

For 1/3/18

Joe Donahue  
For Jan. 3rd  
Whale Watching

Hi, I'm Joe Donahue with a comment for Brookings-Harbor Voices:

We live on the beautiful Oregon coast, and maybe we take it for granted at times. One such case is that of marine mammals and the numbers we have. Often, Sea Lions, seals and even sea otters can be seen on rocks or docks along our coast or on sand bars at the mouth of rivers. More difficult, yet still available is whale watching along our coast. The Oregon Coast Visitor Association has an extensive write-up about this on their webpage.

Officially, this past week was designated as "Whale Watching Spoken Here" week with volunteers available at ocean overlooks to assist visitors in spotting migrating whales. Some 18,000 gray whales migrate south in late December through January for a distance of 2,000 to 3,000 miles to find warm water and food for their birthing. Then in late March through June they leisurely swim back north for food and cooler waters. The "Whale Watching Spoken Here" week has some 26 sites along the Washington and Oregon coasts down to Crescent City, California. The nearest site for us is at Harris Beach State Park. Sometimes, about 200 of these whales stay along our coast and do not complete the migration.

Most whales seen along the coast are Gray Whales; however, Bowhead, Orca, Sperm and others may also be seen. There are charter boats and air charters to go out and see whales available from most coastal communities. Of course, local fishermen and sportsmen also often see whales in the course of carrying on their activities. Those of us with ocean views sometimes get to see whale out our windows. What a great place to live!!!!

Thanks for listening.