



IAAAM NEWS

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IAAAM CONFERENCE — The program for the 5th Annual Conference and Workshop has been set. The first two sessions on Monday, April 29 will be devoted to marine mammals. Tuesday the morning session will deal with aquaculture and the afternoon session with marine invertebrates.

There will be a fifth general session Wednesday morning May 1, including a talk on marine mammal legislation by MR. JOSEPH BLUM, NMFS Marine Mammal Coordinator, followed by a business meeting and banquet Wednesday afternoon and evening.

The place is the Court of Flags Hotel, Orlando Florida. See you there!



IMPORTANT MARINE MAMMAL HEARINGS — On April 10, IAAAM NEWS learned that public hearings will be held in Washington, D.C. on two applications by foreign countries to import marine mammals taken from waters under U.S. jurisdiction.

Action on these first such applications will be landmark decisions and affect all such applications in the future. There are presently nine other applications or letters of inquiry in the Director's (NMFS) office.

The hearing is set for 10:00 A.M., April 30 in the Penthouse Conference Room of Page Bldg. No. 1, 2001 Wisconsin Ave., Wash. D.C. 20007. Written comments may be mailed.



IAAAM INVITED TO TEXAS — Members of the Executive Board have received an invitation from the Honorable R.A. Apffel, Mayor of Galveston to hold its 6th Annual Conference and Workshop in Galveston, Texas.

Companion letters were also received from Robert C. Stephenson, Director for Marine Resources, Texas A & M University, Virginia Broome, Executive Director of the Galveston Convention & Visitor's Bureau, and from John J. Dellanera, Director of the Moody Center on Galveston Island. DR. KEN GRAY coordinated the invitations which were most cordial and hospitable.

REVISION COMMITTEE ACTS — The Constitution and By-Laws Revision Committee, chaired by DR. NICK PALUMBO, has recently circulated proposed changes to a document circulated last Fall. It is anticipated that these latest proposals will constitute the basis for agreement, at this year's business meeting, as to what specific amendments will be voted on. According to rule, the vote would be taken some time 30 days after written notice to the members.

Specific changes that are being proposed deal with membership requirements and objectives of the association. Under terms of the proposed amendments, non-veterinarians could become voting members by a change in status from Associate Member to Member if recommended and approved by a unanimous vote of the seven-member Executive Board.

The association would be identified as "primarily a veterinary medical association" and would promote the application of veterinary medical principles, by doctors of veterinary medicine, to aquatic animal disease problems.



BUBBLES AND BENDS — The charge has often been made that the IWC (International Whaling Commission) is an organization representing the interests of only those nations engaged in whaling. In truth, 14 nations are signatories to the convention but only 6 of these are engaged in whaling.

The 14 members are Argentina, Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Panama, South Africa, the U.S.S.R., the United Kingdom, and the United States. The 6 members engaged in whaling are Australia, Iceland, Japan, Norway, South Africa, and the U.S.S.R. Only two of these; Japan and the U.S.S.R. whale from sea based factories.

At the same time there are six other countries, who are not parties to the convention but are engaged in land based whaling. These are Brazil, Chile, Peru, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, and Spain.



REEF REPORTEE — Some News Media Confused on Killer Whale Issue - In the aftermath of a public hearing held in Seattle on February 20 pertaining to Sea World's application for permits to capture four killer whales for public display, a local newspaper and a local television station were apparently confused by the facts of the matter.

For example, during the hearing, Dr. George Y. Harry, Jr., Director of the N.W. Fisheries Center's Division of Marine Mammals, reported data from annual killer whale counts in waters off California, Oregon, Washington, British Columbia, and Alaska for the past three years, but an article in the Seattle Post Intelligencer stated "Testimony as to the abundance of the species was limited to statements such as, "one group was estimated by a salmon fisherman to number in excess of 300 animals."

Likewise, a spokesman for Channel 5, KING T.V. stated that killer whale population estimates were limited to the word "lots" and credited this estimate to Sea World's Vice President and General Manager.

In similar fashion KING T.V. reported that "killer whale captures had been banned by state law but, now that decisions were being made in Washington, things were different." KING neglected to tell its listeners that the

state had issued permits in two different years; one for 6 whales and one for 4 whales. The latter permit was never filled and later was reissued by the federal government but again the permit was not used except to import one whale from Canada.

The most recent hearings might well have been regarded as being held to consider the reissue of unused federal permits that were reissues of unfilled state permits, but KING's words, "last year the federal government gave Seaworld permission to capture 4 whales. Now they want 4 more," would lead the average listener to assume that 4 whales were captured by Sea World in 1973 when, in fact, none were. At the most recent hearing a spokesman for the Washington State Game Department reviewed these facts but they apparently fell on deaf ears.

KING had similar difficulties handling the facts about state killer whale policies in 1971 when a spokesman for KING said "apparently there is no limit on the number of killer whales that can be taken," when it was putative knowledge that the state had issued permits for six, and only six, whales.

On the bright side, Channel 7, KIRO T.V. Eyewitness News has presented objective companion coverage of the last two hearings on killer whale permits; nevertheless, the public has a right to be confused if they watched Channel 5 or read the P.I.



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CLAMS AND CLATTER — Notice to Members - IAAAM NEWS is your means of pan-communication with each other. To function as such I need to receive your notices, *case reports* (Gornall), summaries of noteworthy events or problems solved, new animals, births, and other activities. This newsletter now has important distribution outside the association: Deans of Veterinary Colleges, certain state associations, AVMA, NIH, and other government agencies including the Surgeon General, and the National Medical Library, and the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors. Heads of all the foregoing offices will circulate issues of IAAAM NEWS to their constituents, faculties, or students, as the case may be. This is your opportunity to be recognized and your accomplishments appreciated. By taking it you will be helping me publish the most interesting and useful newsletter possible. Thank you.

The Editor

