



IAAAM NEWS

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ANNUAL MEETING SET — The 5th Annual Conference and Workshop of the IAAAM will be held at the Court of Flags Motel in Orlando, Florida, starting Monday, April 29 and continuing through Wednesday, May 1, 1974. Those wishing to present papers should send titles and abstracts for consideration to President-Elect, Dr. William Medway, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA 19174.



MARINE MAMMAL PATHOLOGY EXHIBIT PLANNED

— Dr. George Migaki, Chief, Comparative Pathology Branch of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, and also a charter member of the IAAAM, is seeking help in obtaining good sharp color transparencies of gross lesions in marine mammals for an exhibit to be shown in Orlando and at other meetings such as the AVMA, AALAS, and IAP. Blocks, microscopic slides, or photomicrographs of each disease entity are also desired. George needs these materials as soon as possible. Names of all contributors will be acknowledged on the exhibit, and all contributed materials will be returned.



VETERINARIAN RETAINED AS CURATOR OF SEA WORLD — Dr. Lanny Cornell, a charter member of the IAAAM and its current president, is perhaps the first veterinarian in the United States to become curator of a large oceanarium. Last Spring, Dr. John Allen, a member of our Executive Board, became director of an aquarium in New Zealand. Dr. Cornell has, for some time, been the attending veterinarian at Marineland of the Pacific.



FIRST VETERINARY FISH PATHOLOGIST RETAINED BY NMFS

— Dr. Lee W. Harrell has become the first veterinarian retained by the National Marine Fisheries Service to tackle disease problems of fish. Because of budgetary and personnel ceiling problems the appointment is only temporary but it gives Dr. Harrell an opportunity to continue working on his graduate research topic — "Non-cellular protective factors in Rainbow Trout challenged with *Vibrio anguillarum*," at the University of Washington College of Fisheries where he received his Master's Degree this past June. Dr. Harrell has a Bachelor of Science in animal husbandry from the University of Florida, and a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Auburn University.

Dr. Harrell's present duties are in connection with the Fishery Service's aquaculture program in Puget Sound, Washington and includes a salmon disease extension service. He is a member of the IAAAM and resides with his wife at Rte. 5 Box 5546, Bainbridge Island, Washington 98110.

IAAAM MEMBERS SPEAK AT MEETING OF ZOO VETERINARIANS — Several members of the IAAAM participated in the recent 6th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians held November 5 - 7 in Columbus, Ohio.

Dr. Robert Temple was chairman of the Exhibits Committee. Dr. Martin Dinnes discussed anesthesia and restraint of large flightless birds. Dr. Joel L. Mattsson spoke on respiratory physiology in connection with restraint of wild animals. Dr. Jay Sweeney gave a slide talk on pathology and clinical pathology of the California sea lion. Dr. Mark C. Keyes, representing the Department of Commerce, was the Monday luncheon speaker and discussed various aspects of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972.



PROPOSED FINAL REGULATIONS implementing the terms of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) were published in the Federal Register, Vol. 38, No. 158 — Thursday, August 16, 1973 pp 22133-22141.

These regulations do not include specifications for humane handling, care, treatment, and transportation of marine mammals as have been proposed jointly by veterinary medical officers of USDA and the Department of Commerce and which are to be supplemented by a reference guide now being developed with substantial input from committees of the IAAAM.

The regulations do, however, stipulate that "If the marine mammal is to be taken and transported alive, or held for public display"...certain conditions must be met, including "a written certification of a licensed veterinarian knowledgeable in the field of marine mammals that he has personally reviewed the arrangements for transporting and maintaining the animal and that in his opinion they are adequate to provide for the wellbeing of the animal."

The introduction to the proposed final regulations stated "It was felt that the collection of dead mammals, or mammal parts, from beaches should not be exempt from the provisions of the Act since it would be extremely difficult for the Service to ascertain whether, in fact, a given mammal was dead upon being taken."

In connection with stranded, sick, injured, or dying marine mammals, Subpart C — General Exceptions, 216.22(a) applies. "A State or local government official or employee may take a marine mammal in the normal course of his duties as an official or employee, and no permit shall be required, if such taking: (1) Is accomplished in a humane manner; (2) Is for the protection or welfare of such mammal or for the protection of the public health or welfare; and (3) Includes ste

Happy Holidays!

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designed to insure return of such mammal, if not killed in the course of such taking, to its natural habitat." ... "Where the marine mammal in question is injured or sick, it shall be permissible to place it in temporary captivity until such time as it is able to be returned to its natural habitat. It shall be permissible to dispose of a carcass of a marine mammal taken in accordance with this subsection whether the animal is dead at the time of taking or dies subsequent thereto."

There has been considerable confusion on the question of restrictions placed on the importation of marine mammals or marine mammal products. The regulations prohibit, except in accordance with exceptions referred to in Subpart C and Subpart D, import into the United States any:...(2) Marine mammal which was nursing at the time of taking, or less than 8 months old, whichever occurs later."... This is a prohibition against **importation**; it is not a prohibition against **taking** animals of this classification. Thus it is possible to obtain permits to obtain nursing animals for scientific research or display, under the other provisions of the Act, if they are obtained within the territorial waters of the United States or otherwise satisfy the criteria of a nonimport.

Instructions for Preparing Application for Permits to Take or Import Marine Mammals have been published in the Federal Register, Vol. 38, No. 184 — Monday, September 24, 1973 pp 26622-26624.



DURING A PERSONAL INTERVIEW WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION, Dr. Victor B. Scheffer, IAAAM NEWS learned that the permit system is starting to move on a basis other than economic hardship. Since his appointment, Dr. Scheffer has been operating, without government funds, from his home. However, the initial appropriations bill passed the House and Senate the week of November 12-16 and is expected to be signed by President Nixon. It will then be possible for the Commission to acquire a staff and office space to properly carry on the business of the Commission. The rest of the interview follows:

Q. "What is the Commission's attitude about granting permits for animals to be used for display purposes *vis a vis* for research?"

A. "It is mandatory, by use of the word 'shall' in the Act, that the commission recommend uses of animals that conform to the spirit of the Act. The Commission has to approve legitimate uses as long as the marine mammal population in question is not harmed." Dr. Scheffer suggested I include appropriate quotations from the Act to explain this point more fully, and I have chosen point "(2)" under "Definitions:" "The terms 'conservation' and 'management' mean the collection and application of biological information for the purposes of increasing and maintaining the number of animals within species and populations of marine mammals at the optimum carrying capacity of their habitat. Such terms include the entire scope of activities that constitute a modern scientific resource program, including, but not limited to, research, census, law enforcement, and habitat acquisition and improvement. Also included within these terms, when and where appropriate, is the periodic or total protection of species or populations as well as regulated taking."

Q. "About how long will it take for an Aquarium or other institution to get a yes or no on its application for a permit to acquire a marine mammal?"

A. "Generally we will get a reply back to Washington D.C. within 30 days."

(Editor's note: Applications are subject to a public hearing within 60 days of published notice of said application. Not later than 30 days after the close of the hearing the Secretary shall issue or deny issuance of the permit. If no hearing is held, as soon as practicable after the end of the 30 days succeeding publication of the notice of application.)

Q. "What research uses does the Commission think have particular merit?"

A. "The Commission will favor research that enhances survival or conservation of the populations: Thermo-regulation, diving physiology, swimming ability (locomotion) and navigation and migration, physiology of the sensory systems, communications-social structure and behavior. What is a zoo pinniped's need for "psychological space?" Salt tolerance-(electrolyte balance), defenses in the face of unusual assault by pathogens in the marine environment. Why are epizootics of infectious disease apparently rare? Food requirements in volume per day, physiology of fasting-implications for human health; i.e., atherosclerosis, neoplasms; what diseases are common to marine mammals and humans? Marine Mammals as indicators of seawater contamination (heavy metals and organic poisons). Technological use of marine mammals in captivity and possibilities of instrumentation of marine mammals in the wild (radio tracking, bathyhisposographs)."

Q. "What research uses will the Commission frown on?"

A. "The Commission will be sensitive to the views on humane treatment as set forth by animal welfare societies."

Q. "To what extent is the Commission guided by the Scientific Advisory Committee? How will split decisions be handled? will unanimous approval be required?"

A. "In general, five constitutes a quorum, but the scientific advisors are all specialists and the Commission would consider, with added weight, their individual expertise as applied to a given situation. The Commission will submit individual and summary recommendations."

Q. "Will the Commission push for other legislation or specific research effort?"

A. "The Commission is obliged by the Act to consider new legislation, at national and international levels, to further the spirit and intent of the Act."

Q. "Does the Commission envision resumption of commercial whaling by the United States if and when stocks of whales have recovered?"

A. "The Commission has not taken up this question of an international whaling moratorium." (Editor's note: Dr. Scheffer was a member of the U.S. delegation to the International Whaling Commission meeting in London this past June, and he endorsed the position of the U.S. Commissioner, Dr. Robert M. White for a 10 year moratorium on commercial whaling by all nations.)



LAW DETRIMENTAL TO CONSERVATION OF MARINE MAMMALS — The Standing Committee on Marine Mammals, American Society of Mammalogists, chaired by Mr. Karl W. Kenyon, famed wildlife photographer and world authority on sea otters, fur seals, polar bear and walrus, made some interesting observations about the MMPA of 1972. "From the point of view of wildlife biologists, the law was detrimental to the conservation of certain species because it invalidated all state laws pertaining to marine mammals."

The Committee went on to say that it was interesting that the law was passed at this particular time since, "during the 20th Century the vast majority of marine mammal populations **affected by this law** have received various degrees of protection and have become more prosperous than they had been since the turn of the present century and perhaps for hundreds of years. Under strict and federal legislation, species endangered in 1900, such as the sea otter and northern elephant seal, recovered and have become abundant to the point of maximum populations in many parts of their range." "Nevertheless," the committee continued, "federal legislation to require adequate study of all marine mammals is long overdue." (53rd Annual Meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists, Asilomar, Calif. June 13-17, 1973.)