



Dear Ocean Friends,

It is a pleasure to present the first email version of our Newsletter "**ECOSONAR**" where we will communicate to you with the activities, anecdotes and news from ORCA Peru in the South Pacific. For over 13 years, we have dedicated ourselves to work to conserve marine life in various environments: from desert dunes in the coast to the halls of the Peruvian Congress, performing surgeries on our flippers sea-lion friends to marine animal conferences around the world, to monitoring the effects of "El Niño" on dolphins, whales and baby sea-lions. It is our hope that you enjoy our stories from one of the most remote and little known areas of our planet, the Eastern South Pacific, that have enriched our lives and given us ocean waves of hope. There is so much to tell!

ECOSONAR will reach your e-mail account twice a month. Sometimes there will be "ECOSONAR-Specials" on hot topics of general interest; though, it is our intention to fill your day with good news. We want you to learn without a doubt that your support today and tomorrow, and in the past, makes a difference for lives in our planet.

In this issue:

**FITO: The adventure of a Galapagos fur seal in northern Peru.**

Early this month, ORCA Peru received an emergency phone call from the northern coast. Among the bushes of Punta Veleros beach in Los Organos, some 1200 Km north of Lima city, there was a very curious and small creature. "FITO", a Galapagos fur seal juvenile male, was found stranded due to some fishing interaction. He was injured in the right side, and his kidneys were suffering of a post-traumatic infection.

Thanks to a special rescue team set up in Punta Veleros beach, we managed to bring "FITO" back to health!



These fur seals are long distance travelers, and have little contact with humans. However, a few years ago ORCA Peru discovered the first continental colony of this species in Isla Foca, Piura, Peru. "FITO" was released back in Isla Foca early August, leaving behind memories of a unique experience of rehabilitation, the first one of success and hope in northern Peru.

Special thanks to Ursula Morales, Julia Ruljancik, Walter Davey, Rodolfo Bauer, Kiana Bauer-Morales, Jorge Landeo, Antonia Salem, Belén Alcorta, Juan José Alonso and the Police Department of Los Organos in coordination with the Environment Department of the National Police of Peru for their support with this excentric fur seal.

### **SILNAYA RETURNED HOME!**

At the beginning of the winter season (summer for the northern hemisphere), we received a juvenile female sea-lion in a very terrible condition, dehydrated, malnourished and exhausted. Her right rear flipper was badly wounded, with several bones fractured and a serious infection. After x-rays and an in-depth analysis of her situation, the Science & Animal Welfare Dept. of ORCA decided to do all possible for "Silnaya" to recover. After three surgeries and with intense physical therapy and re-generation supplements, this very strong (as her name means in Russian) sea-lion recover the movement of her flipper, and with it, the ability to swim fast, walk, run, and even climb!



"Silnaya", the victim of an encounter with a fisherman, is a female juvenile was found with a wounded/broken flipper on a beach south of Lima City. Due to such traumatic experience with human interaction, "Silnaya" was driven south, to be released back in the ocean at Wakama Natural Refuge located 170 Km (over 100 miles) away from Lima. At her release, she immediately was seen swimming and feeding with two other sea-lions and a pod of dolphins nearby. Thanks to the Environment Police Dpt. of Villa district for taking care of "Silnaya" from being killed at Villa beach where she stranded.

### **VANESSA & BABY...SAVED!**

Our most recent patient, "Vanessa" rescued last August 18th from Agua Dulce beach in the coast of Lima. Also affected by human aggression, "Vanessa" is an 8 month-old-pregnant female that was feeding in Lima city bay when hit in the eye. She is partially blind due to cataracts, but with good physical condition when stranded meaning that she is capable to swim, to catch fish and to breed by her own. Fortunately, the Chorrillos city hall police called ORCA to help her. After patience and careful care, she has been released back near the nursery rookery away from human beings, saving not one, but two sea-lions -including Vanessa's baby.



## SEA-LION PLANET: MEET THE "ROYAL FLUSH"

The winter season in the Southern Hemisphere brought to us a royal flush of roguish South American sea-lions! All of them suffering from negative human impact, they are under rehabilitation to complete their journey back to the ocean! **Yaligéi** (Tlingit –Alaskan native- word for "pretty"), **Arya** (Sanskrit word for "noble"), **Teva** (Hebrew word for "natural") and little **Rocky** ("stone" from English) are our current resident patients under treatment and **Sebastian**, a youngling that survived a hit in the nose that otherwise would have killed him. "Yaligéi" is an almost 3 year old juvenile female that we rescued from the La Estrella beach near the touristic Miraflores district, and we strongly suspect she was fed with poisoned fish, barely surviving. "Arya" was dying when finally rescued from the Lima fisherman's dock of Chorrillos, having suffered an impact that fractured a left rib. Police officers of the Environment Dpt. found "Teva", a female weanling, stranded alone after her mother was killed; as well as "Rocky", another weanling, male, that was rescued by police officers after a fisherman killed his mother and hit him in the face leaving a fracture near the eyebrow. "Sebastian" was rescued among from Punta Hermosa beach while in his journey to the juvenile sea-lion rookery he lost the track of his mother finding him alone between fishing nets while attempting to eat, stranded severely tired and skinny. All of them are doing well and we anticipate their release to the Palomino Islands' sea-lion rookery early next month.



### **"Fillin' Up the Freezer" - Throw us a fish!**

Every day we must provide our patients with adequate nutrition, this means providing several kilos of fish per day. Winter storms on the ocean plus over-fishing make it difficult for us to acquire the right fish, since South American sea lions juveniles will only eat a specific fish called "drum" (*Scieana deliciosa*), a more meaty fish rich on proteins, minerals and vitamins that enhance development and blood quality; and occasionally, an small-light fish called "silverside" which allows the weanlings to learn the abilities for fishing. Both fish are typical species of the Humboldt Current, which brings cold, nutrient rich water from the deep water trench off the coast of Chile.

We are in dire need of a newer, larger freezer! You can "throw us a fish" by donating funds to keep our freezer full for our flipper-critters!

### **ECOSHORE IS ON THE GO!**

We are very excited with the start of our newest research program! Conducted by marine biologist and PhD candidate Lynn Wilbur, the Coastal Ecosystem Monitoring Program began this year with the first intertidal surveys in central and northern Peru. Aimed to be a long term project that is linked to our education programs for the coastal communities, this research is key to understanding the biodiversity of the Peruvian ecosystem, its relation with the North Pacific, and to assess the impact of "El Nino" and climate change.



**VOLUNTEERING: *Thank you Russian, Canadian and German Orcas!***

*"In Peru, I wanted to volunteer with animals...on the second day after of my arrival at ORCA Peru's center, the phone rang and we loaded the plastic case for transporting animals, wooden boards, a box with medical supplies and rush to the beach...I was really excited." – Natasha K.*

*"I've made wonderful friends, both sea-lion and human and will never forget the amazing times I've had in 'sea-lion planet'! I wish our pack a long happy life in the ocean." – Katy B.*

*"ORCA wanted me to come earlier, but I couldn't. The fact is that when I arrived, I never imagined how much responsibility there is with the sea-lions." – Julian M.*



During June, July and August our interns *Natasha Kotlyarova*, *Katy Bland* and *Julian Mattes* arrived from Russia, Canada and Germany respectively for one month of devoted service. They participated in rescues, rehabilitation and releases of our sea-lion patients, accompanied us to fish market twice week, and mentored the local volunteer groups at our South Pacific Marine Mammal Center located in San Bartolo beach, 40 Km south of the city. Thank you so much for your help...together you pulled forward this season!

***You can also join us, or recommend someone you know, as a volunteer or intern!***

Thanks to Volunteers LatinAmerica ([www.volunteerlatinamerica.com](http://www.volunteerlatinamerica.com)) for promoting our International Participation Programs. If you are interested in participating, please request the Information Packet writing to: [volunteers@orca.org.pe](mailto:volunteers@orca.org.pe) or [orca.peru@gmail.com](mailto:orca.peru@gmail.com)

**COMING SOON...OUR NEW WEBSITE!**

We have been busy putting the last touches on our website! It will include the *Orca Chronicles* with never-before seen photos of our flipped patients, stories about our experiences, the media releases that made history, our video gallery, and much more!

You can also **OCEANIZE** with us thru facebook! For further updates and photo albums of each one of our flipped family members give a "LIKE" to our [ORCA PERU fan page](#) or join us as facebook friends sharing your marine pics, news from around the world, and memories from Peru at [Orca Peru Network](#).

## **DONATE NOW, JOIN OUR *SEA OF DONORS!***

Private funding and personal donations, like yours, make ORCA's existence possible. You can join our Sea of Donors by joining one or more of the levels for donations. Each level corresponds to a current amount needed to keep our organization operational, and it matches with the color of development of a sea-lion in the wild for sea-lions change of color as they grow up in the sea. Meet our needs and become an ORCA donor, *Oceanize* your life with us today!

### **BRONZE baby sea-lion: \$25-\$50**

Helps with 1 month worth of alcohol, hydrogen peroxide, and other medications for wound care, **OR** 1 month worth of cotton swabs, bandages, and first aid supplies **OR** blankets, towels, and cleaning supplies. Sea-lion juveniles need caring and cleaning 24 hours, 7 days a week!

### **SILVERBACK weanling sea-lion: \$50-\$100**

Help us to acquire a medium sized kennel for transporting rescued animals, **OR** fish for two juvenile sea-lion feedings for 1 week **OR** specialized medical equipment for sea-lions receiving critical care.

### **GOLDEN chested Juvenile sea-lion: \$100-\$500**

Support our work by helping us to get 1 large or 2 medium animal carriers for transporting sea-lions to rehab center or to the lab **OR** evacusleds for transporting sea-lions from beach to rescue vehicle **OR** four new rescue boards.

### **FIRE manned Alpha sea-lion: \$500 or more**

Back us up to optimize our work by getting critical material such a washer/dryer machine for sea-lion maintenance room **OR** cover the cost of transport for 5 rescues **OR** injectable multi-vitamins and aminoacids special formula for sea-lions in critical care.

***You make our work possible...there are several ways to donate!***

- **Western Union direct transfer.**

You can make an immediate direct to Elena Romero Rojas, Treasurer of ORCA in Lima city, Peru.

- **International transfer to ORCA's bank account**

You can make a money transfer from your bank to ORCA's bank account in Peru, (Please add \$25 USD for bank's reception fee). Please make transfer to:

Bank in Peru: *Banco BBVA Continental*

Swift code: *BCONPEPL*

Address: *Av. Republica de Panama 355, San Isidro, Lima, Peru.*

Account number: *0011-0749-0200061058-90* Currency: *US dollars*

- **Check or money order to Turning the Tides, our partner organization in the United States.** Please contact Dixie Belcher at [dixie@orca.org.pe](mailto:dixie@orca.org.pe)

- **For check or money order made to our official International representative** for the World, contact Lynn Wilbur at [lynn@orca.org.pe](mailto:lynn@orca.org.pe)
- **For check or money order made to our official International representative for Europe**, contact Anique Hoekstra at [anique@orca.org.pe](mailto:anique@orca.org.pe)
  - Bank in Netherlands: ING
  - Account number: 9171112 Name: Anique Hoekstra City: Sittard
  - IBAN: NL79INGB0009171112
  - BIC: INGBNL2A

***We profoundly appreciate your help!***

***Your name will appear in the launch of the Special Sea of Donors page on the new ORCAPeru website***

(Privacy will be respected for wishing so donors)

**SEA OF DONORS: *June-July-August marine acknowledgement.***

Our deepest ocean gratitude goes to our **SILVERBACK Donors** who let us raise this season's weanlings!

Henry Larsen, Paul Schmolz, John Stein, Nick Cotignano, Bob Sylvester; Alejandra Villanueva, Eduardo Tang and family, Silvia Llanos and family, Patricia Fernandez and family, Cesar Godoy and family, Vanessa Andrade.

Our donors are very important to keep our organization running. Being 100% volunteer based non-profit, all proceedings go to develop the different areas of influence that our institution develops for the welfare of marine mammals and our oceans.

Thank you for believing in us and supporting our work!

Warm Regards from the Southern Ocean,

**Dr. Carlos Yaipen-LLanos**

**President - Science & Animal Welfare Director**

**ORCA Peru**

**Organization for Research and Conservation of Aquatic Animals**

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ORCA Peru / The South Pacific Marine Mammal Center

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**ORCA Peru is a volunteer based non-profit organization thanks to:**

Carlos Yaipen-LLanos (Founder), Dixie Belcher (USA), Elena Romero-Rojas, Nathalie Vela-Knockaert, Lynn Wilbur (USA), Paul Helden, Anique Hoekstra (NED), Mauricio Garcia-Gonzalez (MEX), Marisol Alegre, Susana Alegre, Jorge Podesta-Hernandez, Romina Carnero-Huaman, Carolina Liñan-Rojas, Miguel Paz, Augusto Romero-Rojas, Luis Bringas-Perez, Carolina Niño-Celis (COL), Angela Plüss (SUI), Nico Rafael, Felipe Godoy-Romero, Catherine Gairard, César Loli, Jeremy Nolbert (FRA), Adrian and Amanda Chase-Fernandez and over 50 junior and college volunteers!

And most importantly, THANK YOU to all our past volunteers and interns!

ORCA Peru is a non-profit organization dedicated to conduct ocean research, to rescue marine mammals and to promote sustainable development for the conservation of a healthy marine ecosystem, preventing and monitoring the cumulative effects of human impact through advanced science and animal welfare strategies, education and campaigns using sea-lions, dolphins, whales and marine otters as sentinels of the ocean, from the eastern south Pacific to the world.



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