

Whale rally held

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr. won a whale of a reception from a crowd of 4,500 who gathered for a seven-hour rally on behalf of the world's largest mammal.

"We're all interconnected with one another. We're all an endangered species," Brown, admittedly a recent convert to the whale's cause, told the rally that ran well into Sunday morning.

The youthful crowd gave a standing ovation to the governor, who initiated plans for the save-the-whale rally that combined a rock concert, ecology fair, film show and pep rally.

Brown once refused to sign a bill to make the gray whale California's official marine mammal. It became law anyway, and when he designated Saturday as "Whale Day," some accused him of opportunism.

But Brown said the bill started him thinking about the plight of the whale. Then at a Zen center he frequents, he heard some "whale music" — recordings of the animals' undersea cries — and heard Country Joe McDonald sing anti-whaling songs at a Los Angeles nightclub.

"There was more to this than I'd originally thought," Brown said.

McDonald, John Sebastian and Joni Mitchell were among the entertainers on hand. The \$4 tickets had been sold out long before the rally. Proceeds went to support the campaign to impose worldwide limits on whaling.

Brown also gave credit for his conversion to whale-watcher Dr. Roger Payne, who opened the program with films of whales leaping, mating and playing. He closed by warning that if whales die out, man will have only "the monotonous hiss of waves overhead and the dull roar of ships' traffic for all eternity."

Even the intermissions were eventful. The crowd was invited to "howl" to let off tensions and to "whoop" in imitation of a whale, whose undersea cries were played for all to hear.

Migrating whales attract sightseers and scientists to the California coast every year. They also attract Soviet and Japanese whaling ships. But the boycott waged by some anti-whaling groups against Russian and Japanese goods was criticized at the rally as counterproductive. Brown said the movement needs allies in those countries.

And among the contributors to Saturday night's proceeds were the Japanese manufacturers of Toyota and Datsun cars.