La Corriente

Connecting to what's current in ocean science,
wildlife conservation, and rescue efforts

Presented by **MEXICO** MARINE WILDLIFE RESCUE CENTER

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We are excited to share the next issue of La Corriente, created by the Mexico Marine Wildlife Rescue Center. Enjoy a mix of articles, local updates, and our Volunteer Spotlight!

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New Bacterial Infection Found in Pygmy Sperm Whales

Pygmy sperm whales are known to be mysterious and elusive creatures, and recently, scientists have discovered a new genotype of *Helicobacter*, a bacteria that can infect many different marine and terrestrial species.

This means that pygmy whale populations may also be affected by this disease, which we have only recently uncovered. The influence of marine diseases on whale populations is something many do not consider when making policy to address environmental problems.

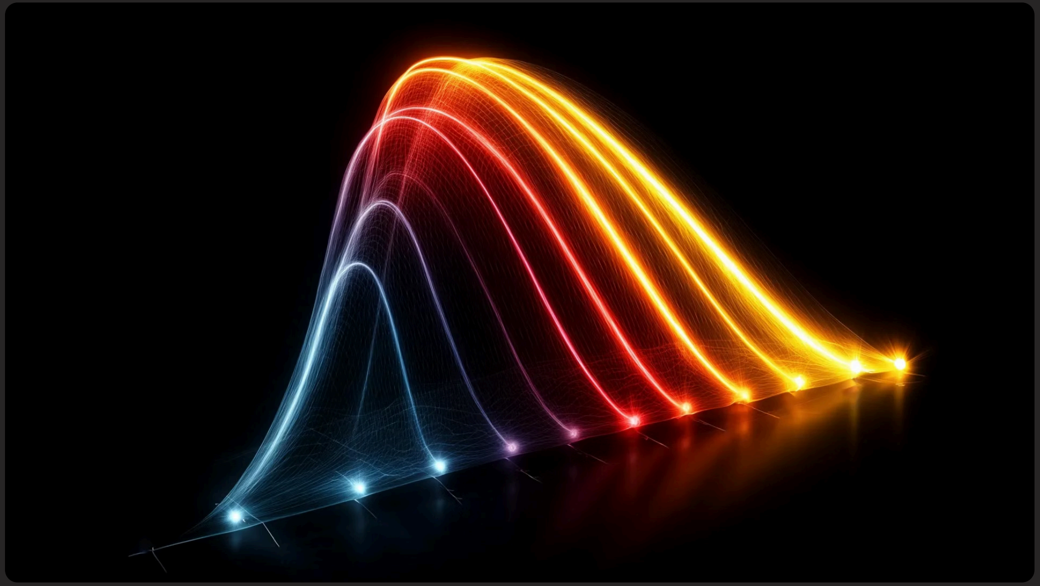
Regardless, this discovery shows us how much is still unknown about the ocean, and highlights the necessity of further research into marine ecosystems. Pygmy sperm whale populations may be more vulnerable than we realize. How many other wildlife diseases don't we know about? And is it our responsibility to help? Read more from SciTechDaily.

Sourced and Summarized by Maya Miller

Even Evolution Has Limits When It Comes to Rising Temperatures

Recently, researchers from Trinity College Dublin have identified a universal temperature curve that dictates the limits of organisms' ability to adapt to changing temperatures, known as a "Universal Thermal Performance Curve" (UTPC).

The researchers found a common pattern of performance curves previously thought to be unique to specific species or groups. These "constraints" on living organisms have significant implications for their ability to survive the higher temperatures brought on by climate change. The performance of all organisms declines rapidly when temperatures exceed their "optimal" range, and this new research suggests those limits may be much stronger than previously assumed, following a trend observed across bacteria, plants, reptiles, fish, and insects.

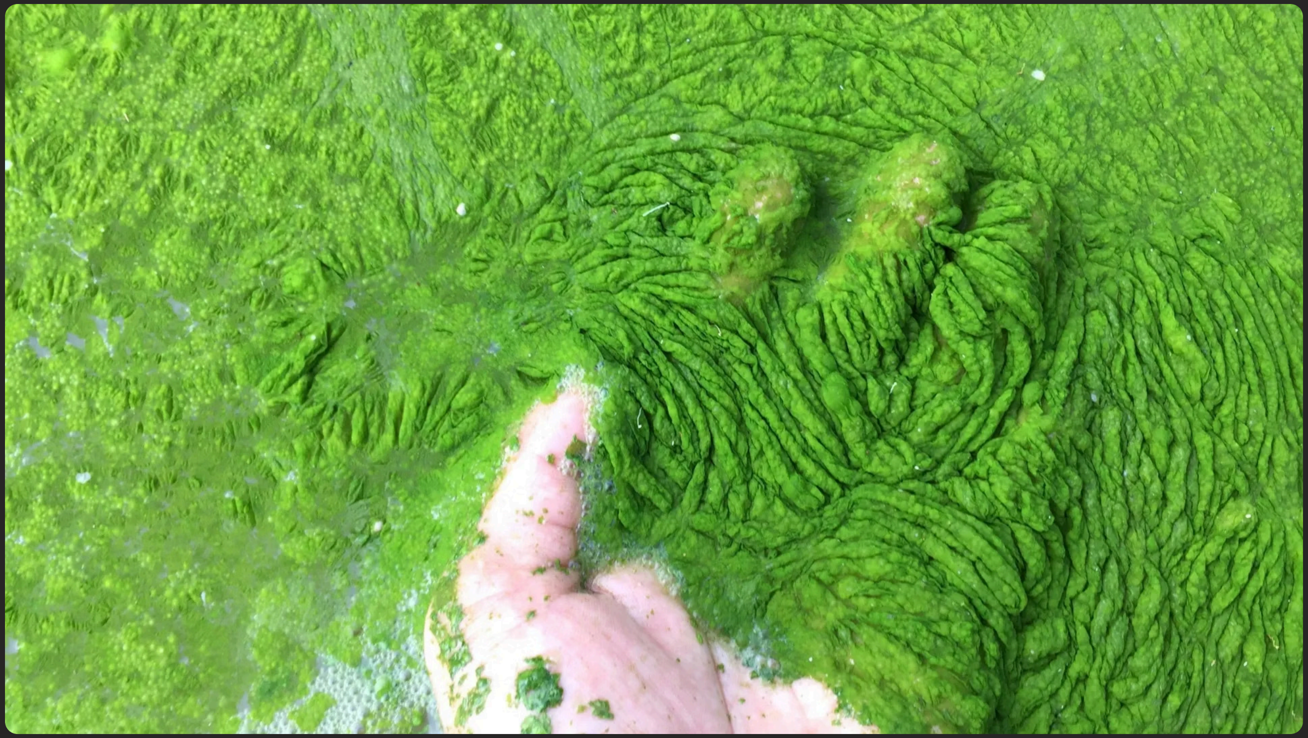


This means that evolution itself has limits, and that species adapting quickly enough to keep pace with rising temperatures may not be a viable solution, as life has not found a way to "deviate from this one very specific thermal performance shape."

As temperatures continue to rise, the number of organisms able to survive may decrease substantially. Mass extinction events could be far worse than predicted, and species that fall outside this trend have yet to be identified. This new information underscores how serious the situation is and the need for further action to slow or stop global warming. To learn more, check out the original article by ScienceDaily.

Sourced and Summarized by Maya Miller

New Organism Discovered That Kills Toxic Algae



Toxic algal blooms are detrimental to marine ecosystems. They degrade water quality, deplete oxygen, produce toxins, and create marine dead zones, killing and negatively impacting countless marine organisms. They have also become more common as water temperatures increase. Researchers at Yokohama National University in Japan recently discovered a new type of fungus that kills harmful algae responsible for these blooms.

Algophthora mediterranea is an aquatic fungus that acts as a lethal parasite in *Ostreopsis cf. ovata*, a species of algae responsible for toxic blooms harmful to marine life and humans. It was first discovered in 2021 in Spain and later studied by researchers at Yokohama National University.

The research found that the fungus shows remarkable resilience and is able to infect more types of algae beyond *Ostreopsis cf. ovata*. Parasitic marine fungi are difficult to find and even harder to study, so this development represents a significant scientific achievement.

However, using *Algophthora mediterranea* to prevent algal blooms in ecosystems where it is not naturally found carries risks. We still do not know how the fungus would interact with other marine environments, so further research is necessary. Still, this discovery could offer a promising way to counteract the growth of toxic algae and opens the door to further research on the role of parasitic fungi in managing ocean ecosystems. You can read the full article in **ScienceDaily.**

Sourced and Summarized by Maya Miller

Mexico’s Role in Protecting Gray Whales Highlighted in Scientists’ Open Letter

A recent open letter from three leading marine biologists is raising serious concern about the future of gray whales, while also reinforcing how important Mexico is in protecting this species.

The letter, written by **Dr. James D. Darling**, **Dr. Jorge Urbán Ramírez**, and **Dr. Steven L. Swartz**, is addressed to scientific colleagues, conservation organizations, and international agencies involved in marine management. It calls for coordinated global action as new data shows a troubling decline in gray whale populations.

According to the letter, the Eastern North Pacific gray whale population has dropped from about 27,000 animals in 2015/2016 to roughly 13,000 in 2024/2025. Researchers are also seeing more malnourished whales, fewer calves being born, and ongoing mortality events across the whales’ migration range.

The scientists point to large-scale environmental changes in Arctic feeding areas as the main cause. Changes in sea ice and ocean conditions appear to be reducing the availability of the whales’ primary food sources. As a result, many whales are not getting enough nutrition during the summer months to support migration and reproduction.

While these pressures are happening far from Mexico, the letter makes it clear that Mexico plays a critical role in the species’ survival. The lagoons along the Baja California Sur coastline are the only known breeding and calving areas for this population. What happens in these waters has a direct impact on whether gray whales can recover.

Baja California Sur’s lagoons are the only known breeding and calving grounds for these whales.

Mexico has already shown strong leadership in protecting gray whales. The country has established regulations for whale watching, protected key habitats, and committed to international conservation agreements. Areas like the El Vizcaíno Whale Sanctuary, recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, are among the most important places in the world for gray whale reproduction.

However, the authors stress that past recovery does not guarantee future success. Unlike previous declines, the current trend shows continued population loss and very low reproductive rates. This raises concern about whether the species can rebound under current environmental conditions.

The letter calls for an international review of gray whale management and for organizations like the International Whaling Commission and the IUCN to reassess the species’ conservation status.

At its core, the message is straightforward. Protecting gray whales will require global cooperation, but Mexico’s coastal ecosystems remain at the center of that effort. 👉 **Read the full open letter (PDF)**

Volunteer Spotlight: Maria Fernanda Ramirez

We're really lucky to work alongside Fernanda. She's not only an incredibly skilled veterinarian, but someone who brings a genuine passion and energy to everything she does. This was such a great interview! It did end up a bit longer, but it's absolutely worth the read. Her journey, her honesty, and the way she talks about her work are both grounding and inspiring. For anyone interested in marine life, conservation, or becoming a wildlife veterinarian, this is one you'll want to read.

Thank you to Andres Gonzalez Cisneros for facilitating this wonderful interview!

Fernanda:
My name is María Fernanda Ramírez.

I was born in Mexico City. I grew up with my mom and dad, and later with my grandparents. But the most important thing is that, for as long as I can remember, even as a very little girl, I always wanted to work with animals, especially wildlife.

People would ask me what I wanted to do, and I'd say things like, "I want to touch lions' paws." So I really feel like my life has been like a kind of "wish list" or attraction board. I don't know how, but I was always very focused on what I wanted, and opportunities just started to come my way.

I ended up studying veterinary medicine. I was never a top student, so it felt almost impossible at times, especially getting into UNAM, but I was accepted on my first try. During my first and second semesters, I met incredible people who helped guide me into the world of wildlife.

Over time, those same people and I ended up in Baja California Sur, and they were key to helping me achieve my dreams and carry out very meaningful projects.

Interviewer:
So you've always worked in Mexico professionally?

Fernanda:
Yes. I studied in Mexico City. By my second semester, I realized I wanted to work with marine mammals. I never imagined working in a dolphin facility, to be honest, but life took me there.

I started getting involved in the marine world early on. At the time, there were very few veterinarians working with marine wildlife. I remember seeing researchers, like Dr. Amelia Aguayo and Dr. Karina Acevedo, and thinking, *why aren't there more veterinarians here doing this work?*

That's when I realized: ***THIS** is what I want to do.*

So I started looking for internships and working closely with marine biology groups. At one point, I even considered switching from veterinary medicine to marine biology.

I worked with sea turtles and monkeys in Costa Rica, did internships in Mexico, and eventually I had the opportunity to go to The Marine Mammal Center in California as an international veterinary resident.

That experience was incredible. It really changed my perspective. I saw how veterinary medicine could be applied directly to wildlife.

When I came back to Mexico, I knew I wanted to focus on marine mammal rehabilitation and medicine. But at that time, there were no rehabilitation centers in Mexico.

I was still finishing my thesis in molecular biology with marine mammals through UNAM, working at the González hospital. Then I got a job offer at Cabo Dolphins. That's when I moved to Los Cabos.

Interviewer:
How long have you been working with marine mammals?

Fernanda:
It feels like forever.

If I count from when I first started during my studies, internships, thesis work, and everything, it's been around 18 years. Professionally, working full-time, about 10 years.

Interviewer:
Was it always your goal to work specifically with marine mammals?

Fernanda:
Not at first. I was interested in wildlife in general and did a lot of different internships, working in zoos, taking wildlife capture courses, working on ranches.

Interviewer:
Did you have an idea of what working with marine mammals would be like?

Fernanda:
Not really.

At first, I imagined something like National Geographic, lots of fieldwork and adventure. But I quickly realized that real research often means a couple of weeks in the field and the rest of the year in the lab.

So I had to learn to appreciate lab work, bacteria, and molecular biology, and now I actually love it!

At The Marine Mammal Center, I saw what applied veterinary medicine in wildlife really looks like. That's when I thought, *this is exactly what I want to do.*

I'd love to teach students someday, because many people think this career is impossible. I want to show them it's not.

The world needs more veterinarians and biologists working to protect wildlife, especially marine mammals.

Interviewer:
Was there a specific species or region you always wanted to focus on?

Fernanda:
No, not really.

I didn't even know Baja California well at first. My dad lived here for a while, and I visited Cabo Pulmo when I was very young, but I didn't truly discover Baja until I started working here.

When I did, I fell in love with it, especially with sea lions. Baja feels special to me.

Looking ahead, I want to continue not just as a veterinarian, but also as a researcher, contributing even a small piece to conservation.

And I'd love to support conservation projects beyond Baja, with other species too. Everything is connected, and what affects one ecosystem affects us all.

Interviewer:
Can you tell us about your connection to the rescue center?

Fernanda:
It really feels like the "law of attraction." When you want something strongly enough, life brings it to you.

I met Ricky [Rebolledo de MMWRC.ORG] on my very first day, even before officially starting work. Later, through colleagues and connections, especially Rosalía [Alveros de CONANP], we began collaborating with authorities like PROFEPA.

What started as an institutional collaboration quickly became something much more personal.

> **"The rescue center isn't just an organization — it's a family."**

For me, the rescue center isn't just an organization, it's a family. The people involved, their knowledge, their passion, it's incredible.

Even though I currently work for a company, my heart is fully with the rescue center. If I ever leave my job, I would absolutely continue there as a volunteer.

Interviewer:
What are some of the clinical challenges of working with marine animals?

Fernanda:
It's very difficult, and very different from working with dogs, cats, or livestock.

One of the biggest challenges is that there's almost no formal training in this field. During my veterinary degree, I didn't take a single course on marine animals.

That's why many students feel it's impossible.

You have to go out and find opportunities yourself, look for projects, conferences, funding, anything. It's not a straightforward path.

People used to tell me, "That only happens on National Geographic." But it's not true, you just have to keep looking, keep pushing, and follow your passion.

Interviewer:
Do you have a case that stayed with you?

Fernanda:
Yes. There are cases that leave a mark and teach you something important.

One of my earliest experiences was during my thesis, when we traveled to Isla Cedros and the northern part of Baja California.

I remember working with a sea lion that had been shot, because, unfortunately, that still happens.

That case stayed with me. It reminded me that you have to keep going, even when things are difficult. You don't give up, you keep working until you can't anymore.

Another one involved a sea lion where they were developing a technique to minimize handling when the animal had eye ulcers, ophthalmic conditions.

They were working with a gel that is liquid at refrigeration temperature, but at room temperature it becomes a gel. It stays in place for about five days, slowly releasing medication into the patient.

For me, that was a turning point.

Until then, the medicine I had seen was more focused on managed environments, like aquariums. But this was the first time I saw medicine being developed specifically for wildlife, animals that don't have training or regular handling.

That moment really stayed in my heart. It shaped what I want to continue doing as a veterinarian, working in wildlife medicine and helping develop better approaches.

Interviewer: What do you mean by training or regular handing?

Fernanda: I just mean that working with trained animals that are used to routine handling for veterinary procedures, like drawing blood or receiving injections, is much easier than working with wild animals that will resist all handling. Our dolphins are trained using positive reinforcement (food rewards, signals).

They learn behaviors like presenting a flipper, opening their mouth, or staying still for exams, which allows us to take blood, perform ultrasounds, or check their teeth and eyes without any anesthesia or force.

The animals are calm, which reduces stress and risk for both the animal and the veterinary team.

Interviewer:
But how do you manage the emotional side of caring for animals, especially when they're in distress?

Fernanda:
It's complicated.

Over time, you learn to manage your emotions a bit more, but it's never easy. It affects your heart and your gut.

It's especially difficult when an animal is in very bad condition, injured, suffering, or dying from disease, and there's nothing more medicine can do.

In those moments, you have to make decisions based on reason, thinking about what is best for the animal.

Sometimes that means choosing a complicated surgery so the animal can have a better life. Other times, it means accepting limits.

It's hard, but it's necessary.

You learn to balance reason and emotion. To focus on why you're doing the work. That helps you stay grounded, focusing on solutions rather than the problem itself.

Interviewer:
Currently, there's a lot of discussion around animals under human care, or as the public perceives it, "captivity," especially dolphins. It can be controversial.

How do you approach those conversations with authorities or the public?

Fernanda:
I always speak from my own experience.

I don't speak about other facilities or other companies, I speak about what I've seen and what I've worked on.

As a veterinarian and as a person, I try to contribute positively and speak honestly.

Our [Cabo Dolphins] animals are not in poor condition. I have direct, real insight, not just opinions.

I think a lot of people form their views based on things they see online, on Facebook, Instagram, or something they heard from someone else.

So I tell people: I can share what I know, and you can form your own opinion, but don't come at me with assumptions that aren't grounded in real understanding.

At the same time, I also ask:

If you're criticizing, what are you doing to help wildlife outside of that? Are you supporting rescue organizations? Are you volunteering?

Because raising awareness alone isn't enough if it doesn't lead to action.

For me, it's about being consistent: if you care about animals, that should show in what you do, not just what you say.

Interviewer:
Now, could you tell us a bit more about yourself, but specifically what a normal day looks like for you as a veterinarian? What does your day-to-day work look like?

Fernanda:
Well, I start my day very happy. Honestly, I'm very happy in my job. I even have a little note in my workspace that says, "You are living the dream. Enjoy it every day."

A lot of people might ask why it's worth working with animals every day, but for me, being able to connect with another species is incredible.

My days are never exactly the same, but they usually involve checking on the animals, seeing what can be improved, and continuing to learn. I'm always looking for courses and ways to stay updated, because in medicine you always have to keep learning.

"If you care about animals, that should show in what you do, not just what you say."

I also enjoy teaching. When I have students, I like sharing everything I've learned and showing them what is possible.

At the end of the day, I try to give myself time outside of work. That's something that can be difficult in this field. I remember Ricky once told me, "When you leave work, leave your work bag at work." It's important to have a personal life too.

Even though I'm always available to assist the rescue center, I try to make time for myself, for my friends, and for things I enjoy.

Interviewer:
Going back to your work with dolphins, what have you learned about health and behavior in this setting? And how can that knowledge be applied to wildlife?

Fernanda:
Behavior is key.

When you work closely with animals, you learn to recognize what is normal for each individual. You see how they move, how they react, how they respond to different stimuli. You can tell when something is off, even before it becomes obvious.

That experience is incredibly valuable in wildlife. Even though behaviors may vary, it becomes much easier to identify when an animal needs help.

For example, what might look like a severe injury to someone without experience may not actually require intervention. As a veterinarian, you learn when to act and when to allow natural processes to take place.

That judgment becomes more refined over time. You gain a broader understanding of which situations truly require intervention and which do not.

Some of that knowledge translates directly, and some does not, but increasingly we are seeing that knowledge flow both ways. What we learn in managed care can support wildlife medicine, and vice versa.

Interviewer:
How has working with animals under human care influenced your perspective on conservation?

Fernanda:
It has changed my perspective a lot.

During my studies, I had some exposure to conservation work, including species reintroduction projects. So I already understood that institutions can play an important role in protecting species.

But working here has shown me how much can actually be done.

In my workplace, there is strong support for both the animals under care and for conservation efforts outside. Cabo Dolphins is proud to assist Mexico Marine Wildlife Rescue Center which makes me very happy.

That made me realize the importance of these institutions, not just for the animals they care for directly, but for the broader conservation work they support.

Interviewer:
You've also spent time volunteering at the rescue center and have seen many difficult cases. Not all outcomes are positive.

What helps you stay motivated and keep going?

Fernanda:
The rescue center has been incredibly important in my life.

What stands out the most is the level of commitment from everyone involved. Even though the center relies on donations, the people working there give everything they have to help the animals even money out of their own pockets.

That is something I deeply admire. It shows that real change doesn't always come from having a lot of resources. It comes from dedication and willingness to act.

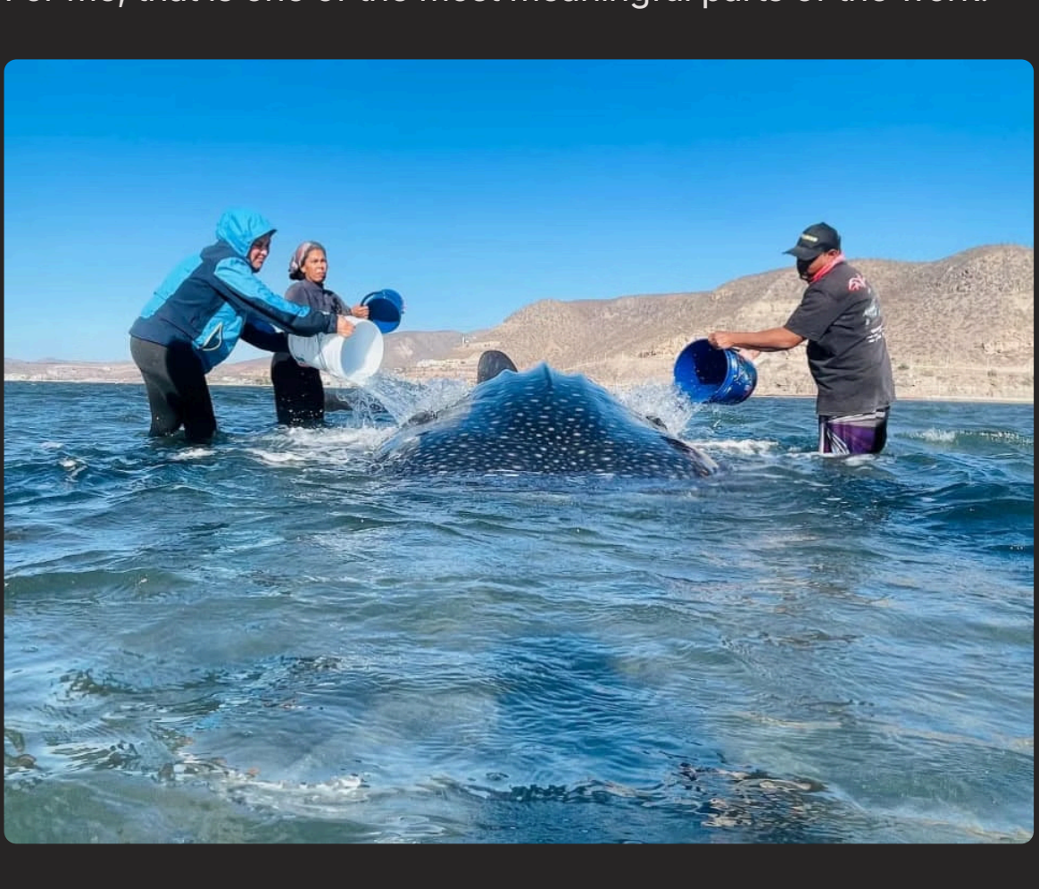
That inspires me. It pushes me to always try to do more and to be better, both as a person and as a veterinarian.

Even in difficult cases, when the prognosis is not good, I try to focus on what can still be done. What else can we try? What else is possible?

Having the right team makes a huge difference. At the center, people are committed, but they are also grounded. They balance emotion and objectivity, always focusing on what is best for the animal.

That kind of environment helps you stay strong. It reminds you that you're not alone and that everyone is working toward the same goal.

For me, that is one of the most meaningful parts of the work.



Interviewer:
You were talking about the challenges in the field and the importance of having a team that supports you, motivates you, but also helps you set limits.

Now, what would you say is what you enjoy the most about helping at the rescue center, especially in rehabilitation cases?

Fernanda:
It's a dream come true. I always try to remind myself not to fall into routine and forget how special it is.

All my friends and colleagues who grew up in this field, especially during my thesis years, always dreamed of starting a rehabilitation center. So being part of one and being able to support it feels like I am also feeding that dream.

And beyond that, the people at the center are incredible. People I deeply admire.

So yes, for me, it's exactly that. A dream come true.

Interviewer:
You've been part of rescue campaigns where different organizations collaborate to help entangled sea lions. These are large efforts that require coordination.

Can you tell us about how those campaigns have worked and whether they've been successful?

Fernanda:
It really comes down to the people involved.

I've been very lucky with the people who represent these institutions. We all share the same goal, and that makes everything easier.

Of course, there are challenges, but they've been manageable because of that shared purpose.

What I admire most is that, even after many years of doing these campaigns, we are still working together. That doesn't always happen in other groups.

The success we've had is because we've stayed focused on being a team. No one is trying to stand out more than others. It's always about achieving the goal together.

That mindset has been key.

We've built something that feels like a family. We can be honest with each other. If someone says they can't do something, it's understood and respected.

We've worked under all kinds of conditions. Sometimes we have resources, sometimes we don't. If we have to eat burritos, we eat burritos. If we have to sleep on the ground, we do it.

It doesn't matter. What matters is the work.

Even with bureaucracy, changes in leadership, and other challenges, we continue moving forward as a team. That's something I really respect and admire.

Interviewer:
Can you explain to the public what these campaigns are and why they are important?

Fernanda:
We call them campaigns, but they are really more like organized response efforts.

In places like Bahía de los Ángeles and the islands in the Gulf, there are many sea lions affected by entanglement. These are remote areas that are not easy to access regularly.

So we organize these campaigns several times a year, where a team travels to those locations for one to two weeks to treat as many animals as possible in that period of time.

In the south, we can respond to cases as they come up because we are nearby. But in the north, it requires much more planning and coordination.

The problem is ongoing. It doesn't stop. That's why these campaigns are so important.

Entanglement is often related to fishing gear, sometimes illegal gear, but not always. Fishermen are not necessarily doing anything wrong. Sea lions don't understand what is permitted and what is not. If they see an easy source of food, they will go for it.

This is a complex issue that requires awareness and long term solutions.

There is also concern that sea lion populations in Mexico may be declining over time, possibly linked to entanglement. Research is ongoing, but it is something that needs attention.

We need more people involved, more support, and definitely way more resources.

Interviewer:
Do you have a sense of why there seem to be more entanglement cases now?

Fernanda:
The problem has always existed.

What has changed is that now we have better techniques, more awareness, and more visibility.

There are more people reporting cases, more use of social media, and more tourism in natural areas. All of that makes the issue more visible.

It may also be increasing due to changes in fishing practices or pressure on marine environments, but that would require more data.

What is clear is that we need more support for both conservation and for the authorities working on these issues.

Interviewer:
What keeps you motivated, especially when the work is physically and emotionally demanding?

Fernanda:
Well, there are moments when you're exhausted, when your body needs rest, and you think maybe tomorrow would be easier. But I don't feel like stopping.

The feeling of helping, of being part of something meaningful, keeps me going.

And it's not just me. Everyone involved shares that same feeling.

We don't do this for recognition. We do it because we care, because we love it, and because we know why we are doing it.

Interviewer:
How has your work changed your perspective on the ocean and our responsibility to protect it?

Fernanda:
When you have knowledge and access, it becomes a responsibility.

It's not just something you can choose to ignore. It becomes an obligation.

You understand the problems more deeply. You read the research, you see the data, and you realize how serious things are.

That can be difficult, because the more you know, the more aware you are of the challenges.

But it also pushes you to do more.

"Everyone can contribute in some way."

Interviewer:
What do you wish more people understood about marine life and conservation?

Fernanda:
It's hard for people to understand something they have never experienced.

You can explain it, but it's not the same as seeing it or feeling it.

That's why I try to share not just information, but emotion. To help people connect.

Because you cannot truly care about something you don't know.

There are many ways people can help, even if they don't live near the ocean. Simple things like reducing waste, supporting organizations, or being more conscious of their impact.

Everyone can contribute in some way.

Interviewer:
Looking ahead, what are your hopes for the future of marine conservation?

Fernanda:
I hope more people get involved.

We need more veterinarians, more researchers, more support, and more funding.

I hope governments, institutions, and individuals become more conscious and work together toward the same goal.

My dream is a society where people can follow their passion and contribute without struggling just to survive. Where researchers don't have to stop their work because of lack of funding.

Where industries become more sustainable and work in balance with the environment.

We need to see everything as connected.

Interviewer:
What advice would you give to someone who wants to follow a similar path?

> ***"Everything is possible if you don't decide in your own mind that it's not."***

Fernanda:
Keep going.

There is no single path. It's not a straight line.

You will hear "no" many times, but that doesn't mean it's impossible.

The world is bigger than you think. If one opportunity doesn't work out, look for another.

Everything is possible if you don't decide in your own mind that it's not.

Interviewer:
Is there anything else you would like to share?

Fernanda:
Just to keep looking for what you love and not settle for less.

There are opportunities everywhere, but you have to stay open to them.

Interviewer:
Maria Fernanda, you are an incredible human being. It was a pleasure to interview you. I think so many people will feel inspired about what you have had to say today. Muchas gracias!!

🐋 Whale Migration Season in Mexico: What's Happening Now

Each year, Mexico, especially **Baja California Sur**, hosts one of the most extraordinary wildlife migrations on Earth. From **December through April**, thousands of whales travel thousands of kilometers from cold Arctic feeding grounds to the warm, protected waters of Mexico to breed, give birth, and nurse their young.

🌊 Key Species in Our Region

🐋 Gray Whales

- Travel up to **20,000 km annually**, one of the longest migrations of any mammal
- Arrive in Baja's Pacific lagoons (e.g., Magdalena Bay, San Ignacio)
- Use these calm waters as **nurseries for calves**
- Peak presence: **January to March**

🐋 Humpback Whales

- Migrate along the Pacific coast and into Baja waters
- Known for **breaching, singing, and social behavior**
- Gather to **mate and give birth** in warm waters
- Present: **December through April**

🐋 Blue Whales

- The **largest animals on Earth**
- Frequently seen in the **Gulf of California near La Paz**
- Peak sightings: **February to April (into early summer locally)**

📅 Migration Timeline (Baja California Sur)

- **November to December:** First arrivals begin
- **January to March:** Peak season, highest whale density
- **April:** Migration north begins; some species still present

🌎 Why This Matters

These migrations are not just awe-inspiring; they are critical to species survival. Baja's coastal lagoons and the Gulf of California serve as **essential breeding and nursery habitats**, supporting multiple whale populations across the Pacific.

For organizations like MMWRC, this season also brings increased responsibility:

- More **strandings and entanglement risks**
- Greater **human-wildlife interaction pressures**
- Increased need for **public education and responsible wildlife viewing**

Our Mission: Rescue, Rehabilitation, Reintroduction

Emergency Response

24/7 coordination with federal authorities, including PROFEPA and CONANP, to quickly respond to reports of marine life in distress.

Expert Rehabilitation

Providing specialized medical care and rehabilitation support for sick or injured marine life, utilizing best practices in wildlife veterinary medicine.

Large Whale Entanglement Response

Rapid intervention and specialized techniques to safely disentangle whales from fishing nets and other marine debris.

Safe Return to the Ocean

Careful reintroduction of recovered animals to their natural habitat, following strict national wildlife protection protocols.

Community Education

Raising awareness through school programs and community outreach to foster shared responsibility in ocean conservation.

Our collaborative conservation approach, involving federal agencies such as CONANP and PROFEPA, local authorities, and community members, ensures that every rescue follows established protocols. This integrated network maximizes successful rehabilitation and significantly improves survival rates for vulnerable marine populations in the Gulf of California.

The Rich Biodiversity We Protect

The Gulf of California is a global conservation priority, home to astonishing marine life, including over 900 fish species, 37 marine mammal species, and five of the world's seven sea turtle species.

Our work not only saves individual animals but also advances scientific understanding of marine health, migration, and human impacts. Collected data informs conservation strategies, policy decisions, and community education, strengthening our commitment to protecting these magnificent creatures.

Pinnipeds

Four pinniped species are present in Mexico. Both sea lions and seals often require rescue from fishing gear entanglements and human-related injuries. They are also vulnerable to the effects of pollution and toxic algal blooms.

Sea Turtles

Five endangered species nest and feed here, making our rescue and rehabilitation efforts critical for their recovery.

Dolphins

Dolphins face threats from nets, pollution, harmful algal blooms, and marine debris, necessitating expert intervention.

Whale Sharks

These gentle giants migrate through our waters. We respond to occasional incidents of strandings and vessel collisions.

Whales

Species such as humpback and fin whales are vulnerable to fishing gear entanglement, requiring specialized disentanglement.

Seabirds

Seabirds, like pelicans, are especially vulnerable to entanglement and injuries, and our team responds when reported.

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