViews Productions, *A Fall From Freedom* includes interviews with former Sea World trainers, biologists, conservationists, and more. The film digs deep into the history of the captive whale and dolphin business, revealing the culpability of marine parks around the world for the continuing killing of thousands of dolphins in the Japanese drive fisheries; a practice abandoned by the Japanese until Sea World secretly negotiated to bring it back to maintain a steady supply of dolphins to their parks.

A Fall From Freedom is free to watch on its website: <http://www.afallfromfreedom.com/>. The film can be downloaded for a nominal charge and DVDs are available for purchase as well.

How Sena Is Helping the Whales

By Sena Wazer

(CSI note: This is Sena, who’s almost eight. She’s truly concerned that the whales and oceans need help. While her parents sell their farm’s produce at summer markets she gives out information, including her own artwork and message. Thank you, Sena!)



Last year I was doing the Storrs farmers market. I was handing out pamphlets. They talked about how to help Whales. I also handed out a sea food guide. I sat there for one hour. The way people came up to me is they would ask me how do we help the whales. I would

say, well the thing that would help the most is if you take one of these pamphlets and do some of these things in this pamphlet. Once I tried Coventry farmers market and it seemed much better because there were a lot more people. Unfortunately I don’t think Coventry farmers market will let me in during the summer. But I am determined to find another market with lots of people.

Notes

• If you are currently receiving *Whales Alive!* by post, please let us know if you would prefer to receive it by email (as a PDF file). Send an email to bshall@csiwhalesalive.org, and please include your name, address, and the email address you would like us to use.

• **Individualized photographic certificates** are now available for new CSI members. If we know their favorite species of whale or dolphin we will use an appropriate and dramatic image as a background. These are particularly suited to gift member-

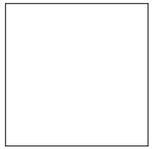
ships, so if you know of someone who might enjoy being part of CSI please let us know.

• CSI’s educational flyer on cetaceans in captivity is still available. We will be glad to send one as a sample to anyone who requests it. Contact: CSI, P.O. Box 953, Georgetown, CT 06829 U.S.A.

• Current and previous issues of *Whales Alive!* as well as our Photo Gallery and other features can be found on CSI’s web site. Check it out at: csiwhalesalive.org

Cetacean Society International

c/o Brent Hall
460 Wallingford Road
Cheshire, CT 06410
U.S.A.



FIRST CLASS MAIL



What can compare with a curious blue whale? We thank Dr. Ingrid Visser of New Zealand for sharing this memorable moment with us. The whale's head is bigger than Ingrid's boat!