Monterey WhaleFest offers learning opportunities

Participants learn how whales are rescued, affected by global warming

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MONTEREY, Calif. —The rainy weather did not keep visitors to Old Fisherman's Wharf from having a whale of a time at the Monterey WhaleFest.

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Numerous marine life protection agencies set up shop under the pavilion at Custom House Plaza to give visitors a look at what's going on under the sea.

The Whale Entanglement Team gave little ones a hands-on opportunity to learn about how they rescue whales.

"This season was a very busy season" said WET member Victoria Wade. "Within the sanctuary there were a higher number of responses and reports that there were last year."

Scientific experts also shared their research on the effects of climate change and it impact on the food supply in the ocean.

With the help of a life-size inflatable whale and a number of interactive booths, there were plenty of opportunities to engage the young and the young at heart.

"It's sort of a bonding opportunity to learn together and do things together," said Caria Martins.

She took a little marine life enthusiast, J.J. Alejo, to enjoy WhaleFest.

"It is very fun to know new facts in this world because it is a very curious world," said Alejo.

The event was organized, in large part, by volunteers.

Head volunteer Carlos Morales said he hopes the event inspires a new generation of people passionate about caring for the world.

"I hope that for future generations like there's kids that are here and when they are older the world is not going to look the way it is now. It's going to look so different and I just hope that they want to preserve it for generations in the future," Morales said.

Whale Fest continues on Sunday at Custom House Plaza, next to Old Fisherman's Wharf in Monterey.

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