



# IAAAM NEWS

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Nina Young, Guest Editor

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## *2004 IAAAM Conference in Galveston* Registration Deadline - February 1<sup>st</sup>

The 35th Annual IAAAM Conference is just four months away! Final preparations are being made for the 35th Annual Conference, hosted by the Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network, at the San Luis Hotel and Resort, on the Seawall in historic Galveston. Please see the conference website at [www.iaaam.org](http://www.iaaam.org) for details, travel information and registration forms. President-Elect Laurie Gage is putting together an exciting scientific program that will feature both invited and submitted papers and a formal poster session with something of interest for everyone involved in aquatic medicine. The invited papers will highlight the aquatic medicine and conservation issues facing the terrestrial and marine ecosystems of Galveston. If you wish to give a **poster** at this year's conference, please contact Laurie Gage at [wetwildvet@aol.com](mailto:wetwildvet@aol.com) by January 29. If you have only emailed your abstract (for either a paper or poster presentation) to Laurie so far, please also send a hard copy and a disk (by regular mail is fine) to 1131 Second Avenue, Napa, CA 94558. Instructions to authors on how to prepare your abstracts may be found on the website at [www.iaaam.org](http://www.iaaam.org).

Special hotel rates have been negotiated for conference attendees, and **early registration and hotel bookings** are most strongly recommended, as Spring is a very popular time for meetings and other activities in Galveston, and room blocks cannot be held indefinitely. You might lose out on our special rates if you register late.

Conference registration before February 1 will bring a discount; after that full fees apply.

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We are planning a student-friendly conference, with special student rates at the hotels, and a number of interesting things to do and see at little cost. Galveston offers many restaurants, with several within easy walk of the hotel, if none of the seven in the resort complex appeals.

Please note that the conference is several weeks earlier than usual this year, owing to the availability of space in a popular season. For the same reason the meeting will be from Monday through Thursday, with arrival, registration and an evening icebreaker reception on Sunday, April 4. The opening Plenary Session, on Monday, will feature talks on animal health and environmental issues in the Texas coastal region. The rest of Monday and all day Tuesday will be filled with scientific sessions, but Wednesday will only be a half day with the afternoon free to explore. Your explorations might include visiting the Aquarium at Moody Gardens, the National Marine Fisheries sea turtle hatchery, the UTMB's Cephalopod Resource Center, or NASA. You might also consider taking a harbor tour, shopping on the historic Strand, or whatever else suits you. Thursday the conference will finish up with another day full of scientific sessions. That evening there will be the traditional banquet and awards ceremony held at Moody Gardens. Registration materials and information about the hotel and Galveston are available on the website. Watch the website for additional updates ([www.iaaam.org](http://www.iaaam.org)).

### **Annual Conference Auction**

Don't forget... We hope you have been squirreling away those donations for the annual auction at the conference in Galveston.

The perfect solution to those tacky gifts you all received over the recent holidays! Re-Gift them to the students of IAAAM!! Pack 'em up and bring them to Galveston [Who could better use a ceramic dolphin or Fishes of Florida placemat?]

In addition to the regular meeting, and evening sessions, this year we are adding pre and post conference workshops. Two workshops will be offered on Sunday, April 4: **Fish Medicine for Veterinary Practitioners and Toxicology Short Course for Wildlife Professionals**. To attend these courses it will be necessary to arrive Saturday April 3. One workshop will be offered on Friday, April 9: **Erysipelas in Cetaceans**. Arrangements have been made for hotel rooms at the meeting rate for all three workshops. Please check the meeting website for updates and information on registering for these courses, which will be separate from the conference registration.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Galveston, and showing you true Texas hospitality!

### **Reminder**

**Don't forget to vote on the Constitutional and By-law changes. Bring your ballots to the Annual Meeting in Galveston.**

## President's Message

I hope you are preparing for and planning to attend the 35th Annual Conference of the International Association for Aquatic Animal Medicine. On the 35th anniversary of IAAAM I want to challenge all our members to recommit themselves to advancing the art and science of aquatic animal medicine. Now, more than ever, human-related threats such as sound, contaminants, overfishing, and habitat degradation require a strong interface between research and policy to devise mitigation strategies to enhance the survival and health of aquatic species and their ecosystem. In the face of the growing number of overfished commercial fish stocks, many policy makers are looking to aquaculture to relieve the burden placed on these species. There is a growing awareness of the role that healthy marine ecosystems play to human health, yet we know very little as to what constitutes ecosystem health. Wildlife managers are finding that it is no longer sufficient just to monitor trends and abundance in marine species. Comprehensive conservation and recovery requires a multidisciplinary approach with an evaluation of the health of aquatic species and their ecosystems being a key component. Time and time again the work of our members illustrates the vital role aquatic animal medicine plays in the recovery of marine species and the conservation of the marine ecosystem.

Throughout the years, some IAAAM members and I have attempted to bridge the gap between the policy arena and the various scientific disciplines embodied in aquatic animal medicine. I hope we will continue to rise to the challenge to promote the science and art of aquatic animal medicine and influence public policy. Some members have been involved with crafting the very language that established the conservation and management regimes that regulates much of the work we do. With the reauthorization of the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and with possible bills to change how we govern the oceans as a whole and aquaculture, we offer an essential voice to influence debate and elevate the importance of aquatic animal medicine in these statutes and their implementing regulations.

Some members are questioning whether IAAAM can continue to meet their professional needs and the challenges that we face in the future to address ever more complicated and politicized issues related to husbandry, marine conservation, and aquaculture. I believe we can, but it will take the renewed commitment of every member to transform, mold, and reinvigorate the organization. It will require strategic thinking and innovation. I challenge all of you to bring to the Executive Board new ideas to help strengthen the organization and continue to chart its course. I urge you to join existing or propose to establish new committees to meet the needs of this growing and diverse organization, and finally I encourage you to become actively involved in the organization at all levels and consider serving on the Executive Board. Together we can keep IAAAM a strong and vibrant voice to advance aquatic animal medicine and ecosystem health.

# **In the News-Conservation and Governmental Policy Committee Update**

## **Rep. Sam Farr Introduces the Southern Sea Otter Recovery and Research Act**

In December Rep. Sam Farr (D-CA) introduced the Southern Sea Otter Recovery and Research Act, a bill that lends significant resources and directed leadership to efforts to recover Southern California's sea otters. The bill is a significant step in the implementation of the Southern Sea Otter Recovery Plan and toward investigating the health-related threats to southern sea otters.

Under the bill's provisions, the Secretary of Interior may undertake a recovery program for southern sea otters. The Act calls for the development of a comprehensive Southern Sea Otter Health Assessment Plan, necessary to evaluate the health of southern sea otters in the wild and devise mitigation measures to promote their recovery. It also creates a grant program to support research to understand more fully the threats facing southern sea otters and the measures needed to secure their recovery. The bill establishes the Southern Sea Otter Recovery Implementation Team while instituting the Southern Sea Otter Recovery Scientific Advisory Committee. The act will provide an authorization of five million dollars, two million of which are research grants, for the implementation of this program.

"We have been fighting to bring the southern sea otter back from near-extinction for over sixty years. Yet, today scientists estimate that there are still only approximately 2,400 sea otters, concentrated along the central coast," said Rep. Farr. "This legislation will provide the platform for full recovery of sea otters in California and for scientific study that will help improve our understanding of the health of California's coastal ecosystems."

An interesting lay article concerning salmon farms:  
The Environmental Impact of Salmon Farms  
by Hugh Mitchell, Jim Brackett, and Brad Hicks  
Posted at The Washington Fish Growers Association website  
<http://www.wfga.net/issues.asp?id=37>

**Please remember to  
pay your dues!!**

### ***We Need Your Photos***

*The IAAAM Executive Board is in the process of updating the IAAAM informational brochure. Our contractor has recommended that we include pictures of our members working in their respective fields. Therefore, I am requesting that if you have pictures of yourself "in action" please send or email them to me. We will pick an array that represents the various interests of the organizations and those left over may still be selected to be included in any future sprucing up of our website. Don't count on someone else to send these pictures!*

*Please if you have pictures of you in action send them to Nina Young c/o The Ocean Conservancy, 1725 DeSales St. NW, Suite 600, Washington DC 20036 or [nyoung@oceanconservancy.org](mailto:nyoung@oceanconservancy.org) by February 15.*

***Thanks so much for your help and your time.***

## **Erysipelas and Cetaceans Workshop**

The John G. Shedd Aquarium received a grant from NOAA to continue work on the problem of erysipelas in cetaceans. Dr. Jeff Boehm is heading up this project at Shedd with Dr. Rhonda Patterson at the University of Southern Mississippi. A portion of the grant money was set aside to fund workshops that would allow for reports on current surveillance, vaccine, and research projects, as well as discussions concerning future efforts. The funding was only received late this fall, so the advertisement for a workshop targeting cetacean field biologists at the Society of Marine Mammalogy conference (held in December in Greensboro, NC, USA) did not reach as many people as the organizers had hoped. However, a small gathering of interested individuals did meet for a half-day workshop that was productive in its own way.

Another workshop is scheduled to follow the IAAAM meeting in April in Galveston, TX (USA). The workshop will be held on Friday, April 9th (the hotel is going to honor the conference rate for that Friday evening). A proceedings from the workshop will be written up and made available for attendees and other interested parties. If you are interested in attending the workshop, please contact either Jeff Boehm ([JBoehm@sheddaquarium.org](mailto:JBoehm@sheddaquarium.org)) or Rhonda Patterson ([Rhonda.Patterson@usm.edu](mailto:Rhonda.Patterson@usm.edu)) and let them know as soon as you can so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Jeff or Rhonda will be contacting the participants with the exact details for the workshop and more information will be forthcoming on the IAAAM website.

## Site Selection Committee Report

We need YOUR help! At this year's meeting we need to be prepared to vote on the locations for the conference sites for 2005, 2006 and if possible, 2007. The options so far include:

- " 2005-Alaska Sea Life Center, possible joint meeting with WDA
- " 2006 -The Mirage Hotel, Las Vegas
- " 2007 -Quebec Aquarium

We have firm commitments from Alaska Sea Life Center and the Mirage; however, we need membership-wide support for future sponsors of the annual conference and ideas for sites. The membership has expressed a desire to offer "student friendly" locations as the last several meetings have been in exotic (expensive) locations. We can only achieve this goal with your input and offers for future meeting sites. In particular we challenge the university and veterinary school members to help sponsor a conference. The sponsoring institution's commitment is minimal so if you are interested, please contact an Executive Board member or the site selection committee for details. If possible contact us before the conference, and come prepared with a brief presentation for the membership. You don't need a slick PowerPoint presentation or a slide show, just a description of what we could see and do in your region.

**Please help us direct the future of our organization. We cannot do it without your help.**

### Student Information

Last Call to Post Student Internships, Residencies, Postdocs, Courses, Volunteer Opportunities

We are putting together a listing of student opportunities for IAAAM student members including internships, residencies, postdocs, courses, volunteer and career opportunities. If you would like your organization included please send details on the above to Tracy Romano (romano@nosc.mil) or Ashley Linton (ashlinton98@hotmail.com) by February 20, 2004.

#### Student Workshop

A Student Career Workshop will be held at the Galveston Meeting. Dr. Mike Walsh (Sea World of Florida) will give a presentation on the qualities of a good clinician, followed by small group discussions led by IAAAM members currently in the fields of aquatic veterinary medicine, research and government/conservation. All students are encouraged and invited to attend.

#### Call for Student Volunteers

Student volunteers are needed to help with the student workshop and auction. Please contact Tracy Romano (romano@nosc.mil or Ashley Linton (ashlinton98@hotmail.com) if you can help out at this year's meeting.

# Employment and Internship Opportunities

The Department of Wildlife Management of the North Slope Borough is seeking a veterinarian (D.V.M./V.M.D.) with advanced training (Ph.D.) in veterinary pathology.

## NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH

The North Slope Borough (NSB) is a county-like municipality that occupies the northern one-sixth of the State of Alaska. Within this area (88,000 square miles), and in adjacent waters of the Arctic Ocean, are vast wildlife resources (caribou, fish, waterfowl, whales, walrus, seals, polar bears, etc.). Also on Alaska's North Slope are North America's two largest oilfields and approximately 7,000 full-time residents. Most of the residents are Inupiat Eskimo whose subsistence lifestyle is heavily dependent upon the wildlife resources.

## DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

The NSB's Department of Wildlife Management (DWM) conducts studies that relate to the wildlife upon which the Eskimo people depend. The DWM's work focuses upon the most important subsistence use resources (bowhead whale, caribou, fish, waterfowl). In order to reduce industrial impacts to the environment and wildlife, the DWM also has significant involvement in the review of various technical documents (draft environmental impact statements, oil exploration plans, etc.) and proposed actions by industry (drilling, offshore island construction, pipeline routes, etc.).

## APPLICANT INFORMATION

The individual that fills this position is expected to work cooperatively with other DWM personnel and with Eskimo hunters in the 8 NSB villages. The Research Biologist will be expected to examine subsistence harvested wildlife (bowhead whales in particular) and participate in other management related studies. Minimum salary for this position is USD \$2696.15 bi-weekly. This is a permanent full-time position.

Applicants should submit resume to NSB Department of Wildlife Management. A NSB Job Application along with a job description will be mailed to all interested applicants. Application deadline has yet to be determined.

Applications should be addressed to:  
North Slope Borough  
Department of Wildlife Management  
Attention: Taqulik Hepa, Deputy Director  
P.O. Box 69  
Barrow, Alaska 99723

For further information, please contact:  
Taqulik Hepa (taqulik.hepa@north-slope.org)

**Veterinary Fellow**  
**The Marine Mammal Care Center at Fort MacArthur (MMCC/FM)**  
**Los Angeles, CA USA**

**DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:** The MMCC/FM is a non-profit rehabilitation center located in Los Angeles, California, treating primarily seals and sea lions (50-400 animals per year) for release back into the wild. This position is a two-year, grant-funded position. Salary is non-negotiable at \$49,000/yr.; benefits are excellent; status is Exempt.

**DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES:** The Veterinary Fellow will work directly with the MMCC/FM staff and under the supervision of consulting veterinarians to oversee animal intake assessment, perform diagnostic and pre-release evaluations and ensure the increased quality of care and health of each animal. He/she will be expected to utilize on-site facilities to perform baseline diagnostics, routine treatments and surgical treatment options. The Veterinary Fellow will perform comprehensive necropsies or supervise veterinary technicians and/or volunteers in the sampling process and be ultimately responsible for documentation of gross post-mortem findings. He/she will oversee the appropriate handling and shipping of these samples to an outside laboratory. The Veterinary Fellow will be expected to help produce professional quality publications and presentations for dissemination at conferences, meetings, and appropriate public forums. He/she will assist staff with volunteer and veterinary student training, help to update written procedural guidelines, and initiate collaborative opportunities with other facilities. In the absence of the Operations Manager, the Veterinary Fellow may be asked to perform other duties.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** An ideal candidate must possess a valid California Veterinary License; have been in practice for one-two years, have marine mammal experience in a rehabilitation, research or captive setting, demonstrate a proven ability to work independently yet effectively with volunteers, and be adept at performing medical procedures in a rehabilitation setting such as (but not limited to): venipuncture, radiology, ultrasound, surgery and the administration of anesthesia. This person will have the ability to work with animals ranging in size from 20-600 pounds. He/she will also be able to perform necropsies and/or instruct veterinary technicians or volunteer staff in appropriate sampling techniques.

Please mail a letter of application, resume (including references) and letters of recommendation to:  
Jackie Jaakola, Director  
Marine Mammal Care Center at Fort MacArthur  
3601 S. Gaffey St.  
San Pedro, CA 90731

You may address questions by email at [jackjaak@aol.com](mailto:jackjaak@aol.com)

The candidate search will close when the appropriate candidate is found. This position is scheduled to receive funding in early 2004.



# **Alaska SeaLife Center<sup>®</sup>**

*w i n d o w s   t o   t h e   s e a*

The Alaska SeaLife Center (ASLC) is currently sponsoring an internship program for college students or recent graduates who are interested in gaining an educational experience in a world-class marine facility. The Alaska SeaLife Center is dedicated to understanding and maintaining the integrity of the marine ecosystem of Alaska through research, rehabilitation and public education.

Opportunities are available in the following areas:

- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Aquarium Husbandry                   | Avian Husbandry                                       |
| Mammal Husbandry                     | Rehabilitation Veterinary Student                     |
| Rehabilitation Veterinary Technician | Dive Program  |
| Interpretive/Exhibits                | Educational Development                               |
| Exhibits and Graphics Arts           | Eider Research  |
| Marketing                            | Veterinarian Services/Rehabilitation Husbandry Intern |
| Veterinary Preceptorship             | Veterinary Technician                                 |
| Research Technician                  | Laboratory Technician                                 |
| Web Design                           | Harbor Seal Research Technician                       |
| Steller Sea Lion Research Technician | Steller Video Monitoring                              |
| Orca Research Technician             |   |

ASLC internships offer a well-rounded, educational experience working in a variety of areas within the Center. Depending on the type of internship, duties may include assisting aquarium, avian or marine mammal staff with animal husbandry tasks; helping visiting research teams with marine-related research projects; teaching and/or preparing lessons in our education department; assisting in marketing, accounting, development or computer graphics. Interns will be required to participate in a variety of areas and all interns are required to participate to some extent in the interpretive aspects of our operation.

For more information please contact:

Volunteer & Intern Coordinator  
Alaska SeaLife Center  
P.O. Box 1329  
Seward, Alaska 99664  
Phone: 1-800-224-2525 ext. 307

The Newsletter of the International Association for Aquatic Animal Medicine is published four times a year (January, April, August, and November). An annual conference is held every year in the spring and proceedings from that conference are mailed out in June or July to those not in attendance. The International Association for Aquatic Animal Medicine is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the art and science of aquatic animal medicine and health.

Newsletter submissions are welcomed, although the newsletter editor and the IAAAM board reserve the right to edit and/or refuse the publication of any submissions. The deadlines for submissions are December 1, March 1, July 1, and October 1. Submissions should be made in WORDPERFECT, RTF (Rich Text Format), or WORD format. For submissions contact Rhonda Patterson, Newsletter Editor, at USM Box 5018, Hattiesburg, MS 39406-5018; phone (601-266-5710); fax (601-266-5797); or email (Rhonda.Patterson@iaaam.org).

For membership information, including dues payment, and address changes contact Ilze Berzins, Director of Animal

## EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

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## HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

**Don Abt**

**Ted Hammond**

**William Medway**

**Bob Wright**

**Joe Geraci**

**Jay Hyman**

**Sam Ridgway**

**Jesse White**

## IAAAM Committee Representatives or Chairs

### IAAAM Nominations and Awards

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### IAAAM Student Liaison

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