



# IAAAM NEWS

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**MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION MEETS** — The first meeting of the Marine Mammal Commission and Committee of Scientific Advisors met in Seattle on Friday and Saturday the 18th and 19th of January in the Oceanography buildings on the University of Washington campus. **DR. DOUGLAS CHAPMAN**, Dean, U. of W. College of Fisheries, was elected Chairman of the Committee of Scientific Advisors. Both bodies established protocols for conducting the business of the Commission, and the Commission took action on filling the positions of Administrator, Research Director, and Legal Counsel.

The Committee worked in joint session with the Commission reviewing all applications for permits to take marine mammals as well as contract proposals. The meetings were open to the public except for brief executive sessions.

The next meeting of the Commission and Committee will be April 19 and 20 in San Diego.



**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING** — The National Marine Fisheries Service has received one application and inquiries from three other parties concerning traveling seal shows and the manner in which the animals are transported and housed. A hearing will be held at 10:00 a.m., E.S.T., February 13, 1974, in the penthouse conference room, NMFS, Page Bldg. No. 1, 2001 Wisconsin Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007. Written comments may be submitted to the Director, NMFS, Wash., D.C. 20235 by interested parties unable to attend.



**VETERINARIAN RETAINED AS DIRECTOR OF ZOO & AQUARIUM** — Dr. Joel D. Wallach, member of the IAAAM and AAZV, was retained as Director of the Overton Park Zoo & Aquarium in Memphis as of November 15, 1973. Congratulations Joel.



**VETERINARIAN BEGINS FISH DISEASE STUDIES** — Dr. William C. Dolowy, formerly Chairman, Department of Experimental Animal Medicine, U. of W. School of Medicine, has taken a position as Research Associate at the University of Chicago. He will initially work on electron microscopy of fish viruses and the effects of whole body radiation on northern pike and muskellunge. Dr. Dolowy attended our meetings in Honolulu and Victoria.

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**THE DIVING MAMMAL CONFERENCE** — Held the 26th of October at the Stanford Research Institute in Menlo Park, Calif. was the 10th Annual Conference on Biological Sonar and Diving Mammals to be hosted by its original producer, **DR. THOMAS C. POULTER**, world famous antarctic explorer and physicist. Dr. Poulter was in charge of all scientific experiments on Byrd's second expedition to the Antarctic, and even saved Byrd's life on one occasion. He was also Director of the Armour Foundation at the time it developed wire, and later tape recorders. Lately, Dr. Poulter has been making yearly trips to the Arctic, in the vicinity of Barrow, to make underwater recordings of the Bowhead whale and other marine mammals of that area. He has literally hundreds of miles of tape recordings of marine mammals.

All of us at this year's Conference were sad to learn that it would be the last time that Dr. Poulter would be its host. We in the IAAAM know that these conferences, and particularly the 1969 Conference, were instrumental in bringing together the 19 veterinarians who were the original elements of our association. At our first meeting in Key Biscayne we resolved to honor Dr. Poulter by bestowing on him Honorary Life Membership in the IAAAM to show our appreciation for his contribution to the science and art of aquatic animal medicine. Dr. Poulter announced that the conferences in the future would be hosted by Dr. Ken Norris, but that he would still be very busy in the field of bioacoustics.

The IAAAM now consists of 60 members and 50 associate members; 76 veterinarians in all. Forty-nine of the 53 American veterinarians are also members of the A. V. M. A. The associate membership crosses many auxiliary disciplines as anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, nutrition, microbiology, parasitology, husbandry, training, and management.

IAAAM 4th Annual Conference Proceedings, 1973, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

**LASERS MARK AQUATIC ANIMALS** — Four veterinarians have teamed up to test laser as a method of marking fish, turtles, and crabs. They are Dr.'s R. Keith Farrell, Tom Bell, and George Padgett of Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine, and Dr. R. K. Stroud, Dept. of Veterinary Medicine, Oregon State U. Considerable success with cryogenic marking of these animals has already been achieved by the co-workers adding to the work of Keyes and Farrell on the original successful cryogenic marking of Tursiops. "Both freeze marking and laser marking of Dungeness crabs looks promising," says Dr. Padgett.



**RADIO TRACKING OF A KILLER WHALE** — A double transmitter was attached to the base of the dorsal fin of a 21 foot male killer whale and released from Pedder Bay, Vancouver Island in late October, by Dr. Michael Bigg and Mr. Ian Mc Askie, marine mammal biologists with the Fisheries Research Board of Canada. Dr. Alan Hoey, Veterinarian for Sealand, Victoria, B.C. performed the necessary procedures to secure the pack and manage the handling of the large bull which seemed relatively unconcerned about its special attachment and behaved normally as it got under way.

The tracking crew was able to remain in radio contact with the whale for seven or eight hours but was quickly lost when darkness fell. Interestingly, reception was hampered by interference of a football broadcast from the southeastern states. An overseas operator or HAM inadvertently used the frequency also, and this hampered tracking. The trackers "learned a lot" says McAskie; for instance, "the receiver antenna must be above all the ships rigging."

The transmitter was designed to drop off in about two weeks.



**PORPOISE PRATTLE** — Jay and the rest of the staff at New York Aquarium are still "in the dark" as far as

"pregnant" Frances the beluga whale is concerned. The abdomen is distended and there is mammary enlargement but a fetal heart beat has not been detectable with regular electronic or doppler stethoscopes. Frances' progesterone is at 10.5 % mg compared to 1.0 % mg for Ethyl, another beluga not thought to be pregnant.



**CLAMS AND CLATTER** — Do you have any old cetacean spinal cords lying around? Seriously, Professor N. J. Flanigan of St. Norbert College, De Pere, WI 54115, is looking for some. Fetal material is especially needed for developmental aspects for comparative anatomical studies he and his associates are trying to conduct. Fresh material may not be so hard to obtain as Professor Flanigan thinks. Keep alert for notices of mass strandings such as the one that occurred in North Carolina last October 10th and 11th near Beaufort. NMFS and the Marine Mammal Commission have been working on policies and procedures whereby such materials will not be wasted.



**BUBBLES AND BENDS** — The relatively new drug ketamine has been getting a lot of attention lately as an ideal agent of sorts to facilitate handling of marine mammals and to achieve anesthesia for certain diagnostic and surgical procedures. Before we get too high on this attitude we would do well to consider this drug from the patient's standpoint. To do this we can only judge from the testimony of creatures with whom we can directly communicate — other humans. According to Jon Pegg, M.D., Chief of Anesthesia, Queen's Hospital, and Clinical Professor of Physiology, U. of Hawaii, "experience with this drug in humans has been disappointing due to a high incidence of dissociative, often terrifying, reactions. Occasionally these incidents recur weeks after the anesthetic. Thus, the drug is rarely used except for those who are not really in contact with reality anyway, infants and senile adults." "It would be difficult, therefore, to rely on this drug being any more humane than a paralyzing drug such as succinyl choline which retains consciousness, as the mentation with ketamine could be even more terrifying." These considerations resulted from reactions to the panel discussion of Sedatives, Anesthesia, and Surgery moderated by Dr. Keyes at the 3rd Annual Conference and Workshop of the IAAAM in Honolulu.



**PIER POINTS** — Dr. Hyman would like to announce that 1974 dues will be payable at the time of the annual meeting, April 29 — May 1; \$15.00 for members and \$10.00 for associate members. If you are unable to attend, please send him your check at his New York address.



**FISH FUN** — A short course, "Diagnosis and Treatment of Diseases of Warm Water Fish" (WL 4124/6124), will be taught at Mississippi State University, May 6-17, 1974. Undergraduate or graduate credit of 4 semester hours will be given for successful completion. Tuition is \$96.00. The course is limited to 24 persons applying on or before March 1. Dr. Thomas L. Wellborn, Jr., P. O. Box 5405, Mississippi State, Miss. 39762. Applicants will be advised by April 1.



**SEAL PATHOLOGIST NEEDED** — for expanded Pribilof Islands research. Applicant must be available from mid-June to mid-August over a consecutive 4-year period, 1974-1977.

Interested parties may write to: Dr. Mark C. Keyes, Marine Mammal Division, N. W. Fisheries Center, National Marine Fisheries Service, N.S.A. Bldg. 192, Seattle, Wash. 98115

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