

# February 1998

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## **Dr. Gil Sylvia Selected as New COMES Superintendent**

On November 1, 1997, the original Superintendent of the Coastal Oregon Marine Experiment Station, Dr. Lavern Weber, was appointed half-time Associate Dean for the College of Agricultural Sciences. With that assignment funds were made available to assist with some of his duties here at the Hatfield Marine Science Center. Sea Grant has picked up responsibility for the Public Wing and a new Superintendent for the Coastal Oregon Marine Experiment Station (COMES) was appointed January 1, 1998. Dr. Weber is pleased to announce that Dr. Gil Sylvia has been chosen as the new Superintendent. Gil has held a variety of employment and service positions with the public, private and academic sectors. He was an Aquaculture Extension Agent in the Philippines, where he was responsible for helping fish farmers develop financial and business plans to qualify for aquacultural loans and worked closely with the Regional Development bank in overseeing loan disbursements and in analyzing loan success. Dr. Sylvia has been at Oregon State University for eight years as part of the Ag and Resource Economics Department, stationed at COMES, during which he has been the PI or co-PI on 26 grants totally \$2.8 million in the field of seafood economics. He is currently acting coordinator of the Marine Resource Management Program in the College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences while Jim Good is on sabbatical for a year. Gil was elected as a Board Member of the Oregon Coast Community College in 1995 and was Chairman in 1996-97.

His wife, Cathy Donellen, is a CPA and they have one daughter, Nicole (8).

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## **Hot Soup for Food Drive**

February is OSU's Food Drive and the HMSC will again be participating. There will be a box in the mailroom to collect canned and dry food for Lincoln County Food Share. Money donations can be turned in at the Switchboard.

As a special incentive, homemade hot soup and bread will be served in the mailroom for a \$1 minimum donation on Tuesdays during the month of February. It would be appreciated if those interested would bring their own bowl or cup and spoon.

Other groups or individuals are encouraged to come up with other creative ways to increase our donations to feed the hungry in Lincoln County, many of whom are children. Perhaps someone would prepare a dessert to go with the rest of the meal?

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## **Kate Stafford Wins Acoustical Society Award**

At the recent Acoustical Society of America meeting, doctoral student and NOAA VENTS research assistant Kate Stafford received the Best Student Paper Award. It was given for her paper on the detections of whale calls in the eastern tropical Pacific. Using hydrophones to track their migrations and determine the distribution of different populations. Using NOAA's portable hydrophones developed by Haru Matsumoto (affectionately called "Haru-phones"), Kate collected data on whale calls in the Eastern Tropical Pacific (ETP). This is a unique database with no blue whales previously recorded in that area.

The population that she studied migrates from Vancouver Island down to the equator. This Eastern Pacific population has a different acoustical signature than the Western Pacific population that seems to migrate from Kamchatka Peninsula area toward the east, rather than to the south. There is not enough data yet, however, to clarify their migration pattern. The Western Pacific blues also tend to be larger than the Eastern Pacific stock.

The Haru-phones were able to collect data in a much "quieter" zone than the regular SOSUS arrays along the west coast of the U.S. quieter in the sense of less shipping and man-made noise. It is noisier, though, in terms of biological noise and Kate believes that some of that very low-frequency noise picked up by the hydrophones might well be another group of blue or perhaps fin whales. The National Marine Mammal Lab in Seattle is building a library of taped whale calls so that researchers could compare what they "hear" with known populations. As part of her future plans, Kate hopes to go to the Maldives in the Indian Ocean to record blue whales in that area. She is looking forward to her first real field work in several years. She will be hitching a ride with the Southwest National Marine Fisheries Service Lab team who is going to study blue whales in that area. The Indian Ocean has been a marine sanctuary for a number of years. Kate's doctoral work is under two co-major professors, Bruce Mate and Chris Fox.

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## **What About Those \*@#! Canada Geese?**

The diminished flock of Canada geese who have suddenly begun calling the HMSC home have generated a lot of discussion. An interview with U.S. Fish and Wildlife staff Eric Nelson, Roy Lowe and Dave Pitkin brought out some very interesting information about our guests. This subspecies of Canada goose, called the western Canada goose, is not naturally found on the Oregon coast. They were introduced to this area from the Great Basin by ODFW to provide hunting opportunities; unfortunately, these geese are non-migratory, so once they were introduced to this area they stayed for good. Ironically, goose hunting is not allowed on the Oregon coast because the Canada geese which naturally winter here are declining in number and are federally protected. As a result, the numbers of introduced Western Canada geese have skyrocketed. A special 10-day hunting period in early September was instituted to help control the population, but the hunters can't begin to keep up with the production rate.

Our Center flock was most likely two parents and five offspring which nested somewhere in the nearby area. All but three have fallen prey to predators. By the way, the group to call about pesky geese is the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal Damage Control (503) 231-6184.

On another note, Dave Pitkin is on his third year of studying the migratory Brant geese which winter on three of our coastal estuaries. In 1993 Dave noticed a large drop in the wintering brant population and in his spare time began collecting data about their winter period ecology, which was largely unknown. By reading colored leg bands on the birds wintering at Netarts, Tillamook and Yaquina bays, he found that Brant show very strong site fidelity, and that the same Brant return to the same estuaries year after year. He also found that the birds stick to their own estuaries almost exclusively even at Tillamook Bay and Netarts Bay, which are only about 5 miles apart as the Brant flies. Brant are hunted in Oregon, and are managed as though they are migratory throughout the winter, with the assumption that the Brant harvested in Oregon are drawn randomly from the overall population of Pacific Flyway brant. Dave's study has shown that hunting practices in Oregon are selecting against unique breeding segments which winter only in Oregon and, if these Brant are extirpated from Oregon, they will not likely be replaced any time soon. Oregon's Brant breed in the northernmost areas of the Canadian and Alaskan arctic.

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### **Winter Whale Watch Week Sets Visitor Record**

This winter's "Whale Watching Spoken Here" Whale Watch Week data is "mostly" in and we have broken another record! The total number of visitor contacts accounted for so far at all 29 locations totalled at least 18,446 visitors. This is 817 people above the 17,629 visitor record during the 94/95 winter. This record comes directly after an all-time record number of 32,071 visitors during the Spring of 1997!

This winter a total of 1,872 whales were noted with the bulk of the data summarized. This compares favorably with the 3,152 whales spotted during the winter record watch week of 94/95. The largest number of whales ever seen during a watch week was 5,030 counted during Spring 1990. Last Spring's Watch Week (1997) yielded 2,701 whale sightings. Numbers of whales reported here are not necessarily reflective of population. The gray whale population is now believed to be over 22,000. They were taken off the U.S. Endangered Species List in 1994. Various factors such as number of observers, weather and migration timing all influence the number of whales counted during watch weeks.

The spring watch week will be Saturday, March 21 through Saturday, March 28, 1998. Watch hours are 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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### **Carl Demetropoulos Gets Jones Award**

The 1997 recipient of the Walter G. Jones Memorial Scholarship is Carl Demetropoulos. Carl is currently working on his Ph.D. in Fisheries in the area of shellfish aquaculture. The Jones Award is designed to encourage research that leads to fisheries development.

The focus of his research is on optimizing nutrient requirements for the algae *Palmaria mollis* which in turn feeds the abalone raised in a pump-ashore mariculture system. Because pumping costs currently represent up to 30% of operational costs for abalone farms, reducing water exchanges and developing semi-closed recirculating systems for the abalone industry is an important part of his work. By decreasing water exchange, temperatures will rise in the summer months and fall in the winter months because temperatures are not "buffered" by the flow-through of pumped sea water from the ocean.

Recirculation of seawater within such a semi-closed system will probably tend to deplete nutrients and inorganic carbon faster than they will be resupplied from abalone waste products or recharging of culture water for temperature maintenance. Thus an understanding of the relationship between temperature and nutrients on the growth of dulse (*Palmaria mollis*) and the development of a culture system which optimizes water quality parameters for dulse and abalone is the next step toward a viable land-based algae/abalone co-culture system for Oregon, Washington and California.

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### Personnel Notes

Congratulations to **Daniel Palacios**, who received the World Marine Mammal Science Conference award for Best Poster Presentation (out of 480 competitors)! Congratulations also to **Kelly Rossbach Adams** who received Most Outstanding Presentation by a Master's Student at the same conference in Monaco!

**Anja Robinson** wishes to lay to rest the rumor that she will be retiring and disappearing from the Center. She states that she will be working half-time--instead of 16 hours a day, she will cut back to 8. This is merely a paper retirement, she explains. Her beloved oysters will continue to receive her careful attention.

ODFW is really hurting now, as both **Bonnie Bahn** and **Jackie Thornton** have left to take other state positions. Bonnie is with the Department of Transportation out of Salem and Jackie in Coos Bay. The front office is currently staffed by **Carrie White**, serving on a temporary basis.

**Dog Alert:** Last week one of our custodians was bitten by a dog running free at the Center, requiring a trip to the Emergency Room. The dog and its canine partner have been permanently banished from the Center. Please, dog owners, keep control of your dogs so that no one else gets hurt. Remember that just because your dog is friendly and gentle with you doesn't mean it might not take out after someone else.

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### Library News

*Aquatic Science and Fisheries Abstracts:*

Just to keep you on your toes, we have changed vendors for ASFA as of January 1. The Library is now using Cambridge Scientific via the web. There are two simple ways to access this valuable index. You can bookmark this address: <http://osu.orst.edu/dept/library/csaccess.htm> or you can go to the Guin Library's homepage and click on the Aquatic Science and Fisheries Abstracts Link. Access is limited to those searching from a computer with an OSU IP number. People in the NMFS Groundfish program can access ASFA from their offices via the Northwest Fisheries Science Center web page.

There are quick search guides available in the library. The searching capabilities are not as sophisticated as in the former vendor, Silver Platter; but, the current access allows you to search multiple databases simultaneously. Cambridge Scientific has always been very responsive to requests for changes, so let Janet know when you spot mistakes in the database as well as mysterious searching problems.

### *BIOSIS Access*

We now have web access to BIOSIS (Biological Abstracts(BA) and BA/RRM Reviews, Reports and Meetings) via the Ovid web site. For now, coverage is only from 1997-present. Past years, 1991-1997, are available via the CD Network. Before that, you have to hit the books.

To connect to BIOSIS, go to <http://osu.orst.edu/dept/library/dbtitle.htm> and click on B for BIOSIS. Then, click on BIOSIS. This will connect you to the Ovid site. When you first connect to the ovid web site it has blank boxes for ID and password. Just leave these blank and click on the Start Ovid button. At the moment our access is restricted by ip address so the id and password are not needed. We hope to add id and password access for remote users.

### *ISI Web of Science Citation Indexes*

The OSU Libraries, as part of the Orbis Library Consortium, are testing and evaluating the ISI Web of Science interface. This is a web version of the ISI citation indexes: Science Citation Index, Social Science Citation Index, and Arts & Humanities Citation Index. The database trial will be available from Tuesday, January 20, 1998 to Sunday, February 15, 1998. We will have access to the entire database, from 1980 to the present.

The Web of Science has many enhancements over the CD-ROM version of the citation indexes. For example:

- \* Ability to search for secondary authors in citation searches (for articles published after 1980)
- \* Ability to search multiple years with a single search
- \* Ability to search different indexes (e.g., Science & Social Science) with a single search
- \* Being able to go backward and forward through the database, going between citations and original articles

To access the Web of Science, go to <http://www.isihost.com>

username = orbis

password = orbis (both are in lowercase letters). This access will only work on computers on the OSU campus, or computers from outside that use the OSU modem pool. A tutorial for the database is available at <http://www.isinet.com/training/jobajds/citrefpr/prim1.html>

Let me know how you like it. All ISI products are expensive. Purchasing the access via the Orbis consortium may be a viable option to multiple CDs.

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### Cutter's Corner

Wow... January is gone already. The Superbowl, Christmas, New Year's Day, etc. etc.... all gone for another year. And before you can blink, taxes are now upon us. That is unless of course you are one of the unfortunates who leaves it until April. Me, I start them, realize I screwed up somewhere and owe... put them aside for a few more weeks in the hopes that somehow the numbers will be slightly different when I look at it again. Heck, it works for Congress....

Microsoft is releasing a new version of Office for the Mac called (you guessed it) Office '98. Said to be superior to the Win counterpart, I am at least excited about a program which reportedly "fixes itself." More time to spend trying to get my money-hole-in-the-water boat down from Astoria. Soon... I tell myself, as I putter around trying to fix the motor; even though I have ABSOLUTELY no idea what I am doing. But for some reason it makes me feel good to look through my tool case, pull out a random tool and twist something metal this way or that. (I recently got to practice on my car as well, which is why I only have one wiper now.)

But back to computers... We also have started upgrading people en mass to System 8.1 which is available on our server. It speeds up those Macs pretty well, but those with PC should avoid even looking at it. The last word has it that Windows 98 is not coming in '98 and Windows 95 still feels like it was an early attempt that was released by mistake. However, since it only costs \$1400 for a fantastic PC and monitor... you can always just throw it away when it stops working. (Gates PAID me to say this, by the .way.)

### A peek at Dann's domain

But on to things every good person should know about his/her network... there are rumors floating about that construction of Steve's and my new office space in the old library is about to start. Yes, I may lose a bay view, but once upstairs we can implement the new dial-in server to allow staff remote access from home or on trips. And since I have just heard about the problems campus is having keeping theirs funded (the modem pool on campus may disappear soon), this may become more of a necessity for some of you. So I may lose a view but... wait a second, maybe this isn't such a good deal after all. Oh well, at least I'll have an office that I can put more stuff in. I'll let you in on a secret among computer people: fill you available space with every trinket imaginable so it looks like you are buried in stuff. Then when people ask for 'stuff' (There is a George Carlin quote here just screaming to come out.), magically pull it out of the pile. They will assume that you are incredible and leave amazed. That or they leave so fast because they are afraid of somehow getting added to the pile. We're not sure on that on yet... Well, February is going be short... and our server should start to see some heavier use. We are making it easy for people to start publishing their own

web pages. I hope some of you stop by and ask for help getting started, but for now I am going now to find some more computer stuff to add to my pile.