



The Marine  
Mammal Center

## News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **THE MARINE MAMMAL CENTER NAMES DR. JEFF BOEHM AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

*Marin County native returns home to lead marine mammal hospital and research center*

**(SAUSALITO, Calif. – June 11, 2008)** Ushering in its next stage of growth and leadership, The Marine Mammal Center announces the appointment of Dr. Jeff Boehm as its new Executive Director. Dr. Boehm joins the nonprofit organization from the famed John G. Shedd Aquarium in Chicago, Illinois where he was the Senior Vice President of Animal Health and Conservation Science, Louis Family Conservation chair, and joint chair for the Great Lakes Conservation Awareness initiative. Dr. Boehm will oversee The Marine Mammal Center's Sausalito headquarters and its operations in Monterey Bay, San Luis Obispo, and Fort Bragg. He'll also oversee the completion of the Sausalito rebuild project that began in 2005. Once completed, the headquarters will become the largest purpose-built marine mammal rehabilitation hospital in the nation. A dedication and ribbon cutting of the new hospital and research center is scheduled for June 5, 2009.

During his 16 years at the Shedd Aquarium, Dr. Boehm helped develop and implement the aquarium's annual operating and capital budgets and provided leadership in strategic short and long range planning. Dr. Boehm led and coordinated the institution's conservation science division, including conservation partnerships, in-house programs, and educational and advocacy programs and partnerships. He was also instrumental in influencing the design of the aquarium's exhibits and holding facilities, ensuring that the safety and health of the animals were maintained.

"The timing of Jeff's appointment to lead The Marine Mammal Center during a period of increasing interest in marine mammal health, and coincidental with the growth of our state-of-the-art facility, is ideal," said Merrill Magowan, Chairman of the Board of Directors at The Marine Mammal Center. "With Jeff's vast knowledge about veterinary medicine, science, and conservation issues,

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coupled with his extensive experience in providing operational oversight, he's well positioned to lead the Center in its growth as a leader in marine mammal conservation."

Prior to employment at the Shedd Aquarium in 1991, Dr. Boehm worked as a zoo veterinarian at the Los Angeles Zoo providing veterinary care for exotic animals. In 1990, he completed an internship in small animal medicine with the West Los Angeles Veterinary Medical Group. A Marin County native, Dr. Boehm volunteered at The Marine Mammal Center while at the College of Marin, and is very happy to return to his native state. Dr. Boehm is a graduate of the University of California, San Diego, where he received his bachelor's degree, and the University of California, Davis, where he received his degree in veterinary medicine. His professional affiliations include: American Zoo and Aquarium Association, American Veterinary Medical Association, International Association for Aquatic Animal Medicine, and the Society for Marine Mammalogy.

### **About the Sausalito headquarters rebuild project:**

The Marine Mammal Center's new hospital and research center will be better equipped to accommodate the serious medical needs of its patients, provide a collaborative environment for staff, volunteers and researchers, and afford visitors an educational opportunity to see animal care and research activities. The Community Education Building will be the primary visitor entry point and will include a marine science discovery area with interpretive exhibits, a classroom, a retail store on the ground level, and an observation deck on the second level. The Marine Mammal Medical Center will bring together all of the necessary functions of marine mammal diagnosis, treatment, and animal husbandry. A third building, the Veterinary Science and Research Center, will house staff work areas and a commons area. The headquarters were designed with green materials and practices in mind. For instance, the specially designed species-specific pens and pools will be outfitted with photovoltaic shade structures. Radiant floor heating in the main buildings as well as acoustic ceiling panels made from seaweed will help reduce energy consumption costs. In a wonderful example of an adaptive re-use, the new life support system will be housed in one of the two former Nike missile silos on the Center's grounds, reducing water consumption and providing a healthier environment for the patients.

### **About The Marine Mammal Center:**

Headquartered in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area in Sausalito, California, The Marine Mammal Center is a nonprofit veterinary hospital, research and educational center dedicated to the rescue and rehabilitation of ill and injured marine mammals - primarily elephant seals, harbor seals and California sea lions - and to the study of their health. Patients that become healthy again are released back to the ocean. Since 1975, the Center has rescued and treated more than 13,000 marine mammals and has accumulated a body of knowledge about marine mammal and ocean health from its patients. By educating the public about marine mammals, the Center hopes to foster ocean stewardship and conservation. For more information, visit [www.marinemammalcenter.org](http://www.marinemammalcenter.org)