

Retracing Lewis and Clark



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Bruce "Buck" Nelson from Fairbanks, Alaska, poses for a portrait in his kayak Tuesday at the East End Mooring Basin in Astoria. Nelson was on the last leg of his journey hiking and kayaking the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

Ocean in view for adventurer

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

With a jaunt down the Fort to Sea Trail from Fort Clatsop to Sunset Beach this morning, Bruce "Buck" Nelson finished retracing the steps of Lewis and Clark.

His arrival at the Pacific Ocean marked the end of a journey more than 3,300 miles and nearly six months long. The adventurer made his way down the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail by foot and kayak from the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers in St. Louis to the mouth of the Columbia River.

"I kind of had it in the back of my mind to do the Lewis and Clark Trail some day, so I started researching how difficult it would be to paddle up the Missouri, and I found ... some people who had done it," he said. "I figured if they did it, I could work hard and do it as well — an interesting, great, outdoor, epic adventure, which is what I enjoy."

The journey

Nelson started walking March 24 from Camp Dubois on the Illinois side of the Missouri River near St. Louis. The Corps of Discovery started its journey nearby on May 21, 1804. Nelson passed through Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota, North Dakota and into Montana on his way up the Missouri River, walking the initial 800 miles to avoid dangerous currents caused by wing dams, then kayaking the next 1,500 miles.

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Bruce Nelson/Submitted Photo

Bruce "Buck" Nelson reached the Continental Divide at Lemhi Pass on the Montana-Idaho border Aug. 6 while retracing the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail on foot and in a kayak.

'Son of a Blob' springs to life in Pacific

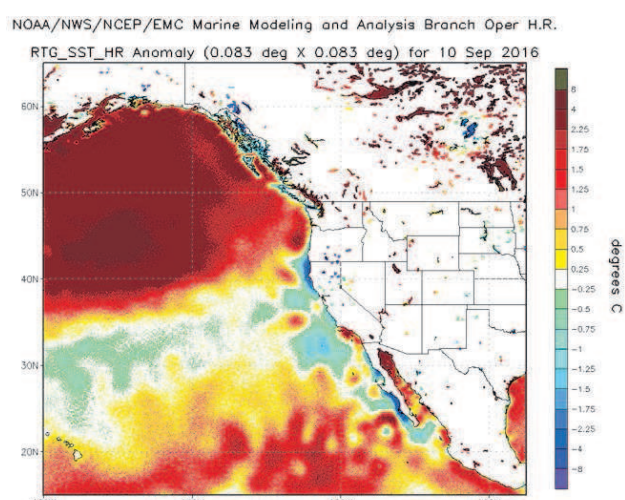
Patch of warm ocean water makes its return

By MATT WINTERS
EO Media Group

LONG BEACH, Wash. — The Blob, a news-making patch of unusually warm ocean surface water from late-2013 through autumn 2015, was reborn this month.

The ocean warmed quickly. As recently as July, "The northeast Pacific off our coast was slightly above normal, but nothing exceptional," University of Washington meteorologist Cliff Mass noted Sunday in his popular blog.

By Saturday, some limited areas well off the coast were 5.4 to 7.2 degrees above normal, Mass said, while satellite monitoring shows an



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Satellite monitoring on Saturday found a huge area of warmer than normal surface temperatures in the northeast Pacific Ocean.

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Vacation rental rules in the works

Warrenton likely to adapt Seaside's regulations

By ERICK BENGEL
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — With the Airbnb trend hitting the North Coast, Warrenton is turning to Seaside's vacation rental regulations as a model for establishing rules of its own.

Last month, the City Commission directed Skip Urling, the community development director, to produce some ideas prescribing how and where short-term vacation rentals should be run in Warrenton. Queries about such rentals have gone up, but the development code lacks standards for operating them.

Urling has said he suspects that an unknown number of property owners in town already rent out homes on a short-term basis.

Seaside treats vacation rentals as conditional uses that need approval from city administration unless the rentals are located in an area where 20 percent or more of the structures within 100 feet are also vacation rentals.

Possible policies

Urling said Seaside's vacation rental requirements could be "fairly easily incorporated" into the Warrenton code.

Property owners would need to obtain a business license and pay the hotel-room tax. Rules regarding sanitation, smoke alarms, mechanical and electrical features, and other site safety issues would apply.

A rental property owner would need to provide enough off-street parking to accommodate guests; on-street parking will be prohibited.

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Neal Maine/Submitted Photo

A new federal roadmap addresses the impact of ocean noise on whales and dolphins.

Feds combat ocean noise on marine mammals

Whales, dolphins use sound to navigate

Associated Press

The federal government says a new strategy to address the issue of noise in the ocean will better protect the safety of marine mammals.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration released its Ocean Noise Strategy Roadmap on Tuesday. The agency says the roadmap will guide it in managing ocean noise and its effects on ocean life through the next 10 years.

The roadmap lays out roles for federal government agencies, researchers, industries and environmental advocates to play in managing noise in the ocean. NOAA crafted the plan using more than 85,000 public comment responses.

Sound plays a key role in the survival of marine animals and can be caused either by human actions or the ocean's natural ecosystem. Whales and dolphins, for example, use sound to navigate and find food.

"NOAA has the scientific and technical expertise to assess what's happening with ocean noise, help identify gaps in knowledge, and use various tools to alleviate or mitigate its effects," Richard Merrick, NOAA Fisheries' chief scientist, said in a statement. "Our approach looks for creative and wide-ranging solutions to ensure the agency is effectively understanding and addressing how ocean noise affects the resources placed in our trust in the coming decade."

