

October 1997

Weber Takes On Additional Responsibilities

Dr. Lavern Weber, Director of the Hatfield Marine Science Center, is also the Superintendent of the Coastal Oregon Marine Experiment Station and the Director of the Cooperative Institute for Marine Resources Studies. He has now been selected to serve as a part-time Associate Dean for the College of Agricultural Sciences, beginning November 1. In this capacity he will be working directly with Dean Thayne Dutson and Associate Deans L.J. Koong and Michael Burke.

Although his new job responsibilities have not yet been fully defined, he plans to be on the main campus on Mondays and Thursdays. Adjustments will be made in his other positions to accommodate these new duties, but exactly what they will be is still undetermined.

HMSC Represented at Cycle Oregon

HMSC cyclists Tonya Builder, Tom Rippetoe, and Ray Conser rode 550 miles (along with 2000 other hardy souls) in the annual Cycle Oregon event, September 7-13. Cycle Oregon is a non-profit foundation that promotes interchange between urban and rural Oregonians, funds community projects in rural towns, and generally celebrates Oregon's natural beauty. During the past year, for example, the Cycle Oregon Foundation purchased five acres of land adjacent to Smith Rock State Park that was slated for development. Each September for the past ten years, cyclists tour a different part of the state during the Cycle Oregon event.

This year the tour began at Nyssa in eastern Oregon on the banks of the Snake River. Cyclists rode westward across the middle of the state (in fact, passing through Post, Oregon - the geographic center of the state), crossed the Cascades via the McKenzie Pass, and reached the coast at Yachats seven days later. Lavern Weber and Jessica Waddell served on the committee that helped to prepare Yachats for the onslaught of 2000 hungry, tired cyclists.

Pete Lawson, along with the Yachats Big Band, provided entertainment.

The route was very challenging, the food was great, riders got to meet lots of friendly local people along the route, and "big name" entertainment was provided in the evenings. Riders experienced very hot days and cold nights in the high deserts of eastern Oregon, generally good weather in the Great Basin, freezing rain and 40 MPH winds while crossing the Cascades via the McKenzie Pass, and even more rain and fog crossing the Coastal Range to Yachats. And everywhere there were hills big hills some so steep that you felt you were trying to cycle up a wall!

Although the course was difficult and the weather a bit uncooperative, the sights were spectacular at times breathtaking and reminded everyone of how fortunate we are to live in such a diverse and beautiful state. Despite the sore muscles (and other parts) and a few colds afterwards, all HMSC cyclists agree that overall it was a great experience. They also say that their cushioned office chairs never felt so good.

More information on Cycle Oregon can be found at <http://www.oregonlive.com/cycleoregon/>

Tom Wainwright Joins Newport NMFS

The NMFS Salmon Risk Assessment group now consists of two individuals: Pete Lawson (see the August issue) and Tom Wainwright. Tom is a population ecologist from the Seattle office who is working on endangered species status reviews.

Tom earned his B.S. in Biology from Stanford University, his M.S. in Ecology from University of California at Davis, and his Ph.D. in Fisheries from the University of Washington with a dissertation on Dungeness crab dynamics. He enjoys the cooler coastal climate, as he learned during his stay in sunny Davis.

His wife, Heather Stout, is a botanist who has worked in freshwater wetlands ecology. The family lives in Newport and has two sons, Kenneth (8) and Stephen (3). They enjoy beachwaking, tour biking and bird watching.

New Branch Chief Highlights Changed EPA Research Emphasis

Walt Nelson, the new EPA branch chief, has crossed the country to take his new position. Walt has been at the HMSC before, working as a post-doc in 1981 and then again as a visiting researcher in 1995. A benthic ecologist interested in estuarine ecosystems, he is an ideal candidate to spearhead the new EPA research initiative on anthropogenic stressors on estuarine communities. He has two major goals to begin his time here: the first is to establish this new research direction and the second is to increase EPA's interaction with the rest of the HMSC. He had already met Dr. Weber at the recent meeting of the National Association of Marine Laboratories, where he represented the Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne.

Walt earned his B.S. from Duke University in Zoology and Chemistry and his Ph.D. there in Zoology and Oceanography, though he spent one year at the University of Washington. He has done research in Norway and Hawaii as well, and knows a smattering of Norwegian and Swedish.

His wife, Rebecca Cheek, worked as an industrial hygienist at the Kennedy Space Center and is looking around the community at other possible positions. They both enjoy hiking, especially

anyplace but Florida. One can end up hiking in waist-deep water on trails during certain times of the year, with lots of bugs and snakes as well. Gardening and art glass are two other of his interests, and he is looking forward to learning how to grow plants in a completely different environment.

McConnell Joins Willapa Alliance

Michelle McConnell, formerly of NMFS Fisheries Behavioral Ecology group, has been hired as Project Leader for "WillapaThe Nature of Home" (TNOH), a place-based, community education program focused on promoting sustainable economic development, increased citizen awareness of local ecology and the stewardship-based participation of all citizens in community. TNOH will utilize five primary vehicles: a Resource Guide, Teachers' Institutes, Student Institutes, Willapa Week and Field Learning Experiences. The Willapa Watershed and Bay is the cleanest and most productive large estuary system in the Lower 48 and still supports a diversity of historical industry such as oyster culture, logging, fishing, seafood processing, farming, livestock, cranberries and tourism.

The Willapa Alliance, based out of South Bend, Washington, is a private non-profit formed in 1993 and made up of a unique mix of Pacific County community members. The widely varying backgrounds of the Board of Directors include environmental, industry, local government, resource agencies, tribal folks, scientists and business people.

The mission of the Willapa Alliance is to enhance the productivity and health of Willapa's unique watershed by building community capacity to steward the ecosystem and to create sustainable economic opportunity for the people. We build capacity by collecting information and making it accessible, by educating children and adults, by demonstrating resource management techniques and tools, and by working in partnership with other community institutions."

Michelle most recently worked as program coordinator for Haystack Rock in Cannon Beach and before that she also worked at the Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area as an interpreter. To contact Michelle, her email address is : mlmsolo@willapabay.org.

Sogard Studies Winter Survival of Pollock

Dr. Sue Sogard of the NMFS Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Fish Behavioral Ecology group, has recently completed experiments on the capacity of juvenile pollock to endure winter conditions. She wanted to find out what factors might determine survival in a difficult winter. Would it be the cold? The absence of food? The condition the fish were in at the end of the summer?

Her experimental design had two different size fish, conditioned on different rations, subjected to two temperatures (0.5°C and 2.5°C) and given no food. The small fish were less than 130mm in length and the large fish were over 130 mm. One group of each received high rations and one low rations to get them to different end-of-summer conditioning. Then half of each group was kept at either 0.5°C or 2.5°C for 205 days with no food, simulating a Bering Sea winter.

The results revealed that there was a clear size effect, with the small fish dying first, but for large fish there was excellent survival. Temperature made a big impact on the survival rate. At the colder temperature, the fish survived one hundred days with no food before the first one died. The experiment was stopped at 205 days and still over 50% of the fish were alive and then recovered well. However, at the warmer temperature, the death rate was much higher. The effect of temperature was even more obvious in an additional experiment, where a group held at 12°C had mortalities starting on day 40, with half the fish dying by day 90. Sue believes that the higher temperature supports a higher metabolic rate and the animals use up their body's food reserves faster.

Seafloor Surveyor Joins VENTS

Susan Merle joined the NOAA Hydrothermal VENTS team on September 8, serving as the research assistant for Bob Embley. She replaces Paul Johnson who has moved on to another position in Hawaii.

A native of Wisconsin, Susan did a lot of traveling around the United States, from Florida to Alaska, before settling down in Seattle to earn her B.S. in Oceanography from the University of Washington. Her specialty is marine geology and geophysics. She worked for five years for a seafloor survey company doing sidescan sonar cartography for companies such as AT&T and Exxon.

Susan enjoys the solitude and slower pace of a small town. Her current recreational activities are hiking, beachwalking and exploring hot springs the kind above the seafloor!

Maureen Collson Moves to Business Office

Maureen Collson has been selected as the new Accounting Technician in the HMSC Business Office. She has worked at several jobs at the HMSC since she first started as a work study for Susan Mills in 1990. Later she became the housing coordinator for the Center, while still maintaining a partial FTE in the Coastal Oregon Marine Experiment Station (COMES) and another partial FTE working for Ken Hilderbrand of Extension Sea Grant. Over her time here she has added to her repertoire of skills and expanded into learning the FIS system for her housing duties. It was a logical step over to the Business Office. Louise Webb will be taking early retirement, once a replacement housing coordinator is found.

A native of Newport, Maureen is known far and wide for her sense of humor, her friendliness and her ability to keep many balls in the air at once. When asked what she will miss about her job, she mentions all the friends and personal contacts she has with the students, faculty, staff and visiting groups. What she won't miss are the emergency cleaning jobs when residents leave their apartments full of trash, dirty dishes and broken furniture, or having to say no when everything is full.

The search process for the housing coordinator is underway, although recruitment has not yet begun. Maureen is looking forward to helping break in the new housing person and keeping track of everyone in the halls and occasionally greeting them on the switchboard.

Redone volleyball court calls out for players

HMSC Volleyball Court Refurbished

The sunshine athletes at the HMSC are pleased with the new volleyball court renovation out in the housing area. Although the sand court had been there for a number of years, the sand had been dispersed and beaten down with roots and rocks sticking up. Under the leadership of John Lupton and Cliff Ryer, a work crew of enthusiasts were assembled to muck out the understrata. Through the generous support of Dr. Weber's office, new sand was brought in and spread and new lines pegged down.

Now, on sunny days, a group of lunchtime athletes can be seen working on their spikes, sets and digs. They are always looking for more team players, so grab some shorts and sun glasses and join the fun!

Library News

Library Computer Alert:

We've been changing the menus on the computers in the library to improve computer operation and to upgrade programs. Please let us know if you're having any problems finding or using the programs you need. We may not know there's a problem unless you tell us. Thanks.

Binding Problems:

The library has gotten back from the bindery about half of this year's binding (1996 journals in the first half of the call numbers). We expect to get the second half back (depending on our ability to pick it up from campus) within the next month.

We are still missing some issues for binding. Would people please make sure these are not lingering in some stack on their desks? If any of you have your own copy that you are willing to give to the library (thanks to those that have done this), we will gladly take them. Here's the list and happy hunting.

Missing Issues as of 9/26/97:

Applied & Environmental Microbiology
v.62 (1) Jan. 1996

Aquaculture

v.140 (4) Apr. 1996

Crustaceana

v. 69 (7) 1996

Freshwater & Marine Aquarium

v.19 (7,8) Jul. & Aug. 1996

Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta

v.60 (18,19,20) Sep.-Oct. 1996

Journal of Ichthyology

v.34 (8&9) 1994

La Pisciculture Francaise

no.113, 114 1994

Marine Ecology Progress Series

v.143 (1/3) 1996

North American Journal of Fisheries Management

v.15(1) May 1995

Northwestern Naturalist

v.71 (3) Winter 1991

Ophelia

v. 44 (1/3) 1996

Oregon Geology

v.57 (4) July 1995

Practical Fish Keeping

Jul. & Aug. 1996

Progressive Fish Culturist

v.58 (1) Jan. 1996

Transactions of the American Fisheries Society

v.24 (1) Jan. 1995

Tropical Fish Hobbyist

v.44 (7,8) Mar. & Apr. 1996

Personnel Notes

Congratulations to **Marcia House**! Marcia completed her Ph.D. work on dissemination of neoplasia in soft-shelled clams under Dr. Paul Reno. Most of this past year she has actually been working in the NMFS Seattle lab of Dr. Jim Winton and will be returning there as a post-doc.