

# January 1998

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## Weber Celebrates Twentieth Year as HMSC Director

1997 marks Dr. Weber's 20th year as Director of the HMSC, a year highlighted by a big change in his responsibilities. Dr. Weber was the first full-time resident director of the Center and was hired by Dr. John Byrne, who served as non-resident director of the Center. The original administration of the Center had been split among Oceanography, Fisheries and Wildlife, and Extension/Sea Grant, with supervisors both on site and on campus. Consolidating the leadership responsibilities in one person proved to be just what the Center needed to build momentum.

One of Weber's first official duties was to oversee the dedication of the newly completed Education Building in 1977a foretaste of the tremendous surge in physical plant growth under his administration. In 1977 the only buildings here were the main building, the ODFW building, Ship Operations, Li House and the bunkhouse. Since then he has worked on the NAL (1978) and RSF buildings (1980), the Winton Housing complex (1985), the EPA lab and Guin Library (1990), the USFWS building (1995), the two modular housing units (1996), the complete renovation of the Public Wing and the second Ship Operations building and expanded dock (1997). Not as visible to the eye, but even more crucial to the Center's development, was the upgrading of the Center's seawater system into a state-of-the-art system.

Buildings were not the only additions to the Center in his tenure. Weber is especially pleased with the creation of the Coastal Oregon Marine Experiment Station (COMES) through legislation in 1989. One of the biggest handicaps for Center management is that it is a facility, not a program or department (the "nobody's baby" syndrome). The creation of COMES marked a true and stable program funded as part of the Center's identity. With COMES came Weber's responsibility as Superintendent of both the Newport lab and Astoria Seafood Lab. From 1989 to 1997 he was serving half-time as Director of the Center and half-time as Superintendent. The number of employees at the Center increased from 50 to 300.

With the retirement of Don Giles as Public Educator in 1992, Extension/Sea Grant cut back their supervision of the public education program at the Center and passed that responsibility onto Dr. Weber as well. Dr. Weber has always felt that the Public Wing is a key part of the Center, one that makes science and OSU visible to large numbers of people. Consequently, upon taking responsibility for the public wing, he began the search for funding to give new life to the 1965-era facility. With NASA and HUD grant money, the Public Wing came to life with the theme *Searching for Patterns in a Complex World*, a unique approach to showing the public how scientists discover what makes our world tick. Upon completion of the renovation, Sea Grant again assumed responsibility for the Public Wing, with a solid new basis for innovative public education programs.

What new challenges await Dr. Weber's next decade? In December 1997 he was chosen as the new part-time Associate Dean for the College of Agricultural Sciences, the entity supervising the COMES. To take on this new set of responsibilities with its two-day-a-week on the main campus, Dr. Weber has spun off part of his Superintendent's duties, while Sea Grant takes care of the Public Wing. Three days a week Weber is still at his desk at the Center, continuing to work for its improvement. With his new wider scope, Weber looks forward to benefiting the people of Oregon even more.

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### **Jones Fisheries Award Deadline January 15**

The deadline for submitting an application to Dr. Weber for the Walter G. Jones Fisheries Development Award is January 15. The purpose of the approximately \$400 award is to encourage graduate work in subjects which contribute to fisheries development.

Candidates must have completed 12 or more graduate credit hours in any department at OSU prior to the deadline. Their GPA must be equal to or higher than the average GPA for all current graduate students in their academic departments. Candidate must have demonstrated ability to conduct research which would contribute to fisheries development. The application consists of an application letter plus a supportive GPA status note from his or her department.

Past recipients have been Jin-Shan Shie (developing optimum pasteurization procedures for the US surimi seafood industry), Caleb Slater (endocrine and immune systems in salmonids), Liu Xin (cryopreservation of oyster gametes), Jirawat Yongsawatdigul (use of ohmic heating to cope with gel-weakening phenomena in surimi), Polla Hartley (characterization of protease in Pacific whiting), and Ricardo Simpson-Rivera (conduction-heated foods).

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### **Anja Robinson Establishes HMSC Shellfish Fellowship**

After nearly thirty years working in aquaculture at the Hatfield Marine Science Center, Anja Robinson has laid the foundation to continue this important work after she retires. She has created an endowed fund to provide support for shellfish aquaculture graduate students. Beginning this April, a \$500 award will be given to a deserving student. To be eligible, master's or doctoral students must show commitment and promise to their career choice and meet the graduate entrance requirements of the university and department.

Applicants must submit a one to two page application letter concisely proposing the research problem to be investigated and defining objectives, methods and significance of results. The hypothesis to be tested must be clearly stated. A budget, letter of recommendation by major professor and statement of current financial support should be included.

This award will be given for the first time this spring. Application deadline is April 15, 1998.

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## **GLOBE Comes to the HMSC**

GLOBE (Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment) is a hands-on international environmental science and education program. GLOBE links students, teachers and the scientific research community in an effort to learn more about our environment through student data collection and observation. Originated through Vice Presidents Al Gore's office, the Globe Program is active throughout the US and many countries of the world.

The goals of GLOBE are to:

- enhance the environmental awareness of individuals throughout the world;
- contribute to scientific understanding of the Earth; and
- help all students reach higher level of achievement in science and mathematics.

GLOBE is coming to Oregon through a franchise to the Extension Sea Grant Marine Education Program. The franchise enables Sea Grant to provide a four-day workshop for Northwest teachers to introduce them to GLOBE and provide training in the protocols for environmental monitoring and posting data on the WWW. Monitoring includes atmospheric monitoring, hydrology investigations, landcover, biology, and soils and Global positioning systems investigations. Monitoring activities are geared for appropriate grade levels.

Students from grades 3 - 12 in schools throughout the world conduct a continuing program of scientifically meaningful environmental measurements. GLOBE students transmit their data to a central data processing facility via the Internet, receive vivid images composed of their data and data from other GLOBE schools around the world, acquire information from a variety of sources, and collaborate with scientists and other GLOBE students and communities worldwide in using these data for education and research.

Using state-of-the-art technology, GLOBE creates a forum for students to communicate with their peers around the world, thus fostering alliances among students and increasing not only their environmental understanding but also their understanding of other cultures and their sense of global community.

The workshop will be held July 7-10. For more information contact Vicki Osis or Linda Conser. Globe WWW site is <<http://globe.fsl.noaa.gov/>>

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## **Osis Brings Two More Innovative Programs to the HMSC**

*Operation Pathfinder* will return to the Hatfield Center in 1999. This project is a National Marine Education Network program and involves Sea Grant Marine Educators in five regions of the country including the North East, South East, Gulf, West Coast, Hawaii and the Great Lakes. The \$1 million grant through the office of the Oceanographer of the Navy will support teacher training on the topics of Oceanography and Marine Biology and is divided among each of the regions. OSU

Extension Sea Grant Marine Education will host the West Coast Workshop in Summer 1999 with a base support of \$75,000. Thirty teachers from grades 3-12 from the West Coast states will participate in the training program in 1999 at the Hatfield Center. The goal of Operation Pathfinder is to implement a national science education effort designed to increase the awareness and understanding of oceanography and coastal processes and to improve the teaching techniques of teacher 3 - 12.

The Governors' Watershed Enhancement Board has granted funding to Sea Grant Marine Education Program and South Slough Estuary Reserve for the next two years. The funding will help to support and expand the work begun through *Coastnet*. Coastnet is a network of coastal high school teachers who are monitoring water quality in coastal estuaries. Thirty teachers are involved in the program and extend from the Eel river estuary in Northern California to the Columbia River. Each of the major estuaries in Oregon are being monitored as well as two very small estuaries on the south coast, The Sixes and New River.

Funding will enable the teachers to extend their estuary educational efforts through further in-depth studies using their monitoring data. A mid-year meeting of Coastnet teachers is scheduled for January 30 - February 1 and the Coastnet students' symposium is scheduled for early May. Visit the Coastnet WWW site at <<http://secchi.hmsc.orst.edu/coastnet/index.html>>

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### **Cutter's Corner**

It's a new year. Try to forget the struggles of the past and look forward to the dawning of a bright new day, or at least another 350 some days til that Christmas tie or perfume again. I have officially taken my first vacation and I must say: BORING! Now I understand why people go away on vacation. It's so you don't realize that you have nothing to do at your house (except watch an incredible amount of football).

But on to more important matters the question that everyone has been asking: "When are we going to get new e-mail accounts?"

I'm happy to say that our new e-mail server is up and running nicely. We have about ten people using it now, and more as the time goes on. Steve is setting up a system to transfer all your old cc:mail over to the new account, and I am getting a registration database ready so you can register easily over the Web. You should expect us to come knocking in the next few weeks.

It is going to take a bit of work though, so we have made sure that your old cc:mail addresses (addresses not software) will work for the next six months. Your mail will be forwarded to your new account.

Lastly, your e-mail address is going to follow the campus convention of first name.last name. Some people have expressed displeasure in this, so we, at a great personal risk and hardship (okay okay, I pressed a button), set the server to allow nicknames as well, but for those of you ordering new

business cards (like anyone used the 250 cards you ordered last time), you can always just put your e-mail address as [your] first name.last name @hmsc.orst.edu.

I'd like to quickly address the issue of Spam. We are going to do our best to eliminate spam from our server. Spam (not the strange meat we all know and love) is unwanted e-mail of various sorts. For example, I tend to get the variety of people who won't give me their names asking for \$5 and telling me that if I do this I will somehow be rich. So we will be installing filters, though as much as some may like, your boss's e-mail is NOT spam.

Happy New Year! I must apologize for no poem or anything fancy this month, though thanks to everyone who liked last month's. Maybe in February I'll write some limericks. "There once was a man from Nantucket..."

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## Library News

### **Photocopies Price Increase:**

For many years, the charge for making a photocopy in the library has been five cents. But the costs of paper, toner and servicing the machines have continued to rise, and the time has come when we have to raise the price. The library copiers will now charge the same amount as the HMSC copiers in the Mailroom and in the Grad Loft. Here's the new fee structure:

- .08 / page if charged on account or on a copy card
- .10 / page if paid in cash

These charges apply to all page sizes. The new rates will be in effect on January 2.

After January 2, if you have a copy card, come in to the library and we will add 20% to the cash value of your card, in order to give you credit for not paying cash. We'll be adding 20% credit to all future copy card purchases. So, make those copies now, while they're still only a nickel!

### **Swills, Spills and Breadcrumbs (...in the Library?)**

Everyone knows that folks in the Northwest are world-class coffee drinkers. Recently, however, some of that delicious coffee was spilled on a library computer. We were lucky; the computer was salvaged. But how about next time? We don't want to spend our entire budget on carpet cleaning and new computers! Nor do we want to stop you from enjoying food and drink in the library. So how about a compromise: Please eat and drink ONLY in the kitchen and lounge area of the library, or at the table by the newspaper. And get yourself a cup with a tight lid that snaps on if you simply must drink coffee in the back of the library. This way we won't experience more short-circuits, and we'll have fewer breadcrumbs in the keyboards! Thanks for your help with this problem.

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Visitors investigate whale artifacts in lab

### **Visitors Flock to See the Whales**

*Whale Watching Spoken Here*, the official Whale Watch Week sponsored by the Oregon State Parks, brought an increased number of visitors to the coast, as well as to the HMSC Public Wing during Christmas week. The Public Wing was open daily and attendance more than doubled during the week.

To celebrate Whale Watch Week, the Public Wing offered several family-oriented marine mammal programs. A marine mammal lab was taught by Ron Crouse, head educator; Mary Brooks, instructor; and Walt Roehmer, volunteer. Whale enthusiasts from 3 to 70 got the opportunity to touch exhibits of baleen, teeth, skulls, krill, and mammal pelts supplied by the marine mammal group.

Irene Valentine, an HMSC volunteer and retired librarian now living in Illinois, made the trip to Newport (as she does each Whale Watch Week) to offer daily storytelling sessions to young and old alike. Films highlighting marine mammals were shown hourly, including one featuring Bruce Mate's tagging and tracking of Right Whales off the East Coast.

Over 160 volunteers participated in the Whale Watch training session held at the HMSC in early December. Bruce Mate spent two days with the volunteers, sharing his knowledge and experience. These volunteers then staffed about thirty sites along the Oregon coast to assist visits in seeing gray whales on their southern migration from the Arctic to the lagoons of Mexico.

A second Whale Watch Week in March coincides with the northern migration of the whales back to the Arctic with their newborn calves.

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### **New Implantable Whale Tags Break Record**

After a disappointing 1996 field season with humpback whale tagging in Hawaii, Bruce Mate vowed not to go back into the field until he could dramatically improve his whale tags and their attachments. After ten months of working with Telonics and OSU engineer, Ron Mesecar, the tag was made small enough to be implantable, instead of sitting on top of the whale's skin. The new tag was tried first on humpbacks in 1997, in Hawaii again, and this time the results were spectacular. For the first time, they were able to track the full migration route for a humpback, from Hawaii to Alaska and then to the southern tip of the Kamchatka Peninsula.

This success spurred them on to a field season with humpbacks feeding in southeast Alaska this summer. Ten whales were tagged. PhD student Greg Krutzikowsky captained the *R/V 'Cille*, and with graduate student Daniel Palacios (from Colombia) and undergraduate Nathan Pamplin, stayed

with the whales for two and a half months. They investigated the fate of the tags and the behavioral ecology of the whales' feeding.

This was the first time anyone has ever been able to relocate the same whales day after day after day, to study how their social and feeding habits vary over time. They tagged animals during the first week of July and they are still getting some data daily after four months. This is a new record for tag longevity. The improved implantable tags have, on average, been many times more successful than any of their previous tag designs. The group looks forward to many more successful applications.

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Randy Reeves

### **Personnel Notes**

**Randy Reeves** has been promoted to State ODOT Coordinator for ODFW. Randy, pictured above with his Russian fur cap, is responsible for working with the Oregon Department of Transportation from the ocean to the Cascades and from the California border to the Washington border. His major responsibility is to work with ODOT to ensure that road culverts are passable for fish, to bring ODOT into compliance with the Oregon Plan.

In the past, culverts were designed and installed only to facilitate the movement of water, not fish. Juvenile salmon especially find it difficult to swim through the culverts that are at too steep an angle. Randy has found that by setting in larger culverts deeper into the ground that rocks and gravel will naturally fill in the bottom and make a suitable passage for the salmon. On the road a good deal of the time covering his new territory, Randy's new office is on Hurbert at the ODOT Supervisor's office.

Several OSU students will be presenting their work at the joint meeting of the International Society for Marine Mammalogy and the European Cetacean Society. **Barbara Lagerquist** will describe the dive habits of blue whales in the North Pacific, **Kelly R**