



Harbor Breeze
Yacht Charters and Cruises

Contact: Marilyn Padilla
Aquarium of the Pacific
(562) 951-1684

mpadilla@lbaop.org

Digital Images Available Upon Request

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**ENDANGERED BLUE WHALES OFF LONG BEACH: AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC
IS 1ST TO LET YOU HEAR THEIR VOICES AS YOU SEE THEM
ONBOARD DAILY TRIPS**

***Aquarium debuts new whale and dolphin-listening device on its daily boat excursions,
and unveils a new addition to its Whales: Voices in the Sea exhibit***

August 12, 2010—Long Beach, CA—The largest animal on the planet is off Long Beach, CA. The Aquarium of the Pacific and Harbor Breeze Cruises invite the public to set sail for the chance to see and hear endangered blue whales. The nonprofit Aquarium now features a new whale-listening device onboard, becoming one of the few places in the world where the public can listen to the blue whales and dolphins they see.

“A female blue whale in Hawaii can hear the song of a male calling from California. Now visitors will have the chance to listen in on this phenomenon,” said Michele Sousa, Aquarium of the Pacific senior mammal expert. Through the Blue Whale combo ticket, the public can embark on the new whale watch and also visit the Aquarium to explore its newest exhibit about whale communication.

Inside the Aquarium, guests can learn more about the largest whale and now also about the smallest and most critically endangered. The Aquarium recently unveiled a new vaquita whale kiosk featuring conservation educational materials and rare footage of this elusive animal found only in Mexico’s Gulf of California. It is part of the Aquarium’s award-winning Whales: Voices in the Sea exhibit. The update was made possible by the Pacific Life Foundation, the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, and the NOAA Fisheries Service and was developed by the Scripps Institution of Oceanography with the Aquarium of the Pacific and Cortina Productions.

Guests can now explore this bilingual English-Spanish kiosk exhibit at the Aquarium to learn more about various whale species and discover the new blue whale-listening device onboard the boat. “Through these trips and the exhibit, we hope to connect the public to whales like never before and to inspire them to help protect our ocean,” said Sousa. The public can visit the Aquarium of the Pacific and embark on Harbor Breeze Cruises for a three and a half hour whale watch excursion with Aquarium experts daily at 11:30 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.

Excursions take place onboard a specialized whale watching, high-speed catamaran docked next to the Aquarium. The Blue Whale & Sea Life Cruise combo ticket is available for purchase on-site at Aquarium of the Pacific and may be purchased in advance by calling 562-590-3100. Prices are \$62.95 adult 12+, \$54.95 senior 62+, and \$38.95 child (includes whale watch & Aquarium admission). For more information, the public can visit http://www.aquariumofpacific.org/education/programdetails/blue_whale_cruise/

###