MARINE MAMMALS IN MONTEREY BAY: RESEARCH METHODS, TECHNOLOGICAL EXPLOITS AND POTENTIAL CONFLICTS

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Dr. Harvey received his M.S. from Moss Landing Marine Laboratories in 1979 and his Ph.D. from Oregon State University in 1987. He has been at Moss Landing since 1989. His primary research interests include the ecology, morphology and behavior of marine mammals, birds and fishes as well as satellite telemetry, marine mammal strandings studies and marine mammal/fisheries interactions.

Dr. Harvey's recent work involves the marine mammals of Monterey Bay. With the able assistance of numerous Moss Landing Marine Laboratory students, he is studying the ecology of the local harbor seals. Much of his research depends on integrating new methods with standard field methodology. Tagging and remote monitoring of the animals have enabled more complete data collection leading to a better understanding of their behavior.

His latest project involves sea lions and whales. Tracking whales is, to say the least, difficult. Dr. Harvey and his staff are attempting to replace the current method of surface tagging whales via dart with tags attached by a Navy-trained sea lion. Eventually, the sea lion will carry a video camera on its back and film whales' underwater behavior. This innovative approach, while intriguing to scientists, has raised conflicts with local fishermen faced with the pesky presence of sea lions. Sometimes, new research methods face implementation problems that go beyond equipment failure into the realm of politics.

The bibliography includes articles about Dr. Harvey's current research and some of the issues in Monterey Bay.


