

without incident.

✓ C F WHALES

months.
RP 4/10/89

Moss Landing enjoys a whale of a visitor

Since Thursday a whale has been making sporadic appearances at Moss Landing Harbor, drawing crowds and causing excitement with every visit.

"He was back again last night," said Harbormaster Craig Winter. "He was way in the harbor."

With an encouraging crowd looking on, the whale came up to Sandholdt Bridge, spouting water as it circled the area.

Sunday, the whale, who appears to be from 35 feet to 50 feet long, spent time around the harbor's derelict pier on the far side of the jetty, sliding against a sandbar in shallow water.

Winter speculated the mam-

mal, believed to be a blue whale, was scraping barnacles off his body.

Friday morning, Winter boarded his 17-foot skiff and came within 100 feet of the whale as it cruised near the channel entrance.

At the nearby Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, which serves as a research site for the California State University system, scientists and students emptied the building and jockeyed for vantage points to view the whale.

"A lot of people are enjoying it," Winter said.

—Laramie Trevino