

Sanctuary Whale Tales

Maui 's Volunteer Newsletter



Marine Mammal Response Team Saves A Whale

As you may have heard, our wonderful Marine Mammal Response crew successfully disentangled a humpback whale that was dragging and entangled in fishing gear and line in waters around Maui.

From a report by Ed Lyman, our NOAA whale disentanglement expert, the whale was sighted off Lahaina by the tour vessel, Man-of-War. It was entangled in gear that was likely life threatening. The entanglement involved several wraps of small gauge line around the animal's tail, which was cutting into the animal.

At first, they were able to remove some of the gear and had cut away approximately 40-feet of trailing line by the end of the day. They attached a satellite tag buoy to the animal so they could continue the effort.

On March 11, when ocean conditions made it possible, the NOAA team relocated the animal between Kaho'olawe and Lana'i and all gear was removed.

After the two responses, the animal was assessed, documented and freed of over 200 feet of entangling gear. All the entangling gear was recovered except for a small piece of line that was left in the wound that will likely be expelled over time. It is likely that there is no longer a threat to the whale's life. The gear will be analyzed to help us learn more and, hopefully, prevent future entanglements. This was the third reported and confirmed entanglement of this season, and the first successful response of the 2012-2013 season.



The response was mounted by HIHWNMS, with assistance from NOAA Corps, USCG, NOAA Fisheries PIRO, Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission, West Maui Rapid Response team (Ultimate Whale Watch and Hawaii Marine Education and Research), and many charter and tour vessels.

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Lahaina Outreach

By Marv and Michele Paularina

We had a nice sunny day in Lahaina at the Whale and Ocean Arts Festival, 2013 and spent our three hour shift chatting with 42 folks that stopped by the HIHWNMS table under the Banyan Tree. We had visitors from Wilshire, England, Israel, from all over the US and, of course, from Canada. The whale and honu puzzles were big hits with our young visitors as were our famous tattoos.

We shared about our humpback whales and discussed everything from life expectancy to why the whales come here. One person suggested that Maui's great Mai Tai's were the main attraction for the whales while another suggested that the humpback whale like shape of Kahoolawe was a worship idol for whales who come to Maui to worship!

Some of the conversations were serious and we shared the "rule of 15" story with several young people who appeared fascinated with our great animals. We also acted as a source of information for those who wanted to know about the sights on Maui. We heartily recommend this type of outreach if you enjoy making people happy and welcome on our island.

Marine Debris Project Supplies!

By Nancy Daschbach

The NOAA Marine Debris Program has provided support, through the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, for the sanctuary's citizen science Marine Debris Project. Over \$500 worth of supplies was purchased to help support volunteer data collection and removal of marine debris at Kawililipoa (Lipoa) Beach in Kihei.

The project, part of the NOAA Marine Debris Program's larger Marine Debris Monitoring and Assessment Program, surveys and cleans the beach once a month. Data are used to establish a baseline for marine debris coming ashore so that we can notice any increases or decreases that may be from events such as the devastating 2011 tsunami in Japan. Our project is part of a larger effort throughout the main Hawaiian Islands and the nation.

Pacific Islands regional coordinator, Carey Morishige remarked, "The NOAA Marine Debris Program is happy to support the purchase of supplies to enhance and support the sanctuary volunteer shoreline marine debris monitoring project. We *greatly* appreciate your participation and assistance in gathering this important information".

The Marine Debris Project is currently planned to continue through October of 2014. The leads are Kirsten Lewis and Deb Wanderscheid, and anyone interested in participating, should contact them at: kirsten@alumni.caltech.edu or debra.wanderscheid@landsafe.com.

Beach Clean-Up at Hula Grill

Hula Grill will be having a Kaanapali Beach Clean-Up on Friday April 19. They would like to make it a grander event this year and invite more volunteers and, perhaps, the boating community. If you would like to participate in this event put it on your calendar and your help will be appreciated.

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Whale Watch on the Kai Kanani

By Meryl Cohen

The whale watch on the Kai Kanani was extraordinary. The waters were calm. We watched a calf learn how to breach. First it was flopping in the water, then it started to do a very abbreviated breach. Only as it continued to try did I realize that it was just learning. Finally, this calf starts performing very proficient and complete breaches. We were cheering it on and giving it a number for each breach. O, that was a 9. Very well done Baby! It was remarkable to see!! We were stopped near this calf for at least 20 minutes and it was active the whole time. The Mom never breached once and only showed herself very briefly. It would say that calf breached (or a semblance of a breach) about 30 times.

This was not the only encounter with whales. A small competition group came right next to the boat moving fast and trying to outmatch each other. Lots of splashing and blowing right next to the boat but just for a few moments because they were moving fast and were gone in a minute. Other quieter whales were moving near us too.

We also saw a small pod of dolphins. Dave, the onboard naturalist, said spinners, and they did look small, but I'm not sure. They rode the wake for a bit and were around us for several minutes.

What a trip. That calf showed us how quickly it could perfect quite a strenuous act, learning it right away. Just the way a baby will finally take its first steps and then keep going at it until it is steadier on its feet, this calf kept trying until it got the hang of it, and then kept doing it again and again as if shouting, "Look Mom how well I can do this." No wonder the calves can grow and get strong so quickly to make the trip back.

I feel privileged to be able to observe these remarkable whales; they are one of the great masterpieces of nature.

Our outreach on the Kai Kanani has been curtailed until further notice due to safety issues of loading and unloading on the beach. Whether we will continue this popular outreach is under discussion by staff and our legal team. We are also investigating other options.

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Flowerly Flounder (or Peacock Flounder)

Bothus mancus

Hawaiian: paki'i meaning "fallen flat" or "spread out"

This flounder is often confused with the panther flounder but you need only measure the distance between the two eyes on this flatfish to tell the difference: the flowerly flounder measures 1-3 eye diameters between its eyes whereas the panther flounder's eyes space no more than one eye diameter. Interestingly, the eyes of males may be farther apart than those of female flowerly flounder fish. Males also have a longer pectoral fin that they extend while romancing the females. The fish in the photo is a male!



Photo by Serena Neff

Lastly, you can look for three dark blotches lined up along the center of the body. Using their coloration as camouflage, these fish are most difficult to see as they blend in to the sandy bottoms adjacent to coral reefs. Flipping over a flatfish reveals a vulnerable, eye-less underside of solid white, lacking in any major pigmentation. Using the substrate in part for cover, flowerly flounders will feed on benthic crustaceans and fishes. The family Bothidae refers to left-eye flounders, meaning that both eyes eventually end up on the left side of the head as the fish matures and morphs from its juvenile phase.

West Maui Whale Talk

A private O'ahu school group of 100 fourth graders, teachers and parents came to the sanctuary's information center at Whalers Village Museum to learn about whales and the sanctuary. Students were split into two groups with half the class participating in an outdoor walking tour of marine mammal displays located around the mall at Whalers Village in Kaanapali and the other half attending a talk by sanctuary staff about the sanctuary, the humpback whales that breed in the sanctuary, and the historic whaling days that the museum highlights. Students were enthusiastic with their questions and completed detailed assignments in their field trip journals during the visit.



Lahaina Whale and Arts Festival

Katie Quinn and Larry Boysen are shown at our educational outreach set up with puzzles, a question board, brochures, whale and turtle models and several other learning aids. Children and adults enjoy talking to the volunteers and learning about marine life here in Hawaii.

Our theme is whale information during whale season and we will soon start educating about sea turtles as the turtle nesting season approaches and the whales leave and go to their feeding grounds. Contact jeep to join our outreach team at mauijeep@gmail.com.



Sanctuary Whale Tales

School Groups Visit Whalers Village

In March, a private O'ahu school group of 100 fourth graders, teachers and parents came to the sanctuary's information center at Whalers Village Museum to learn about whales and the sanctuary. Students were split into two groups with half the class participating in an outdoor walking tour of marine mammal displays located around the mall at Whalers Village in Kaanapali and the other half attending a talk by sanctuary staff about the sanctuary, the humpback whales that breed in the sanctuary, and the historic whaling days that the museum highlights. Students were enthusiastic with their questions and completed detailed assignments in their field trip journals during the visit.

Also this month, a group of traveling preschoolers visited sanctuary partners and staff at Whalers Village to participate in ocean art activities. The group, Tutu and Me, aims to support an underserved segment of the Native Hawaiian population. The organization uses older family members, member volunteers, churches and community organizations to meet the developmental needs of children ages birth to 5 years old as well as serve parents and other primary care givers who are raising them. Sanctuary volunteers and staff provided plenty to do for the energetic group of 50 kids and adults with activity tables and tours throughout Whalers Village Museum. Community organizations are benefiting from outreach services provided by the newly announced partnership between the ONMS and Oceanology at Whalers Village Museum. For more information please contact Bo.Petty@noaa.gov.

Volunteer Appreciation Night Casino Night

If you went to the Casino Night last year, you will know how much fun it was and will not want to miss it this April 2. Ka'au and Steve were able to arrange it for us again. Come and try your luck!

Gyotako Fish Painting

A Gyotako fish painting class was held on the 27th of February for the Road Scholars group. The Road Scholars are part of a not-for-profit educational travel group that chose to visit the Sanctuary during their trip. This type of painting is also enjoyed by many at our outreach activities.



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South Maui

*Hawaiian Islands Humpback
Whale National Marine Sanctuary
726 South Kihei Road,
Kihei, HI 96753 (808) 879-2818*

West Maui

*Whaler Village Shopping Center
Whalers Museum
2435 Ka'anapali Parkway
Lahaina, HI 96761 (808) 661-4567*

April 2013

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

*** Outreach Opportunities**
4/13/2013
 Keiki Fest at UH Maui College
 11 AM-4 PM
 Earth Day at Botanical Gardens
 10 AM-3 PM
 (email mauijeep@gmail.com)

		2 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Casino Night 5 PM Kihei	3	4 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM and 2 PM Lahaina 11AM Kihei	5 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM and 2 PM Lahaina	6 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM and 2 PM Lahaina
7	8	9 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Kihei	10	11 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM and 2 PM Lahaina 11AM Kihei	12 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM and 2 PM Lahaina	13 * see note 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM and 2 PM Lahaina
14	15	16 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Kihei	17 Kimokeo's Send-off Party Kihei 5 PM	18 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM and 2 PM Lahaina 11AM Kihei	19 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM and 2 PM Lahaina Kaanapali Beach Clean-Up	20 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM and 2 PM Lahaina
21	22	23 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Kihei	24	25 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM and 2 PM Lahaina 11AM Kihei	26 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM and 2 PM Lahaina	27 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM and 2 PM Lahaina
28	29	30 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Kihei	31			