



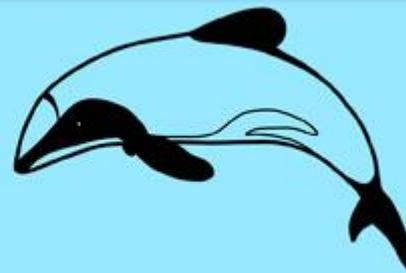
SMM Members' Meeting Dec 13 2013

St David's Lecture Theatre

20th BIENNIAL
CONFERENCE

ON THE

BIOLOGY OF
MARINE MAMMALS



2013

*Dunedin, New Zealand
December 9-13*



Agenda

- President's Overview (1330-1340)
- Minutes of 2011 General Members Meeting (1340-1345)
- Conferences (1345-1400)
 - 2013 Dunedin (5 min)
 - 2015 San Francisco (5 min)
 - 2017 Veracruz (5 min)
- Treasurer's Report (1400-1410 min)
- Editor's Report (1410-1415)
- Reports from Committee Chairs: (1415-1435)
 - Membership, Science Advisors, Education, Student Affairs, Ethics, Conservation, Awards and Scholarships
- New Business (1435-1445)
 - Proposed changes to governing documents
 - Introduction to the New Webmaster
 - Candidates for office 2014
- Member's business (1445-1500)



21ST SOCIETY FOR MARINE
MAMMALOLOGY BIENNIAL

11-18 December
San Francisco in
2015!



Steering committee & Partners



Conference Organizers:

Ellen Hines (C)
Sarah Allen (S)
Jan Roletto (V)
Dan Costa
Frances Gulland
Jim Harvey
Bill Keener
Mary Jane Schramm
Jon Stern

- San Francisco State University
 - (Romberg Tiburon Center)
- California Academy of Sciences
- Oceanic Society
- Point Blue Conservation Science
- Moss Landing Marine Lab
- National Park Service, Pacific West Region
- National Marine Sanctuary Program, Western Region
- NOAA Fisheries Science Center
- The Marine Mammal Center
- UC Bodega Marine Lab
- UC Santa Cruz - Long Marine Lab



Conference & Hotel options

- ▣ **The Hilton in Union Square**
 - WIDE VARIETY OF ACCOMMODATION TYPES/PRICES



Recreation



VERACRUZ 2017

WELCOME!!!





World Trade Center

BOCA DEL RÍO - VERACRUZ



Services: Virtual offices, elevators, electric stairs, facilities for handicapped, parking lot, direct access to an IMAX cinema, to restaurants, a hotel and to the biggest mall in town.



Over 660 rooms in four hotels 400 m from WTC
More than 100 eating options for all budgets



Airport 15 minutes from WTC

International

Houston

Dallas Fortworth

Domestic

Mexico, D.F.

Monterrey

Guadalajara

Tijuana

Cancún

Mérida



VERACRUZ 2017

WELCOME!!!



MANATI

Jarócho

JUST COME TO SEE BY YOURSELF!!!

SMM TREASURER'S REPORT 2013



MAJOR POINTS

1. **Expenses and Income**
2. **Assets**
3. **Investments**
4. **External Audit**

EXPENSES

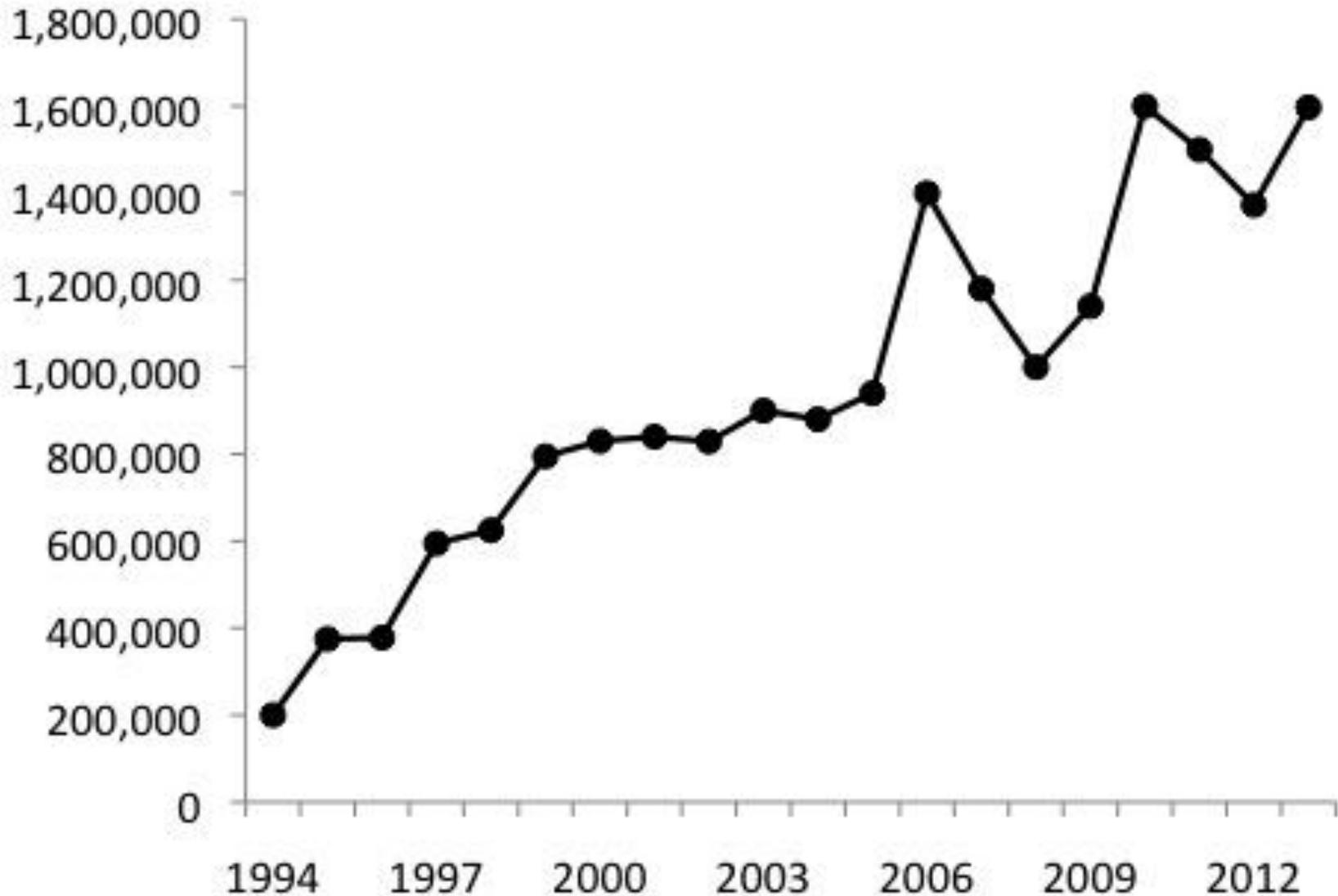
EXPENSES	2013	2012	2011
Internet/Web site	5,455	2,584	8,398
Service Fees	507	626	485
IRS/CA Reporting	4,155	10,235	5,500
Financial Audit	8,309	0	0
Investment Management	3,551	4,262	4,448
Board Travel	9,954	20,037	7,782
Journal Editorial/Printing	118,854	146,598	93,768
Research Grants	52,196	47,437	9,907
Other Awards/Confer	5,500	19,623	5,000

INCOME: AS OF OCTOBER 2013

INCOME	2013 (Oct)	2012	2011
Membership	120,496	80,740	188,220
Wiley-Blackwell	89,373	80,895	43,915
Other Revenue	134,176	500	1,029
Total Income	470,951	300,500	233,164
Total Expenses	300,654	298,804	136,445
BALANCE:	170,297	1,696	96,717

INVESTMENT PERFORMANCE

INVESTMENT VALUE





- 186 manuscripts were submitted from 38 countries
- Of 152 manuscripts with a final decision, 43% were accepted
- Journal's Impact Factor rose from 1.611 to 2.128
- Journal's ranking increased by more than 10 among both Zoology (26 of 149) and Marine (30 of 100) related journals
- **The next issue of the journal will mark the beginning of publishing online only** – will still have volume, issue and page numbers as the printed journal does
- Will increase the # of pages per year - 1000 to 1600

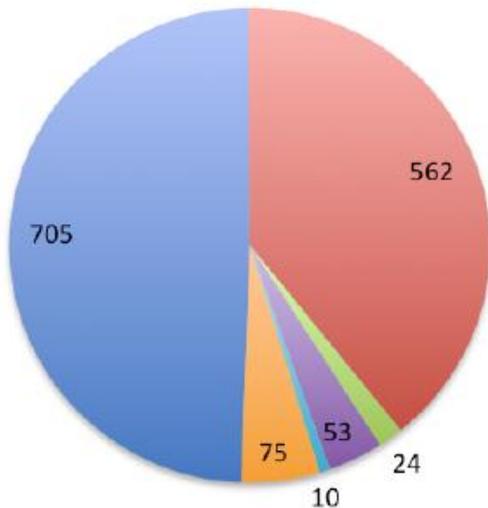
Membership Committee

1640 members as of today

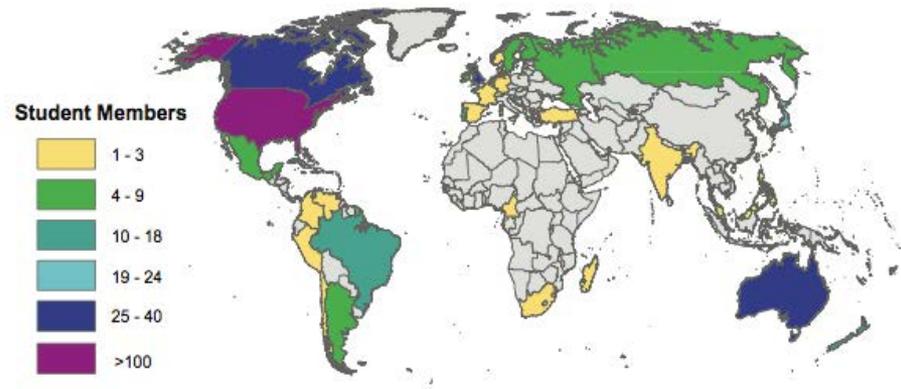
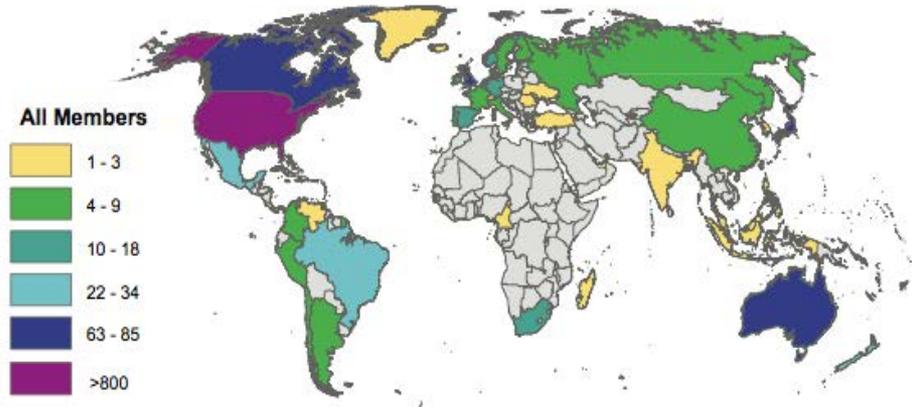
Top 10 countries:

1. USA
2. Australia
3. Canada
4. UK
5. New Zealand
6. Japan
7. Brazil
8. Germany
9. Mexico
10. Russia

Demographics:



- Full
- Student
- Emeritus
- Associate
- Honorary
- Life



Next year:

- Survey: what do members WANT?
- How can we better support students?
- Student member(s) on committee ***PLEASE***
(email alana.phillips@me.com)

Committee of Scientific Advisors

- ▣ 45 proposals received; each reviewed by at least three reviewers who provided comments back to submitter
- ▣ Nine proposals funded at \$1500 or amount requested, if less
- ▣ Five proposals funded at \$700
- ▣ Outstanding committee consisting of: *Erin Ashe, Louella Dolar, *Sherri Eldridge, *Vicki Hamilton, Vincent Janik, Kit Kovacs, Mervi Kunnasranta, Veronique Lesage, Laura May-Collado, John M. Terhune, *Reny Tyson (*student)

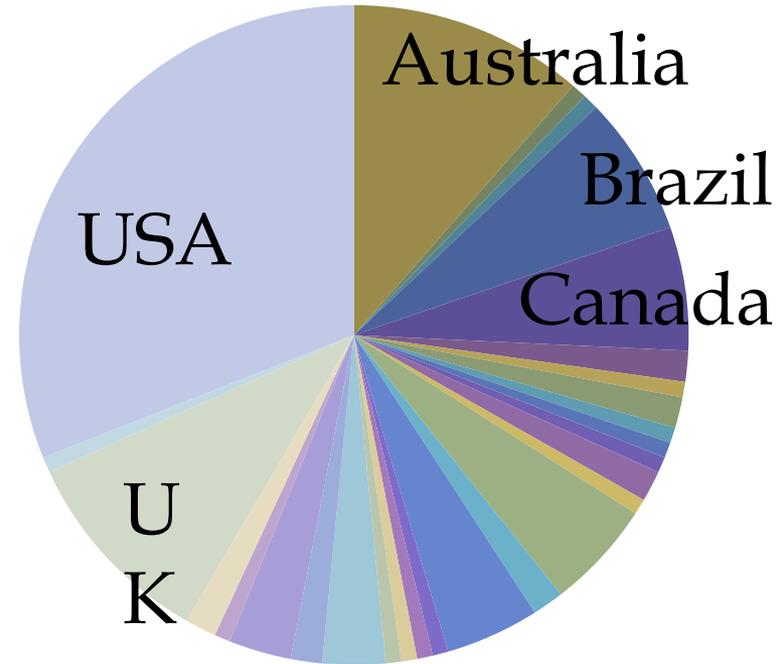
Education Committee

Chair

▣ Shane Gero <sgero@dal.ca>

Student Affairs Committee

- We now have seven active student Chapters
- This year we gave out 132 travel grant awards to students from 28 different countries, worth a total of **88,000 USD**
- ~300 students attended the Student Affairs Workshop on Wednesday
- Our facebook page has over 1,400 members
- For any further information, please contact smal@marinemammalscience.org



Ethics Committee

- **Special Session on Humane Killing of Marine Mammals**
 - **Thanks to working group: Andy Read, Nick Gales, Frances Gulland, Randy Wells, Michelle Barbieri, Dave Johnston, and Helene Marsh.**
 - **Panelists: Diana Reiss, Paul Jepson, James Kirkwood, and Nick Gales**
 - **Sir Geoffrey Palmer**
 - **Thank you to those who submitted questions, attended, or have reached out afterwards.**
- **2014 – 2015**
 - **Continue work on Humane Killing Issue – Welfare Science Subcommittee**
 - **Update *Guidelines for the Treatment of Marine Mammals Field Research***
 - **Develop plan for incorporating further discussions at San Francisco Biennial**
 - **More...**
- **If you are interested in issues related to ethics please engage!**

smmethics@gmail.com



Conservation Committee Report

Presidential letter drafts

(all posted on website in final form with responses)

- ▣ 2 on Maui's dolphins
- ▣ Support for change of shipping lanes in Panama
- ▣ Request on sustainability of Japanese drive hunt
- ▣ Vaquita (joint with ECS and Conservation Biology)
- Irrawaddy dolphins in Cambodia
- Irrawaddy dolphins in Ayeryarwady River (electro-fishing)
 - ▣ Visit by President Marsh and comments on subsequent report

Propose to hold occasional conservation workshops on needed conservation topics

Katherina Audley: Webmaster, Community Builder, Communications Expert, Viking

2014-2015 Web Projects:

👑 Support ways for members to get and stay connected before, during and after the conference

👑👑 Upgrade and migrate current website from one CMS to another + improve site navigation

👑👑 Conduct member survey to assess society's current collective interests and direction, which will help drive web content development

👑👑👑 Transform Wikipedia's marine mammal pages into the most accurate, up-to-date resource for species information in the world and dynamically pull them into our website's species fact sheet section

👑👑👑👑 Develop and oversee the implementation of an integrated, user-friendly abstract submission and review process, conference registration software, membership registration software and grants and awards submission and review system

👑 *Key factors used to determine horn level*

- ✓ Technically challenging
- ✓ Time Consuming
- ✓ Expensive
- ✓ Large number of people necessary to implement

Stay in touch!
k@kpetunia.com

<http://www.kpetunia.com>
<http://www.whalesinmexico.com>



Candidates for Officers of the SMM Board of Governors

2014 April Ballot

President Elect

Terrie Williams, University of California, Santa Cruz, USA
Jay Barlow, NOAA SW Fisheries Science Center, USA

Treasurer

Jim Harvey, Moss Landing Marine Laboratory, USA

Secretary

Heather Koopman, University of North Carolina, USA

Member at Large

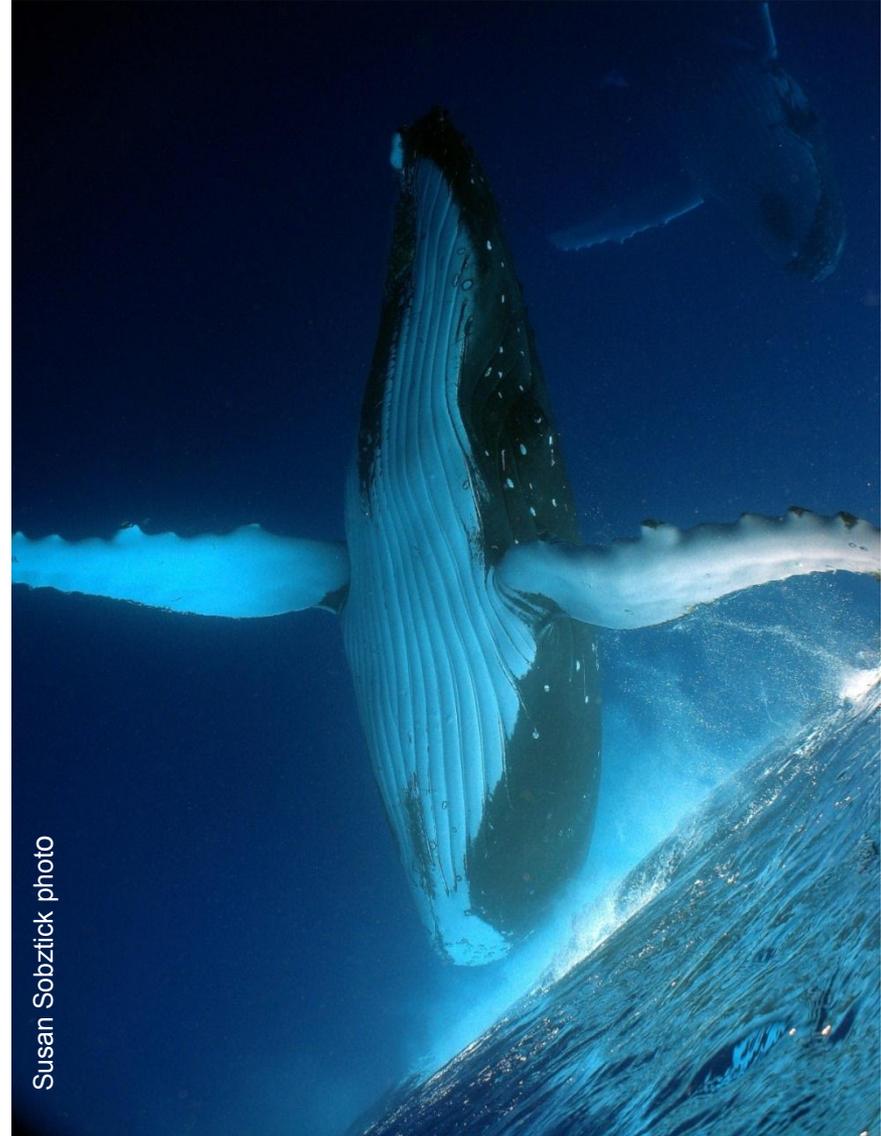
Lorenzo Rojas Bracho, National Ecology Institute, Mexico
Mary-Anne Lea, University of Tasmania, Australia

Student Members

Christina Toms, University of Central Florida, USA
Anita Murray, University of Queensland, Australia

Members' Business

- ▣ Questions?
- ▣ Comments
?



SMM Members meeting

Helene Marsh:

I'd like to thank you all very much for coming to our meeting. You've all had a very long week of talks and talking and I really appreciate the fact that you've given your time this afternoon. As is our tradition, I would like to start this meeting by just taking a moment of silence to remember those who have given so much to the development and consideration of our field and to the conservation of the animals that have brought us together this week.

<silence>

This biennial conference is the most visible aspect the Society of Mammalogy's activities and I'd like you all to join me in congratulating and thanking Liz, Steve and their team for the fantastic job they've done in organizing this conference and their assistance in raising almost \$200,000 U.S. in sponsorship.

Can I just offer a special thanks to Trudi Webster who has coordinated our volunteer team? The volunteers have been amazing and they deserve another round of applause.

Helene Marsh:

Thanks Trudi, and we've organized a massage for you. I would also like to give a very special thanks to Kim Rhodes from Experient, who's adapted her professional skills to help shape and deliver a conference in a very different setting from the ones in which she normally operates. Thank you Kim.

However, the society is much more than a mere biennial conference, and we have much to offer members outside the conferences and there is much that the board and the committees do between conferences. I'd like to take a few minutes to summarize some of the highlights of what we've accomplished on your behalf since the past biennial. I'd like to thank all the members of the board or governors for their unstinting efforts to maintain the Society of Marine Mammalogy as the premiere association of marine mammal professionals in the world. I've particularly appreciated president Elect Nick Gales whose wise counsel on numerous occasions over the past 2 years. I'm very confident that the society will be in very capable hands when my term as president ends at the end of June. Thank you Nick. Treasurer Jim Harvey, and Secretary Heather, and treasurer Heather Koopman have been essential components to the continuity of smooth running of our operations. I am really happy that they've agreed to stay on even if it's taken a lot of wine as bribes. Simon squared our intrepid members at large. Simon Goldsworthy and Simon Northridge have also provided valuable input. Our 2 student members at large Coralie D'Lima and Carolina Loch have done much to motivate and engage the student component of the society.

We now have 7 student chapters: 5 in the U.S. and Canada; in the UK, and one in Australasia. The board considers it especially important to engage the next generation of marine mammal scientists and also scientists from low income countries. Today's graduate students are the future of the society, and they are the ones who will stand on the shoulders of the giant who founded our society. Through the generosity of non-profit and government sponsors, the society and especially the local organizing committee have raised nearly \$90,000 for student travel grants. This year the society provided travel grants to 132 students from 28 countries to attend this conference. An estimated 300 students attended the student workshop on Wednesday night and included chapter presentations, a really thought provoking plenary address from Mark Oram's group discussions with professionals in different fields. And I'd like to thank the professionals who gave their time to advise the students very much. That was very much appreciated.

Our society is truly international with members from more than 25 countries, and as a result of this conference, we now have more members from Australasia than ever before. About half our members are still from the U.S. and the society board is very conscious of the need to have regular meetings in the U.S. to keep that membership. Guiseppe di Sciara the international relations committee elected 4 principal investigators from low income countries for sponsorship to attend this conference. They are from Cuba, Mexico, Argentina, and the Cameroon. They received applications from 16 applicants. Over the past few years, we've been striving to increase the visibility and the accessibility of the society by making the work and efforts of our members better known to the scientific community and the general public.

Our website has become an essential tool for information dissemination. Our webmaster Michel Fougeres is retiring due to his work and family commitments.

We owe him a lot as he effectively built our site, and I would like to acknowledge his service to the society with gratitude. He couldn't be here, but thanks Michel. Our new professional webmaster Katherina Audley will commence in January 2014. Katherina was chosen from an international field of 17 applicants, and I would like to acknowledge the work of the search committee, especially Alana Phillips, Doug Wartzok, and Michel. Katherina is much more than a webmaster. She is a science communicator with a passion for whales, and a professional Viking. 2014 will see a total rebuild of our website ready for the 2015 conference, and Katherina will explain about that later.

We are very fortunate in having several younger members of the board who've educated the social media luddites like myself in addition to our student members at large we've had education committee Shane Gero, and membership chair Alana Phillips have been dragging us into the 21st century and the world of social media. This advanced initiative started by Michel several years ago. We now have an ad-hoc communications committee, and as of this morning, nearly three and a half thousand people liked us on Facebook. There are approximately 1400 people in the student Facebook group and the society is on Twitter and LinkedIn. Both Alana and Shane have also done outstanding service to the society in their roles as committee chairs, and Shane stepped up in the

last minute to replace Nick Lunn who's the chair of our awards and scholarship committee to organize the award judging at this conference. Nick unexpectedly was basically told he had to go to Russia as part of his day job, and really I thank Shane incredibly for stepping up to the plate. That was just amazing.

Under the capable stewardship of our journal editor Daryl Boness, and his hard working editorial team, the impact factor of marine mammal science, is higher than at any point in the journal's history. Manuscripts were submitted from 38 countries in the last 2 years. The journal will be fully electronic in 2014 decreasing the time to publication and increasing the quality of high quality information that we can disseminate. Doug Wartzok's scientific committee of science advisors awarded small research grants to 14 applicants from low income countries. Doug also moderated last night's panel on the science of keeping killer whales when John Reynolds was unexpectedly unable to attend the meeting. Bill Perrin's taxonomy committee which has been elevated to a full committee of the society as a result of the 2013 ballot completed an update of the update of the list of marine mammal species and sub-species, adding 4 species and 2 unnamed sub-species, deleting 1 sub-species and somewhat controversially for some of you, returning all the southern fur seals to the genus *Arctocephalus*.

The conservation committee advises the board of governors on matters related to the conservation and management of marine mammals. This has been a comparatively new initiative. It started during Randy Wells' tenure as president and now everyone wants to be a member of the conservation committee it seems. In 2013, Bob Taylor's committee drafted letters to the governments of Japan, Mexico, Myanmar, New Zealand and Panama and we have evidence that our letters to Mexico, New Zealand and Panama made some difference. I went to Myanmar to follow up our letter on the plight of the Irrawaddy dolphin and a specialist expert working group of members of the society is advising the Cambodian government of the situation of that species in the Mekong.

Thanks to the very hard work of the ethics committee led by Charles Littnan, the society's code of professional ethics was accepted at the mid-year ballot and will be published in our journal next year. Charles also organized the highly successful Maui masquerade which raised some \$7,000 for students coming to the San Francisco biennial and Charles was also the driving force behind last Monday's humane killing panel. Thank you Charles.

The issues faced by marine mammals are serious and growing. We've learned a great deal over the last few days about the conservation challenges to marine mammals. I have to say that a lot of it hasn't been good news especially for coastal and riverine species. We must engage with other specialists to address the root causes to these problems which are largely human issues of poverty, political will and governments. We must also face the tough ethical issues if our science is to make a difference. The society has broken new ground at this meeting by hosting two panel discussions on the scientific aspects of the sensitive issues of humane killing and holding killer whales in captivity. You voted with your feet by attending these panels. This indicates to me and the board that you are truly interested in the society becoming an engaged society, one that wants its science to make a difference.

I hope that some of you will feel inspired by this meeting to serve your society by standing for the board or agreeing to serve on one of its committees or sub committees. We particularly came to advance the welfare science subcommittee after the panel discussion on Monday. Our hard working nominations and elections committee chair Ailsa Hall will unveil her committee slate of candidates and issues for the 2014 later in this meeting. Sadly, both Ailsa and Nick Lunn will be standing down later this year. Please join me in thanking them for their hard work.

We look forward to seeing additional nominations both for their positions and for the elected offices for the society which are up for election in 2014. If you're interested in standing for election, please contact Ailsa, and if you're interested in being a committee chair or member, please contact president elect Nick Gales indicating how you can contribute, how you can make a difference to the society. And a final thanks to Liz and Steve and their team including their splendid volunteers. We have all appreciated their excellent organization and warm hospitality which more than compensated for the less than sunny weather. In recognition of the international focus of this society, I hope the whole team will have the opportunity to share some French champagne after we leave and remember with affection even as you vow to never host another large conference. Enjoy!

I'd now like to call on our secretary Heather to provide an overview of the minutes of the general members' meeting.

Heather:

I think first technically actually what we have to do is can I have a motion to approve the agenda? Anyone? <motion made>. In the interest of time, the minutes from the last minute are something like 56 pages long, so I'm not going to read them to you. they have been posted on the website for some time now, so I'm hoping people have had the opportunity to look them over. They're there in detail. The minutes from this meeting as well will be posted up after that. And so, unless anyone has some specific questions, the material is there for you to check out. Typically what we do at these annual meetings is that we approve the member's meetings from the last time that we all met. So I guess what I would like to ask first is that unless anyone really wants me to, and people are probably going to throw things at you. Could I have a motion to waive the reading of the 2011, (thank you Charlie Potter, and a second) and then I will ask if we can then approve them. So another motion for that. (Ellen, and a seconder for that - Ailsa). So can we all vote to approve the minutes from the 2011 meeting? "Ayes?", any "no's?", any "abstains?", Novacek's not here, so we don't have anybody abstaining. Alright, well, that was that.

Helene:

Now then to invite the Ellen Hines who's the chair of the organizing committee for the 2015 biennial to give us a bit of a taste of San Francisco. Thanks Ellen.

Ellen:

Hi everybody. First I'd like to introduce my team that's going to be the best part of this job. Will anyone who's on our organizing team please stand up? Sarah Allen is the program chair. We've got Frances Gulland, we've got Jim Harvey, Dan Costa, and we've also got Jan Roletto, we've got E.J. Shram, we've got an amazing team of people who are going to work to get you a fantastic and incredibly scientifically rigorous meeting. San Francisco, many of you know what it's like, many of you want to go there. It's going to be big. What can I say? So again, here's our conference organizers. We've got a lot of science going on in that area, and as Sarah said the other day, we've got 45 species that are in our rich upboiling waters. so, a lot of the people that you see listed up here represent a lot of organizations who are going to be helping us with finding volunteers, and with people who advise us about things for you to do in the region and for you to see in the region, things for you to enjoy.

We have the hotel Hilton in Union Square. It's going to be really easy to get around. You get off the airplane, get on the BART train, get off at Powell street, walk up past the cable cars, and you're there basically. As far as our ice breaker, we have been looking at the Exploratorium which is close by, but I think it's going to be too small, so we are talking to people at Cal Academy of Sciences which is an amazing venue. You will have to be bussed, but if you miss our bus, you take the city bus just right around the block, and they will take you home for 2 dollars. Oh, and we will have a wide variety of choices for your accommodations, and the Hilton is giving us quite reasonable prices for right in the middle of downtown. Recreation - nobody in this society like wine. No. There is a wine train, there's animals, there's redwood forests, there's even Tufted Puffins, so there will be lots of things to do. I am going to stop right there. Are there any pressing questions in my time remaining?

I'm around. Let me know your thoughts, opinions, and I'm sure you will. Thank you,

Nick Gales:

As president elect, one of the jobs I have when I've read carefully through the governing documents and been reminded by our excellent president is to ensure that we have somewhere to go after the next biennial. I think most of you recall some of the story that has led us to where we are now, but if you don't, you might recall in the previous votings that the initial idea was that from here, from this conference we would then go immediately to a conference in Argentina in Puerto Madryn, but we had to swap those to ensure for a whole range of sensible reasons that the conference went back up into North America and then went somewhere else. that then, effectively meant that Enrique Crespo who was putting that up said that he couldn't organize it for 2015, so we talked to the various folk who had put up a nomination from Mexico as well, and we're extremely fortunate that Ibiza here is now going to tell us about a bid they have put together for us for the 2017 meeting and I'm immensely to her and to Eduardo and to the folk who have put their hands up to tell us about what we've got in store for us in 2017. Ibiza

Ibiza:

Thank you. I am going to read, I don't want to make any mistakes here. Thank you to the board and now. Founded by Hernando Cortes in 1519, Vera Cruz was the first Spanish city in the American continent. Now Veracruz is the most important Mexican port in the Gulf of Mexico and a modern metropolis that maintains its cultural roots where you can enjoy different activities from cultural to adventure and wildlife. Including one of the most important migratory routes of raptors in the continent. We will welcome you at our modern convention center which has plenty of space for the SMM conference meetings. Immediately around, you will find more than 600 rooms within 2 kilometers away about the same amount. So watch out, this is not a hotel. This is one of our historical buildings. It is called San Juan de Ulua and it's a fort that defense of the city back in the 1500's.

For eating, we have more than 100 options. Of course, including original music almost everywhere so something you can enjoy is one of the most traditional dishes for about \$5. In order to get to Veracruz, you can fly directly from Houston and Dallas and several international flights routed to one of these other cities here in Mexico. If you want to enjoy the gorgeous Mexican landscape, you can drive from Mexico City, which is about a 4 hour drive. So, just come and see for yourself and you are welcome to Veracruz 2017. Thank you.

Helene:

Liz is now going to give us an overview.

Liz:

Apologies. I got stuck at the bank for about the quarter of an hour while they counted the money that we were handing back, and they wouldn't let me go until they counted the money. It has been such a treat to have you guys here. For us to be booking around our little town and our little campus and see about a thousand marine mammal people many of you, dear friends wandering around here. I shant try to describe it or I'll probably start getting emotional about it. So, when you leave here, it is compulsory if you haven't already to go either see dolphins at Banks Peninsula in Akaroa. Lovely little town. Jay and Barb and Steve and myself will be driving up there on Sunday afternoon. Many of you have already done this, but this just takes about a half an hour drive out of town here to a beach. The best beaches are around Ellen's beach and bay to go see those. We haven't shied away from talking about some of the big issues at this conference. We have been completely undaunted by the fact that there is a huge wide range of views on these issues on both the panel discussions and on many of the other issues we've discussed including bycatch, and with its use ping sonar. I've had good arguments about that kind of thing with some of my best friends. So, I think that shows that the society is in really heart. We are able to have a robust debate and still be friends and still go prancing around the dancing floor tonight, even with people who we might disagree with on some of these topics. I think the maturity of the society in being willing to take on some of these really, really tough questions is just fantastic.

You will of course be buying some conference wine if you haven't already, and we will be raffling some whale watch tickets. I know that some of you have already been whale watching in Kaikoura. So, for example, Anna who's been travelling around in a camper van for the last 3 weeks, so she's been everywhere already. We've got about 50 whale watch tickets, so it's quite good odds. What we're going to do is raffle some of those. You can buy a raffle ticket at the registration desk, and we are also going to option some tonight at the dance. We will do this at the dance rather than the dinner because some of you weren't able to get a dinner ticket. So, see you all in San Fran. Thank you.

Helene:

And thanks to all of our sponsors. They have been amazing. I will call on our treasurer to give you a report to the society.

Jim:

Thank you. So I was a little late, I was with the awards committee as they were arguing who was going to be the winners of the different awards about the wine for whoever won. So the main points I was going to get to was to give you a quick review of some of the expenses and income in 2013, where we sit as far as assets and a little bit about the investments, and a brief comment about the external audit we conducted. So, here's the very general table associated with expenses. Hit the high points of that. 2012 you'll notice that the IRS California reporting, so the society is incorporated in the State of California so we have to submit our income to the IRS in the U.S. and they audited us in 2012 which is a natural thing. it's a 501c3 non-profit so they have to check every once in a while to ensure that we are doing things properly and that we still are considered to be a nonprofit, so that's the extra expenses in 2012 for the IRS California reporting is based upon the amount of effort the CPA and I spent providing the IRS with a variety of documents to be able to determine that, yes in fact, we still are a nonprofit. I am happy to say. The other item that is of interest is the financial audit. According to our constitution Article IX, we are supposed to conduct an external audit of our finances every 6 years. It had been 8 years but the time I started on my second term as a treasurer. So we conducted an external audit, and that's that additional \$8,000 plus that was spent in this last year to fulfill that responsibility. You notice that the main expenses of us are obviously producing the journal. It's the journal editorial costs of printing with Wiley. So Daryl's group and Wiley's group are the ones that bear the most expense on our part in producing the Marine Mammal Science Journal. The rest of it you can see is pretty simple.

As far as income, our major sources of income end up being membership dues, of course, and then we get royalties and a variety of other paybacks from Wiley based on the Marine Mammal Science. So, those are the two main sources of income. You'll also notice in 2013 a fairly large pot of money coming in at "other revenues", and I donated it to the society. No, actually, that ends up being the consequence of what happened in Tampa which Tampa actually created that much in excess of what they spent, so the society coffers increased by \$134,00 based on the Tampa conference. One other little thing about the expenses, we still have a few more expenses. This is as of the end of October, so we still have 2 more months that I have to account for, so there's still a fair amount of money that is going to be spent so we won't have at the end of the year \$170,000 as it says there in the balance because there will be more expenses coming through in the next 2 months.

When I became treasurer, I sort of gave myself. This is my second time doing this. The first time I did it, as the society's assets started growing, I told myself that as soon as it got to a million dollars, I'm quitting. And I did. Just about the time we hit a million dollars, I got out after doing it for about 6 years. Now you'll see total assets are at 1.6M. So, my pledge is that I'm leaving when it hits 2 million, I'm leaving. A large portion of our income is invested in cash and cash equivalents, securities. We are still playing a game right now of trying to balance our investments such that they are in very safe places, but still make some income for us. I will show you in a second how that is done. We always have a fair amount of money in cash because we are always paying a variety of things throughout the year. As far as the health of the society, it's in pretty good shape. This is a graph of what's been going on with the investments. As you know for a number of years, there was a couple down spots with the global economy hitting a rough spot. I came in just around 2011 and we are starting to climb back up. We made about \$72,000 in investment income this year. So, we are doing well. I think that's it.

Helene:

Thanks Jim. It's a big job being a treasurer. I'd also like to acknowledge the Best family who donated quite a large sum of money to the society in Memory of Robin Best and there will be a formal lecture at the meeting in San Francisco.

Over to our editor Daryl Boness

Daryl:

Ok, it looks like I have nothing to report. There we go. I think the journal is actually in really good shape. Of course I am biased in that regard, but I will let you judge for yourselves. This past year we've had 186 manuscripts as Helene said 38 countries. This is pretty much on track, a little bit up from last year, but we've been running somewhere between roughly 180 and 200 manuscripts a year. Over this past year we have made decisions on 152 manuscripts, and those with final decisions. Our acceptance rate was about 43%, again this is pretty consistent with what we've been running over the last 5 or 6 years. As Helene said our journal impact factor is up. I would really like to thank our associate editors who do an incredible job of handling manuscripts and of course all the reviewers. Journal ranking is well increased. We get compared with zoology journals and other marine related journals. Our ranking is up around 10 points in both of those categories. We are in the top 25%-35% of those journals. If you read the society website, you know that we are going entirely electronically beginning our next issue. Essentially, we will still produce a volume every year. There will be 4 issues, and you will have your paper assigned page numbers as well. Along with this change to online only, we are going to start out by increasing the number of pages we publish per year from 1000 up to 1600. While we could actually afford to increase that number more, but Wiley Blackwell cautioned us from increasing too rapidly because it will even with the current increase will probably affect our impact factor. So while it's at 2.128 now, it might well go down next year. If there are any questions I will take a couple if I have time. If there are more, I will be around after this.

<question: "What's an impact factor?">

The impact factor is something that comes out of ISI and it's based on citation of papers over a 2 year period from the time of publish. Part of what is driving that impact factor currently is there was one particularly highly cited paper, I believe the top paper in citation numbers over the last two years, so that will not be included next year. So, that may well also insofar as it's way above most citations, result in some decline next year.

Ok, thank you.

Helene:

I'd now like to call on our membership chair Alana Phillips who's been an incredibly hard working member of the board. Alana

Alana:

Hi everyone. I thought we were pretty much done with word drawn slides, so I've just given you some colorful pictures to look at. Members as of today, we 1640 member which is about right for the time in our cycle when the conference is out of North America. I've listed the top 10 up there, and if you're from Australia, you can all celebrate right now because for the first time, you're in second place and Canada has been booted to third place. On behalf of all Canadians out there, I would like to say I'm sorry, you can have second. Thanks very much to all the new members in Australia and New Zealand. Just in terms of demographics on the left there: so the blue is full members, the red is students, and all the other colors are sort of everything else. So, the proportion of students is also increasing and that is wonderful, so thank you to all of the students.

I'm not going to go over the map but what we are going to be working on for the next year or two leading up to the 2015 conference is Katherina our webmaster, and I will and Shane from the education committee will be working up a survey. We want to poll all the membership and all of the people who aren't here today who have let their memberships expire. We want to know if you are a member, if you are happy with what you're getting from your membership, if you think there are more things that you should be getting for your annual dues. For those members who haven't renewed recently, we would like to know what we can do to bring them back. So, we are going to get a lot of discussion and conversation going around that this year.

We would especially like to know how we can better support students. I am not a student anymore, and haven't been for quite a while, so I really want to hear from students about what you guys want that the Society might be able to get for you and include as a membership benefit. So it might be discounts to certain institutions around the world, or museums or libraries or facilities. It might be online training; it might be mentorship programs with senior researchers. If you've got an idea, I would love to hear about it because if there's something we can provide, and something that will really help students especially, then that's what we will want to do. Also, the membership committee consists of one person, and it is quite a bit of work and I would really, really love to have some help on this committee. I would especially love to have at least one, hopefully more student member for the reasons that I have just been talking about because I really want to get student input on what membership provides, and what you get for your U.S. dollars. There's my email if you're interested in helping out with that I would really appreciate it. Thank you very much!

Helene:

Thanks Alana, and I'm pleased to announce that Mark Oram has agreed some expert advice on the survey which is terrific. Doug, would you like to come and talk about the committee of scientific advisors, and what you've been up to?

Doug:

Thank you. The main information is on the screen in front of you. In terms of the proposals, we were really trying to attract more proposals. We were successful in that. They went from 39 in the previous year up to 45. We also were trying to make sure that we expanded our reach to other low income countries and the number of countries from which we receive proposals went from 14 up to 16. So the total amount of money that the society allocates for this is \$15,000 a year. It is an annual competition, and the website opens in June. It's open for the month of June, and the committee that works very hard at analyzing and reviewing the proposals. Particularly providing feedback to each student who submits a proposal, gets feedback from 3 reviewers on their proposal as well as the scoring that goes into eventually awarding the money to the applicants who have the highest scores. That's a quick overview for the scientific advisors committee.

Helene:

Thanks Doug. So now I will call on Shane Gero for a report from the education committee. As I said Shane has also been the champion of the awards and scholarship but we will deal with that afterward.

Shane:

Hi everybody, my name is Shane Gero and I'm your education committee chair. That's my email up there, and the main reason that that's the only thing I have on my slide is that a lot of our initiative in 2014 are going to be vastly improved by access to a brand new SMM website. Overall, my job is to take your work, and make your voice heard to as loud an audience as possible. So, what I'm most interested in is hearing from you guys about what you think I need to do better. I think now that I've met many of you and you now have my email address, I want to know how you think I can best go approaching a wider audience on behalf of our membership and I hope to hear from as many of you as possible.

Helene:

We'll now hear from Coralie and Carolina about student affairs.

Coralie/Carolina:

Hi, much of what I'm going to say has been covered by Helene already, but we now have 7 active student chapters all over the world. I'd really like to stress the fact that we want to be more global and we'd really like students from other parts of the world like Asia, Africa, Latin America come up to us and offer to start a new student chapter. This year we have managed to give out quite a few student grants. We've been sitting at the counters giving out money, Jim and I. We've given out about exactly 132 travel awards to students from 28 different countries, and that amounts to \$88,000. There will be a couple more that we might give out so that number might change to \$90,000. If you look at the pie chart you will see that most of the students getting travel grants were students from the U.S. A lot were from Australia and the UK and actually get a lot of support from us as well as Mexico which is not on the pie chart. Again, please come and offer to form a student chapter because you do get supported quite a bit by this society.

Coralie/Carolina:

I would like to say that we had a very successful night on Wednesday afternoon in the students' affair workshop. I would like to acknowledge Craig and Trudi for helping out. The scientists that donated their time to talk to us. Mark Oram and Helen for extremely inspiring lectures that they gave. I think it was a very good experience. I just heard good compliments, and I think we had a good time, and I apologize that we ran out of pizza. But, I think we created a bar for the next San Francisco committee to do a very nice student affair workshop. So that's all. I would like to say I have nothing to do with the increased number of Brazilian grants. That's not bias because I'm in the committee.

Please do not hesitate to contact us. We are open to any suggestions or to anything that you would like to say to us. Thank you.

Helene:

Now I would like to call on Charles Littnan to bring us up to date on the really hard working ethics committee. Over to you Charles.

Charles:

Alright everyone, I will make this as quick as possible. Many of you, I think, attended the humane killing workshop on Monday. I want to very briefly call out the people that helped with pulling that together. I think overall it went really well. It did elicit a lot of feedback from people on how they would like to do it differently or how we can move forward in the future, and I agree. There's always ways to improve things, so again echoing what everybody has said, we really encourage you guys to engage early and often. So, while it's still fresh in your mind, if there are topics whether it's humane killing continuing that conversation in San Francisco or other topics you are interested in is to use the email on here and get in contact with our committee and we can start talking. We can't cover everything. There are so many questions that could be related to ethics. We don't own the monopoly on ethics in our society, so we do encourage people to be pretty proactive, and if there is an issue, develop a plan for a discussion and approach us and we're happy to work with you. We do get a lot of requests, but can't deal with every topic. Some things that we're going to be trying to work on between now and the next conference to continue to bring this dialogue and push this society forward in our role on these different issues are still kind of up in the air, but as Helene mentioned, we are going to put together a sub group for our ethics committee that's going to focus on welfare science. It will involve some of the people on the panel as well as reaching out to other people who have expressed interest in the topic.

We will likely be updating the guidelines for the treatment of marine mammals in field research, so that was our best practice document that came out several years ago in the journal and on the website. We want that to be a living document, so we're going to be opening that up and figuring out what the mechanism that's going to be for everyone to comment and to see anyone's thoughts and concerns have evolved on that in between, and probably vote on that at the next conference. Again, I just would like ideas from anyone on how to better engage the society to get everyone, particularly young students, thinking about ethics in the work that they do, and maybe try to think of some novel ways that we can approach this at the next conference. That is about all. I want to acknowledge the help of a lot of people on the ethics committee itself that help with a variety of issues outside with the journal and other things that you guys often don't see.

I'm going to take a quick time out now. It's weird to follow ethics with talking about a party, but my other hat working with Ari Friedlander, and Trudi Webster. Trudi Webster, again, is the real reason the party worked out the other evening. We did raise \$7,000 that was a little bit of a backslide from previous. It's all going to go to student travel to San Francisco. Ari and I are going to host our last party in San Francisco. We're laying the gauntlet down of \$20,000 - \$25,000 to raise, mostly from your generosity, drinking and coming to the party. California students that have ideas for San Francisco parties and themes, please contact us as well.

The last thing inappropriately using this platform. The monk seal research program is going to be looking for 2 new employees and we're going to be hiring pretty soon. Sadly, they're federal positions, so they are going to have to be U.S. residents, but if you have young students that are coming with PhD and are master's level students; direct them my way and we can tell them what it's about. Ecologists/Marine Mammal Biologists. That's it. Thanks

Helene:

Barb will you come and tell us about the conservation committee please?

Barb:

Thank you Helene. As she mentioned in her opening statement we're quite a young committee, and we have been a committee of writing presidential letters. Usually I receive a letter from the membership requesting that we write a presidential letter on a particular topic. You can see, I've listed the letters up here. I won't go through them. They are all posted. Some of them got responses, and some of them did not. I think probably the two bigger things this year was that we were very grateful to have conservation as the theme at this meeting and I think people seem to have really enjoyed the theme. I've only heard positive things about the theme, and I thank the organizers for doing that. The other thing is, we have just proposed the idea of on off years from the conference, to hold some organized and very specialized workshops on particular high priority conservation topics where we can bring together expertise, spend a couple of days going over that topic, and actually produce a product on products like developing alternative fishing gear and those kinds of things. I think you'll be hearing some more about that, and I so far have only heard positive comments about taking the committee up that next step. I am very interested in everyone's comments on that and whether or not they are in favor of moving the committee forward and having a more active, proactive role, or not.

Helene:

Thank you Barb. Do we have to accept those reports?

<motion to accept; second. Vote>

Now I'd like to move onto new business, and I'd like Heather just to briefly talk about proposed changes to the governing document. These will, of course, all be formally consulted about this through the May ballot.

Heather.

Heather:

Again, I'm not going to say much here. We have been discussing at the board level some proposed changes to the governing documents in terms of the constitution and the bylaws which need to be voted on by the membership. I'm not going to go through them again. It's I don't know how many kabillion pages, so we won't subject you to that tedium at this moment, but as soon as the board finishes their board meeting tomorrow, at the conclusion of that, we will then have a working document with the proposed changes which we will, with Katherina's help, get posted to the website so that you can all look at it in advance of the April/May ballots. (Not the spring ballots). So that will be there for all of you to look at, then we will have a vote on that. That's, I think, all I'm going to say about the governing documents. But, do have a look at them. They are kind of a bit dry, but they are important, so we want to make sure everyone has a chance to have a look.

Helene:

Just to comment very briefly, the changes probably falling into 2 types. Some are learnings that we've looked and seen aren't really quite adequate. Others bringing the governing documents into the 21st century. They still talk about paper ballots, and of presidents double counting and things like that which are obviously quite inappropriate today.

I'd now like to introduce our new webmaster; in fact I'd like to ask her to introduce herself. This is Katherina Audley, and she is going to be one of the most important people to the society in the next few years.

Katherina:

This is me, I'm Katherina and I'm very, very pleased and honored and proud to be your new webmaster. It's been an amazing week of learning. I've just been absorbing, absorbing everything I can to figure out how I can best serve the society in the different ways that I do. After attending Andy Read's talk on wicket problems, I implemented my own sort of system and am calling it the horns system.

I think that Alana and Shane have already spoken about some of the things that we are going to be able to do before the next 2015 conference. One of the big priorities will be for the members to be able to stay connected to each other during the conference. You can use the spot me app for a way to know where each other are. We are going to kill the Chalk-Talk, you guys aren't using it, so we're not going to continue to maintain it, but the student chapter has done a great job with their facebook page in their group and that have this very dynamic active conversation. We are going to try after we work together to create this member survey to find out what you want, and what works. We're going to find ways for all of you to stay in communication with each other before, during and after the conference so that you can really use each others' marvelous brains to the best of your abilities.

So, my two horned problem is the upgrading and migrating the current website. We're in an old thing called Joomla, and we're going to move over to WordPress and while we're at it, I'm a big site navigation person. I believe in getting to your information very easily, intuitively, and I'm going to work hard to make sure that we can do that for you during this upgrade that we are going to be going through. Hopefully we will have the new site up by June. So, yes, we talked about the member survey and that's going to be amazing to get your feedback and find out exactly what direction you all want to go and how we can best serve you through the web. Something I'm very excited about is Shane and I are going to work together to take what we have these sort of incomplete species fact sheets on our website, and instead of maintaining them as a separate entity, we are going to work with you guys, the members, and I think Shane will be the go-to person for this to make Wikipedia the place to be the world's most accurate place to go for marine mammal species facts. Then we will pull that dynamically onto the website and I'm very excited about this. It's not just a society thing, but it will serve the world's understanding, and accurate understanding of marine mammals.

So, my four horn problem is developing this sort of back end stuff that you won't see that much, but I hope that it really improves your experience, and that's improving your abstract submission and poster review process from a user perspective and a judging perspective, integrating that smoothly with conference registration and membership checking to see if it's active. Also working with the awards and grants systems to make this a much more intuitive thing which

would hopefully increase use and cause very little frustration. If I do my job well, it will be a seamless experience for all of you where you won't even know that we worked hard on it, and that is what would make me happy.

So, anyway, my email is there. You are very welcome to contact me with any thoughts and suggestions, and I'm really looking forward to putting together the survey and learning more about what's of the highest interest to you now, and where you want to go, and I will do everything I possibly can to support you in what you're doing with your fabulous mission. So, thank you so much.

Helene:

I'd now like to call on Ailsa Hall to talk about the candidates for office in 2014.

Ailsa:

I've got a slate of candidates for you. For now, we have 2 names for president elect, Terry Williams and Jay Barlow some of you may know. Jim Harvey and Heather Koopman as treasurer and secretary have both kindly agreed to stay on unopposed, so we're very, very grateful to them for that. We have 2 names for member at large: Lorenzo Rojas Bracho and Mary-Anne Lea, and 2 student members at large: Christina Toms and Anita Murray. So, we have a good start here, but if anybody would like to nominate anybody for those elected offices except for the treasurer and secretary, please do come and see me. If you are nominating somebody, please make sure that you are clearing it with them first, that they are happy to stand. Thank you very much for your support. Those of you who have been hiding me for the last 8 years because I'm going to give you a job or nobble you for something, you can come out now.

Helene:

Thanks Ailsa, we really appreciate your contribution. We now have about 25 minutes for members' questions, and I'm going to ask the two student members at large to be the runners.

<Thanks, I've got a couple of questions, but the first one concerns the Norris award. I'm concerned that there seems to be no material benefit associated with it in the sense that other people get bottles of champagne, but the Norris award gets to give a lecture and a pat on the back, and maybe write an article in Marine Mammal Science. It seems to me more appropriate to have a more concrete recognition of their award as it's a premium thing that this society gives. I'm proposing something like a medal which would be awarded to the recipient, and that would be back-dated to those who have received them previously. It wouldn't be very expensive I imagine, and I think it would be an appropriate way of recognizing their contributions to science.>

(At this point Jim gave the Norris award winner a bottle of wine and everyone cheered)

Helene:

Peter, thanks for that suggestion, which I think is a very good one. We also one of the proposals for the changes being made to governing documents is to ensure that the knowledge awardee gets lifetime honorary membership to the society, which was an anomaly, and they do get to give the address, but I agree with you that something more long term and tangible is a very good idea, so thank you Peter.

Other questions?

<Thank you. I just want to comment about the format about the two forums that were held this week. I understand the format the way it was, and that there was a genuine intent to have an open question session at the end of each one, but the way they were structured, that didn't happen in either case. I have a feeling that many of the rank and file of the membership, and I personally felt shut out of the discussion obviously, even though I had an opportunity to present online a question. It did give me a sense of a top down management that was unwelcome I think. So, I just wanted to pass that out and see if there was any support for that sense, and whether we could, moving forward, try and structure the schedule for those events such that there is genuinely room for a friendly discourse amongst the membership at large.>

(Loud Applause)

Helene:

Thank you for that comment. The Board will be discussing the panels and the arrangements for them tomorrow. I think it is really clear that the membership has voted with their feet to have such discussions, and I agree with you that I think in future, we should try and organize a format for member input. When decisions were made to do it this way this time because it was the first time and there was some nervousness about it, but I think this is a sign of the maturity of our society that we should be able to engage in open discourse on sensitive matters, and we look forward to that in San Francisco. We also look forward to some great suggestions from the Society about topics for these sorts of discussions.

<I just like expand our reach and encourage, and I haven't talked to Daryl about potential problems of this for the journal, but I would like to encourage everybody here publish in open access journals, so that we can reach as broad an audience as possible, and so that the folks who are trying to find out and reaching out on the web can get the best information possible. Reach the kids who are in 6th grade who are in Africa or Belarus or wherever. Make yourself available.>

<It's about the membership free for the developing countries, and it says on the website that we do have the option for developing countries. Which is \$75 for one year and \$130 for 2 years which is excellent I think. But then for the developing country students for the having the online access only is \$10 which is perfect which is what I accessed when I was a student. Now me and my many other friends from developing countries are not students anymore, and some of us do find that \$75 per year is still a bit high. I would like to request the board to consider having the second option for a lower membership fee for developing countries. Maybe less privilege, but we are still a member and can still access the journals. thank you>

Thank you so much for bringing that up because I actually forgot to put that on my slide. We actually did talk about that in our board meetings before the conference last weekend, and what we have proposed is now that there isn't functionally a difference between an online only membership for students in developing countries and a regular membership, we are going to bring both memberships down. It will now be \$20 for 1 year, and \$30 for 2 years. We will also make available for students in developing countries that if \$20 is still a financial for that membership, which I understand very well that for some students it will be, we will have a way for people to apply for a waiver for those fees. Really what we want is that no student in any developing country should have a barrier to accessing to membership in our journal.

We also, through our publisher Wiley are participating in a program called research for life. It is a program in which institutions and libraries in developing countries can apply for free online membership to the journal, and then that can be made available to everyone in their institution so that will be another way that our members in developing countries will be able to access particularly our journal.

<As a previous member of the scientific advisory committee, I am a little bit shocked by the apparent devaluation of the sound of the advisory committee. It seems to be relegated to the student award evaluation committee. It seems very strange to me that it's a society that's supposed to be promoting marine mammal science, that its scientific committee is virtually functionless. It seems to be a result of the formation of the conservation committee, which has taken over many of the functions that the scientific committee used to have. It seems to me we should really think hard about whether we need a scientific advisory committee if this where we are going to go. Shouldn't the science and conservation be combined into one committee? It seems to me that we need to think this quite seriously. It reflects on the whole ethos of the society. Thank you.>

Helene:

I think Doug has some ideas which can be discussed tomorrow about the expanded role of the scientific advisory committee. Doug, do you want to comment on that?

Leslie:

Hi, I'm Leslie Cornick and I served on the scientific advisory committee both as a student member at large and as a regular member for several years with Peter among others, and I'm frustrated by your comment Peter because part of the reason that we felt the need to form the conservation committee was because every time an issue came before the scientific advisory committee that had any kind of conservation aspect to it, you were very obstructive and resistant to the scientific advisory committee being involved in that because it wasn't science, it was conservation. I think there is a role for both. I do think there are some important aspects of those things that need to be integrated in our society, and I think we're well behind other societies in that integration, but I don't think that the formation of a conservation committee automatically negates the necessity of the science committee.

Doug:

Let me also point out that certainly the two committees work together very closely. The community of scientific advisors consults on any of the letters that are being sent under the auspices of the president. For those of you who read the ballot carefully, this past April/May, one of the items on that was to change the bylaws that gave the committee of scientific advisors the control over the website on all issues except those which have already been vetted by the taxonomy committee or the conservation committee. In other words, we are the body that has the responsibility for making sure that whatever goes up on our website is accurate in terms of its scientific content. So, I think that those of us on the committee find that the responsibility for not only awarding the money which is significant for a number of individuals who receive it, but more importantly the fact that we're willing to collectively provide a great deal of advice to young researchers as to how they can write better proposals, how they can be more successful at this particular critical stage of their career is, for most of us, a very rewarding exercise.

Helene:

I think Peter wanted to say something else:

Peter:

{inaudible}

While we make room for one more question, can I just remind people if they do nominate their friends and neighbors, please make sure they are members of the society.

Ok, if there are no further questions, then I'll thank everybody for their questions and suggestions. I would like to ask Ibiza to come and play the video that she really wants to play about Veracruz.

Nick Gales:

I get the sense that Helene is about to close the meeting. So, as we midway now as a society through the Australocene where you have to suffer under Australian leadership, it calls to your incoming Australian to thank the outgoing Australian who will leave us in the middle of next year in her role as president. Now I've been really lucky in my career to have known Helene I think pretty much through my whole career. I know how Helene works, and have seen her work around the Australian and Southeast Asian region for a very long time. Those of you who don't know the region and haven't been down there, may not recognize it, but Helene is absolutely a tour de force in both marine mammal science and the communication of that science to all of the folk involved in the development of public policy. I've spent quite a bit of time in Cambra and with other governments talking to the people making decisions, some of them quake in their boots at the name of Helene, because they know that if they are making recommendations that aren't soundly science based that they will hear very clearly from Helene around the issue.

So I was incredibly excited when Helene was nominated and dually stepped into the role of president and I've been terrified since I nominated to see how much work Helene has done because she's worked incredibly hard. There are areas where you see where she works, but of course, 99% of it has been Helene busy behind the scenes with the incredible committee that put this meeting together, and with all of the really hard working members other than me on the board who have done such a great job. Helene has really, in the character of so many of our past presidents who have stepped in, has done an extraordinary job for the society. We do continue to grow and we continue to evolve. We face challenges. I think the diversity is great. I would hate to be in a society where we all agreed with on another. We probably wouldn't have much work to do if that wasn't the case. We've got those challenges, and I think Helene has done a really marvelous job in helping us navigate through some interesting waters and bringing us to this meeting and I know she's promised to do all the really hard work that remains for the president by June next year before I have to step into the fold and I'm grateful for that.

So, I've got a little gift, it's only a wee thing though that I'll pass onto Helene after this and a card from the board on behalf I hope all of the membership. I hope you'll all join me in thanking Helene for firstly being willing to nominate, and I'll just use that to say any of you who have views about: "I'm pissed off with the society here or there"; or "we should be doing more of this and that." If you want to have a voice, talk to the people who can nominate you for the position so you've heard where you can have a voice. Helene was willing to step up and do that and we're richer for the work that she's done for us. Helene, sincerely from all of us, thank you for the work you've done as president.

Helene:

Thanks Nick, and I look forward to giving you the gavel. Ok, that's the end of our member's meeting and I would now like to call on Shane Gero. Can I have a movement and a seconder to close the meeting please?

Now I'll ask Shane to come over and announce the winners of the various awards.

Shane:

Thanks. So I forgot to mention I wanted to thank on behalf of the community and the board, Krista Nicholson who approached probably a dozen or so of you guys to do the short 90 second science interviews. They're going to be part of the new website. She's been the stealthy ninja hitting up all of the senior people at the meeting, and if you weren't tapped while you were here, be prepared. We're coming for you. It's an initiative to basically keep the society open, and so online you will be able to access these 90 second interviews of who these people are that are marine mammal scientists, and doing all this great work. So that's to come, and thank you to Krista if she's here.

So I have a huge thanks to give to Nick Lunn who is unfortunately not here with us today because he's off saving the world in Russia. He's your actual awards committee chair, and I filled in for him while I was here. Three people did an excellent job in assisting me to do that. Chris Parsons and Julia Burrows who are actually on the awards committee, and Sally Mizroch helped me enter all the scores this morning that came in after the Thursday night poster session. It's really my honor to be able to do this and pass on these awards. Obviously there's an enormous amount of work that goes into both the presentations and the posters, so it's really fun for me to be able to give out as many high fives as I can.

So, without further adieu, we'll start with one of the main awards, the J. Stephen Leatherwood Memorial award is an award presented in memory of J. Stephen Leatherwood to encourage conservation marine mammal science in south and southeastern Asia. Stephen Leatherwood had an enormous impact in many areas, but in his later years he focused on the conservation of marine mammals in that region. This award honors Steve and recognizes the most outstanding presentation on marine mammals in that region given at the biennial this year. And this year's winner is Tara S. Whitty, for a presentation called "Mapping conservation scapes of Irrawaddy dolphins in small scale fisheries in southeastern Asia".

The Excellence in Science Communication Awards are presented to the best non-student poster, and the best non-student spoken presentation that demonstrate creative and effective communication techniques. So all non-student presentations are included in this award.

Joy:

So the winner of the poster presentation is [01:31:08] {Seroto Ishima}. The title was: "On the ethmoid and pre-sphenoid of cetaceans revisited".

And the winner of the spoken presentation is Darlene Ketten. And the title of her talk was: "Auditory structures that impact sensitive and acuity in cetaceans; location, location, and location." Thank you.

Shane:

Alright, so the main part of my job has been organizing an enormous hoard of judges to go out and judge the student awards. So, each student poster and student presentation is judged by 3 different judges. I really wanted to thank all of the people who contributed to the judging at this biennial. I in particular because this is my first time as a very last minute replacement for organizing it, and everyone really rise to the challenge. So, there are 5 categories of awards given to students whose presentations have been ranked highest in: impact; scientific quality; and presentation. All students are considered and awards are separated by degree programs, so there are doctoral and pre-doctoral awards. The student with the highest score in any of these categories will receive the John G. Shedd Aquarium Award and we would like to thank the aquarium for its continued generous contributions for this award, and again we would like to thank all of the volunteers and judges for their time.

We sill start with the pre-doctoral student poster presentation. The winner is Reagan Furbish: "Something old, something new, something swimming in the blue; a total evidence phylogeny in {[01:34:03]}.

The doctoral student poster presentation goes to [01:35:41] {} for "A Method to study fine scale foraging behavior in a marine predator."

Moving onto the spoken presentations. This pre-doctoral category is a particularly interesting one. No one in the judging room could remember the last time an undergraduate won, so be warned all of you guys the next generation of scientists are exceptionally good presenters. The winner is Roxanne Beltran for "Whisker growth dynamics: a validated approach for assigning timescales to stable isotope analyses."

The doctoral student spoken presentation is awarded to Amanda Stansbury for "Trained vocal production learning in captive grey seal."

The best overall across both posters and spoken presentations. The winner of this year's of the John G. Shedd Aquarium award for best overall student presentation is Fredrick Christiansen. His presentation was entitled: "Linking behavioral changes to vital rates in capital breeding [01:38:43] {}

That concludes the awards part of our presentation. Thank you very much.

One more award. This is a new award. The international fund for animal welfare award for the presentation that contributes most to animal welfare and conservation. By giving this award, we're hoping that presentations will start to be a little bit more conservation and animal welfare oriented and this is going to be an ongoing award throughout the years. We are very pleased to be able to offer this prize, and thanks to the amazing judges who have helped us out, and also thanks to everybody who did apply. For those of you who didn't see it, we advertised it on the biennial website at the beginning, but hopefully now as

the years go on, we will get more applicants. Anyway, without further adieu, the winner of this award which is for \$10,000 toward furthering their research is Simon Allen of Murdoch University.

Helene:

That ends this afternoon's proceedings. Special thanks to Shane for really pulling that off with the awards at the last minute. I really appreciate that, and thanks very much to the judges. We will see you at the dinner at 7:00, and for the board, I hate to tell you, but we meet again at 8:30 in the zoology department.