

Welcome to the Pacific Mammal Research April 2018 Newsletter.



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*April 2018 Newsletter*

# It's Springtime!

We made it to April, and are finally seeing some Spring weather here in Anacortes. We have been able to get into the field more consistently again and have been rewarded with some amazing sights! In case you haven't heard

(hint-hint!), we have a [YouTube channel](#) and recently shared a video of one particularly spectacular day in the field - [watch it here!](#)



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*One of our favorite birds, the Belted Kingfisher, watching our field efforts.*

### *Orcas In The Pass!*

Our work has given us the opportunity to see many amazing things in Burrows Pass, but witnessing 4-5 transient killer whales swimming through there on a beautiful sunny afternoon has to be one of the best!

Although we'd heard about one or two instances of these majestic animals entering Burrows Pass (they are commonly seen in the waters surrounding it), we had never seen it happen ourselves. So when a blow alerted us that something a wee bit larger than your average harbor porpoise was present, we were pretty excited. There were 3-4 adults and a young calf in the pod, and although they were too far away for good ID shots we did manage to grab a couple.



*Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference at Washington State Convention Center, Seattle*

PacMam's researchers attended 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 presented a poster about our new trans-boundary research project undertaken in collaboration with the Porpoise Conservation Society (PCS) (who

are based in British Columbia, Canada). PacMam and PCS are working together to expand our harbor porpoise photo-ID project, determine whether our protocol can be used at PCS's land-based site in West Vancouver, develop a regional protocol based on findings, and integrate sightings into a regional platform for use throughout the Salish Sea.

We had a great time at the conference, make sure to check back to read our full report about how it went in the May newsletter!



### Support Local Artists: Fat Dragonfly Partnership

We are fortunate to live in a region filled with talented artists and our friend Shanni Welsh from [Fat Dragonfly Collection](#) is one of them. Shanni's art is a whimsical mix of mid-century modern and contemporary folk, with an emphasis on the natural environment through line, color and texture. We have been fans of her work for ages so are thrilled to be working with her as a Community Partner!

Her latest "[Pacific Northwest Bay](#)" collection features 4 designs curated in collaboration with PacMam. The designs showcase the Pacific Northwest coastal landscape with particular emphasis on species we see in our study area such as harbor porpoises, harbor seals, tufted puffins and rhino auks.

To show her support for our work and our shared values of preserving and enhancing this dynamic environment, Shanni has dedicated **20% of proceeds** made on the sale of these products to supporting PacMam! Check out the 4 Pacific Northwest Bay designs below and go to Fat Dragonfly's [website](#) - which is your favorite?



Coming Soon...



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Tufted puffin, taken during one of our outings with Outer Island Excursions whale watching tours.

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.

We hope you have a great taste of Spring this month, see you in May!

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