

Dr. Jody Weir, Research Dir. of the Kaikoura Ocean Research Institute

Jody is a Canadian but now calls Kaikoura home. Her research experience in marine ecology, animal behavior, and primatology include a long-term study (2004 - present) of the marine animals found off Kaikoura, New Zealand, and a newer study (2009 - present) of the wild lemurs inhabiting Maromizaha Forest, Madagascar. Specifically, she is interested in the developmental processes that all mammals go through from birth, when they are dependent on their mothers entirely, to independence. She is also interested in the types of strategies employed by mothers and how these compare between species, habitats and individuals. Since 2001, she has been involved in the development and delivery of conservation and behavioral ecology education programs for universities, secondary and primary schools. She also works with local communities and villages to develop sustainable community projects in the areas where she conducts her research. Currently, she is the Co-Founder and Research Director for KORl (Kaikoura Ocean Research Institute), a network of marine researchers and educators in Kaikoura who: 1) Conduct meaningful scientific research on the Kaikoura marine environment and the animals that live within it, 2) Contribute towards the creation of a local database of marine animal sightings, to be used by local, national and international researchers and students, and 3) Integrate local marine research into the community through school programs, field courses and public events.