

Are Humpback Whales both Competitive and Choosy?

Adam A. Pack

Co-founder & Vice-President, The Dolphin Institute, Honolulu, Hawaii

About the Talk

The Hawaiian Islands are the major wintering grounds for North Pacific humpback whales. While in Hawaii female humpback whales give birth, raise their young, and seek mates. Males engage in aggressive competition with each other for access to females and also produce long complex vocalizations termed song. Since 1975, scientists and students of the University of Hawaii's Kewalo Basin Marine Mammal Laboratory have been studying the biology and behavior of Hawaii's humpback whales. Dr. Adam Pack, Associate Director of KBMML and Vice President of The Dolphin Institute will present the Institute's latest work showing that female humpback whales select winter habitats based on their own reproductive state, that males prefer to escort females without a calf versus females with a calf, and that larger females attract larger and more males. Please join Dr. Pack for this insightful view into the world of the humpback whale.

About the speaker

Dr. Adam Pack completed his B.A. in biology at Brandeis University. He obtained his Ph.D. from the University of Hawaii. His research areas include behavior and ecology of humpback whales and spotted dolphins as well as sensory abilities and comparative cognition of dolphins and sea lions. Dr. Pack was also involved in developing marine mammal educational materials and program modules for elementary and high school students in Hawaii for school outreach programs, and youths from different countries. His other portfolio includes being a Research Consultant in the Wild Dolphin Project of the Bahamas; a Research Advisor for the American Cetacean Society (National and Puget Sound Chapter) and an Assistant Graduate Faculty of the Psychology Department, University of Hawaii at Manoa. Dr. Pack has been awarded research grant by the Office of Naval Research for whale song studies, he was also the co-recipient of the 1998 American Psychological Association Division 6's F.A. Beach Comparative Psychology Award for best paper published in the Journal of Comparative Psychology in 1998 "Seeing through sound: Dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) perceive the spatial structure of objects through echolocation" (Herman, Pack, Hoffmann-Kuhnt). He was also nominated for Outstanding Employee of the Year, Research Corp. of the University of Hawaii (1995) and Outstanding Graduate Research Assistant, Psychology Department, University of Hawaii (1994).

**Department of Biological Sciences
Seminar Announcement
(Biodiversity and Ecology Journal Club)**

**Wednesday, 26th May 2004
4.00pm - 5.00pm
DBS Seminar Room 4
Blk S2, Level 2, Department of
Biological Sciences, Science Drive 4,
NUS**

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Visitors may park at Carpark 10
See map <http://rmbn.nus.edu.sg/RMBR.JPG>

Host: N. Sivasothi (RMBR)

