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## Fisherman's Wharf Hosts 7th Annual Whalefest

BY MICHAEL CHATFIELD

**The 7th Annual Whalefest in January celebrates the California gray whales who migrate through the waters of the Monterey Bay to the Sea of Cortez.**

**F**rom the indigenous people who sustained themselves with its bounty to the industrial-scale harvesting of abalone, squid and sardines to the Monterey Bay Aquarium and its focus on sustaining ocean life, the story of Monterey is inextricably tied to the ocean that laps its shores. All that and more will be celebrated at the 7th annual Whalefest.

Whalefest is focused on the annual migration of the California gray whales, when thousands of those cetaceans pass by the Peninsula on their way to breeding grounds in the Sea of Cortez.

"This event is educational, but also fun—and free," says Mary Alice Cerrito Fettis, president

of the Fisherman's Wharf Association and Whalefest chair:

Symposiums featuring speakers on topics ranging from history to otters to elephant seals—and of course, whales—are presented both days. On the fun side, whale watching tours, sailing, glass bottom boat rides and fishing are offered for a fee, weather permitting. Humphrey the Humpback Whale, a 60-foot model whale will also be on hand.

"This is a great weekend for locals to enjoy the wharf," Fettis says.

*Whalefest takes place January 28 and 29, 2017, from 10am to 5pm. Schedules and more information are online at [www.montereywharf.com](http://www.montereywharf.com).*