

Welcome to the Pacific Mammal Research August 2015 Newsletter.



Welcome to Pacific Mammal Research!

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August 2015 Newsletter

What's New

Welcome to Pacific Mammal Research! We have been out and about in the field, both on land and on water, this month collecting lots of great data. We have also been fortunate this month to have had the assistance of some fantastic interns, who have worked with us on our data collection analysis, as well as a high school student who is completing a job-shadow with us. It is very encouraging to see such interest and excitement in learning more about what we are doing and participate in active research, and provides a great opportunity for future marine scientists to gain invaluable field training.

What else is going on? Read on for some other exciting developments this month...

New Collaboration: Outer Island Expeditions

You may have seen this news on our Facebook page, but we are excited to share with you our recent collaboration with [Outer Island Expeditions](#), a company offering marine tours from both Orcas Island and Anacortes. PacMam researchers have been given the opportunity to conduct their photo-ID research on some of these tours, enabling us to increase our study area and gain valuable insight into the movement and distribution of harbor porpoise and seal populations in the wider Salish Sea region. We will be sharing photos we take of other species, such as minke whales, with research groups such as [Marine Education & Research Society \(MERS\)](#) who are currently conducting a photo-ID study of minke whales.

This is also a great chance to assist with the education of the general public on the marine mammals of the Salish Sea, and compliments the information already provided by Outer Island Expeditions and their trained on-board naturalists. We are furthering this educational aspect by putting up an informational poster in the [Orcas WILD](#) facility, located in Eastsound, Orcas Island. This new interpretive Center provides a place where locals and visitors can learn about the diverse ecosystem of the San Juan Islands, as well as providing information on local research efforts such as ours!

Check out some examples of the great photos we've obtained so far below!



Harbor porpoise



Harbor seal



Minke whale



A young Southern Resident killer whale mid-breach

New Article from our Research Director

PacMam's very own Research Director, Dr. Cindy Elliser, has recently been featured in *The New Scientist*, a weekly science and technology magazine. The article features an interview with Dr. Elliser on her recent publication examining the unique inter-species associations formed between Atlantic spotted and bottlenose dolphins of the Bahamas, research she did while working with Dr. Denise Herzing and [The Wild Dolphin Project](#). Dr. Elliser's paper has been picked up by several publications worldwide including [The Daily Mail](#) and [IFL Science](#). Go check out her interview with the *New Scientist* [here](#).



Image: David Fleetham/Naturepl.com

Coming Soon...

We have exciting plans for August including a trip to Friday Harbor, SJI and more work with our interns, so as always stay tuned to our [website](#) and [Facebook](#) page for all the latest info and upcoming events from PacMam.

And remember: if you're out on your boat, taking a walk or even riding the ferry, keep your eyes open for harbor porpoise and harbor seals and send us your photos or sighting information (date/location/time) to sindy.elliser@pacmam.org! Enjoy the rest of your Summer, everyone!

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