

Welcome to the Pacific Mammal Research March 2018 Newsletter.



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Welcome to Pacific Mammal Research!

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March 2018 Newsletter

It's Springtime!

It doesn't seem possible, but here we are in March already! This month may "technically" be our intro to Spring...but since snow and below-freezing temperatures are still making an appearance in many places we'll hold off on putting away the winter gear for the moment.

Weather is often tricky for us at this time of year, resulting in lots of office time when we can't get into the field. But it gives us time to work on the other aspects needed to keep a non-profit running (grant writing, administrative work, data processing, etc.).

So aside from some sketchy winter weather, let's look at what last month brought us!



A wintry February day in the office.

Port Townsend Marine Science Center: Presentation and Collaboration

We had a great turnout for our presentation at the Port Townsend Marine Science Center (PTMSC) in February as part of their "brown-bag lunch" talk series. The talk, given by our Research Director/Founder Dr. Cindy Elliser, included an overview of the cetacean species present in the Salish Sea as well as more in-depth information about our work here at PacMam and how individuals can become involved with our work.

PacMam will be collaborating with staff and volunteers at the PTMSC throughout the year to have them send sightings and (hopefully!) photos of harbor porpoises in the Port Townsend area. This type of citizen science collaboration is crucial to help us expand the scope of our research, giving us more information about where these animals go and whether there is any overlap between animals using Burrows Pass and those seen in other areas. Stay tuned for more updates from this new collaboration in the future!



Some highlights from our trip to Port Townsend: the Marine Science Center building (top) and Dr. Elliser explaining more about our work in the Salish Sea (bottom).

Save The Date: Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference

PacMam's researchers will be attending the 30th biennial [Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference \(SSEC\)](#) in Seattle from the 4-6th April 2018. This conference provides a unique context for scientists, First Nations/Tribal representatives, resource managers, community/business leaders, policy makers, educators and students to share the latest scientific research on the state of the ecosystem, and guide further actions for protecting and restoring the Salish Sea ecosystem.

We will be presenting a poster at the conference detailing our new research project undertaken in conjunction with the Porpoise Conservation Society (PCS), based in British Columbia, Canada. PacMam and PCS will be working together to

expand our harbor porpoise photo-ID project, determine whether our protocol can be used at PCS's land-based site in BC, develop a regional protocol based on findings, and integrate sightings into a regional platform for use throughout the Salish Sea.

The SSEC will be held at the Washington State Convention Center Seattle, from April 4-6th 2018 (click [here](#) for more details). We are excited to present our work and learn more about this unique region from a wide variety of speakers, so keep reading these newsletters to hear how it all went!



Join us at the 30th Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference in Seattle, April 4-6th.

Presentation Series with Deception Pass Park Foundation

During the months of March and April we will be working in collaboration with educators from [Deception Pass Park Foundation \(DPPF\)](#) to give presentations on the marine mammals of the Salish Sea. The talks will be given at Oak Harbor elementary schools and will feature "Gracie" (a gray whale skull) in addition to several other artifacts to facilitate hands-on learning.

We are excited to have another opportunity to educate the next generation about the marine environment and to work with DPPF to create more ties with our neighboring communities.



"Gracie" the gray whale skull will be a highlight of our joint-presentations with educators from the Deception Pass Park Foundation.

Coming Soon...



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If you want to know what we're up to during the rest of the month (of *course* you do!), check in with us on [Facebook](#) (search for "Pacific Mammal Research - PacMam"), [Instagram](#) (under "PacificMammalResearch"), or [Google+](#) (under "Pacific Mammal Research - PacMam"). We post live updates from the field, as well as interesting articles and factoids from the wider world of science!

Make sure you follow our new [YouTube channel](#) as well for fun educational videos, or head over to our [website](#) to read the latest [blog post](#) from our Research Director and Founder, Dr. Cindy Elliser. Read more in-depth insights into our work and other marine or environmental topics. The [website](#) also has everything you need to know to [donate](#) to PacMam, learn about our work, and find out what events we have coming up.

Enjoy your first taste of Spring, we'll be back with more news (and hopefully sunshine) in April!

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