The HMSC Newsletter

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

September 2002 *Pamela Rogers, Editor*

NMFS Readies for Move-In to Barry Fisher Building

Bruce McCain reports that the interior work on the Fisher Building has been completed, that the phone system will be installed the second week in September, and they are hoping to move into the new building the third week of September. The beautiful landscaping has been completed, though some of the pine trees are suffering from the ravages of the coastal wind. White Landscaping was the contractor. The old seawater discharge trough now takes on the scenic qualities of a coastal stream.

Inside patio before landscaping

Growth of CIMRS Leads to Staffing Changes

The Cooperative Institute for Marine Resources Studies (CIMRS) was created in 1982 to foster collaborative research among NOAA, NMFS and OSU in aquaculture, fisheries, oceanography and other marine-related fields. CIMRS has been located at the HMSC since it became active in 1983. Dr. William Pearcy was the first Director. Dr. William McNeil became director in 1985 and had his office at the Center, where it has remained. In 1983 the NMFS Alaska Fisheries Behavioral Ecology group was established at the Center under Bori Olla, and in 1984 the NOAA Hydrothermal Vents group moved here under Stephen Hammond.

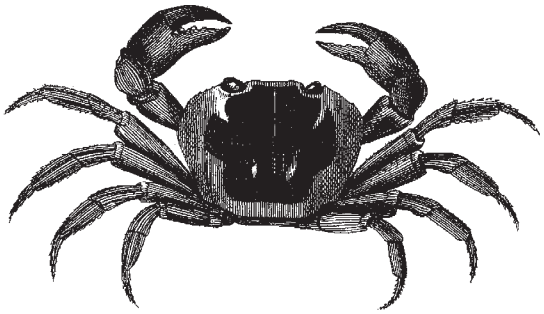
In 1991 Dr. Lavern Weber was given the responsibility as CIMRS Director in addition to his responsibilities as Director of the HMSC and Superintendent of the Coastal Oregon Marine Experiment Station. Under his tenure the NMFS Northwest Fisheries Science Center began sending researchers to the Center and this has become the largest federal component of CIMRS. Dr. Clare Reimers was appointed as CIMRS Director in January 2000.

Through most of these changes Jessica Waddell has been the administrative support person for CIMRS and also served as the NOAA Vents support person. With the great increase in CIMRS personnel, there is too much for one person to do and Jessica has now relinquished her Vents duties and her RSF office to a NOAA division secretary, Jessica Black, in mid-May. Jessica has moved to a new office in the main building, Room 107B, right down the hall from the CIMRS Director.

Jessica Black takes over in VENTS office

Jessica Black served with the Coast Guard for the last eight years, mostly in California, but her last duty station was in New York. She is a native of New York, growing up around boats in Long Island. She has simply moved from one coast to the other. In the Coast Guard she was not on the water very much, but loved living by the ocean. She is currently taking online classes from the Oregon Coast Community College toward her degree and raising her son, Jonathan. She is learning a lot about science in her new position and her years of Coast Guard service have given her experience in dealing with governmental procedures. For fun she enjoys fishing, surfing, swimming, and crabbing.

Jessica Waddell sits in her new office--with window!



Jeb Wofford Studies Spatial Distribution Using Genetic Tags

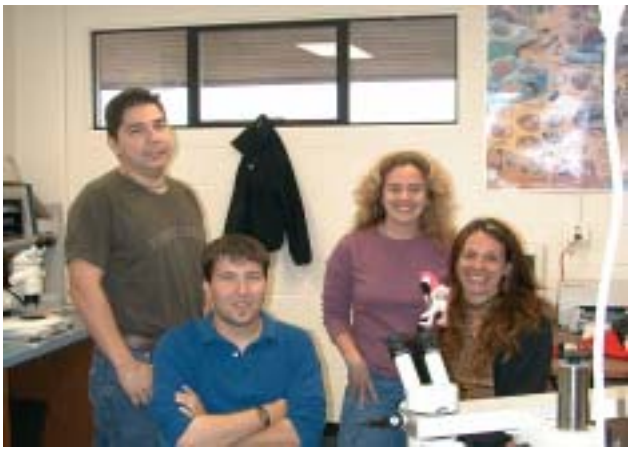
Jeb Wofford is one of Michael Banks' new graduate students. A South Carolina native, Jeb earned his B.S. in biology at Washington and Lee University in Virginia. He is pursuing his master's degree in fisheries with a project using microsatellites to study dispersal of coastal cutthroat trout in Camp Creek on the Lower Umpqua. This 4000-meter long headwater stream is isolated by waterfalls at its far end, making it a good research site. Jeb recently netted1200 trout in this stream and took a tiny fin clip from each. These fin clips are used to age the fish and to allow DNA analysis. The microsatellites are genetic (molecular) markers that identify related individuals. This enables him to study very young and small fish (26-260 mm long) that cannot be marked with external tags.

He will then correlate the clustering of related individuals with their location in the stream habitat such as stream gradient, substrate and geomorphological features. It will give him a snapshot of the stream and how widely the related juveniles spread out.

Although originally from the south, Jeb has worked and traveled in Montana, Idaho and Alaska, as well as in Corvallis. He enjoys soccer, kayaking, bow hunting and fly fishing, and considers himself a novice banjo player.

PSMFC Ageing Unit Up to Six

The Pacific States Marine Fisheries Council Otolith Ageing Unit currently housed in NAL is now up to six individuals, from the original three. Susan Coccetti, Betty Kamikawa, Lisa Lysak, Patrick McDonald, Jennifer Menkel, and Omar Rodriguez are hunched over microscopes for the major part of every day, counting the marks on fish ear bones that reveal the age of the fish. Patrick is the senior member of the team and Jennifer is returning to this area, but the other four are newcomers.



Omar Rodriguez, Patrick McDonald, Jennifer Menkel, and Susan Coccetti with microscopes

Susan Coccetti has left the wilds of south Florida to come to the chilly Oregon coast. In Florida she was a swimming pool contractor and professional sport photographer. She has been in Oregon about two and a half years. As a certified SCUBA diver, she finds diving conditions here are very different from those in Florida.

Lisa Lysak is also most recently from Florida, but she is a native of New Jersey. She graduated from Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida, and worked at the Florida Fish and Wildlife's Marine Research Institute in their histology lab. She worked on the Harmful Algal Bloom database before leaving the warm south for the chilly northwest. She is having to adjust to a small town as well as to different weather. She enjoys hiking, backpacking, beachcombing and skiing.

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Betty Kamikawa is not new to the Center. She had been working at Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife as a Groundfish data technician until she moved over to the Ageing Unit in June. This brings her closer to her NMFS husband, Dan Kamikawa. She was trained as an agronomist at the University of Illinois and supervised the soil testing lab there before moving to Oregon. They have a little girl, Hanna, and they are the leaders in the current drive to establish a new day care facility in Newport. Betty would be more than happy to talk to anyone interested in working with their project team, especially parents or expectant parents (7-0441).

Lisa Lysak and Betty Kamikawa complete the group

Omar Rodriguez has come from even farther away. A native of Peru, Omar earned his bachelor's degree in marine biology from the National University of Costa Rica. He has been in the States for a number of years and was a domestic fisheries observer in Washington before coming south. He loves to play soccer and has a wife, Toni, and two children, a boy 4 years old and a girl one year old.

NMFS AFSC Installs New, Improved Seawater Chillers

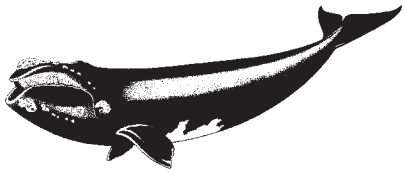
Work has been underway this spring and summer to replace the old, rusting seawater chillers with new ones and to upgrade to processed chilling. The Fish Behavior group works with Alaskan fish and needs to simulate Alaskan and deep sea conditions. With these new chillers they are able to produce seawater down to 1°C at 250 gallons per minute. In refrigeration terms, the two chillers total 210 hp and 180 "tons." One "ton" is the amount of chilling to produce one ton of ice in 24 hours, so this new system could produce 180 tons of ice in 24 hours. The old chillers were linked directly to exchangers, but the new system is centralized with a reservoir of glycol that is transported through pipes to remote exchangers. This enables the loud chillers to be located in an out-of-the way place and frees up space in the courtyard.

New chilling machine and storage tank

The white tank in the background is a storage tank for the propylene glycol that serves as the coolant. It is replacing the ethylene glycol that was used in the past. Both ethylene glycol and propylene glycol are clear, colorless, slightly syrupy liquids at room temperature. Either compound may exist in air in the vapor form, although propylene glycol must be heated or briskly shaken to produce a vapor. Ethylene glycol is odorless but has a sweet taste. Propylene glycol is practically odorless and tasteless.

Old chiller shows signs of rust and age

Both compounds are used to make antifreeze and de-icing solutions for cars, airplanes, and boats; to make polyester compounds; and as solvents in the paint and plastics industries. Ethylene glycol is also an ingredient in photographic developing solutions, hydraulic brake fluids and in inks used in stamp pads, ballpoint pens, and print shops. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has classified propylene glycol as an additive that is "generally recognized as safe" for use in food. It is used to absorb extra water and maintain moisture in certain medicines, cosmetics, or food products. It is a solvent for food colors and flavors. Propylene glycol is also used to create artificial smoke or fog used in fire-fighting training and in theatrical productions.

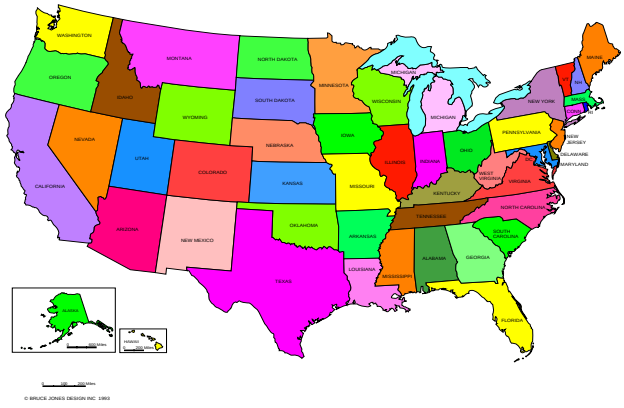


New Staffers Join Marine Mammal Group

Two new support people have joined Bruce Mate and the marine mammal program, Lisa Bridges and Daniel Lewer. Lisa is the new office specialist, replacing Karen Willard who is going back to graduate school to become an archaeologist. Lisa hails from Nashville, Tennessee, and has been here seven weeks, although she and her husband have spent three summer vacations in Newport. Her husband, Joe, is from Washington and is delighted to be back on the Pacific coast. His business, CYA Outdoors, makes hunting clothing out of Polartec. Lisa is a writer of dramatic adventures and is looking forward to learning lots about marine science and the coast. She and her husband enjoy hiking, camping, boating, fishing and crabbing, and her husband is a hunter. They have one son, Brian, who is a senior in high school.

Daniel Lewer and Lisa Bridges

The second new staffer is Daniel Lewer, who comes to the West Coast from St. Paul, Minnesota. He is a research assistant working on tag building and anything mechanical. A graduate of Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota, he earned his B.S. in biology. His career goal is to become a veterinarian working with marine mammals. His first day at work was the start of a three-week field season off of Galveston, Texas—his first time on a boat. For fun Dan enjoys mountain biking, snow skiing and photography.



Robin Gintner Tackles Computer Support

In January Robin Gintner joined Jim Miller at National Marine Fisheries Service, Northwest Fisheries Science Center, as part of the computer support team. Robin takes care of desktop and software support and Jim handles the network administration. Having been a self-employed accountant for twelve years, Robin finds this job to be much less stressful, especially around tax time. She had taught herself computer skills for her business and now uses them to support the NMFS PC users.

Robin is a long-time Newport resident and previously worked for the NOAA Hydrothermal Vents group as a college student back in the 1980s. She earned her bachelor's degree at University of Oregon in accounting. Married to a local attorney, Robin has one son, Zachary (8), and enjoys beadwork, reading, and writing children's stories.

Personnel Notes

Scott Hecht successfully defended his Ph.D. thesis on August 9. His dissertation topic was "the accumulation and effects of 4-nonylphenol in chinook salmon fry and their estuarine amphipod prey." He has been spending most of his time in the EPA building during his time at the Center.

Welcome to Derin Onal!

Congratulations to **Umur and Ebru Onal** on the birth of their first child, a son, Derin, on August 4! Derin was a healthy 8 pounds 9 ounces and nearly 21 inches long. His maternal grandparents came all the way from Turkey to welcome him and help out the new parents.

What's New @ Your Library

"Webliographies" of interest.

These annotated lists of internet resources are from the online journal, "Issues in Science & Technology Librarianship".

(Summer, 2002) Mathematics Resources: http://www.istl.org/02-summer/internet.html

(Spring, 2002): Astronomy Resources: http://www.istl.org/02-spring/internet2.html

(Fall, 2001): Global Warming: http://www.istl.org/01-fall/internet.html

(Summer, 2001) Science Images: http://www.istl.org/istl/01-summer/internet.html

(Winter, 2001): Free searchable scientific databases: http://www.istl.org/istl/01-winter/internet.html

(Summer, 1998): Patents and patent searching: http://www.library.ucsb.edu/istl/98-summer/article5.html