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The Transition

The year 2008 was one of growth and transition as we worked tirelessly to come to the aid of seals and sea lions, while at the same time, built a state-of-the-art marine mammal hospital and educational center. The metal, wood, and other recyclable building materials have yielded a sophisticated complex that will enable us to better accomplish our mission while giving visitors the opportunity to learn about our work and the inspiration to become stewards of our ocean environment.

During the year, we added a new leader to our family. Dr. Jeff Boehm, formerly the head of the veterinary and conservation units at the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago, returned to his home state to become our new Executive Director. Under his leadership, we look forward to advancing the Center’s mission and refining our vision as we move through this year of great transition. In addition to bringing Jeff to the Center, our team achieved many great successes, including responding to over 800 marine mammal strandings, and tending to species of special interest – a Hawaiian monk seal, and a Steller sea lion, two species which have seen dramatic population declines. We continued to advance our studies into marine mammal diseases, for instance, examining the carcasses of 30 harbor porpoises that washed ashore in August. We also continued our study on harbor seals in the bay, and launched a new study on wild populations of sea lions to better understand their exposure to leptospirosis, a cause of kidney disease in these animals. While we were busy educating over 15,000 students about marine mammals and how they can help the ocean environment, we also advanced our message and visibility through the media and were proud to be featured on the award-winning science series NOVA in November.

Through prudent oversight and a solid commitment from staff, the board, our volunteers, and supporters, we are confident that we will be in a solid position to open the doors to our new facility in June 2009. The Center, like many other organizations, is not immune to the effects of the recession, and that led us to examine our revenue projections and growing expense projections even closer. We finished the year positively and maintained a healthy revenue stream and cash flow balances. Our revenue for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2008 and was $12.7 million. The net surplus of $6.5 million was from capital contributions for the Sausalito construction.

Our grand opening in June 2009 will be a major milestone in our history – a cause for celebration. As we look back to our humble beginnings in 1975 and look forward to the transition into our new facilities, The Marine Mammal Center has an opportunity to continue to learn and lead as we increase our understanding of our interdependence with marine mammals and the ocean.

Best,

Merrill L. Magowan
Chairman of the Board, The Marine Mammal Center
Scientific Inquiry

While many of the species of marine mammals the Center treats each year are not endangered or threatened, the research our veterinarians conduct on marine mammal health is valuable and is applied to other marine mammal species that are in peril.

Leptospirosis study of wild populations of sea lions

In 2008, large numbers of California sea lions stranded along the California coast as a result of a bacterial infection called leptospirosis, a disease that affects the kidneys of these animals, and in many cases causes death. Cases of leptospirosis appear every year, with large outbreaks every 4-5 years. The Center is advancing its studies of the disease by determining the changes in antibody levels in the blood of wild sea lions to leptospirosis. The data from these blood samples will help the Center understand more about the changes in susceptibility of sea lions in the population over time so that we can predict when stranded sea lions with leptospirosis will be seen here at the Center. Collaborators in this study include the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, University of California Los Angeles, University of California at Davis, Penn State University, and the National Animal Disease Center in Ames, Iowa.

Domoic acid toxicity can cause heart disease in sea lions

The Center continues to study the health effects of domoic acid poisoning in California sea lions that ingest contaminated fish. Studies of the effects of domoic acid, which is produced by marine algae and can cause both acute and chronic brain damage in sea lions, have revealed that sea lions suffer from epileptic seizures (similar to what humans experience as a result of eating poisoned shellfish) and that the toxin can cross the placenta of pregnant sea lions. In 2008, the Center contributed to a study revealing that some sea lion patients admitted to the Center as a result of domoic acid toxicity also suffered from degenerative cardiomyopathy. Heart lesions in pinnipeds, in general, are not well documented, and this study represents another serious condition resulting from toxic algae poisoning.
Sperm whale ingests 450 lbs. of netting!

In March 2008, The Marine Mammal Center’s Director of Veterinary Science, Dr. Frances Gulland, was called to assist in the necropsy of a 51 foot long sperm whale that had washed up on a beach near Tomales Point in Point Reyes. When the necropsy team examined the animal’s internal organs, they discovered nearly 450 lbs. of fishing net, mesh, braided rope, plastic bags, and even a plastic comb in the whale’s stomach. The alarming discovery unfortunately was evidence of an issue at the forefront of many researchers’ minds. Marine wildlife is being affected by debris discarded by humans into the ocean, much of it non-biodegradable plastic.

Blubber contaminant and weight loss study reveals contaminants are mobilized during weight loss

Scientists at the Center learn about the health of marine mammals by investigating factors that may pose serious health risks to whole populations. Fat soluble contaminants, such as PCBs and DDTs, are factors that can cause cancer and suppress the immune system of animals and humans. Typically, contaminant levels in animals are assessed by measuring levels in a single sample of blubber (body fat). However, if the amount of blubber changes with changes in body weight, weight loss could alter the measurement in a single sample of blubber. That was the basis for a study, published in 2008, which looked at the changes in blubber contaminant concentrations in sea lions associated with changes in body weight. Because sea lions have a high level of persistent organic pollutants (POP) in their blubber, the Center compared concentrations of POPs between sea lions losing weight while suffering from domoic acid intoxication, to those that gained weight during rehabilitation at the Center. Significant increases in the concentration of the POPs were found in underweight sea lions, and decreases in contaminant levels were noted in those animals that gained weight during re-feeding. This study indicates the importance of considering body weight of sea lions when sampling blubber in order to interpret the significance of a single measurement of blubber contaminant levels.

Unusual mortality event involving harbor porpoises

In 2008, a higher than usual number of dead harbor porpoises washed up on local beaches. The Marine Mammal Center researchers performed necropsies on 30 of these animals to determine possible reasons for the deaths. Preliminary findings indicate that the predominant cause of deaths for some of the porpoises earlier in the year was maternal separation and malnutrition of newborn calves, while later in the season blunt force trauma, most likely from interactions with bottlenose dolphins, was the main cause of death for others.

SCIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

• Identified that juvenile northern elephant seals are susceptible to infection from antimicrobial-resistant and pathogenic fecal E. coli bacteria as a result of leaving natal beaches and entering areas where high levels of freshwater outflow occurred.

• Co-authored a paper about the effects of climate change on Arctic marine mammal health. The paper explores probable direct and indirect effects of changes in habitat to marine mammals in the Arctic such as the loss of the sea ice habitat, elevations of water level and air temperature, and effects of increased human activities in areas of decreased sea ice. The paper stresses a need for baseline marine mammal health data.

• Studied the effectiveness of using post mortem sea lion aqueous humor (fluid inside the eye) as a substitute for serum in studying health.

• Studied the viability of implanting life-long telemetry transmitters in sea lions to record body temperature and day of death so as to understand causes of mortality.

• Studied the health and survival of harbor seals in and around San Francisco Bay to determine disease prevalence in seals that live in urbanized areas, and compare contaminant levels between stranded seals and wild harbor seals.

SPECIAL THANKS

• Harbor Seal Health program: Valentine Foundation, John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant program
• Leptospirosis study: National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration
• Domoic Acid study: Oceans and Human Health Initiative
Conference Proceedings


Gaffney, P.M., Colegrove, K.M., Gulland, F.M.D., Byrne, B., Jang, S.S., Edgar, K., and Lowenstein, L.J. Pathologic, microbiologic, and epidemiologic characterization of Pseudomonas sp. in California sea lions (Zalophus californianus) and Pacific harbor seals (Phoca vitulina). Proceedings of the 39th Annual Conference of the International Association of Aquatic Animal Medicine, May 10-14, Pomezia, Rome, Italy.


Gulland, F.M.D. 2008. Marine mammals as sentinels of ocean health. NPS Ocean Lecture Series, October 20, Dominican University, San Rafael, CA.


Scientific Contributions


In vitro susceptibility of sea lion poxvirus to cidofovir. Antiviral Research 80: 77-80.


VISITING RESEARCHERS AND RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS

Karleen Acevedo-Whitehouse (Institute of Zoology, London) – Phylogeny and disease susceptibility in California sea lions
Brian Aldridge, Jocelyn Riggins (Royal Veterinary College, London, UK) – Diagnosis of Otostrongylus in northern elephant seals
Jerome Barakos (California Pacific Medical Center) – MRI imaging of California sea lions with domoic acid toxicosis
Matthew Breen (North Carolina State University) – Tumor cytogenetics of California sea lions
Daphne Bremer (University of California, Davis) – Diagnosis of protozoal pathogens in California sea lions
Alex Chow, Jonna Mazet (University of California, Davis, Wildlife Health Center) – Health impacts of mercury and selenium accumulations in California sea lions
Kathleen Colegrove (University of Illinois) – Role of DNA adducts and contaminants in development of carcinoma in California sea lions
Laurence Dunn, Cara Field, Inge Sidor (Mystic Marinelife Aquarium) – Brucellosis in marine mammals
Jocelyn Flanary (Medical University of South Carolina) – Perfluorinated compounds in California sea lions and northern fur seals
Ailsa Hall (Sea Mammal Research Unit, University of St. Andrews, Scotland) – Epidemiology of cancer in California sea lions
Michael Janecz, Jason Ferrante (Medical University of South Carolina) – Determination of protein biomarkers as indicators of domoic acid or leptospirosis exposure
James Lloyd-Smith (Pennsylvania State University) – Cyclical changes in leptospirosis in California sea lions
Milton Levin, Sylvain De Guise (University of Connecticut) – Effects of domoic acid on immune function of California sea lions
Eric Montie (University of South Florida) – Relationship between PCBs, PBDEs and domoic acid exposure on California sea lions via MRI and volumetric neuroimaging
Colleen Reichmuth-Kastak (University of California, Santa Cruz) – Assessment of behavior of California sea lions with long-term effects of domoic acid toxicosis
James Ryan, Fran Van Dolah, Greg Warr (Hollings Marine Laboratory, Charleston) – Domoic acid microarray
Jennifer Siembieda, Jonna Mazet (University of California, Davis, Wildlife Health Center) – Influenza surveillance in marine mammals
Dmitry Volokhov (Nicholson Research Center) – Mycoplasma surveillance in marine mammals
Collette Williams (University of California, Davis) – Electroencephalograms from California sea lions with domoic acid toxicosis
Richard Zuerner (National Animal Disease Center) – Leptospirosis epidemiology
Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, National Park Service, CalTrans, University of California, Davis, San Francisco State University – Health survey of harbor seals in the San Francisco Bay
US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Geological Survey, California Department of Fish and Game – Health and disease investigations in northern sea otters

ADVISORY PANELS

Hawaiian monk seal recovery team, Member – Frances Gulland
The Marine Mammal Commission, Scientific Advisor – Frances Gulland
Advisory Board, Oiled Wildlife Care Network, Member – Frances Gulland
Working group on marine mammal unusual mortality events, Emeritus Member – Frances Gulland

BOARD OF SCIENTIFIC ADVISORS

Sarah Allen, Ph.D., National Park Service, Point Reyes National Seashore
James Harvey, Ph.D., Moss Landing Marine Laboratories
Dave Jessup, BS, DVM, MPVM, DiplACZM, Marine Wildlife Veterinary Care and Research Center, California Department of Fish and Game
Linda Lowenstein, DVM, Ph.D., ACVP, Department of Veterinary Pathology, Microbiology & Immunology, University of California, Davis
Hal Markowitz, Ph.D., Department of Biology, San Francisco State University
Jim McBain, DVM, Veterinary Office, Sea World of California
Tom Williams, DVM, Monterey Bay Aquarium
Each and every animal rescued and treated at the Center has a story to tell and each one helps better our understanding of the conditions that affect marine mammal health.

KP2 – A Hawaiian monk seal survival story

In a unique collaboration, The Marine Mammal Center worked with the National Marine Fisheries Service to rehabilitate a male Hawaiian monk seal pup that was abandoned by his mother on the Hawaiian island of Kauai in May of 2008. The pup, “KP2”, was moved to a rehabilitation facility on Oahu, where he was cared for by trained animal care personnel from both agencies. Staff and volunteers from the Center, who have years of experience working with and treating elephant seal and harbor seal pups, rotated their time on Oahu to ensure KP2 received the highest level of care. Hawaiian monk seals are critically endangered, making every monk seal that is successfully rehabilitated crucial to the long-term survival of the species. In December, after eight months of care, KP2 was released on a protected beach on the island of Molokai, a sheltered area for monk seals. Before release, he was fitted with a satellite tag so that his movements in the wild can be tracked.

Arctic – Raising future generations of Steller sea lions

Arctic, a Steller sea lion pup, was only days old when she was rescued from Año Nuevo Island on June 2008, after becoming separated from her mother. Since the Steller population has dropped by 80% in the last 30 years and is on the threatened species list, the Center’s animal care staff and volunteers took extra care to ensure her successful rehabilitation so that she could be returned to the wild and not become habituated to her caretakers. To date, Arctic continues to gain weight and is learning to catch and eat fish on her own. In 2009, veterinarians hope to be able to release her back to the wild where she will hopefully have pups of her own, thus adding to the dwindling Steller population.
**Gnort – A sea lion that made a big splash at the Center!**

Gnort is an adult male California sea lion that stranded in Moss Landing in October 2008. Tipping the scales at 319 lbs, Gnort was treated for acute domoic acid toxicity. Gnort was suffering from seizures (similar to those that humans experience) so veterinarians administered anti-seizure medication (phenobarbital) to him. Once the medication had worn off, Gnort let the veterinarians know he was feeling better by climbing over the chain link fence surrounding his pen and doing a swan dive into the pool in the neighboring pen. After a brief two week stay at the Center, he was successfully released back into the wild.

**Fogell – The comeback kid!**

This little elephant seal pup was in bad shape when rescued from Shell Beach in San Luis Obispo. In addition to being emaciated and having an injury to his eye and lip caused by a fish spine, he was also diagnosed with severe pneumonia. Although Fogell’s weight initially began to improve with treatment, his pneumonia worsened. He became too weak to eat and began to lose weight and to cough up blood, and was given a poor prognosis by our vets. But with adjusted medication and regular tube feeding, Fogell’s pneumonia cleared up and he began to gain weight. To the delight of all involved in his care, Fogell was declared healthy and months after he was rescued, was released at Chimney Rock in Point Reyes National Seashore.

**First Loggerhead turtle rescue by the Center**

The Center occasionally is called upon to rescue sea turtles and in November, volunteers rescued a 44.5 lb juvenile loggerhead sea turtle that was found alone, weak and lethargic in Half Moon Bay. The turtle, nicknamed Shotgun because it rode “shotgun” in the rescue vehicle, was immediately transported to a special rehabilitation unit at San Diego SeaWorld. Officials there report that he is doing well and may be healthy enough to be released sometime in mid 2009. This was an unusual sighting for the Center as Loggerheads are an off-shore species regularly seen in the waters around Japan. Shotgun is the first loggerhead turtle the Center has rescued in its history.

**Brussel Sprouts – Congenital defects may be caused by pollution**

In April, 2008, veterinarians examined a harbor seal pup named “Brussel Sprouts” (aptly named for the external, bubble-like growths on his mouth) and determined that these masses were a result of a congenital defect. Due to the location of the masses, any surgical attempt to remove them would have resulted in facial deformities that would prevent the seal from eating on his own. The prognosis was not good. Veterinarians knew that he would be un-releasable and that he could not survive at a zoo or aquarium. Thus, the team made the humane decision to euthanize him. Although it is unclear what caused the tumors, exposure to environmental contaminants such as pesticides, oil, and heavy metals from the mother during fetal development is one possible cause. By rescuing animals like Brussel Sprouts, the Center gains valuable information about how ocean health affects marine mammals, and it provides a humane response to animals that would otherwise suffer needlessly.
THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

Percentages are approximate due to rounding procedures.

Number of animals admitted by species

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>California sea lions</td>
<td>486</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern elephant seals</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific harbor seals</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steller sea lions</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern fur seals</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guadalupe fur seals</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cetaceans – various species</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern sea otters</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sea turtles</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>815</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rescues due to human interaction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unauthorized pickup</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harassed</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gunshot</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netting</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing Line</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish hooks/Lures</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other marine debris</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boat strike</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oil/Tar</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>65</strong></td>
<td><strong>7%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Disposition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Animals Accessioned in 2008*</td>
<td>813</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entered rehabilitation</td>
<td>653</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relocated/Transfer</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carcass/Dead on arrival</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Released to wild**</td>
<td>290</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Euthanized/Died in Treatment**</td>
<td>358</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admitted in 2007/Disposition in 2008***</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Still on-site as of January 1, 2009**</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Every animal receives an accession number, but not all animals enter rehabilitation
**Percentage based on animals that entered rehabilitation, not on total animals accessioned
***2 of the disposition animals for 2008 were admitted in 2007

Percent is of total animals accessioned
The Marine Mammal Center’s Education programs expand awareness about the Center’s work and scientific achievements. Marine science instructors teach generations of people about the importance of marine mammals and the health of the marine environment.

Youth Volunteer Program

Through the Center’s Youth Volunteer Program, Bay Area high school students volunteer their time as part of an animal care crew. This unique experience exposes students to the work of the Center as well as to the wide range of career opportunities in marine science, conservation, and education. In 2008, 63 youth volunteers logged over 3200 hours of volunteer time. In addition, the Center’s Monterey Bay Operations trained its first youth stranding volunteer.

Whale Bus Program

Using the traveling Whale Bus, the Center’s marine science instructors travel directly to Bay Area schools to teach K-8 students about marine mammals, the work of The Marine Mammal Center, and how to become better stewards of the environment. In 2008, using hands-on techniques and real marine mammal specimens, instructors taught 305 classes to over 8,000 Bay Area youth.
New Whale Bus

The DMARLOU Foundation, under the direction of Trustees Felipe Santiago, Barry Joseph, and Richard and Susan Rahl, has been a long-time supporter of the Center’s education programs. This relationship began with the emergency purchase of a new Whale Bus van in 2000. As timing would have it, the day the old van stopped working after being driven over 140,000 miles, was the same day the DMARLOU trustees made a visit to the Center! The DMARLOU Foundation, founded by the late Dorothy and Martell Kaliski, has made many other leadership grants to the Center over the years, including the capital campaign for the new Discovery Classroom, the educational kiosk at PIER 39, the Youth Program, and the Marine Science Scholarship Fund that enables underserved schools to participate in the Center’s education programs.

In 2008, the Foundation’s generosity came full circle when it made a grant to the Center that enabled it to purchase a new Whale Bus. The new vehicle is a Dodge Sprinter that is diesel and “green” – a perfect example of environmental stewardship to which the Center and its education programs are dedicated!

EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

• Through the Youth Program, seven students visited the Long Marine Lab and Seymour Science Center in Santa Cruz to watch dolphin training, learn about the research being performed there, and speak with UCSC students about marine science career options.

• Four low-income students worked as summer interns at the Center where they participated in animal care and specimen preparation, shadowed veterinary staff, and went on an animal release. They were paid a small stipend thanks to the NOAA-BWET grant.

• The Center’s programs, events and fairs reached more than 15,000 students and 4,000 adults in 2008.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT PARTNERS

Año Nuevo State Reserve, Pescadero, CA
Aquarium of the Bay, San Francisco, CA
Bay Area Discovery Museum, Sausalito, CA
Bay Model, Sausalito, CA
Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary, Point Reyes, CA
Environmental Education Council of Marin (EECOM), San Rafael, CA
Eques, Inc, Sonoma, CA
Farallones Marine Sanctuary Association, San Francisco, CA
Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, San Francisco, CA
Headlands Institute, Sausalito, CA
Marine Science Institute, Redwood City, CA
National Park Service, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Sausalito, CA
National Park Service, Point Reyes National Seashore, Sausalito, CA
PIER 39, San Francisco, CA
Point Bonita YMCA, Sausalito, CA
Point Cabrillo Light Station, Mendocino, CA
Point Reyes National Seashore Association (Point Reyes Field Seminars), Point Reyes Station, CA
Romberg Tiburon Center for Environmental Studies, Tiburon, CA
San Francisco Zoo, San Francisco, CA
Seamen’s Training Center, Sausalito, CA

EDUCATION STAFF PARTICIPATION ON BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Education, Chair – Doreen Moser Gurrola
Environmental Education Council of Marin (EECOM), Board Chair – Ann Bauer
San Francisco Science Collaborative – Ann Bauer
### Education Programs/Lectures/Events/Fairs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program/Event/Activity</th>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Adults</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Call to the Rescue</strong></td>
<td>138</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programs in our Marine Science Classroom</td>
<td>29</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Discovery Day</td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California Sea Lion Programs at PIER 39</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whale Bus Outreach at schools*</td>
<td>305</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guided Beach Walks at Rodeo Beach#</td>
<td>57</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marine Science Discovery Programs classes**</td>
<td>59</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairs throughout our rescue range</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Programs/Events#</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lectures for docents/public/teachers</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donor/member Events</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speakers Bureau Programs by Field Offices</td>
<td>22</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Programs/Lectures/Events/Fairs</strong></td>
<td><strong>688</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

73 programs/events/fairs were taught by volunteers

* Carson McLean Scholarship Fund paid the program fees for 5 classes serving low-income students
* The DMARLOU Marine Science Scholarship Fund paid the program fees and transportation for 12 classes that serve low-income students.
* Eight high school classes (from 4 schools) that serve low-income students. This program was fully funded thanks to the Sato Foundation, the David B. Gold Foundation and the NOAA-BWET grant.

### Participants in Education Programs/Events/Lectures/Fairs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program/Event/Activity</th>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Adults</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Various Programs in our Marine Science Classroom*</td>
<td>549</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Call to the Rescue*</td>
<td>3,471</td>
<td>1,136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beach Walks at Rodeo Beach*</td>
<td>1,950</td>
<td>640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sea Lions in the City at PIER 39, San Francisco*</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whale Bus Outreach to Schools Sites*</td>
<td>8,054</td>
<td>784</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marine Science Discovery Program for High Schools</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Discovery Day for High School/Junior College</td>
<td>299</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Programs/Lectures</td>
<td>307</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donor/Member Events</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speakers’ Bureau Programs by our Field Office Volunteers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anchor Bay Operations</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>615</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monterey Bay Operations</td>
<td>226</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Luis Obispo Operations</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Participants in Programs/Events/Lectures</strong></td>
<td><strong>15,539</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,214</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participants visiting our booth at 31 fairs</td>
<td>20,682</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Participants</strong></td>
<td><strong>40,435</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* These programs served students in PreK to 12th grades
Adults include chaperones plus participants in adult programs.
FROM MISSILES TO MARINE MAMMALS
The Marine Mammal Center’s Historic Transformation

For over 30 years, The Marine Mammal Center has grown and transformed into a world-class rehabilitation hospital, research and educational center. At the end of 2008, staff and volunteers began moving into a newly rebuilt facility – one designed to accommodate the serious medical needs of its patients, provide a collaborative work environment for staff and volunteers, and offer visitors a unique educational opportunity to learn and become inspired by marine mammals and the ocean. The rebuild of the Center’s headquarters, which began in the Fall of 2005, represents an historical achievement for staff, volunteers, and board members as well as for so many of its supporters.

The former Nike missile site in the Marin Headlands is decommissioned in 1972.

Operations begin in 1975 with just a few bathtubs, wood, and chicken-wire.

By the early 80’s the Center was rescuing between 100-200 animals yearly.

In 2005, the rebuild began. By 2008 new pools were being built.

An advanced water treatment system is built in an existing underground missile silo.

By the mid 90s, and thousands of patients later, the Center’s pens and pools were feeling the strain.


The community education and veterinary science buildings take shape in September 2008.
Going Green

The Marine Mammal Center’s new headquarters are inspired by Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards. The complex consists of three main buildings: a community education building, an animal care building, and a veterinary and administration building. In addition, new pens and pools, photovoltaic shade panels, an underground water treatment system, and the use of green friendly materials, all will help the Center conserve energy and keep a “green” footprint.

Some key features of the new facility include:
- New pens and pools designed to meet the different physical and medical needs of seals, sea lions, and other marine mammal species
- An on-site lab that will reduce time for diagnosis and initiating treatment
- A ‘transparent’ design, so visitors can see the behind-the-scenes work at the Center
- Classrooms and meeting space for our visiting students and public
- Green design elements including solar shade panels over the pens and pools to reduce energy consumption by about 10% and provide shade for the patients, radiant floor heating in the buildings, and use of recyclable building materials throughout the complex
- An innovative adaption of a former underground Nike missile silo to house a water treatment system that recycles almost 80% of the water and provides a healthier environment for the patients.

The new facility, as photographed in early October 2008.
We thank all of the volunteers who, in 2008, dedicated 74,596 hours of their time allowing the Center to rescue and treat marine mammals in need and staff the gift stores and education department.

Gary Angelus
San Luis Obispo Operations

Gary Angelus has been a volunteer at The Marine Mammal Center’s San Luis Obispo (SLO) Operations since 1995, when his wife Marie saw a public service announcement in the local newspaper. Gary is a crew supervisor, referred to as POD or Person Of the Day by the SLO volunteers. Besides performing rescues, giving presentations, and assisting with the new volunteer orientation program, Gary also conducts the “beach class,” which is the rescue and restraint class for new volunteers. Like many of our volunteers, for Gary, involvement with the Center and marine mammals is a family affair. “My kids always played seal at our rescue and restraint class,” says Angelus. “Shanna used to play a harbor seal pup, but she’s grown out of that now. Christopher would play a California sea lion yearling, now a subadult! The kids have learned from an early age that volunteering can be rewarding in many ways. Volunteering at the Center provides me with an incredible opportunity to learn about the marine mammals off our coast and what’s affecting their environment. It allows me to be directly involved with the rescue and treatment of an animal that needs our help.”
Winnie Mulé
Monterey Bay Operations

In August of 2000, volunteer Winnie Mulé was walking on the beach with a friend when they came across a large sea lion that was not moving and appeared sick. They called the SPCA and were referred to The Marine Mammal Center, which came out and rescued the animal. The rest is history. “I was so impressed with the folks that came to its rescue,” says Mulé, “even letting me name it and help carry it back to the truck. It was then I decided I wanted to be a part of this organization.” Today, she is a vital, dedicated, and highly admired member of the Center’s Monterey Bay Operations, where she wears many hats as a member of the Sunday crew. She is involved in all aspects of rescue, is an animal care/med team member, and trains new volunteers as a mentor. For a short time Winnie was even on the water rescue team, a highly specialized crew that performs rescues in the water. One of the most important things that motivates Winnie is the concern the public shares for the animals’ well being. “This is such an incredible experience to be able to work so closely with these animals and to know that we do make a difference,” says Mulé. “I’m really fortunate to be in the company of such caring people and look forward to many more years.”

Lincoln Shaw
Sausalito Headquarters

Chances are if you see The Marine Mammal Center rescuing an animal from the muddy bottom of a concrete aqueduct, the bottom of a cliff, an airport runway, or any other “impossible” location, volunteer Lincoln Shaw will be among the rescuers determined to make the impossible possible. Lincoln joined the Center four years ago and is often called on at a moment’s notice to respond to a stranded marine mammal. He also releases animals back to the wild, something he finds very rewarding because he knows that what was a very sick animal is now healthy and being returned to the ocean. Besides the already demanding function of stranding volunteer, Lincoln also finds time to volunteer as the Assistant Crew Supervisor on Monday night’s animal care crew, helping to carry out veterinary treatment plans by providing medication and evening meals to the animals. And while it’s the animals that bring them there, Lincoln credits the people on his crew for making those hours a great time as they worked into the night, despite wind, rain and fog. “It feels good knowing I’m part of a team of people dedicated to helping marine mammals one animal at a time,” says Shaw.
We thank our 800+ volunteers who donated over 74,000 hours of their time in 2008 to help rescue and care for marine mammals in need and to help the Center fulfill educational outreach programming and administrative tasks.
The success of The Marine Mammal Center’s capital campaign is due in large part to the incredible generosity of The David and Lucile Packard Foundation. After awarding a $1 million grant to the Center’s rebuild campaign in 2005, The Packard Foundation awarded a special challenge grant of an additional $1 million in 2007, which enabled the Center to raise an additional $6.5 million in four months toward the campaign. The Packard Foundation’s challenge inspired other donors to make new and additional gifts toward the campaign. When the Center opens its new facility to the public in June 2009, it is with gratitude toward the Packard Foundation for helping to make this dream come true.

The Valentine Foundation

Thanks to the generous support of The Valentine Foundation, the Center has been able to conduct an important scientific study into the health of local Pacific harbor seals and how they may be affected by pollutants and pathogens in their marine habitats. The three-year study, which is the doctoral project for the Center’s marine biologist Denise Greig, compares harbor seals that are patients at the hospital with animals from two wild populations in order to determine the extent to which current levels of urbanization affect harbor seal health and thus the marine environment. To date, a total of 275 animals have been sampled, and thanks to the generosity of The Valentine Foundation, 20 of the seals were fitted with satellite tags in order to track their locations and survival rates.

Because harbor seals and humans are both at the top of the food chain, the way their health is affected by ocean contaminants is a good indicator of contaminant risk to humans. Harbor seals are also more sensitive to disease than other marine mammals. By measuring pollutant and pathogen levels, coupled with post-release monitoring, the Center’s researchers will have a better understanding of the effect of specific pollutants on harbor seal health and survival. This information could indicate the extent to which humans are also at risk, and provide us with information that could help prevent the destruction of the ocean. The Center is extremely grateful to The Valentine Foundation for its generous commitment to enhancing scientific research and inquiry.

PG&E

PG&E has been a friend to the Center and a supporter of its education programs for many years. In addition to committing a generous grant to the Education
Evaluation Project, which will enable the Center to offer even more engaging and informative marine science education programs in its new facility, PG&E has also provided leadership support to the Center’s Whale Bus education outreach program since 2007. The Whale Bus brings the Center’s education programs directly to schools, particularly in rural and inner-city areas where transportation to the Center would be prohibitive. The Marine Mammal Center is grateful for PG&E’s role in partnering to teach thousands of students about the wonder and beauty of marine mammals and to encourage environmental stewardship of the ocean and the marine life sustained within it.

The San Francisco Foundation

With the opening of the Center’s new facility on the horizon, the Education department was eager to begin evaluating its current programs and planning new and expanded education programs for students and the visiting public. Thanks to a leadership grant from The San Francisco Foundation to the Education Evaluation Project, the Center was able to engage the services of a professional program evaluation consultant and program developer to analyze current programs, develop new programs, and ensure that classes address the needs of teachers and students. Thanks in large part to The San Francisco Foundation and its support of environmental education, the Center will be poised to offer the most compelling, informative and academically challenging marine science education programs possible to Bay Area youth.
The Marine Mammal Center thanks and proudly recognizes the support of donors to its annual campaign during the 2008 calendar year. These gifts of $500 and more to the Center’s annual fund sustain its ongoing work in animal care, scientific research and marine science education.

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$50,000+

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The Steller Circle was created to recognize and honor our friends and members who have included the Center in their estate plans.

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We respectfully recognize special gifts received in memory of these family members, friends, and pets:

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### Statement of financial position

#### ASSETS
- Cash and cash equivalents: $1,583,796
- Short-term investments: $5,050,000
- Contributions receivable: $3,571,196
- Investments at market: $432,380
- Inventories: $121,115
- Equipment and structures: $26,158,583
- Deposits and prepaid expenses: $296,554
- Total Assets: $37,213,624

#### LIABILITIES
- Accounts payable: $3,391,968
- Notes payable: $2,375,000
- Accrued liabilities: $302,889
- Total Liabilities: $6,069,857

#### NET ASSETS
- Unrestricted: $28,578,022
- Temporarily restricted: $1,936,853
- Permanently restricted: $628,892
- Total Net Assets: $31,143,767
- Total Liabilities and Net Assets: $37,213,624

---

### Statement of activities

#### SUPPORT AND REVENUE
- Membership dues: $1,252,820
- Contributions: $9,171,628
- Bequests: $812,307
- Endowment funds: $94,009
- Contributed services and equipment: $467,625
- Educational programs: $79,978
- Veterinary contract fees: $72,219
- Store sales: $388,544
- Interest income: $293,374
- Other revenue: $98,251
- Special event revenue, net of expense: $89,281
- Realized and unrealized losses on investments: $(120,860)
- Total Support and Revenue: $12,699,176

#### EXPENDITURES
- Program services: $2,828,100
  - Veterinary science: $1,408,466
  - Educational programs: $1,408,466
- Fundraising: $986,629
  - Operations: $234,366
  - Capital Campaign: $752,263
- Supporting Services: $691,030
- Total Expenditures: $6,148,591
- Change in Net Assets: $6,550,585

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(1) Not included are 72,736 hours of volunteer services, valued at $680,809 based on California minimum wage, that were received during the fiscal year ended September 30, 2008.

(2) Net assets were used for construction of our Sausalito animal care facilities.

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Audited financial statements for the year ended September 30, 2008, prepared by Louie & Wong, are available at The Marine Mammal Center’s administrative offices, Chief Financial and Operations Officer, 415-289-7325.