



Western Groundfish Conference returns to Newport Jan. 30- Feb. 3

Every two years, the Western Groundfish Conference (WGC) brings fisheries scientists and students together to review current research on groundfish science and management on the west coast of North America. The conference has been held in various locations from Northern California to Alaska over the past 25 years, and returns to Newport on January 30th, 2006. The host hotel for the 4-day conference is the Best Western Agate Beach Inn, where plenary, workgroup and poster sessions will be held. Topics include stock assessment, survey methodology, fishery monitoring, ecosystem analysis, conservation, marine protected areas, habitat classification and general fishery biology. The WGC agenda also includes social events planned for the evenings at nearby locations including the Rogue Brewery

and the Oregon Coast Aquarium. Sponsors of this year's conference include HMSC, the International Pacific Halibut Commission, NOAA's Alaska Fisheries Science Center and Northwest Fisheries Science Center, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon State University, Oregon Sea Grant, and the Oregon Trawl Commission. Many HMSC personnel are involved with organizing effort, including OSU Fisheries and Wildlife faculty Scott Heppell and Selina Heppell, who are serving as co-chairs of the conference planning committee. The Conference and Oregon Trawl Commission provided travel scholarships for 22 students, and HMSC housing is being made available for those traveling from out of the area to attend the conference.



For registration and other conference information, visit the official website for the 14th WGC at: <http://www.iphc.washington.edu/halcom/groundfish/gc2006/welcome.htm>

Inside this Issue:

- *Research Program News* p. 2
- *Library News* p. 3
- *Facilities Update* p.5
- *Agency Updates* p.6
- *Personnel News & Notes* p.7

Winter storms leave their mark



High winds topping 60 mph on Christmas morning, coupled with rusted footings, proved too much for NOAA's wind mast at South Beach State Park (photo by HMSC weather observer Clay Creech).



Winter storms accelerate erosion along the western banks of Yaquina Bay, forcing closure of portions of the HMSC nature trail. See Facilities Update on page 5 for full story.

Proposed ship-breaking operation on Yaquina Bay raises questions

When the Port of Newport announced in November that a site on the north side of Yaquina Bay was being considered for a ship breaking and metal scrapping operation, questions immediately surfaced among personnel at HMSC concerned about potential impacts on water quality in the bay.

The proposed operation by Bay Bridge Enterprises, LLC of Chesapeake, Virginia would bring large vessels from the U.S. Navy's retired "ghost fleet" to Yaquina Bay for dismantling and scrapping on Port property

continued on pg. 2

The HMSC Currents Newsletter is published 5 times a year. Your comments and submissions are welcomed! Deadline for next issue is Jan. 9th. Send to: ken.hall@oregonstate.edu.

Hatfield Marine Science Center
2030 SE Marine Science Drive
Newport, OR 97365
541-867-0212
www.hmhc.oregonstate.edu

From the Director

Yaquina Bay users, including the HSMC, have been facing a rather daunting prospect of a potential “ship-breaking” operation that the Port of Newport is currently discussing. Although keeping a relatively low profile in the public debate, HMSC has been involved in this activity since the outset, warning the Port about the potential implications to HMSC when it was first announced. The Port responded by asking the HMSC to identify the key concerns; we responded with a letter outlining three pages of questions formulated in a meeting that included scientists from OSU, NOAA, EPA, ODFW, and USDA-ARS. The Port responded in writing, and a meeting was convened in late December to discuss the issue further with Port officials and Bay Bridge Enterprises. As a result, HMSC sent a letter with recommendations on what would be needed to be able to make an objective decision about whether

this activity would negatively impact Yaquina Bay. We have put all these letters, as public documents, on the HMSC web page.

The role HMSC played, as an objective broker of scientific information, demonstrates the strength that the diversity of our scientific expertise provides. We will be having further meetings with the Port in the coming weeks. Stay tuned.

Also evident on the web page is the announcement of the first Lavern Weber Visiting Scientist position. From generous donors to the HMSC and matching funds from the Research Office, \$10,000 is available to bring a scientist to the HMSC to participate in our research, education, and outreach activities. We hope that this is the first of a series of annual visitors to the HMSC under this program.

Proposed ship-breaking operation on Yaquina Bay raises questions *continued from p. 1*

adjacent to the international shipping terminal. The vessels, which would come from among the 60+ decommissioned Navy ships currently sitting in Suisun Bay, near San Francisco, are acknowledged to contain hazardous and toxic materials on board. As details of the planned ship-breaking business were unveiled in the local newspaper, Port Commissioners began hearing from all sides of the intense public debate generated by the proposal, including nearly eight hours of public testimony at two public meetings attended by hundreds of local citizens. Port Commissioners and representatives of Bay Bridge Enterprises also met with scientists at HMSC in late December to hear more about specific concerns. In addition to first-order concerns about air and water quality impacts from “normal”

ship-breaking operations, other questions focused on the company’s response plan for accidental spills, plans for handling waste overflows during periods of high rainfall, strategies for preventing the introduction of invasive species, and how it would handle other unintended negative environmental impacts. The proposed facility’s approach to assessment and monitoring of pollutants is another issue of particular interest, since both the HMSC and the Oregon Coast Aquarium depend on high quality seawater, without levels of pollutants that could adversely affect cultured marine organisms. Minimal compliance with state DEQ requirements may not be sufficient, as it would still allow contaminant discharges at levels that threaten survival of oyster larvae and other sensitive organisms.

Research Programs News

“Sounds of the Southern Ocean” expedition to Antarctica

CIMRS faculty members Bob Dziak, Sara Heimlich and Haru Matsumoto of the NOAA-PMEL Hydrothermal Vents group at HMSC, along with Sea Grant Marine Educator Bill Hanshumaker, returned in mid-December from a 10-day NOAA-funded expedition to Antarctica. The team’s primary mission was to deploy an array of autonomous underwater hydrophones intended to record sounds generated by moving ice sheets, undersea earthquakes and volcanoes, and whale vocalizations in part of the ocean basin surrounding Antarctica, which remains largely unexplored.

After an 18-hour trip from Portland to Punta Arenas, Chile, the four-member research group from HMSC met up with the rest of the international expedition team: a Chinese researcher from the Institute of Geology and Geophysics in Beijing and a dozen Korean scientists from the Korean Polar Research Institute (KOPRI), including Dr. Minkyu Park, whose underwater acoustics research will help interpret signals picked up from seismic activity on the seafloor.



Haru Matsumoto, Bob Dziak and Sara Heimlich in their Mustang suits, preparing to travel by small boat to the King Sejong Station. Image courtesy of NOAA/Vents, Korea Polar Research Institute (KOPRI)

KOPRI operates King Sejong Station, the research base on King George Island, near the tip of the Antarctic peninsula. From there, the HMSC team was ferried out to the Yuzhmorgeologiya, a 300-ft Russian icebreaker that would serve as lab and final staging area for deployment of the hydrophones over the next several days.

“The first hydrophone location requires about four hours of ship time,” wrote Bill Hanshumaker in the expedition log for

continued on pg.3

Conferences and meeting calendar:

January 20 – deadline for submitting abstracts to the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography (ASLO) Summer 2006 meeting in Victoria, British Columbia. With the theme “Global Challenges Facing Oceanography and Limnology”, the June 5-9 meeting will feature sessions on wide-ranging topics of interest, including session TS-E04 – “Distribution of Commercially Important Fish, and Its Influence on Stock Assessment and Sustainable Harvest”

For more information on the ASLO Summer Meeting 2006, please visit <http://www.aslo.org/victoria2006>

January 25 - Salmon 2100 Project: “The Future of Wild Pacific Salmon” in Portland (conference in Portland at Double Tree Hotel - Lloyd Center)

About the conference: The Salmon 2100 Project was founded on the premise that wild salmon in California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and southern British Columbia are struggling to hang on as remnants of once flourishing species in small portions of their original range. Given current policy drivers

and foreseeable trends, the long-term trajectory for wild salmon is downward. The Project has assembled 33 salmon scientists, policy analysts, and salmon advocates to answer the question:

What is it really going to take policy-wise to have wild salmon populations in significant, sustainable numbers through 2100 in California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and southern British Columbia?

The conference will be a venue for presenting publicly a cross section of the policy prescriptions (the morning session) and an opportunity for government and non-governmental salmon recovery leaders to respond to those policy prescriptions (the afternoon session). For more information, visit the conference website: <http://outreach.forestry.oregonstate.edu/Salmon2100/>

January 30th to Feb. 3rd - 14th Western Groundfish Conference, Newport, OR (*see article on p. 1*)

Guin Library News

Cutting a Deal with Elsevier

Beginning in January 2006, the OSU Libraries will be providing electronic access back to 1995 for many Elsevier journals for users within the OSU network or with access privileges. These “e-journals” reside on the Elsevier’s Science Direct platform and we have had current year access only up to now. We will also have access to the ‘in press’ articles in these journals. Among these titles are:

- * Biological Conservation
- * Progress in Oceanography
- * Aquaculture
- * Earth and Planetary Science Letters
- * Remote sensing of environment

As well as many, many others.

To access these journals (beginning in January 2006) use the link to “E-Journals” on the OSU Libraries homepage: <http://osu-library.oregonstate.edu/>. If the library does not subscribe to a journal you need, continue to use our Interlibrary Loan service (<https://access.library.oregonstate.edu/>). Let me know what these titles you still need so we can plan for 2007 and beyond. Also, contact me if you have problems of questions about e-access to journals.

For those of you within the NWFSC and AKFSC, you already have good access to Elsevier journals through the Seattle library. Here’s the link to its online journal page. <http://lib.nwfsc.noaa.gov/winnebago/search/access/journals.asp>

“Sounds of the Southern Ocean” expedition to Antarctica continued from p. 2

December 6. “Every minute is needed aboard for preparation. Haru is testing and assembling in the Geological Lab, while Bob is on deck supervising the layout of the hydrophone’s mooring equipment.”

Blessed with a few days of good weather and calm seas, the research team was able to successfully deploy all seven hydrophones, or “Haruphones”, as they have come to be nicknamed in honor of chief design engineer, Haru Matsumoto. The team also managed to complete an extensive visual survey of marine mammals in the region.

Bob Dziak expects that when the hydrophone array is recovered later in 2006, sounds that have been captured will enable identification of previously unknown volcanically active regions on the seafloor, as well as new information about critical habitat for the great whales.

Details of the “Sounds of the Southern Ocean” expedition, including maps, photographs and daily logs, are available on the NOAA Ocean Explorations website <http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/explorations/05sounds/welcome.html>

Proposed Digital Repository for HMSC - ScholarsArchive@OSU

The OSU Libraries have been working on a pilot installation of DSpace, a software platform that allows authors to store and access their digital publications. We are now ready to add new communities to the site.

This means researchers and students at HMSC could permanently store digital copies of your reports, articles, presentations, and theses with the OSU Libraries. We will assign them a permanent url and provide open access to them.

Open access means allowing search engines to 'crawl' and index the material so your work will come up in Google searches. Research shows that usage of material goes up when

it's accessible in this way.

The Guin Library wants to work with others at HMSC to build an HMSC digital collection. We already capture the citations of your publications. Now we want to gather up the full text. Copyright is often an issue and is challenging when there are multiple authors. But, we would like to identify some people interested in being pioneers. Let me know if you are interested by contacting me - janet.webster@oregonstate.edu

Here's the current OSU site. The design is being revised as we add more communities of users.

<http://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/dspace/index.jsp>

New Books and Publications

The Guin Library is constantly adding new books and publications to its 35,000+ volume collection. Listed below are two new publications by HMSC authors, and some of the more recently acquired new book titles. You can browse the full list of new books online at <http://osulibrary.oregonstate.edu/guin/booklist.php> and click on the call numbers for a detailed listing or to place a request for any desired material.

Recent Publications by HMSC Authors

Title: Disturbance history of a European old-growth mixed-species forest – A spatial dendro-ecological analysis

Authors: Splechtna, BE; Gratzer, G; Black, BA

Source: JOURNAL OF VEGETATION SCIENCE, 16 (5): 511-522 OCT 2005

Title: Understanding the anodic mechanism of a seafloor fuel cell: Interactions between geochemistry and microbial activity

Authors: Ryckelynck, N; Stecher, HA; Reimers, CE

Source: BIOGEOCHEMISTRY, 76 (1): 113-139 OCT 2005

Selected New Titles

Proctor, Noble S.

A field guide to North Atlantic wildlife marine mammals seabirds fish and other sea life.

QL128 .P76 2005.

Reproductive biology and phylogeny of Chondrichthyes: sharks, batoids and chimaeras.

QL638.6 .R467 2005.

Marine ranching.

SH1 .F539 no.429.

Johnson, Scott W., A. Darcie Neff and J. F. Thedinga.

An atlas on the distribution and habitat of common fishes in shallow nearshore waters of shallow nearshore waters of south-eastern Alaska.

SH11 .A541431 no.157.

Lang, Geoffrey M.

Groundfish food habits and predation on commercially important prey species in the eastern Bering Sea.

SH11 .A541431 no.158.

Selection and breeding programs in aquaculture.

SH136.B56 S45 2005.

DeWitt, T. H.

An evaluation of the feasibility of using integrated pest management to control burrowing shrimp in deep oyster beds

SH179.S5 E92 1997.

Clausen, Lilli.

The affordable oyster: a collection of seventy-one oyster recipes .

TX754.O98 C53 1989.

Posting pdfs to your web pages

For those of you who like posting pdfs of your articles to your personal web pages, you may want to consult the SHERPA site. This resource gives you the latest on many publishers' policies concerning posting of pdfs. Some allow it, some allow pre-

prints, some allow post-prints but not the version in the journal. It's confusing, but this site can help sort it out. <http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo.php>

New Exhibit Features Birds in Winter

Did you know that all of Lincoln County's estuaries have been declared Significant Birding Areas? If you stop by the Guin Library, you might want to check out the latest library exhibit on winter birds. Find out why some birds migrate, how wintering birds survive, and how the Audubon Society's annual Christmas bird count helps set direction for bird conservation efforts. The exhibit will run through the end of January.

Facilities Update

As reported by HMSC Facilities Manager Randy Walker:

Facilities personnel are busy working on many small projects as I write this, but the weather is clearly our biggest challenge for the moment. Fierce storms have been rolling in from the Pacific Ocean with high winds and torrential rains, causing many problems for the facilities crew.



If you have not had an opportunity to see the impact of the storms on the HMSC Nature Trail, I strongly suggest you take a look. The facilities crew recently fenced off the area of

greatest erosion, creating a bypass around the part of the trail that has fallen into the bay, so that the trail remains open. Logs and debris have floated in and covered a stretch of the trail east of the EPA building with an array of flotsam. Logs, plastic containers, discarded docks and other trash have been snatched from the current moving these things off shore, which have given us an opportunity to enjoy the havoc winter storms bring. Facilities is beginning to work through the Coastal America

partnership to find a long-term solution to the erosion that is threatening our Nature Trail. While the search for long-term solutions is just beginning, it is hoped we will be successful



in preserving the trail as many folks use this trail year-round. Another weather-related impact on HMSC facilities is the unusually high rainfall levels seen in the past few weeks. As upland rivers swell beyond their banks, they release huge amounts of freshwater into the Yaquina Bay estuary, diluting the salinity of seawater that HMSC relies on for its research and aquaria facilities. Starting before Christmas and continuing through the time of this writing, torrential rains have pounded the coast, flushing the watershed and leading to long periods of low salinity in the bay.

During normal weather, we are able to capture high salinity, cool seawater coming in from the ocean during the flood caused by high tide. Lately, we are not seeing this flood of ocean water, and as a result have very poor quality seawater to offer the animals onsite that normally live in ocean conditions.

We have done everything we can to keep this salinity as high as possible. Over the years, we have developed strategies to deal

continued on pg.7

Hatfield Students Organization News

The annual Hatfield Student Organization fundraiser at the HMSC's holiday party in December was a great success this year thanks to the enthusiastic support of the HMSC Community and local businesses. We raised nearly \$700 for HsO activities, including this year's student travel grants (see below for details of last year's winner). Items were donated by Patagonia, Clear Creek Distillery, Panini Bakery, Milton Love, The Scarlet Ibis Fly shop, Rad's Homebrew, Englund Marine, the Newport Homebrewers association, the Inn at Otter Crest, the Pacific Community Gym, Café Stephanie, the Auto Doctors, the Newport Rec Center, Local Ocean seafood, The Sandbar, the Performing Arts Center, La Roca, Leslie Lang, Oregon Oyster Farms, Sandcastle Toys, Rogue, Ossie's Surf shop, Tony Heinzl, and Bruce Koike.



continued on pg.6

Hatfield Students Organization News continued from p. 5

The HsO Travel Grant for December 2005 has been awarded to Ephraim Temple, a MS degree student working in Dr. Chris Langdon's lab. Ephraim will attend Marine Ornamentals '06 in Las Vegas, Nevada in February, to give a presentation entitled "Development and Characterization of Lipid Spray Beads For Delivery of Oxytetracycline*HCl to First Feeding Goby *Asterropteryx semipunctatus* Larvae." This portion of Ephraim's research aims to "introduce a new method for treating disease in larval fish" that will "allow the culture of disease-sensitive species that are difficult to rear". Such developments will hopefully reduce impacts on wild populations of these sensitive species. Ephraim's research addresses the second of three goals for this conference, which are to: (1) improve methods for the trade of wild ornamental species; (2) increase the variety and availability of cultured species, and (3) encourage education and outreach efforts.



Agency Updates

New Hires at EPA Pacific Coastal Ecology Branch

Cheryl Brown, PhD in Oceanography and B.S. and M.S. in Ocean Engineering, formerly a postdoctoral researcher with PCEB, was hired in July 2005 as an Oceanographer. In this position, Cheryl will continue her work on coupled hydrodynamic and water quality modeling and data analysis to quantify nutrient loading and sources of nutrients to estuaries in the Pacific Northwest. Cheryl is also working on the development of a nutrient criteria case study for the Yaquina estuary.

T. Chris Mochon-Collura, M.S. in Marine Biology and B.S. in Marine Science Biology, was hired at PCEB in November 2005 as a Physical Scientist and Instrument Technician. In this position, Chris will maintain and deploy various water quality instruments and work with principal investigators on data and sample analyses and quality assurance. Chris is also an EPA certified Scientific Diver and will continue to support projects requiring SCUBA operations.



pictured left to right: Cheryl Brown, Katie Marko, Christina Folger, T Chris Mochon-Collura

New Hires at EPA Pacific Coastal Ecology Branch *continued from p. 6*

Christina Folger, M.S. Candidate in Estuary Ecology through the Marine Resource Management Program at OSU, and BS in Zoology, was hired November 2005 after 5 years working as a biologist and manager of the EPA on-site technical support contract. Christina will provide support to the range of EPA research projects by conducting sediment and water sample analysis, maintaining databases, and performing field surveys and manipulative estuarine experiments.

Katharine Marko, M.S. candidate from the University of Michigan-School of Natural Resources in the Resource Ecology and Management-Aquatics program, and B.A. in biology from Wellesley College, was hired as a Biologist with the EPA in December 2005. Katharine will provide laboratory and field assistance to ongoing projects at the EPA, and hopes to pursue research interests in stable isotope studies on food webs.

Herber fills new post at ODFW's Marine Resources Program

Bill Herber will fill the new position of Assistant Program Manager for Data and Technical Services for the Marine Resources Program's management team. Herber most recently worked at the ODFW Natural Resources Information Program in Corvallis. In that position he already worked with many of the staff in the Newport office helping to build the sport groundfish web page on the MRP Web site <http://nrimp.dfw.state.or.us/MRP/default.aspx?p=40>.

"Bill brings a diverse set of skills to this position, including more than 10 years of planning, developing, implementing and managing information technology solutions for various organizations, both in government and the private sector," said Patty Burke, manager for the Marine Resources Program.

"Bill's programming experience and his innovative problem-solving record of accomplishment is combined with an emphasis on meeting user needs efficiently and effectively. He will be

a great contributor to our collaborative/teamwork approach at MRP."

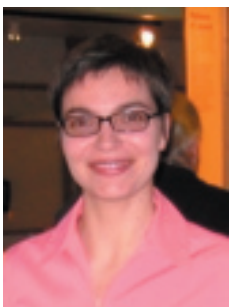
In addition to his work for ODFW, Bill was the manager of Information Systems at Mid-Valley Hospital in Washington State. Prior to that, Bill served as a land surveyor and GIS Coordinator for a county noxious weed program in Washington. There he developed a GIS/database mapping program, while supervising all field crews. From 1988-1993, Bill served in the U.S. Army as an Airborne Infantry squad leader in combat in Operation Desert Storm. In that capacity he also developed the first testing and review process of GPS equipment for use in active ground combat. He has numerous citations for achievement throughout his career.



Bill will be formally starting at MRP on Jan. 24. Bill and his family will be relocating to the Newport area as soon as possible.

Personnel News and Notes

Vlada Gertseva, a senior researcher in CIMRS, was one of the recipients of the LL Stewart Faculty Development Award, which provides individual faculty members with grants of up to \$2,200 for professional development activities that have a clear connection to the enhancement of teaching and student teaching at OSU. Vlada will be using the funds to expand a fisheries stock assessment class by adding a lab component to what was previously taught as a seminar course. Vlada says the lab section will provide students with more hands-on experience



learning modeling techniques and applying statistical analysis methods. The redesigned course will next be offered in Fall 2006.

The NWFSC/FRAM division bids a fond farewell to Travel and Time/Attendance Specialist **Carol Ksycinski**, who has accepted a position with a Newport company. Carol's last day will be Friday, January 13th, and those of us fortunate to have worked with her will sorely miss her. We wish her the very best in her new endeavors.

Facilities Update

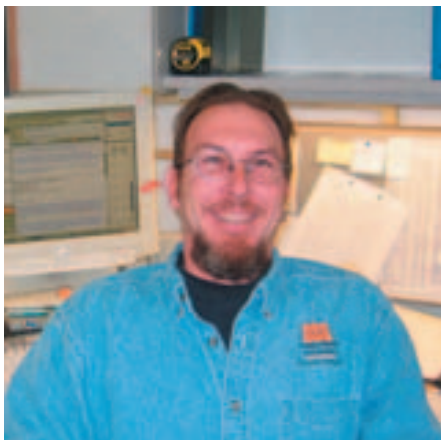
continued from p. 5

with current conditions, and the best thing that can be done is to ask everyone to keep their seawater use as low as possible. By using less seawater, we can pump seawater during smaller windows, allowing us to capture only the best quality seawater, with low turbidity, high salinity, and cooler temperatures. Even if your work is not affected by lower salinity water, curtailing your use of seawater greatly impacts your neighbors that use ocean condition seawater. With a little luck, by the time you read this, the rains and winds will have let up, but for the moment, this is the biggest issue that Facilities has to deal with.

Personnel News and Notes *(continued)*

Joel Colvin is the new HMSC Business Office Manager, filling the position previously held by Beulah Davis. Joel comes to HMSC from the OSU main campus in Corvallis, where he worked in Business Affairs, Transportation Services and Property Services.

Having just started in November, Joel says he is enjoying “learning the HMSC processes and how they relate to the great people I get to work with.” Undoubtedly, Joel will eventually get to know a broad cross-section of the HMSC community, as the Business Office handles payroll, accounting, and financial oversight of many research and administrative functions at HMSC.



Joel was born in Arcadia, California, grew up in Rapid City, South Dakota. His parents, older siblings, and nieces and nephews are in Fort Smith, Arkansas. Outside of work, Joel enjoys fishing (fly & gear), hunting, camping, hiking, reading, guitar and poker. He currently lives in Kings Valley, with furry and feathered family members “Lars” (his cat) and “Dagda” (Gaelic, pronounced dough-daa), an Amazon parrot. Joel says he is enjoying working at HMSC. “It’s a great environment and a very interesting mix of programs, and the people are wonderful. I’m sure it will keep me busy, and I look forward to meeting all of those whom I haven’t yet.”

A friendly new face greets customers to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife’s Marine Resources Program offices at HMSC. **Mari Davis** works on word-processing and data-entry projects for the MRP staff and backs up Michael Crawford at the front desk providing customer service and answering phones. She worked at Georgia-Pacific’s Wauna Mill and at Rogue Ales Brewery before coming to work here.

Mari grew up in Toledo and has lived several places, including eight years on a farm in Clatskanie (near the Columbia River) before moving to Newport two years ago. She has two teen-aged children, and in her spare time, enjoys hiking and reading. The unusual spelling of Mari (pronounced Mary) honors both her grandmother, Marie, and two aunts named Mary.



Dina Spangenberg was recently hired as a contract fisheries biologist for NOAA-EC in Dr. Mary Arkoosh’s lab. This research group focuses on environmental stressors and disease susceptibility to Pacific Northwest fish species. Prior to moving to Newport Dina received her Masters degree in Environmental Toxicology from Clemson University in South Carolina. In her spare time, Dina enjoys traveling and outdoor recreation.

More new faces around HMSC

Dan Roelke -- visiting scientist at EPA

Katelyn Cassidy -- GRA working with Brett Dumbauld and Chris Langdon

Jim Ruzica – working with Tom Wainright

Bundles of joy!



Nadine Stilwell gave birth to a precious baby girl at 1:30 a.m. on Tuesday, November 29th. Her name is **Sonja Elyce** and she was 7 lbs 9 oz and 20 1/2 inches long at birth. Both mom and baby (and Dad and Frankie) are doing great.



Lisa Lysak, who works for NWFSC-FRAMD as an otolith reader, is the proud new mother of **Jackson Daniel Gilbert**, delivered into the world at 7:26pm on Dec. 9th. The little boy weighed 7.9 lbs and was nearly 21 inches long. Mother, son and father **Thom** are doing very well. Congratulations!



More bundles of joy!

On December 25th at 13:40hr, **Leah Feinberg** and **Jay Peterson** welcomed their son **Owen Asa Peterson** into the world. Owen was 7 lb 14 oz and 20” long. Pictured here are Owen, and a photo of Owen crammed into his car-seat with his parents pretending they know what they are in for!



Aidan Keoni Cramer was born at 7:21pm on Jan. 13, 2006 to **Jennifer and Allen Cramer** (both who works for NWFSC-FRAMD). Their new son weighed in at a hefty 8lbs 10oz and measured 21.25” long. (no photo)

HMSC Happenings



In November, HMSC staffers gathered to wish **Peter Noah** (leaning forward) farewell as he set sail for the warmer waters of the Virgin Islands. Noah, Sea Grant’s curator of animal husbandry and exhibits, has accepted a position as vice president and manager of Coral World, an aquarium on the island of St. Thomas, in the Caribbean. To check out Peter’s new home, visit <http://www.coralworld.com/cwvi/>



In recognition of her outstanding performance, **Maureen Collson** (second from left) received the Association of Office Professionals Monthly Merit Award for November 2005. Collson is the Administrative Program Assistant for Marine Education within Oregon Sea Grant Extension.

Distinguished Lecturer: Jeff Polovina



(l to r) Julie Barr, Abby McCarthy, HMSC Distinguished Lecturer Jeff Polovina and George Boehlert

CERM Poster Session:



Students from the fall term Fisheries and Wildlife course in Coastal Ecology and Resource Management explain their research projects during the end-of-term poster session.

HMSC holiday party



Season of sharing at HMSC

Dozens of new toys and other items on the wish lists of children in need started showing up under the “Giving Octopus” display in the HMSC lounge during the month of December, all destined for local distribution by the Salvation Army. Boxes of canned food and other non-perishable items were also collected for local families in need. Nancy Smith (right) and a volunteer from Lincoln County Food Share stopped by in early January to pick up food drive items.



Lincoln Food Share picks up donations:

Traveling over 2,800 miles to play OSU in a December 17 matchup in Corvallis, the University of South Alabama women’s basketball team didn’t pass up the opportunity to see the Oregon coast and enjoy the HMSC Visitor Center on the day before their game.



University of South Alabama women’s basketball team visits HMSC:

Outreach in action

A group of fifth graders from Groner Elementary School, near Hillsboro, came to the HMSC in January to meet CIMRS Associate Professor Bill Chadwick, a geologist in the NOAA-PMEL

Hydrothermal Vents group. The students are members of the school’s Lego Robotics team that is building and programming a robot to perform simulated tasks related to oceanography.



While researching underwater volcanoes, they came across information on Axial volcano and the New Millennium Observatory (NeMO) off Oregon’s coast, and asked their team coach, Andrew Baethke, to help arrange a visit to see the exhibits in the Visitor Center and to meet with Chadwick.

Sharpening up the tools of research



About 15 scientists attended Jim Ruzica’s two-hour introductory MatLab training course on December 14th, learning about the interactive program’s capabilities for processing numerical calculations, graphing and other data visualizations used in scientific research.

HMSC represented at international North Pacific PICES meeting

Five scientists from HMSC traveled to Vladivostok, Russia, to attend the fourteenth Annual Meeting of the North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES) between September 29 and October 10, 2005. Bill Peterson (NOAA), a member of PICES Climate Change and Carrying Capacity program, presented a paper in the Science Board Symposium (for which he received a presentation award) as well as serving as co-convenor of a scientific session on euphausiids. Tracy Shaw (OSU-CIMRS) presented an invited paper in that session. Michael Schirripa (NOAA) serves on the Fishery Science Committee, co-convened a scientific session on distributional shifts in demersal fish

relative to oceanographic conditions and presented a paper on climate effects on sablefish recruitment. Tom Wainright (NOAA) serves as a member of the Conceptual Theoretical and Modeling Studies Task Team for PICES and presented a paper on a biological production index for the California Current. George Boehlert, HMSC director, serves as one of two US Commissioners to PICES.

The meeting was well attended by some 300 scientists from across the Pacific Basin. Bill (with wife Mary) and Tracy traveled extensively after the meeting – ask them about an upcoming slide show on their travels.



Upcoming Events

“Watching the Coast With Cameras” – Evening lecture by Rob Holman of the Coastal Imaging Lab and COAS at OSU Thursday, January 26th at 7pm

* Giant Squid Dissection – Bill Hanshumaker will perform a giant squid dissection for the public on Saturday, January 21 @ 1:30pm in the Visitor Center.

* Fossil Fest returns to the HMSC Visitor Center on Saturday, February 11 – all day.
