



IAAAM NEWS

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DATE CHANGED FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE — The 6th Annual Conference and Workshop of the IAAAM will be held in Amsterdam **April 19-24, 1975**. The conference will be held in Grand Hotel Krasnapolsky at the Dam, the very center of Amsterdam and within walking distance of the main attractions. It will be springtime in Holland and in the theme of "Tulips of Amsterdam" an appropriate ladies program has been provided for. A block of 50 seats on a scheduled airlines, non-stop, New York to Amsterdam have been reserved at the group rate of \$356.00 per person, round trip. For more information contact **Dr. Jay D. Hyman, 37 Montebello Rd., Suffern, N.Y. 10907 (914-357-7819)**.



CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT BALLOTS NEEDED

According to our Secretary, as of November 18, only 38 of 61 ballots had been returned. A number of amendments, including those pertaining to tax exempt status, are vital to the association, but must be approved by a two-thirds vote. Therefore, to clearly see if the proposed amendments have association approval, we must have near 100% participation by the voting members. It should be kept in mind that these amendments were adopted by members at the Orlando meeting.



SPECIAL MEMO TO MEMBERS OF THE IAAAM

— In September, 1974 a mass stranding of Atlantic white-sided dolphins (*L. acutus*) occurred along the coast of Maine. Scientists from the New England Aquarium are now engaged in a detailed study of the 51 dolphins in cooperation with investigators from a number of other institutions. The study includes general biology, anatomy, reproduction, pathology, toxicology, and parasitology. All qualified investigators are invited to participate in these studies and may acquire special tissues from any of the 51 frozen cadavers by submitting a request to: Mr. Salvatore Testeverde, Biologist, New England Aquarium, Central Wharf, Boston, Mass. 02110. Requests must be received before February 15, 1975 and include the nature of the study to be undertaken. The foregoing notice was submitted by **Joseph R. Geraci, V.M.D., PhD.,** Associate Professor of Wildlife Diseases, University of Guelph. Dr. Geraci is the principal investigator and permit holder on this project.



"EXTINCTION OF ANY MAJOR POPULATION OR SPECIES OF GREAT WHALES IS NOW IMPROBABLE"

writes **D.E. Sergeant**, biologist for the Fisheries Research Board of Canada, in his review of "The Blue Whale" a book by George L. Small. This book review is recommended reading for anyone who would like to cut through the emotionalism about whaling and learn some facts. See page 84 of **The Canadian Field-Naturalist, Vol. 87, No. 1 Jan.-March, 1973**.



THE ANNUAL FUR SEAL HARVEST

in the Pribilof Islands surprised many in charge of the program this year by exceeding the forecasts by more than 20%. An unusually good survival of the 1970 year class was the reason, but no one knows why this was so. Government scientists **have** recognized that mortality of pups on land has shown a cyclical peak every three years since 1965. The 1971 year class, whose members would appear in the harvest as 3 year olds last summer, experienced heavy postnatal mortality and correspondingly did not show strongly in 1974 although survival at sea often overshadows effects of death rates of pups on land.

This past season 33,009 seals, mostly 3 and 4 year old males, were taken from June 24 to July 27. This in spite of the fact that no harvest was conducted on St. George Island which, for the second year, has been set aside as a research preserve. The harvest would have been even larger except many more males were permitted to escape, partly because of reduced size limits to increase the population of breeding bulls, and because the harvest stopped several days short of the traditional stopping point, a time when returns are the heaviest.

The Pribilof harvest, which has been regulated by the federal government since 1911, operates on the basis of abundance rather than set quotas. Thus the risk of over-exploitation or underutilization is avoided. Since 1911, several million seals have been harvested even as the population has increased from around 200,000 to 1.2 million. The Pribilof Islands fur seal conservation and management program is exempt the terms of the Marine Mammal Protection Act.



THE PRIBILOF ISLANDS PROGRAM is seeking a new Director. The duties include the full range of functions necessary for the administration of the Pribilof Islands including management of the fur seal herds. Responsibilities include coordination of management of whales, porpoises, sea lions, and seals in the waters of Oregon and Washington, and all other mammal or non-mammal marine species of fish, wildlife, and plants endangered or threatened. The salary for this GS-15 position is approximately \$30,000.00 per year. Interested parties may apply to: Northwest Administrative Service Office, 1700 Westlake Avenue North, Seattle, Wash. 98109 (206-442-7564) Applicants not already employed by D of Commerce should submit a completed Standard Form 171, available at any Post Office or federal agency. Send applications via Attn: ADF92-D.R. Porter.



MARINE MAMMALS INVADE COUGAR COUNTRY — Pullman, Washington, home of the Washington State University Cougars is affectionately known as "Cougar Country." Some of the most notable Cougar alumni are graduates of the **W.S.U. College of Veterinary Medicine**. Since 1962 the "Vet School" has become seal conscious because that is when one of its graduates, Mark Keyes, became a "seal vet" for the federal government and began hollering for help to attack seal disease problems. Fur seals from St. Paul Island, Alaska came to Pullman in 1967 and occupied the air conditioned Canine Infectious Disease

quarters. Here it was that **Dr. R. Keith Farrell** and Dr. Keyes proved that **Nanophytes salmincola** the intestinal trematode that transmits the rickettsias of Salmon Poisoning Disease and Elokomin Fluke Fever, could establish itself in the seal and transmit the disease. Since then the University museum has acquired fur seal skeletons and the Department of Veterinary Anatomy has acquired a dolphin skeleton. Presently, an independent study is being conducted on the splanchnology of the fur seal within the Anatomy Department under the direction of **Dr. Robert Worthman**. In January, 1975, Dr. Keyes returned to the Pullman campus with a courtesy appointment as Professor of Veterinary Pathology and presented 8 hours of lectures on Marine Mammal Anatomy, Physiology, Disease, and Management. Dr. Keyes also serves as a pre-veterinary advisor to students at the University of Washington in Seattle.



DR. ROBERT GUNNELS, who has been doing research on fish diseases with the NW Fisheries Center, NMFS, Seattle, completed requirements for a Master of Science degree from the University of Washington College of Fisheries. Dr. Gunnels is in the USAF Veterinary Corps and has been assigned to the San Diego area where he will set up new research on diseases of marine species. Congratulations Bob; it is good to see another one of our members making such fine progress.



CASE HISTORIES AND MEDICAL NOTES INVITED — IAAAM NEWS is the appropriate place for such informal entries and there is plenty of room. As you can see there was not enough material to fill this issue, and you may have noticed that lately IAAAM NEWS has become a quarterly newsletter rather than a bi-monthly at it started out. So don't be bashful. Discuss your squid bits and clam clatter with the rest of us.



THE FIRST ISSUE OF MARINE MAMMAL NEWS, a new Nautilus periodical, contained a great deal of interesting news and facts about a wide range of subjects, mostly on legislation, regulations, and proposed research; all issues of vital interest to most of us. For a sample copy write to: Nautilus Marine Mammal News, 1056 National Press Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20045. The Editor is Suzanne Montgomery Contos.



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BETH ANN HYMAN was born October 8, 1974 to Dr. and Mrs. Jay D. Hyman. Congratulations Elaine and Jay.



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