

For Immediate Release  
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## **13<sup>th</sup> Annual Whalefest Monterey to feature FREE 2-day activities, including the Symposium with world-renowned marine experts and stunning photography, ocean and environment related exhibits, live music and more on March 18 and 19, 2023**

### **Symposium to be held at Heritage Harbor adjacent to the Recreation Trail, just steps away from Old Fisherman's Wharf**

February 2023. Monterey, CA. Save the date for the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Whalefest Monterey. Making a big splash for thousands of locals and visitors, the event is fun and informative for all ages. Come out and enjoy a free celebration of cetaceans and so much more. Winter is also a great time to celebrate and learn more about gray and humpback whales who are migrating through the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, as well as dolphins, sea otters, sea birds and more. Whalefest Monterey benefits many local and national marine organizations that educate, inspire, and empower the public to protect the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

#### **At a Glance:**

**What:** 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Whalefest Monterey and 2-Day Symposium

**Where:** The 2-day Whalefest Monterey event is held at and around Old Fisherman's Wharf, Custom House Plaza – Monterey State Historic Park. GPS to 201 Washington Street in Monterey, CA. Whalefest Monterey features a 2-day Symposium with world-renowned marine experts at Heritage Harbor, located adjacent to the Recreation Trail and just steps away from the Wharf.

This year's lineup includes presentations of cutting edge research findings from MBARI, Moss Landing Marine Lab, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and the Marine Mammal Center and more. We'll also learn about MBARI's new research ship and the latest efforts of Marine Life Studies and the Whale Entanglement Team, as well insights into incredible underwater whale photography.

The Symposium is held at an indoor venue generously made available by the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

**When:** Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup> 2023, from 11 am – 5 pm

**More details:** One of the many engaging activities at Whalefest include the 2-day Symposium with cutting-edge presentations by marine experts and others about important issues impacting the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and beyond. In addition to the

Symposium, Whalefest features dozens of interactive hands-on exhibits, live music and other great activities for all ages.

This free family friendly event includes the popular Gyotaku and Scrimshaw activities on Old Fisherman's Wharf and a return of the "world famous" Abalone Races. Yes, people have a chance to sponsor individual abalones and watch them in an exciting race crawl to the finish line! No harm is done to the abalones, being exposed to daylight, they merely are heading back into a shady spot. Monterey Abalone Company will host the Abalone Races in front of Rockfish Grill and Moss Landing Marine Labs will be the non-profit recipient of the sponsorships.

There are also musicians, boat displays and dozens of fascinating marine-related interactive exhibits by numerous non-profit organizations. For photo ops, there are several costumed marine animals walking around the event as well as the Bag Monster.

In addition, Save the Whales returns with Dee, the 43-foot inflatable whale model on Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup> only. You can go inside of it and see its internal organs! This very popular exhibit will be on Custom House Plaza where also most of the other booths are located.

Weather and other conditions permitting, there will be up to four boats at the California Dock at Monterey's Old Fisherman's Wharf including the Current'Sea (Marine Life Studies research and WET® vessel), the Coast Guard's 43' foot boat, the Sheila B. research vessel from Moss Landing Marine Lab and The Pearl (Monterey Fire Boat).

Both Princess Monterey Whale Watching and Monterey Bay Whale Watch will have informative booths about whales and whale watching on the Wharf.

On the Causeway and on Custom House Plaza will be sailboats from the Monterey Peninsula Yacht Club, and the Science Seafloor ROV. In addition, we may have a Hawaiian outrigger canoe and a US Coast Guard 29' foot boat on display.

Maritime Historian Tim Thomas will conduct two 60-minute free Wharf Walks at 1:00 pm and 2:30 pm on Saturday and Sunday. (Meet outside of Harbor House at the head of the Wharf).

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

Whale watchers come from around the world to view hundreds of whales, orcas, dolphins and pelicans who come to feast on a "krill and anchovy buffet" in the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Throughout the year, this "Monterey Bay 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).

For the current schedule which is subject to change, see below.

Information: For a complete schedule and detailed descriptions, please go to the 13th Annual Whalefest Monterey page on [www.whalefest.org](http://www.whalefest.org) or [www.montereywharf.com](http://www.montereywharf.com).

Phone: 831-238-0777 or email [info@montereywharf.com](mailto:info@montereywharf.com)

**Volunteers and Event Sponsors Sought for Whalefest Monterey**

Volunteers are being sought to staff Whalefest Monterey during March 18 and 19, 2023. Corporate sponsors to help underwrite the event costs are also needed. For more information, contact [info@montereywharf.com](mailto:info@montereywharf.com) or 831-238-0777.

### **Whalefest Monterey 2023 – Schedule of Events**

11:00 – 5:00 Exhibits  
Custom House Plaza, Causeway and Fisherman’s Wharf

11:00-5:00 Symposium  
Heritage Harbor Conference Room

11:00-5:00 Research and Rescue Vessels  
California Dock at Fisherman’s Wharf

11:00-5:00 Musicians  
At head of Wharf

12:00-4:00 Gytaku  
In front of Abalonetti

12:00-4:00 Scrimshaw  
In front of Abalonetti

11:30 and 1:30 “World Famous” Abalone Races  
In front of Rockfish Grill

11:00 & 12:30 Wharf History Walks with Historian Tim Thomas  
Meet at Harbor House

10:00 Marine Mammal Center Release (Sunday only)  
Monterey Beach

11:00-1:00 Beach & Street Clean Up (Sunday only)  
Meet at Marine Life Studies Booth

### **Whalefest Monterey – Interactive Exhibits**

Whalefest Monterey will feature many educational and engaging displays from local, regional and national non-profits that include, subject to change:

American Cetacean Society (SUN)

Big Sur Charter School (SAT)

California Coastal Commission

California Killer Whale Project

CA State Parks Point Lobos (NEW)

Caltrans District 5 Clean CA (NEW, SAT)  
Camp SEA Lab  
Citizens Climate Lobby Monterey Chapter (NEW)  
City of Monterey, Sustainability Office (SAT)  
Community Builders for Monterey County  
Communities for Sustainable Monterey County  
Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve  
Hi'ilani O Ke Kei OCC (NEW)  
Marine Life Studies  
MEarth (NEW)  
Monterey Bay Fisheries Trust (NEW)  
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary  
Monterey Bay Whale Watching  
Monterey One Water (NEW)  
Monterey Peninsula Yacht Club  
Monterey Public Library  
MontereySEA (SAT)  
Monterey Waterkeeper (NEW)  
O'Neill Sea Odyssey  
Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History (SUN)  
Princess Monterey Whale Watching  
Protect Monterey Bay  
ReGen Monterey (Regional Waste Management District) ( SAT)  
Santa Catalina Middle School  
Save Our Shores (SAT)  
Save the Whales with "Dee"(Dee SUN only)  
Seafloor Science ROV  
Sea Otter Savvy  
Squid 4 Kids  
Surfrider Foundation

The Marine Mammal Center

The Wahine Project

U.S. Coast Guard Monterey Station

Ventana Wildlife Society

Western Flyer Foundation (NEW)

**Music Program:**

The musical program this year features another eclectic lineup, including the Pacific Pop 'n Jazz big band, Saxophonia and the Watsonville Woods ; Keyboard players Michael Martinez, Richard Carr and Nicholas Fettis and his "Orca"stra; Jonah & The Whale Watchers, Paulette Lynch with Celtic Roads, Philip Price, Ron Friedman and Dave Holodiloff. There will also be performances by the hula dancers from Hi'ilani O' Ke Kai OCC and the Whalefest "Jammers". For more information, please check back on our website at [whalefest.org](http://whalefest.org).

**Music Schedule:**

(Subject to change)

**Saturday, March 18, 2023**

11:00-11:30 Monterey High Drum Line

11:30-12:00 Monterey High School Jazz

12:00 – 1:00 Saxophonia: A saxophone quintet that plays a wide variety of music including swing, rock and classical pieces.

1:00-2:00 Pacific Pop 'n' Jazz: A 15-piece community band, based in Hollister, that plays big band jazz as well as popular music.

2:00-3:00 Hi'ilani O'Ke Kai OCC - Hawaiian Hula Dancers

3:00-5:00 Whalefest Monterey Orca-stra Pod

Richard Carr, Nick Fettis & His "Orca-stra", Dave Holodiloff, Michael Martinez, Philip Price - Blends of whale songs, invigorating original music, sea chanties, pop, rock 'n' roll

**Sunday, March 19, 2023**

11:00-12:00 HOLYSEA – RachAel Williams & Company, Ocean Colored Indie Pop Music

12:00-1:00 Celtic Roads - Paulette Lynch on Hammered Dulcimer, Pat Skinner on Mandolin & Guitar, Jackie Pierce on Fiddle

1:00-2:00 Ron Friedman - Ukulele and Flute - A mixture of classical, popular music, jazz and show tunes

2:00-3:00 Whalefest Jammers

3:00 –5:00 Jonah & The Whale Watchers - The Best of Reggae

## **Whalefest Symposium 2023**

### **About the 2-Day Symposium:**

The 2-Day Symposium at the conference room in the Heritage Harbor (see map) features an outstanding line-up of speakers, subject to change! The schedule is listed below

For detailed information, please go to <https://whalefest.org/symposium>

### **13<sup>th</sup> Annual Whalefest Monterey Symposium Schedule**

#### SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 2023

11:00 – 11:30 am

Lisa Wooninck, Ph.D, MBNMS: “Whale Conservation and Climate Change in National Marine Sanctuaries”

11:45 – 12:30 pm

Michael Kelly, MBARI: “Construction of MBARI’s New Research Ship R/V David Packard”

12:30 – 2:00 pm

\*\*\*Lunch Break\*\*\*

2:00 – 2:45 pm

Peggy Stap, Marine Life Studies & The Whale Entanglement Team (WET)<sup>®</sup>: “Saving Whales – The Anatomy of a Disentanglement Response”

3:00 – 3:45 pm

Fred Sharpe, Ph.D., Alaska Whale Foundation: “Lord of the Rings – Humpback Whales Blow Bubble Tori for Humans”

4:00 – 4:45 pm

John Ryan, Ph.D., MBARI: "Foraging Strategies of Oceanic Giants as Seen from Outer Space & Heard from Inner Space"

#### SUNDAY, March 19, 2023

11:00 – 11:45 am

Tim White, Ph.D., Global Fishing Watch:” Tracking Fish and Fishing Boats Using Satellite Technology”

12:00 – 12:45 pm

Tim Markowitz, Marine Mammal Center: “California Coastal Bottlenose Dolphins Ranging North to Monterey Bay, San Francisco Bay... and Beyond”

12:45 – 2:15 pm

\*\*\*Lunch Break\*\*\*

2:15 – 3:00 pm

Will Oestreich, Ph.D., MBARI: “Using Sound to Explore the Lives of Vocal Marine Predators and Their Prey”

3:15 – 4:00 pm

Amanda Kahn, Ph.D., Moss Landing Marine Lab : The secret lives of sponges: Understanding ancient animals at their own pace”

4:15 – 5:00 pm

Bryant Austin, photographer: “Eye to Eye with Whales”

### **Whalefest Monterey Sponsors**

Whalefest Monterey is supported by many outstanding sponsors including the Arts Council for Monterey County, thanks to support from the Monterey County Board of Supervisors, Fisherman’s Wharf Association, National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, Marine Life Studies, Monterey Bay Aquarium, Monterey County Bank, Nicora Law Offices, Save the Whales, Pacific Grove Animal Hospital, Adventures by the Sea, Glastonbury, Inc. and the Wecker Group.

Media sponsors include Monterey Bay Parent, Monterey County Weekly, Monterey Herald, Foolish Times, Shagbag Radio Show on KION Radio 1460 AM and 101.1 FM, Sundays with Sinatra Radio Show, KMBY Radio 95.9 FM and 1240 AM, KAZU Radio 90.3 FM, KSBW TV Action News 8, Central Coast ABC, Estrella TV Costa Central, KAZU 90.3 FM.

### **Discounted Hotel Rooms**

Special Whalefest Monterey discount room rates are available at some local Monterey hotels for March 17, 18, and 19, 2023, including:

The Best Western DeAnza Inn located at 2141 North Fremont, 831-646-8300, [www.deanzainn.com](http://www.deanzainn.com)

Also, there will be discount room rates at the BLu Pacific Hotel at 2250 North Fremont in Monterey. Please call the hotel directly to arrange the discounted rate.  
831-373 3081 [www.montereygetaway.com](http://www.montereygetaway.com).

The Inn at 1252 Monterey is located at 1252 Munras Avenue: 831 372-2908. [www.stayatmonterey.com](http://www.stayatmonterey.com)

For more information to [www.montereywharf.com](http://www.montereywharf.com) or [www.whalefest.org](http://www.whalefest.org) or call 831-238-0777 or email [info@montereywharf.com](mailto:info@montereywharf.com)