

Ten Years of Marine Mammal Education and Research Programs

Science, Learning and Exploration With The Help of Sea lions (SLEWTHS) (Program Highlights 2000- 2010)

SLEWTHS functions as a highly respected teaching aquarium, where people come from all over the local community and the world to learn the cutting edge of captive marine mammal husbandry, veterinary procedures, and training for research, the military, and public display facilities. With the help of 6 California sea lions, two paid staff members (Jenifer Zeligs and Stefani Skrovan) have accomplished the following:

Educational Program Highlights for Ten Years of Service:

- **Sea Lion Stewards: K-12 Beach clean-up programs:**
6022 K-12 participants in 190 half day programs removed 3780 lbs of trash off ML beaches
- **Sea Lion Encounters Public Outreach programs:**
An estimated 246,490 people were reached by SL Encounters performances in 30 different events
- **CSUMB and Special Event Classes:**
489 college students attended 32 classes taught by Dr. Zeligs
- **Career Preparatory Training and Placement:**
86 students were intensively mentored and instructed by SLEWTHS for an average longevity of 3 yrs and an additional 482 students participated in short-term internships with the project
- **MLML Tours and Demonstrations:**
128 private tours and demonstrations were conducted for MLML staff, faculty, the general public, and students

Past Research:

- 15 investigative programs were previously conducted by SLEWTHS in the areas of marine mammal physiology, veterinary medicine, natural history and technology development.

Current Research Directions:

- **Marine Mammal Deterrence Technology Development and Testing:**
In collaboration with Smith Root, Inc we are testing the use of electric fields for non-lethal pinniped deterrence from salmonoid spawning areas, harbor infrastructure and boats; and we are evaluating similar uses for manatees and possibly cetaceans. Local testing in ML harbor is anticipated to start in winter 2011.
- **Prey Encounter Rate Cost of Foraging Studies:**
In collaboration with Dr. Leslie A. Cornick from Alaska Pacific University, SLEWTHS has begun an investigation to compare foraging cost dynamics as prey encounter rates alter and transit costs are imposed.