
Community Event: Gray Whale habitat use and behavior off the Oregon Coast

November 2, 2023



The Oregon Chapter of the American Cetacean Society monthly speaker series meeting via Zoom is scheduled for 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 11.

Please join us for Individual Gray Whale Habitat Use and Behavior off the Oregon Coast.

The Pacific Coast Feeding Group (PCFG) gray whales are unique in many ways; not only because they do not migrate to Arctic waters like most of the 16,000 gray whales in the Pacific Ocean do, but also what they feed on, how they feed, and the spatial strategies they use.

By gaining insight into what factors may affect gray whale behavior and space use in their foraging habitat, we can better understand how individuals are being affected by a changing environment and anthropogenic impacts.

In this talk, you will hear some brand-new results and ongoing analyses being conducted by the Geospatial Ecology of Marine Megafauna Lab at OSU's Marine Mammal Institute about PCFG gray whale foraging tactics and differences in individual space use.

Our presenters, Clara Bird and Lisa Hildebrand are both PhD candidates in the Geospatial Ecology of Marine Megafauna Lab at Oregon State University's Marine Mammal Institute under the supervision of Dr. Leigh Torres. Clara is a behavioral ecologist who is originally from Michigan and earned her Bachelor of Science degree from Duke University, where she conducted research using drones on Adelie penguins, and humpback and minke whales.

Lisa is a spatial ecologist originally from Germany who earned her Bachelor of Science degree from Newcastle University and has worked with a number of cetacean species as well as harbor seals and California sea lions.

The event is free and open to the public. You must register to receive the Zoom link and password by 5 p.m. Friday Nov. 10.

Please register here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwsde6hrTMuHtHFL0peAqFYRfkN-YKpOHGU> The meeting will begin at 10 a.m., however you may log on beginning at 9:30 a.m. to socialize.

The American Cetacean Society protects whales, dolphins, porpoises, and their habitats. The non-profit organization was founded in 1967 and is headquartered in San Pedro, CA. Information on the ACS can be found on the website at www.acsonline.org. You can also find us on Facebook now at American Cetacean Society-Oregon Chapter

For more information, contact Joy Primrose, ACS Oregon Chapter President at marine_lover4ever@yahoo.com or 541-517-8754.