

WHALES IN OUR MIDST EXHIBIT

At the Port Townsend Marine Science Center



Visitors and residents alike are invited to the opening of a new traveling exhibit entitled **WHALES IN OUR MIDST**. Developed by the Bainbridge Island Historical Museum and the Center for Whale Research, the exhibit is hosted by the Port Townsend Marine Science Center in Fort Worden State Park. It will be open from Sept. 1 – Dec. 31, 2010, as part of the Natural History Exhibit .

Through video, photographs and text panels, the exhibit focuses on the interactions between people and whales in the Northwest -- from the first peoples' attitudes of fear and respect, through the early orca captures for Sea World in the 1960's and 1970's, to contemporary research and efforts to protect orcas

The exhibit and accompanying video capture the conflicts and drama of recent history and feature several key figures responsible for the banning of orca captures, including Ralph Munro, former Secretary of State in Washington. "Visitors and recent arrivals to our state will be fascinated and moved by this recent history," said Anne Murphy, Executive Director of PTMSC. "The exhibit helps us feel the critical importance of continuing to work to protect these animals. They are not only dramatic and beautiful icons of the Northwest; they are also important indicators of the health and sustainability of the marine environment."

WHALES IN OUR MIDST recently received the Washington Museum Award for Exhibit Excellence at the annual meeting of the Washington Museum Association. The exhibit will be shown at the State Capitol Museum in Olympia during the summer of 2012 and will travel to schools and other museums around the Northwest in succeeding years. It is an exciting introduction for PTMSC's forthcoming Orca Project, a 2011 exhibit that will feature the mounted skeleton and story of **Hope**, an orca that beached herself in Sequim Bay in 2002.

WHALES IN OUR MIDST will be open Wednesday through Monday, 11-5 until Labor Day. After that, it will be open weekends, Friday through Sunday, Noon – 4 PM. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for youth, free for children 5 and under, and is good for all PTMSC exhibits. PTMSC members are admitted free.