

# STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

---

## Baja Gray Whale Expedition



**DR. BRUCE MATE**

One of the world's leading authorities on whales, Bruce Mate is the director of the Oregon State University (OSU) Marine Mammal Institute and a Professor of Fisheries and Wildlife. He studied sea lion migrations to earn his doctorate at the University of Oregon in 1973, did post-doctoral work in biochemistry looking at heavy metal metabolism in pinnipeds, and has since done research on seals, manatees, sea otters, dolphins, and whales. Bruce is best known for pioneering the tracking of whales using satellite-monitored radio tags. The transmitters allow Bruce and his associates to discover new information about critical habitats, migration routes, and behaviors of endangered whale species. Recently, Bruce and his research team studied sperm whales in the Gulf of Mexico (including the last two summers during and after the oil spill), blue and humpback whales in the eastern North Pacific and in the southeast Bering Sea, blue whales off Chile, fin whales in the Mediterranean, humpback whales off Gabon, southern right whales off South Africa and gray whales off Mexico (since 1979), the Pacific Northwest, and Russia.

---



**ERIC HORVATH**

Since 1990, Eric has led natural history, birding, and whale watching trips to far-ranging places such as Peru, Hawaii, Bay of Fundy, the Galapagos, and South Africa, as well as numerous trips in his home state of Oregon. Eric's breadth of knowledge and his endless curiosity in the natural world have made him a popular tour leader. He brings patience, humor, and keen eyesight to his relaxed guiding style. He is excited to share the ecology of the Sonoran desert and will be scanning for seabirds, pinnipeds, and whales from the bow of the boat. Research interests include Mexican Jays, Purple Martins, and most currently, Black Swifts. Eric has a BS in Zoology (OSU, 1985) and has censused birds and flying squirrels as a Research Assistant for 5 years with the OSU Forest Science Department. Eric's wife, Claire Smith, accompanies him on his trips, including this one. She is a delight and passengers will enjoy meeting her as she focuses on participant needs and general organization.



**Oregon State**  
**University**