

Whalefest sails into Monterey

[Joe Truskot](#), The Salinas Californian 1:49 p.m. PST January 14, 2016



(Photo: Provided)

70 CONNECT [TWEET](#) [LINKEDIN](#) COMMENT EMAIL MORE

The Monterey Fisherman's Wharf Association will hold the 6th Annual Whalefest Monterey, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 23 and Sunday, Jan. 24. If there's inclement weather, the music and booths will be inside the giant tent on the Custom House Plaza. The Symposium will take place inside the adjacent Museum of Monterey (MOM) at 5 Custom House Plaza in Monterey.

This free family event celebrates the migration of the gray whales through the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

Among the highlights will be a symposium related to marine life conservation, musical performances, and educational displays. Thousands of attendees are expected again this year.

Weather permitting, whale watching tours, fishing, sailing and glass bottom boats (for a fee) will be operating from the Wharf, and Wharf restaurants will be serving lunch and dinner. Wharf shops will also be featuring marine-themed merchandise.

The two-day event will feature a wide array of fun and informative activities including: a 60-foot model whale (attendees can climb inside). There will be squid dissection by scientists from the Hopkins Marine station and interactive displays from the Pacific Shark Research Center. Learn more about the Whale Entanglement Team (WET) by Marine Life Studies that help rescue the increasing number of entangled whales.

The event will feature an array of great live music including the Monterey High Jazz Band, Kuumbwa High School Honor Jazz Band, Jonah and the Whale Watchers, Nick Fattis & His "Orca" str, Bill Minor & Richard Rosen, and Michael Brautovich.

Participating organizations include: American Cetacean Society, California Coastal Commission, Camp SEA Lab, Central Coast Lighthouse Keepers, Clean Oceans Project, Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, Hopkins Marine Station, Marine Life Studies, Marine Mammal Center, Monterey Academy of Oceanographic Science (MAOS), Monterey Regional Waste Management District (MRWMD), MY Museum, Moss Landing Marine Labs, Oceana Pacific, Otter Project, Pacific Grove Museum, Pacific Shark Research Center, San Francisco Bar Pilots, Save the Whales, Save Our Shores, Seafloor Science and Remotely Operated Vehicle (SS-ROV) Day Camp, Student Oceanography Club, U.S. Coast Guard & Coast Guard Auxiliary, Whale Entanglement Team (WET) and Ventana Wildlife Society.

Whalefest Monterey once again has lined up world-renowned marine scientists, researchers, authors and historians to at a Symposium at the Museum of Monterey, Stanton Center, 5 Custom House Plaza, next to Old Fisherman's Wharf.

The presentations focus on the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and its wildlife; climate change, weather and water anomalies and their affects on marine life; whale entanglements and rescues; the latest research on marine life in Monterey Bay, including experts on leather back turtles, and elephant seals.

Scientist, researcher and New York Times bestselling author of "Blue Mind," Wallace J. Nichols, will be on hand to share his insights on the remarkable truth about the benefits of being in, on, under or simply near water. He'll also sign copies of his book, available at the event.

For more information, call 831-238-0777.