



The HMSC Newsletter



July 1999

Pamela Rogers, Editor



Nth Annual Imitational Golf Tournament Scheduled

Once again we face the awful prospect of a round of golf in front of our "friends". I'm proposing August 19th as a tentative date. Thursday has always been the best day of the week for most people. Sign up now, and beat the crowds. Once again, we will hold the event at Ollala, but I sense we need a better venue for the post-game activities. I'm fielding

suggestions.

Remember, to play in the Imitational, You only need to IMITATE the game, not know how to actually play. Anyone can (and should) sign up.

This year we have the additional pleasure of introducing three new trophy categories. The first is the new Hoover Memorial Lost Golfer Award. The winner receives, in a beautiful decouped frame, the actual note left on my windshield by a certain competitor last year who went to the wrong golf course, and waited an hour before finding the right course (too late!). This will be a perpetual trophy, as are all the awards in the Imitational. We haven't figured out the other two awards yet.

Let me know if you'd like to play (cost is ten bucks or so). Let's make this year's Imitational the biggest and best yet!

Keith Matteson

Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife

Ken Hilderbrand Aids Seafood Processors Improve Safety Compliance

Ken Hilderbrand has refocused his educational programs from HACCP to SSOP in 98/99. Both acronyms represent parts of the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) new December 1997 seafood safety and sanitation regulations titled "Procedures for the Safe and Sanitary Processing and Importing of Fish and Fishery Products."

The HACCP (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point) part of the regulation required training in HACCP concepts and conducting a food safety hazard analysis and implementing a HACCP "plan" whenever one or more food safety hazards were identified. By working with the Seafood HACCP Alliance (industry, government, and academia) in 1997/1998, Hilderbrand helped develop training manuals and deliver training programs so that virtually all US processors have met FDA's requirements.

With the initial HACCP training and planning job almost complete, Hilderbrand has shifted his attention to the second part of the FDA regulations. This part of the regulation requires that all seafood processors monitor and keep records on sanitation procedures and encourages industry to write an SSOP (Sanitation Standard Operating Procedure). In the latter part of 1998 it became apparent to the FDA from their routine inspections, that industry performance on sanitation requirements were inadequate. With that in mind, Hilderbrand developed a series of five SSOP training classes, got FDA and ODA (Oregon Department of Agriculture Food Safety Division) to cosponsor them, and with some help from his colleague at the University of California at Davis, trained almost 100 processing firm employees in the principles and practice of SSOPs. The classes drew students from Eureka, California to Olympia, Washington.

Hilderbrand has developed some model SSOP plans and record keeping systems and will continue to work with the Seafood HACCP Alliance to formalize SSOP training materials.



Cramming 1274 Hours into Two Days!

The Marine Education staff has truly outdone themselves this busy spring season. As usual, school groups cluster around low tide weeks in the spring and our five marine educators Ron Crouse, Fawn Custer, Kathy Dobson, Kathy Flannigan and Rick Slatton had their hands full. On June 3 and 4, they together presented 46 education programs (hands-on labs, estuary walks, etc.) for 545 Oregon school students, who received 1275 hours of instruction.

Congratulations on bearing up under this deluge and giving all those kids a rewarding and challenging marine experience! We appreciate the great name you give to our school programs around the state.



Dedication of the Duncan Law Seafood Consumer Education Center, July 15, 1998

Astoria Seafood Consumer Center Elects New Board

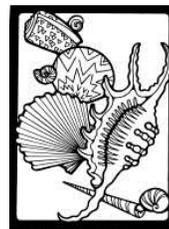
The Seafood Consumer Center in Astoria will start its second year with a new board that is focused on programmatic activities for the Center. These activities will be in four main areas including 1) Education for consumer and industry; 2) Training; 3) Research; 4) Information gathering.

The new Board members are represent a wide range of interests in the seafood industry and education and include Anita Decker, Pacificorp, Portland; Bill Orr, Attorney, Astoria; Lavern Weber, OSU, Newport; Jay Bornstein, Bornstein Seafood, Bellingham; David Nisbet, Nisbet Oyster Co., Bay Center; Margaret Forbes, Astoria; Gil Sylvia, OSU; Paul Benoit, City of Astoria; Deanna Grobe, OSU Consumer Consultant, Corvallis; Mike Shadbolt, OEDD, Salem; Peter Roscoe, Cozze Restaurant, Portland; Mike Dickerson, Shorebank Enterprise,

Ilwaco; Joe Easley, Oregon Trawl Commission, Astoria,; Jan Pahl, OSU County Extension, Astoria; Larz Malony, Pacific Marketing Group, Portland; Scott McMullen, fisherman, Astoria; Kathleen Paino, Clatsop Community College, Astoria; Nick Furman, Oregon Crab Commission, Coos Bay.

Michael Morrissey, OSU Seafood Lab Director will serve as the Executive Director of the SCC while Barbara Hansel will serve as events coordinator.

The SCC is housed in the new Duncan Law Seafood Consumer Center who is adjacent to the OSU Seafood Laboratory in Astoria. The Seafood School is an arm of the SCC and has been running small conferences as well as seafood cooking classes. Eric Jenkins is the culinary chef brought onboard to help run the Seafood School. Needless to say, the Seafood Lab graduate students are all benefiting from the leftovers from different events.



ODFW Marine Resources Program Undergoes Reorganization

Downsizing and reorganization is presently underway within the Marine Resources Program (MRP). Staff members of the Department of Fish and Wildlife's Marine Resources Program are located in the Newport headquarters and in Astoria and Charleston field offices with seasonal staff at all ports along the coast. Staff includes about 35 year-round coastal employees and up to 50 seasonal employees. Beginning July 1, 1999, MRP will drop species-oriented programs and form into three major functional program sections: Resource Assessment and Analysis, Resource Monitoring and Sampling, and a Data Services. The new organization will have a more flexible workforce and will focus on fewer, high priority, tasks. The MRP will continue to support a full commercial licensing and point of sale recreational services.

The fishing industry and the Department continued to grapple with a growing array of West Coast groundfish issues. The Pacific Fishery Management Council has recommended significant reductions in harvest of several important species of groundfish based on updated stock assessments. Emerging strategies include consideration of an industry sponsored buy-back program to remove excess effort, allocation between groups, and more conservative measures for protecting salmon and groundfish species and their habitats. By-catch and discard of trip limit managed species and essential fish habitat are major issues, given the requirements of the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996.

The Oregon Legislative Emergency Board added \$120,000 to MRP's budget to conduct cooperative studies with the fishing industry. Staff's response to the crisis has been to help improve information through new at-sea research projects and expanded dockside sampling. The staff has initiated at-sea studies to compare pot and longline gears with the objective of developing a new survey tool for sablefish and deepwater rockfish. The study is being conducted with the cooperation of the fishing industry using chartered fishing boats, and with assistance of National Marine Fisheries Service. Keith Matteson, ODFW project leader for the study, is responsible for organizing and carrying out the field work and analysis.

Staff also began a new cooperative Depth Specific Sampling project with National Marine Fisheries Service and select members of the fishing industry. The field phase of the Enhanced Data Collection Program was completed in December of 1998. Field observations of groundfish by-catch and discard were made between 1995-98 to evaluate impacts of different groundfish trip limits. The study was done in cooperation with the Oregon Trawl Commission and fishing industry. Preparation of the observer and enhanced logbook database will be completed in late summer of 1999.



USFWS Plans for Expansion of Refuges

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Oregon Coastal Refuges has a very active land acquisition program with ongoing acquisitions at Siletz Bay and Nestucca Bay National Wildlife Refuges (NWRs) and proposed refuge expansions and acquisitions at Nestucca Bay, Bandon Marsh and Oregon Islands NWRs. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has purchased Crook Point, a 134 acre headland in Curry County and is holding the property for the Service for inclusion in Oregon Islands NWR. A 2.3 million dollar Land and Water Conservation Fund appropriation was recently received which will allow the Service to purchase Crook Point from TNC this summer. The Service is acquiring the area to provide further protection for the Mack Reef Unit of Oregon Islands NWR. The offshore rocks, reefs and islands adjacent to Crook Point support the second largest concentration of nesting seabirds in Oregon, with over 200,000 birds from March through October including a breeding colony of Leach's storm-petrels numbering of 87,000 birds. The headland also contains rare plants, archaeological resources and unique geological formations.

The Service is currently conducting the environmental review process to expand the existing 304 acre Bandon Marsh NWR by adding up to 600 acres. Congressional legislation allowing the expansion of this refuge passed and upon successfully completing the review process acquisition will begin. The Service has the potential to acquire approximately 400 acres of lowland pasture which can be restored to tidal saltmarsh. This would be the largest such restoration in the Pacific Northwest. An environmental review process is also underway to expand Nestucca Bay NWR by acquiring up to 320 acres at Neskowin Marsh. This unique wetland contains a variety of freshwater wetland types such as bogs and fens, some of which are exceedingly rare on the Oregon coast. The Nature Conservancy has already purchased over half of the marsh and is holding the land for resale to the refuge.

Projects that have been accomplished in 1998 include completion of the beach access stairway at Coquille Point in Bandon, installation of additional interpretive panels at Coquille Point, reforestation of a sizable tract of upland and riparian planting and fencing of a stream on Nestucca Bay NWR, and deployment of regulatory buoys around Three Arch Rocks NWR for added protection of seabirds and marine mammals.



Sea Grant Tours the Visitor Center

Thirty-three Sea Grant agents from twelve states were treated to a tour of the HMSC Visitor Center on Wednesday, June 23 as a culminating event of Sea Grant Week. Oregon Sea Grant sponsored the five-day event, which was held at the Portland Marriott Hotel. Two hundred thirty-five Sea Grant agents from all 29 participant states attended the conference, including HMSC Sea Grant staffers Jay Rasmussen, Jon Luke and Christi Sheridan.

Speakers at the conference included Ron Baird, director of NOAA's National Sea Grant College Program, Penelope Dalton, assistant administrator for the NMFS; Michael Conner of the New England Aquarium in Boston; Frank Kudrna, chair of the National Sea Grant Review Panel; Margaret Lawless of FEMA; and Norine Noonon, of the EPA. Each speaker reinforced the idea of collaborative and cooperative programming.

For Jon Luke, manager of the HMSC Visitor Center, this conference was a great first opportunity to exchange ideas with Sea Grant agents from across the country, and he brought back a lot of ideas, which he hopes to consider for the Visitor Center in the future. His main objective is to become a model for providing outreach for researchers. He sees the Visitor Center as the perfect conduit for that service and he would like to work with researchers at an early stage in the grant writing process to incorporate outreach at the beginning of the project.

Jon also gained insights at the conference sessions, which focused on web technology to improve outreach, and programming to improve education standards. An opportunity to use traveling exhibits came from the New England Aquarium. Videos showing research projects being undertaken by various Sea Grant agencies could be shown in the Visitor Center, expanding the range of research projects highlighted in our displays.

Library News

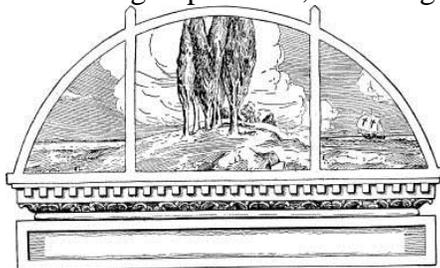
New Display in the Library.

Science is about asking questions. Five posters from the recent Yaquina View Elementary School's Science Fair are on display. Come and see how these budding scientists crafted their research projects. Exhibits range from behavioral science to physics to statistical probability.

Summer Binding

Once again, we are beginning the summer ritual of sending journals to the bindery. If by any chance unbound journals belonging to the Library have migrated to your desk, please return them ASAP. Remember that is a journal is not on the shelf because we have sent it off, just put in a request and we will get it from another library.

We will be putting out a list of missing journals in August. We are always a bit dismayed by the number of journals that have disappeared. It's expensive and sometimes impossible to replace single issues. So, when we post the list of missing items, please double check your offices. If you have personal copies you are willing to part with, we will gladly accept them.



Personnel Notes

Congratulations to **Tray Harley** (ODFW) and his new bride, Mary Alice Hammond! The two were married on May 27 and between them they share nine children and 13 grandchildren. Mary Alice is the State Training and Organizational Development Specialist for the Department of Administrative Services.

Speaking of grandchildren, **Bruce and Mary Lou Mate** have become grandparents for the first time, with the birth of Audrey Grace, the first child of their daughter Michelle and her husband Chuck McFarland. Audrey was born on March 21 and weighed in at 7 pounds. Congratulations!

Jim Ezzell and his wife are the proud parents of a baby girl, Barbara Mahalia, born on June 11 and weighing 8 pounds 9 ounces. Congratulations!

Tony Watson enjoyed his going-away party on June 30 and looks forward to using all the skills he has developed as our facilities manager in a new position in a new place. Thanks, Tony, for all your contributions over the years!