

Prudential Malibu Realty 310.456.6431

Energy Efficient Healthy Homes

Valley Door Group Exterior Doors & Windows

Keep your pets safe! COYOTE ROLLERS

E. Hitchcock Pratt, PhD, LPCC Art for Therapy

rkFIT

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME FILING Click Here

68° Broken

Welcome to the site! Login or Signup below. Login | Signup

Advanced Search GO

Home News Opinion Blogs Malibu Life Community Photo Gallery Our Newspaper Malibu Times Magazine Classifieds

Home > News

Study: More Dolphins, Whales Feeding in Santa Monica Bay

Local marine biologists have observed double the amount of whales in the bay than in years past.

Story Comments (2) Image (2)

Share Print Font Size: - +

Tweet 14 Like 17

Previous Next



Courtesy of OCS

Two Whales Spotted in Point Dume Area



Posted: Thursday, April 17, 2014 2:00 pm | Updated: 11:21 am, Fri Apr 18, 2014.

By Matt Sanderson / Special to The Malibu Times | 2 comments

Research compiled by a pair of local marine biologists has found that dolphins and whales are feeding more than ever in the Santa Monica Bay, possibly due to changes in ocean conditions and more prey.

The observations were made by Maddalena Bearzi and Charlie Sayan, a wife and husband team that has monitored ocean life nearly every week across Santa Monica Bay for more than 15 years.

In December 2013, the pair spotted approximately 370 whales in the bay, doubling December 2012 observations.

"I've never seen such an abundance," said Bearzi, co-founder of Marina del Rey-based Ocean Conservation Society (OCS). "I got a little bit concerned with all these animals in

the bay. People say we have a population boom, but it's not the case. It's a combination of different factors that brought this shift in presence in these animals, oceanographic conditions or more at play."

The problem with dolphins, Bearzi notes, is they tend not to avoid polluted areas, feeding in areas with high stormwater run-off.

Saddleback Golf Cars

Sale • Rent
Repairs
Parts & Accessories

REEL INN
FRESH FISH-MARKET
RESTAURANT

SURF+
County Line

Connect With Us

Facebook Twitter

Sign Up For Our Daily Newsletter!

Sign up today to begin receiving the

Bearzi recounted her experiences at sea in her third book “Dolphin Confidential: Confessions of the Field Biologist,” published in 2012, and is now working on a fourth book. She believes her studies prove bottlenose dolphins use Santa Monica Bay as a feeding ground and spend a long time in the area. Roughly the same 300 to 400 bottlenose dolphins have been swimming up and down the coast, according to the researcher.

“Sometimes we see the same individual over two to three four-month periods over the years,” she said.

The most common dolphins in Santa Monica Bay are bottlenose, short beaked and long beaked, but OCS occasionally sees Pacific white-sided and Risso’s dolphins too. In 2013, Bearzi said they catalogued a lot of blue whales, gray whales, fin whales, humpback whales, minke whales, sperm whales, killer whales, harbor seals and sea lions coming close to shore.

There are three canyons in Santa Monica Bay, which, due to the wind-driven act of upwelling moving nutrients to the water surface, brings a plethora of ocean life to the area to feed. For instance, Bearzi said blue whales love returning to the Dume Canyon area.

The scientists follow the coastline beyond Malibu, and often see a recognizable dorsal fin or two in a school from previous encounters.

“They’re like human fingerprints,” said Bearzi. “They are part of a large population from Baja up to San Francisco, and some to Oregon.”

Currently, OCS is examining skin lesions and deformities on local dolphins and whales, and is comparing them to how environmental factors, like pollution in Santa Monica Bay, are related and how they affect human health. They consider the study the first of its kind on the west coast.

“This is the same fish we eat but they eat in a lot bigger quantity than we do,” she said. “These pollutants are in their bodies.”

Bearzi added that, while it’s good more public attention is brought to local marine life in order to better protect them, when there is a beached or stranded mammal — and quite a few beached whales have been found along Malibu’s shores in the recent years — people get too close and create a disturbance for the animal.

“I get concerned people don’t know about the regulations,” she said. “They are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act.”

It costs OCS between \$100,000 and \$200,000 annually to keep its research schedule afloat; it has received funding and equipment aid from the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission, Save Out Coast—Malibu Dolphin Watch Foundation, the Malibu Foundation and others. Bearzi adds her team is currently studying the fishing community in Malibu, specifically the recreational fishing community and its conflicts with local sea lions.


For more information on OCS, visit [www. oceanconservation.org](http://www.oceanconservation.org).

More about [Print Edition](#)

- **ARTICLE:** Q&A: County Supervisor Candidate Bobby Shriver
- **ARTICLE:** Election Recap: Absentee Ballots Key in Malibu City Council Race
- **ARTICLE:** Silna Settles Longtime NBA Dispute for \$500M
- **ARTICLE:** Santa Monica Mountains Plan Finally Wins Approval

More about [Dolphins](#)

- **ARTICLE:** Blog: Dolphins’ and Whales’ Right to Life, Proclaims Malibu
- **ARTICLE:** Marine Life Proclamation Issued by City Council

 latest Malibu news straight to your inbox.

[Newsletter Signup](#)

Submit Your News!



We’re always interested in hearing about news in our community. Let us know what’s going on!

[Submit news](#)



Calendar

April 2014						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			
today's events		browse		submit		

Popular [Commented](#) [Facebook Activity](#)

Stories

Head-on Crash at Kanan Dume Sends 2 to Hospital

Study: More Dolphins, Whales Feeding in Santa Monica Bay

PCH Construction to Bring Long-term Traffic Troubles

Election Recap: Absentee Ballots Key in Malibu City Council Race

Silna Settles Longtime NBA Dispute for \$500M

[More](#)

[Photos](#)

[Videos](#)

- **ARTICLE:** [Scientists Report Record Whale, Shark Sightings](#)
- **ARTICLE:** [Blog: The War Against Nature: Insatiable Taiji Bloodlust](#)

More about [Whales](#)

- **ARTICLE:** [Local Assemblyman Speaks Up for Whales](#)
- **ARTICLE:** [Blog: Dolphins' and Whales' Right to Life, Proclaims Malibu](#)
- **ARTICLE:** [Marine Life Proclamation Issued by City Council](#)
- **ARTICLE:** [Santa Monica Pier Aquarium to Host "Whale of a Weekend"](#)

Discuss

Share Print

Posted in [News](#), [Local](#) on *Thursday, April 17, 2014 2:00 pm*. *Updated: 11:21 am*. | Tags: [Print Edition](#), [Dolphins](#), [Whales](#), [Marine Mammals](#), [Research](#), [Santa Monica Bay](#)

More From This Site

- [Election Recap: Absentee Ballots Key in Malibu City Council Race](#)
- [Malibu Explosion Was Caused By Hash Oil Lab](#)
- [Letter: Concerned About Debt](#)
- [Guest Column: Measure BB Neglect](#)
- [From the Publisher: The World from Malibu](#)

From Around The Web

- [Meet the Women who are Defining what it Means to Be a Modern Latina Woman](#) (Facebook)
- [This Is What Sheryl Crow's 12.5 Million Dollar House Looks Like](#) (Lonny Magazine)
- [DNA Testing Solves Mystery of Young Girl Who Disappeared on Titanic](#) (Ancestry.com)
- [Kim Jong-un is Worth How Much?!](#) (MyBankTracker.com)
- [Don't Go Grocery Shopping Without Knowing these 50 Supermarket Tricks](#) (Reader's Digest)

Recommended by

Homes Jobs Cars

Homes

OCEAN VIEW OFFICE SPACE

Updated: Yesterday

HISTORIC ESTATE HOME FOR LEASE IN GENOA NEVADA.

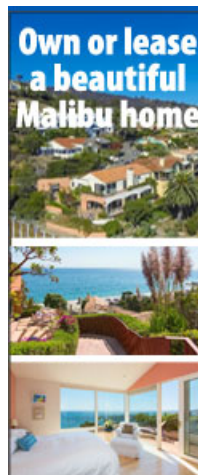
\$4,250

Updated: Yesterday

2 HOMES FOR SALE

Updated: April 16

More Homes



Own or lease a beautiful Malibu home

3 bedrooms, 3.5 bath - views from the Queen's Necklace to Pt. Dume and the Malibu Pier in between. This home boasts high ceilings, ocean views from every room, and an open floor plan. The kitchen features a large island, walk in pantry and breakfast bar. Additional den and a second level bonus room which combines two built-in work stations and a lounge area with a fireplace for relaxation. The master bedroom is a two-room suite.

Offered for: \$3,750,000
Lease: \$12,995 per month

Susan Monus
310-589-2477
Coldwell Banker
BRE #00827409

WHEN BUYING, SELLING OR TRADING

confidence IS precious.



Estate Diamond Exchange deals in gold and all precious metals, diamond and gemstones, fine jewelry, timepieces, and estates, and is staffed by experts who are uniquely able to evaluate these pieces.

Estate Diamond Exchange

5017 Kanan Road, Agoura Hills, (Kanan Rd at the 101)
yournextdiamond.com
(818) 865-8160

Welcome to the discussion.

Screen Name or Email

Password

[Forgot?](#)

Remember me on this computer

Login

[Need an account? Create one now.](#)

2 comments:

Matt Horns posted at 8:35 pm on Thu, Apr 17, 2014.



Posts: 673

When I was a kid in the 1960's and 70's, I spent almost every summer day at Santa Monica Bay beaches. I almost never saw marine mammals of any kind because the ocean water was so polluted that they stayed away.

Now I see marine mammals here all the time. During a family hike on Point Dume in 2002, we observed six species of marine mammals within one hour: harbor porpoises, bottlenose dolphins, Rizzo's dolphins, harbor seals, California sea lions, and even a sea otter.

I give Dorothy Greene and the organization that she created, Heal the Bay, a lot of credit for this dramatic improvement.

[Log In](#) to report. | [Link](#)

stevewoodzy posted at 5:41 pm on Thu, Apr 17, 2014.





Posts: 414

With decades of environmentalist acting in concert since the 70's , I have witnessed in my lifetime an immense improvement in the numbers of dolphins , seals and whales but mostly sea birds such as pelicans . Pelicans were on the precipice of vanishing off our coast from the devastating affects of DDT . Pelicans can now be seen in huge vee formations that can be seen by the hundreds in a single fly by. Today at the Malibu Lagoon two more deafening loud flocks of Terns have joined another group that arrived last week with hundreds more and are now out numbering the gulls , pelicans , ducks, cormorants , egrets , herons and coots .

[Log In](#) to report. | [Link](#)

Print comments

Michael Novotny 310.456.6431



The Greatest FLEA MARKET on Earth
2nd Sunday Every Month
ROSEBOWL - PASADENA



City of Malibu



TEAK WAREHOUSE
teak - wicker - concrete - stainless steel - sunbrella
THE #1 PLACE TO GO FOR A-GRADE TEAK FURNITURE



Averi
malibu's resident psychic®

<p>Sections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Home - Community - Malibu Life - News - Sports - Opinion - Obituaries - Entertainment - Photos - Videos - Online Features - Weather 	<p>Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - About Us - Contact Us - Advertise - Subscription Services - Submission Forms - Site Index - Add Search Toolbar 	<p>Contact us</p> <p>malibutimes.com</p> <p>The Mailbu Times Phone number: 310-456-5507 E-mail: webeditor@malibutimes.com Address: 3864 Las Flores Canyon Road Malibu, CA 90265</p>	<p>Search</p> <p><input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="Search"/></p> <p>Search in:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Business</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Photos</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> News</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Opinion</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Video</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Sports</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Community</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Malibu Life</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All	<input type="checkbox"/> Business	<input type="checkbox"/> Photos	<input type="checkbox"/> News	<input type="checkbox"/> Opinion	<input type="checkbox"/> Video	<input type="checkbox"/> Sports	<input type="checkbox"/> Community		<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Malibu Life	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All	<input type="checkbox"/> Business	<input type="checkbox"/> Photos													
<input type="checkbox"/> News	<input type="checkbox"/> Opinion	<input type="checkbox"/> Video													
<input type="checkbox"/> Sports	<input type="checkbox"/> Community														
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Malibu Life														

© Copyright 2014, Malibu Times, Malibu, CA. Powered by BLOX Content Management System from TownNews.com.