



IAAAM NEWS IAAAM NEWS IAAAM NEWS

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PLANS FOR THE 8TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP OF THE IAAAM are proceeding well according to President-Elect and Program Chairman, **Dr. Jay Sweeney**. During October he met with local arrangements committee members in Boston to work on the details. Included in the program will be a clinicopathological conference on a selected case, and a pathology wet lab with relevant dissections of both cetacean and fish tissues. The four day conference will be held April 18-21 with registration and a reception April 17 at the New England Aquarium. The deadline for titles of papers was **Jan. 1**. Preregistration forms will be mailed to the membership in February. For information on local arrangements contact **Dr. Lou Garibaldi** or **Mr. John Prescott** of the New England Aquarium.



THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE announces the following slate of candidates for offices of the IAAAM to be voted on at the annual meeting: **President-Elect - - - John Gratzek, D.V.M., Ph.D., Secretary/Treasurer - - - Murray Dailey, Ph.D., and Richard Stroud, D.V.M., Executive Board - - - Larry Dunn, V.M.D.** In the event John Gratzek is elected and it is necessary to elect someone to fill the remaining two years of his term on the **executive board**, our nominee is **Al MacNeil, D.V.M.** who was the runner up in the balloting for nominations for President-Elect.



OFFER OF MARINE MAMMAL TISSUES—Bruce R. Mate, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Oceanography at Oregon State University, is about to embark on a two year project on the impact of marine mammals on a fresh water system, and will be collecting **40 Zalophus** and **10 Phoca** annually for the next two years. Write to Dr. Bruce R. Mate, **Oregon State University, Marine Science Center, Newport, Oregon 97365.**

MARINELAND OF THE PACIFIC presently has a beached infant **pilot whale** which, after two months, is progressing extremely well. The 8 foot female originally had anemia and chronic ulcerative gastritis which have responded to therapy. She has learned to take a stomach tube without restraint and receives 6 kg of herring and 3 kg of squid blended with water twice a day, but shows no interest in natural solids.



KILLER WHALE STUDY COMPLETED — A killer whale study in **Puget Sound** was conducted by whale biologist **Mr. Kenneth C. Balcomb, III** and **Ms. Camille A. Goebel** under contract to **National Marine Fisheries Service's Marine Mammal Division** from **April 1, to October 31, 1976**. They responded to **687 sighting reports** and logged **13,601 nautical miles** and **1,396 hours** aboard two survey vessels from which they took over **17,000 35 mm photographs** using motorized cameras with telephoto lenses. **Cost** of the study was roughly **\$30,000.00**.

Individual whales were identified from a combination of the characteristic size and shape, of the dorsal fin and saddle patch, and other marks and scars. Whales were catalogued using the same alpha-numerical designation employed by **Dr. Michael Bigg** of the Fisheries Research Board of **Canada**, whereby a **cohesive "pod"** of whales was designated by a letter of the alphabet and individuals within the pod were numbered consecutively as they were identified.

The killer counters made **contact with pods 50 separate times** and **followed them for 236 total hours**. Analysis of the data showed there were **68 individually identifiable whales** resident to the waters of **Puget Sound**, and **Straits of Georgia** and **Juan de Fuca**.

The observers found no evidence to suggest that shipping, commercial fishing, pleasure boating, or even mild harassment by interested sightseers directly or grossly affected the distribution of killer whales.



PIER POINTS — Dr. Lanny Cornell of Sea World reports that young **elephant seals** may be easily handled for minor procedures such as tube feeding by administering **ketamine** (0.5-1.0 mg/lb) and **librium** (0.1 mg/lb) intramuscularly. The pharmacologic effect is **sedation**; not immobilization.



CLAMS AND CLATTER — Mr. Kent Osborne of Sea World, San Diego, reports the frequent finding of **rattfish spines (Hydrolagus colliei)**, as foreign bodies within the hard **palate and nasal turbinates** of **young elephant seals** found stranded along southern California beaches. Local abscesses are frequently the consequence.



BUBBLES AND BENDS — A **veterinarian** is **needed** to observe daily sealing operations on St. Paul Island in the Pribilof Islands, Alaska, from June 27 to July 29. Benefits include travel and subsistence costs plus opportunities for independent research. Contact Dr. Mark C. Keyes, Marine Mammal Division, N.W. & Alaska Fisheries Center, 7600 Sand Point Way N.E., Seattle, Wash. 98115; telephone, 206-442-4718.



FISH FUN — The **Marine Mammal Division**, N.W.A.F.C. now has **six northern fur seals** at the new Seattle Municipal Aquarium which will open in April. The seals are under study for fur seal **husbandry** and **marking**. The two males and four females were captured on the Pribilofs in November 1976 by the Division's veterinarian, **Dr. Mark C. Keyes** and the Aquarium's curator, **Dr. John Nightingale**. The aquarium is presently housing **three female Alaska sea otters** which are under the care of **Dr. T.A. Gornall, III**. The husbandry of these animals in captivity will be the topic of **talks** to be given at the upcoming **Boston meeting**.



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