

Hatfield Marine Science Center celebrates 50 years today

NEWPORT — The Hatfield Marine Science Center will hold its annual Marine Science Day today, April 11, commemorating the 50th anniversary of this unique Oregon State University facility.

Dedicated in 1965, the center has become an integral part of coastal development, education, research, tourism and economics.

Marine Science Day runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the center, located southeast of the Highway 101 Bridge over Yaquina Bay in Newport.

“Marine Science Day is how we give back to the coastal, statewide and international communities we serve, but it is also a way to honor the past and

celebrate the future in this, our 50th year,” said Bob Cowen, director of the center. “We will have many of our former faculty, staff and students at HMSC for a reunion that weekend, which will be very meaningful.

“We will get to see the shoulders we are standing on and harness 50 years of momentum as we look to the future,” he added.

Marine Science Day, which is free and open to the public, will also feature special exhibits about OSU’s new Marine Studies Initiative, which calls for OSU to host 500 students-in-residence at the Oregon coast by the year 2025 for a new, highly experiential undergraduate and graduate

program in marine studies. Oregon State is raising funds for a new teaching and research facility on the Hatfield Marine Science Center campus.

Among the events during Marine Science Day are:

- Interactive displays by researchers from Oregon State and its federal and state government agency partners
- Demonstrations from the OSU acoustics research group, where you will be able to “see” your voice on a spectrogram
- An opportunity to become a citizen scientist and learn how to monitor sea star wasting disease with researchers from PISCO — the Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans

• Tidal touch pools with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife’s shellfish program

• Tours of the OSU animal husbandry program and the Oregon Coast Community College aquarium science program.

Several research groups at HMSC will offer unprecedented access to their studies, facilities and instruments during the event.

In addition to a see-your-voice exhibit, the acoustics group will have a display with a large hydrophone and subwoofers so participants can hear actual sounds from the ocean.

The Earth-Ocean interactions program will show video

of undersea volcanoes and hydrothermal vents.

The Plankton Portal program will show beautiful, fascinating images of plankton as part of a major international initiative to learn more about these small marine creatures.

OSU’s Marine Mammal Institute will help participants identify whales through binoculars, and the Molluscan Broodstock program will show its oyster and seaweed research projects.

Marine Science Day events:
 • 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. — Open house and tours of the Hatfield Marine Science Center, hosted by Oregon Sea Grant and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 • 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. —

“Pumped up for Pinnipeds,” an presentation in the Visitor’s Center Auditorium by the Oregon Coast Aquarium for children and others interested in seals and sea lions

• 1 p.m. — A feeding of the octopus in the HMSC Visitors Center

• 3 to 4 p.m. — “Buy a Fish, Save a Tree,” a presentation in the Visitor’s Center Auditorium by Tim Miller-Morgan of OSU on fish health management and sustainable ornamental fisheries.

More information on Marine Science Day can be found at www.hmsc.oregonstate.edu/marinescienceday.

Follow these tips to keep you safe, afloat this boating season

Spring is here, and summer will be here before we know it and in the coming weeks more people will be pulling out their boats from winter storage in preparation for launch in the waters of this state.

Here are suggestions which can contribute to your safety and add to your boating pleasure:

• Know the legal requirements for your size vessel. Safety equipment must be accessible and in working condition.

• Wear your life jackets.

Eighty-five percent of the boating fatalities could be avoided by wearing a personal flotation device. Remember: It can’t save your life if you don’t wear it.

• Have children and non-swimmers wear a personal flotation device. Each device should be of suitable size for the intended wearer and fit securely.

Ninety percent of those who die in boating accidents drown.

• Be prepared and carry extra equipment such as a bailer (bucket), anchor, first-aid kit,

visual distress signal, tool kit, flashlight with extra batteries, and a cell phone.

• Don’t over load your boat. Follow the recommendations on the capacity plate of your boat.

• Capsizing, sinking and falling overboard account for 70 percent of boating fatalities.

• If your boat should capsize, your best chance for survival and rescue is to stay with the boat. Pull as much of your body out of the water as possible to preserve body warmth.

• Hypothermia can be a

killer; keep your body dry and warm as possible.

• It is illegal to operate any boat while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. Use the designated driver concept; a sober skipper is a must.

• Stressors such as exposure to sun, wind, cold water, vibration, noise and alcohol all affect your ability to react.

• Don’t run out of fuel. Practice the 1/3 rule: 1/3 for trip, 1/3 for return and 1/3 for spare.

• Fuel vapors are heavier than air and collect in the bilge.

Never fill gasoline cans in the boat.

• When anchoring, use a line that is several times longer than the depth of the water and never anchor by the stern.

• File a float plan. Let someone know where you’re boating and when you’ll be back.

• You’re responsible for damage or injury caused by your wake. Exercise caution around other boaters and docks.

• As of January 2009, all persons operating a motor boat greater than 10 horsepower are required to carry a Boater

Education Card.

The card shows that the operator has passed an approved boater education course or equivalency exam.

For more information on Boating in Oregon, people are encouraged to pick up the Oregon Boaters Handbook available at your county sheriff’s office, or online at the Oregon State Marine Board website at www.boatoregon.com

— Lincoln County Sheriffs

the spotlight

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