



Important news from:

**International Bird Rescue Research Center
Caron Laboratory, University of Southern California &
Wildlife rescue center representatives**

**Crisis off our coast
Domoic acid levels double highest ever recorded
Wildlife Centers Overwhelmed
Press Briefing Wednesday, May 9, 10:00 AM**

What: Professor Dave Caron will announce the results of tests done by the Caron Laboratory at USC. The status of the bloom occurring off the coast and domoic acid (DA) concentrations in the plankton as of this past week revealed this event to be the worst ever recorded. Professor Caron will also provide a summary of DA results from animals tested. An unusual mortality event (UME) has been designated by NOAA Fisheries for cetaceans. This has only happened twice before. Representatives from seven wildlife rescue centers will be on hand for interviews. Thousands of animals have been affected.

Attending the briefing: Professor Dave Caron and Astrid Schnetzer, Research Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences, *Caron Laboratory at USC*; Michelle Berman, coordinator of the state-wide cetacean mortality investigation, *Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History*; Debbie McGuire, Wildlife Director and Lisa Birkle, Assistant Wildlife Director, *Wetlands & Wildlife Care Center*, Huntington Beach; Lauren Palmer, DVM and Jill Romano, Director of Business and Development, *Marine Mammal Care Center*, San Pedro; Emily Rose Wing, Director of Development/Marketing, *Pacific Marine Mammal Center*, Laguna Beach; Rebecca Dmytryk, Project Director, *WildRescue*, Malibu; Susan Kavaggia, Research/Rehabilitation Assistant, *International Bird Rescue Research Center*, San Pedro.

Visuals: The hospital, ICU and aviaries where pelicans are recovering will be open to reporters and photographers (under staff supervision) allowing them to see birds undergoing intensive fluid therapy and treatment. Video of pelicans and seals on our beaches having seizures from DA poisoning will be available. MMCC next to IBRRC is filled to capacity with DA affected seals and sea lions.

When: Wednesday, May 9, 10:00 AM

Where: IBRRC located in the Los Angeles Oiled Bird Care and Education Center, 3601 South Gaffey, San Pedro, next to the Marine Mammal Care Center in Fort MacArthur. Directions to the center can be found at www.ibrrc.org.

Contact: Please do not call the center staff is very busy attending to patients. Please call: **Karen Benzel, Public Affairs Director, IBRRC, 831-622-7588** or 277-6966 mobile for more information or other help you may need. E-mail: Karen@ibrrc.org

IBRRC has been rehabilitating waterfowl and aquatic birds since 1971 and is a proud member of California's Oiled Wildlife Care Network.

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