

## News briefs

## Democracy topic of panel discussion

A panel discussion called "Democracy Now: Perspectives on the State of the Union" is set as the kickoff for the 2018-19 Ales and Ideas community lecture series on Thursday, Oct. 4.

Clatsop Community College President Chris Breitmeyer will moderate the panel made up of faculty members.

Doors open with food and beverage service at 6 p.m., although no purchase is required. Minors are welcome.

The lecture will be in the Fort George Lovell Showroom, 14th and Duane streets, Astoria.

With midterm elections coming up, the start of a new college quarter is a great time to examine democracy and its status in Astoria and the United States.

Panel members include Seth Tichenor, Mindy Stokes, Fernando Rojas and Nancy Cook.

## Columbia closes to salmon fishing

With fall Chinook salmon returns to the Columbia River tracking well below pre-season predictions, fishery managers closed fishing for all salmon and steelhead from Buoy 10 to Pasco, Wash.

However, the daily bag limit for general marine fish (rockfish, greenlings, skates, etc.) increased to five fish.

About 106,000 adult fall Chinook had passed Bonneville Dam by Sept. 10, 75 percent of expectations based on pre-season forecasts. The up-river bright Chinook return are projected to return at 69 percent of expectations.

If left open, the fisheries likely would exceed the allowable harvest rate.

Steelhead fishing closed on the Columbia River Aug. 27.

# New website gives fishermen additional tools to navigate

BY TIFFANY WOODS  
*Oregon Sea Grant*

A new tool for commercial fishermen aims to make predicting what happens on the water as easy as looking up a weather forecast.

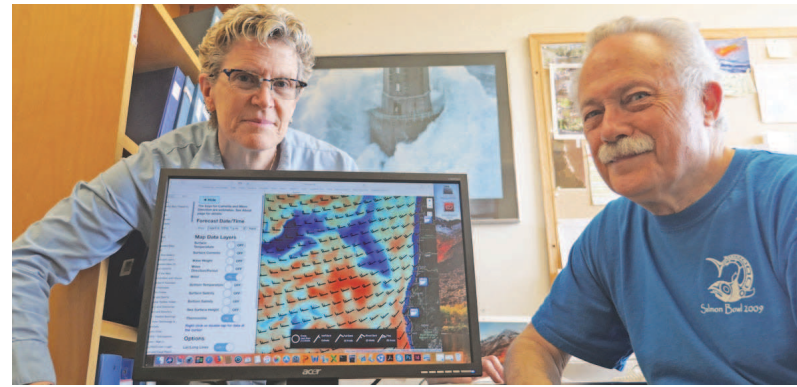
An interactive online map, where fishermen can check forecasts for ocean conditions in Northwest waters, is available at [nvs.nanoos.org/Seacast](http://nvs.nanoos.org/Seacast). It's on the website of the Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems, a partnership that gathers and disseminates data on the ocean.

The new site is the culmination of multiple years of research based on conversations with fishermen.

Talks started in 2012, when Colin Duncan, an Oregon State University grad student, asked fishermen about their needs. He met with scientists to learn more.

His research, which was published in his thesis, laid the foundation for Seacast.org, an experimental site that displays forecasts for sea conditions such as wave height and surface currents.

In 2016, Oregon Sea Grant provided funding that allowed OSU grad student



Tiffany Woods/Oregon Sea Grant

Flaxen Conway, a media consultant, left, and Ted Strub show off Seacast.org, a website for fishermen. It displays forecasts for ocean conditions such as surface temperature, salinity and wave height.

Jessica Kuonen to advance the project. The funding also allowed researchers to leverage money from Oregon Space Grant and the National Science Foundation.

Seacast.org eventually will be taken offline as more fishermen get accustomed to the NANOOS site, said Ted Strub, an OSU oceanographer who led the project.

"It was always the plan for the experimental site to be transitioned to a more permanent site," he said.

Kuonen aimed to understand how fishermen use ocean forecasts to make decisions, why scientists provide the data they do in forecasts, and how both groups per-

ceive risk and uncertainty regarding ocean conditions.

Kuonen, who graduated in marine resource manage-

ment in 2018, interviewed 11 captains, four fishermen's wives and one industry representative. She also spoke with 17 scientists.

Results indicated that more useful forecasts for ocean conditions could be created if data providers and the fishermen who use that information were to work together.

"The future of enhancing the usefulness of ocean condition forecasts ultimately lies with the data provider and end-user communities," she wrote in her thesis. "The genesis could be cooperative research, where fishermen collect observations from the ocean environment and provide feedback."



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