

THE OTHER STARS OF **BIG BLUE LIVE**

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary area boasts more than 1,000 species of marine life, from 500+ types of fish to 180 species of seabirds and shorebirds to 34 different marine mammals and more. We'd love to feature them all on **BIG BLUE LIVE**, but because we're live, it's tough to say which animals will make it to air. A sample of species — mostly in the wild, but a few in residence at the aquarium — we expect to see during **BIG BLUE LIVE** follows. Some of these animals are seen regularly in waters of the bay. A few are ambassador animals that live at the aquarium because they can't be returned to the wild. All are representative of the incredible, diverse marine life of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and, some would argue, the most compelling stars of **BIG BLUE LIVE**.

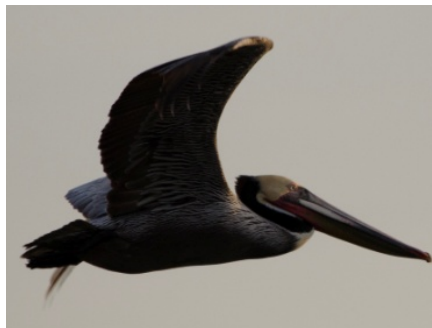


Rosa the Sea Otter, resident at Monterey Bay Aquarium. Rosa is MBA's oldest sea otter. She was found stranded in southern Santa Cruz County in 1999, four weeks old and weighing just over five pounds. Rosa joined the aquarium's sea otter exhibit in June 2002 and got her name from a character in John Steinbeck's *Tortilla Flat* — the first of the author's novels set on Cannery Row, where the aquarium is located. She's the aquarium's largest otter identifiable by the blonde fur on her head and her white freckles. During her years there, she's put her maternal instincts to work, rearing 12 abandoned pups and becoming the aquarium's most experienced surrogate mother. Currently Rosa is

rearing her 13th pup, identified as #696, a male rescued at Pt. Lobos State Reserve. Although she's been deemed unfit for release into the wild herself, Rosa wishes her Monterey Bay kin good luck on the live shoots, and anticipates some screen time with #696 during **BIG BLUE LIVE**.

Fudgie the Humpback Whale, a resident of California.

Humpbacks like Fudgie come to Monterey Bay April through December to feed on schooling fishes and krill. Scientists named Fudgie, as they do others who visit the bay, by distinctive markings on his fluke, or tail — which he raises dramatically high out of the water to begin his feeding dives. Humpback whales sometimes hunt krill by blowing bubbles from their blowholes as they surface. The ring of bubbles forms a net that keeps the shrimplike creatures from escaping. The whales swim through the mass of krill, mouths agape. In addition to complex feeding methods, Fudgie is inclined toward interesting reproductive behaviors. In breeding areas, he sings long, complex songs heard up to 18 miles away. Humpback populations were decimated by whaling in the 1900s and have not fully recovered. There are fewer than 2,000 in the North Pacific. So whether for his singing, his breaching or the relative rarity of his appearances, Fudgie hopes he and his sea family will make waves during **BIG BLUE LIVE**.



Polly the Brown Pelican, a regular visitor near Monterey Bay Aquarium. Polly is a majestic bird who, like many of her species, has a distinctive large pouch hanging from the lower half of her long, straight bill. She is gray-brown with dark wings, a white head and a yellowish crown. Since she and her flock mates like to sit on breakwaters, jetties and wharf pilings in Monterey Bay, it's likely some will end up on-air during **BIG BLUE LIVE**. Tailor-made for television, Polly and her crew fly in unison with patterns that could be either straight-line or V-formation, alternating powerful wing strokes with short glides. Polly is a great fisher and a dramatic, if

not fully graceful, performer: Her keen eyesight means she spots fish from heights of up to 60 feet, after which she dives steeply — head pointed straight down, wings folded back — making an awkward plunge

into the water. Polly's once-endangered kin on the Atlantic Coast have fully rebounded, but her Pacific coast relatives remain on the endangered species list.

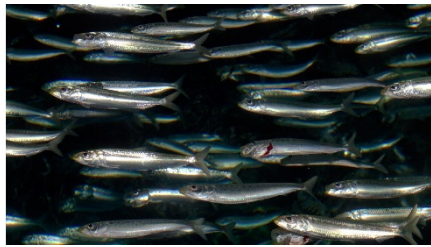
Makana the Laysan Albatross, resident of Monterey Bay Aquarium.

Makana, which means “gift” in Hawaiian, came to MBA in 2006 by a circuitous route. She began her life at the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge and fledged in Kauai, part of a research project on the potential reintroduction of endangered albatross species in the western Pacific. Unfortunately, she injured her wing at four months old and cannot fly. The aquarium offered her a permanent home (making her the only albatross in residence at an aquarium or zoo in the world) and she's



an elegant ambassador for her threatened species. Albatross spend most of their lives at sea, coming ashore annually to breed and raise their young. They are the largest seabirds and among the world's best fliers, but as ocean dwellers they face acute man-made challenges — such as mistaking plastic debris for the squid and fish they feed their offspring or getting snagged in lines used by high-seas fishing fleets, often drowning as a result. Makana puts a face on such threats.

The Swirling Sardine Family, residents of the bay and the Pacific Ocean. Staying together is the way of life for schools of Pacific sardines. Sardine groups move together like synchronized swimmers,



mesmerizing all who watch them and fooling predators into thinking they're a much larger single entity. And when it's time to reproduce, there's no need to seek out mates — plenty are close at hand. Sardines are an important part of the open water food web. Many birds, marine mammals and other fish eat sardines as a mainstay of their diets. They've also been in demand for humans; from the 1920s through the '40s, sardines became the most important commercial fish in California, fueling a boom in packing

plants on what became Monterey's Cannery Row. The demand meant sardines were fished to the point of commercial extinction. But with better management and a change in ocean conditions, Pacific sardine populations began to recover in the 1980s. These fish played a central role in Monterey history and it's expected they'll be seen in all their silvery glory on **BIG BLUE LIVE**.



Jumbo the Elephant Seal, a Monterey Bay area resident. With an unusual gait, lack of discernible ear and an inflated proboscis that makes Jimmy Durante's look like Orlando Bloom's, Jumbo the elephant seal isn't the traditional TV star. But he's an excellent ocean athlete, diving deep to find food while avoiding white sharks, which are his natural enemy. Scientists tracking seals like Jumbo have recorded dive depths of up to 5,015 feet for lengths of up to 30 minutes. Jumbo and his kin seldom stay at the surface more than a few minutes, making any appearance on camera a rare treat. Hundreds of thousands of northern elephant seals lived in the Pacific Ocean before 19th-century hunters slaughtered them for blubber, rendering their fat into lamp oil and their species almost extinct. Federal protection increased the number of northern elephant seals from 100 to about 160,000 — an example of the importance of protective status and marine sanctuaries in the

conservation of Earth's oceans and wildlife.

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MEDIA NOTE: These **BIG BLUE LIVE** stars have extremely hectic schedules and are likely unavailable for one-on-one interviews, but we can supply photos and more information upon request. Contact us at PBSBigBlueLive@goodmanmedia.com