

For Immediate Release  
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## ***6<sup>th</sup> Annual Whalefest Monterey to be held on January 23 & 24, 2016 at Old Fisherman's Wharf, Monterey, California***

### *The Whale Watching Capital of the World™*

*This free fun and educational, interactive family event for all ages celebrates the migration of the gray whales! The event also benefits many local and national marine organizations that educate, inspire, and empower the public to protect the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.*

August 2015 (Monterey, CA) –The Monterey Old Fisherman's Wharf Association will sponsor and hold the ***6<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL WHALEFEST MONTEREY*** at and around Old Fisherman's Wharf, Monterey, California, *The Whale Watching Capital of the World™* on Saturday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016 from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

The event celebrates the migration of the gray whales, and benefits the many local and national marine organizations that build awareness about the *Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary* – they educate, inspire, and empower the public to protect it.

Among the highlights will be a symposium with lectures and documentaries related to ocean and marine life conservation presented at the Museum of Monterey at the Stanton Center (MoM) Auditorium and the Wharf Theatre, musical and theatrical performances with a maritime theme, and many educational displays by participating organizations. Thousands of attendees are expected again this year that range from local families and school children who want to learn more about our maritime environment to visitors from near and far who want to explore the annual whale migration.

Whale watchers come from around the world to view hundreds of whales, orcas, dolphins and pelicans who continue to feast on a “krill and anchovy buffet” in the

*Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary*. Throughout the year, this *Whale Watching Capital of the World* offers sightings of 15 species of whales, 10 species of dolphins, 2 species of porpoise, 6 species of pinnipeds and 1 species of Fissiped (sea otter).

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 – *Humphrey the Humpback Whale* (attendees can climb inside), will be on site to honor the migration of his friends, the gray whales. There will be squid dissection by scientists from the Hopkins Marine station and interactive displays from the Shark Research Center. Learn more about the Web Entanglement Team coordinated by Marine Life Studies that help rescue the increasing number of entangled whales.

For more information and updates, go to [www.montereywharf.com](http://www.montereywharf.com) or call 831-238-0777.