

Dana Point Goals and Initiatives for WCA for 2021

Steering Committee Goals and Initiatives

1. To continue in the education and implementation of the “Balloons Blow” program by directing our whale and dolphin watching vessels to make at least one balloon pick up per trip when weather and crew expertise make it possible and to count the balloons collected in those pick-ups. We will then compile our results and report those numbers to WCA as well as issue a press release detailing the efforts. Every ‘balloon removal’ is used as a teaching moment for the passengers on board. Additionally we post to IG and FB.
2. Also Beach Cleanups - on going in Dana Point these groups have measurable results
3. Provide annual virtual training class to boaters “Dolphin and Whale Watching Success and Safety” and make this available online through our website to further strengthen the whale watching community on the water while observing whales, using “Whale Safe” guidelines and materials. Share the link with the various private watercraft rental companies. Create a “Whale Safe” placard or materials to educate renters.
4. Successfully informed the indigeous community in Dana Point, namely Adelia Sandoval with the Juañeno Band of Mission Indians/Acjachemen Nation/the Indigenous people of Orange County, California. She is the Cultural Director and spiritual overseer. On Friday, March 6th we had a blessing and also ceremony of the Whale Heritage Site designation and a welcoming of the whales to also commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Festival of Whales . (Accomplished activity)
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYKwLWsmdT8nbm_e1_VCX1A
5. In an effort to reduce plastic in our community we are researching water boxes to replace water bottles, this initiative is in the beginning stages but we are working with the community to adopt a water box solution that would have our Dana Point Whale Heritage Site logo on it as well as the mission of the Heritage Site. We would want all stakeholders to join this effort and offer the boxes to customers, visitors and media. Information on this paper water box we are researching is forthcoming, but our goal is to provide a solution and choice to help disrupt the flow of plastic (PET) into our oceans. Install more (TBD) water filling stations with easy to purchase refillable water bottles in nearby vending machines.

6. Increase publicity regarding Dana Point as a World Whale Heritage Site by working with VisitCA and other news media outlets.
7. Collect and Recycle used fishing line quarterly.
8. Promote “Ocean Friendly” restaurants at our various locations
<https://www.surfrider.org/programs/ocean-friendly-restaurants>