

The Mariner

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THE DREADED SANTA ANA'S EXPLAINED

By Oceanographer Mike Leneman

DEBBIE TALBOT REMEMBERED

KEEPING YOUR DIESEL HAPPY

TIPS FOR THE BOAT PARADE

GREAT CLASSIFIEDS!

Local Dolphin Researchers Need Help

A message from Dr. Maddalena Bearzi, our local dolphin and marine mammal expert, founder of the Ocean Conservation Society.

When we started, back in 1997, we were the first organization doing year-round marine mammals monitoring off Los Angeles. Over the years, we have carried out many different research studies and educational programs and published numerous scientific papers, reports as well as articles and books to raise awareness about these animals. You can read about our work in our website at www.oceanconservation.org.

In recent years, because of the critical situation facing dolphins, whales and other marine creatures, we've become more and more focused only on research and educational projects that have measurable conservation impacts, often adding an "active component" to our programs. We basically utilize our research as the basis for educational outreach programs pointed at local stakeholders as well as the general public and we try to use our scientific data to influence policy.

Here is an example. One of our research studies shows that the area off Los



Angeles, California, is an important year-round foraging hotspot for coastal bottlenose dolphins. OCS past research shows that these dolphins suffer skin lesions and physical deformities. Based on our studies we noticed that the presence of these diseases is increasing in recent years and it's related, among other factors, to man-made pollutants in our waters.

This concerns us because it has potential implications for human health. If the dolphins are sick, we get sick (we eat some of the same fish and swim in the same waters) so it's crucial not only to understand the problems facing these

animals and their environment but also attempt to influence public opinion and policy.

Unfortunately our animals are not the only ones in trouble. OCS is now facing hard times and we are in need of immediate support. We are in the process of selling our research boat and downsizing our efforts due to a lack of funds. Hopefully, perhaps with your help, we will be able to stay alive and continue our research and educational efforts in this area.

To help, please contact us at info@oceanconservation.org.



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