

Dear Colleagues,

Marine mammals are good barometers of our environment. The status of these species and current efforts at their conservation are very timely due to climate change, shortages of salmon, increases in boats volume and human populations, and high levels of contaminants off of the West Coast of the United States.

On February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019, a marine mammal special session consisting of 18 speakers will be held. The talks will cover cetaceans (whales), pinnipeds (seals and sea lions) and mustelids (sea otters). We plan on having speakers from Cascadia, NOAA-NMFS, OSU, WDFW, UBC, UW, Seattle Aquarium, Sealife Response Rehabilitation Research (SR3), and U.S. ArmyCorp of Engineers. Including John Calambokidis, Dr. Scott Baker, Steven Jefferies, Dr. Alex Zerbini, Dr. Robyn Angliss, and others. Talks will cover porpoise and sea otter recovery in Washington, comparing manned to unmanned aerial surveys, eDNA, the southern resident pod of killer whales, increased entanglement of whales off of the Washington Coast, and other interesting and timely topics.

This special session will take place from 9am till 5pm with a couple of breaks and a hour for lunch. The meeting will take place in between Olympia and Centralia, WA (Great Wolf Lodge).

For further details, you can reach out to me by email at [pavale03@evergreen.edu](mailto:pavale03@evergreen.edu) or read more about the meeting at <http://thesnvb.org/annual-meeting/9789-2/>

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Thank you,  
Alexander (Alex) Pavlinovic  
[pavale03@evergreen.edu](mailto:pavale03@evergreen.edu)

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