



## Marine Mammal News

### Today's News

Following is a digest of news impacting our members, and the marine mammal community.



### Zoo, Aquarium & Marine Park News

- **Georgia Aquarium** and the Atlanta Zoo joined in on this week's "cute animal tweet off," and are now reminding everyone that they are "[cute with a cause](#)."
- Errol Povah, second officer of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, wrote a letter to The Province, arguing that **Vancouver Aquarium** should move toward having no dolphins, whales or porpoises in human care, calling it "[abuse](#)."
- During the 71st World Association of Zoos and Aquariums Annual Conference, attending representatives raised, within minutes, a total of \$78,000 to help support TRAFFIC's global efforts to [reduce wildlife trafficking](#).
- [PETAAsia.com](#) issued an action alert asking supporters to urge public officials in Abu Dhabi to not welcome the upcoming SeaWorld facility if the park houses animals in human care.
- Local station ABC7 received an exclusive [behind-the-scenes](#) look at the Shedd Aquarium's sea otter area, including its newest resident, Ellie.
- A man was [mauled to death](#) by a tiger after he entered an enclosure at a zoo in eastern China.



### Dolphin News

- **Dolphins Plus** Marine Mammal Responder (DPMMR) proudly led another successful marine mammal entanglement response Jan. 27. After receiving a call from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) about an Atlantic bottlenose dolphin entangled in a crab pot, Art Cooper assembled a team of experienced DPMMR staff, including himself, Jason Shoemaker, and Michael Borguss, as well as Capt. Matt Bellinger and Ana Bellinger of Bamboo Charters. Beginning at 7 a.m., the team searched the oceanside and bayside area, half a mile off-shore near Lignumvitae Key and encountered a fishing vessel with the person who had originally reported the compromised animal onboard. The boaters pointed the DPMMR crew in the right direction, and they quickly spotted a two-to-three-year old dolphin who was entangled, dragging two stone crab pots, and struggling to come to the surface to breathe. DPMMR successfully disentangled the animal, allowing it to swim off with a conspecific of the same size.
- [Daily Mail](#) ran footage of what appears to be a mother dolphin battling to save her calf from divers in Taiji, Japan. The video has racked up over 1.5 million views.
- Western Australian wildlife rangers are searching for a dolphin that is believed to have had a t-shirt deliberately pulled [over its head](#).



### Seal & Sea Lion News

- According to a [new study](#), seals and sea lions are taking a major bite out of the threatened chinook salmon population in Puget Sound, and the competition for food could be having repercussions for endangered Southern Resident killer whales. Seals and sea lions are eating about 1.4 million pounds of Puget Sound chinook each year, about nine times more than they were eating in 1970, according to the report, published online this month in the *Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences*.



### Killer Whale News

- An Auckland man captured stunning [drone footage](#) of two killer whales frolicking off the coast.
- PETA posted a video of actor and animal rights activist [Kate del Castillo](#) calling on Miami Seaquarium to relocate Lolita, its killer whale, to a sea pen and urging people not to visit Miami Seaquarium or SeaWorld.



### Other News

- If it wasn't for great white sharks, the return of the southern sea otter may be one of the Central Coast's greatest environmental success stories. Otters have been steadily increasing in number by at least three percent annually in the last five years, but the otter population still struggles to flourish and venture beyond the Central Coast because of [great white sharks](#), a species just as fragile and vital to the ecosystem as sea otters.
- Sea Shepherd issued a statement saying that one of its crews [rescued a fisherman](#) in Mexico's Gulf of California during a night patrol Jan. 25. Sea Shepherd's vessel *Farley Mowat* spotted a panga boat with four men fishing illegally, and the fleeing man had jumped overboard.



### 2017 AMMPA Annual Meeting To Be Held Feb. 21-24 in Wash., D.C.:

The 2017 AMMPA Annual Meeting will be held Feb. 21-24, 2017 at the [W Washington Hotel](#), just steps away from the White House and minutes from Capitol Hill and the National Mall. The meeting will be preceded by a Board and Committee Chair Meeting Mon., Feb. 20.

To reserve your hotel room, register here:

[AMMPA 2017 Annual Meeting Room Block](#). (OR copy and paste the following link into a web browser:

<https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/events/startaction?id=1608033770&key=2169F8E1>.)

To register for the meeting, click [here](#).

### 45th EAAM Symposium To Be Held at Acquario di Genova March 8-11

Experts, curators, veterinarians, trainers, and researchers from throughout Europe will gather March 8-11 at the Acquario di Genova for the 45th Symposium of the European Association for Aquatic Mammals (EAAM). Keynote speakers include Diana Reiss, Vincent Jannik and Sandro Mazzariol, who will speak on biology topics as well as the threats affecting marine mammal species and potential mitigating actions. For early bird discount or to submit a paper, click [here](#).

### Excellence Beyond Compliance: Ask Animal Care

USDA APHIS Animal Care Regional Directors Elizabeth Goldentyer, DVM and Robert M. Gibbens, DVM share their expertise in the latest Ask Animal Care teleseminar on Thursday, Feb. 2, 2017 at 2 pm EST. To register and submit questions, email [info@excellencebeyondcompliance.com](mailto:info@excellencebeyondcompliance.com).

### Contact

Thank you to Peppermint Narwhal for the graphic design of this news digest and to Public Communications, Inc. and Alliance and IMATA members for their content submissions. The names of Alliance member institutions are bolded in digest summaries.

If you have news, announcements, or visitor comments you would like to share or questions about the digest, please contact [ammpamail@gmail.com](mailto:ammpamail@gmail.com).

