

Ocean 'heat wave' affected salmon, other species

Northwest Fisheries
Science Center

Ocean conditions are returning to average after a two-year marine heat wave that disrupted the West Coast's ecosystem, shifting many species beyond their traditional ranges, according to scientists.

Unusually warm ocean temperatures, referred to as "the Blob," encompassed much of the West Coast beginning in 2014, then combined with an especially strong El Nino pattern in 2015.

The warm conditions have waned, although some after-effects remain, particularly for Columbia River salmon.

Scientists at two marine laboratories working with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration pre-

sented these findings about the ocean heat wave at the Pacific Fishery Management Council's meeting this month in Rohnert Park, Calif.

"The report gives us an important glimpse at what the science is saying about the species and resources that we manage and rely on in terms of our West Coast economy," said Phil Anderson of Westport, Wash., chairman of the council.

"The point is that we want to be as informed as we can be when we make decisions that affect those species, and this report helps us do that."

Other items in the annual status report by the Southwest Fisheries Science Center and North-

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Above: Feeding conditions have improved for California sea lions, who had made themselves a nuisance in Astoria due to lack of food.

Right: An increase in plankton should benefit salmon and other fish.

Courtesy NOAA



Woman arrested after baking dog in oven

The Columbia Press

A woman was arrested Tuesday on suspicion of cooking her Chihuahua in her kitchen.

Noelle Moor, 28, of Warrenton was taken into custody at Columbia Memorial Hospital, where she was undergoing a mental health evaluation.

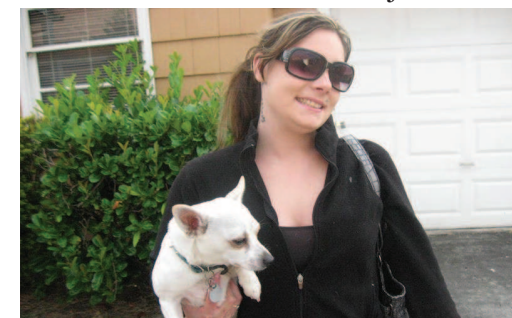
Moor was charged with felony first-degree aggravated animal abuse and arraigned Wednesday afternoon before Judge Dawn McIntosh.

She was behaving unusually at the jail, District Attorney Josh Marquis said. When she appeared by video for the arraignment, she was acting oddly and muttering, District Attorney Josh Marquis said. At one point the judge turned off the audio.

"We're not sure if we'll go down the criminal or mental route," Marquis said. Moor hasn't yet been indicted by the grand jury. Bail was set at \$25,000.

"A necropsy is being done on the dog to find out the more disturbing questions, like was the dog alive," Marquis said.

Moor had been taken to the hospital after a disturbance at the request of Clatsop Behavioral Health and was in the process of being released Tuesday when someone called Warrenton police to report the dog incident. Astoria police held her temporarily until a Warrenton officer arrived to place her under arrest and take her to jail.



A photo from Moor's Facebook page.

City's first 'tiny dwelling' is approved in Hammond

BY CINDY YINGST
The Columbia Press

The city's first tiny dwelling was approved by the Planning Commission, but members said they didn't want the action to be precedent-setting.

"Do we want home after home of these tiny little homes on every lot," Commissioner Paul Mitchell asked.

"This is a small neighborhood where the homes are close together, so the impacts on the neighbors will be greater," Commissioner Christine Bridgens added.

Twilla McElmurry and her mother, Linda McElmurry, requested the city allow her to put the tiny dwelling next

to her home on Fleet Street.

Neighbors Billy and Ronna'l Routh came to the March 15 hearing to object.

"I don't understand why her mother can't live inside the home. She lives in a three-bedroom home," said Billy Routh, who lives on Pacific Drive.

Tiny houses are part of a growing movement that advocates living simply in small structures. While the average American home is 2,600 square feet, the typical tiny house is 100 to 400 square feet.

McElmurry's tiny home would be 167 square feet.

Why not live inside the home with her daughter?

"Twilla is getting married in July and I don't want to live in a newlywed's home," Linda McElmurry said. The tiny home will be a step up from the recreational vehicle she lives in now at a park in Cannon Beach, she said.

Warrenton's development code doesn't specifically address tiny homes, but it does cover mobile homes (and, in a sense, the tiny home would be semi-mobile, since it won't be attached to a pad). Mobile homes used as residences are allowed on lots with single-family homes only if lived in by a family member.

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