

Blob could have huge economic impact on fishing

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In January 2014, the water was 3 degrees Celsius higher than usual. The Blob was 1.5 degrees warmer than anything recorded before. "The Blob is an anomaly," Peterson said. In September 2014, he recorded a 7-degree change in six hours off the coast of Newport. It was the Blob "coming onto the beach." With El Niño, scientists normally see more species along the coast. But the Blob produced twice the typical number, with 11 unusual offshore species identified in northwest waters. Sunfish were seen in Cannon Beach and the Gulf of Alaska, a swordfish was found near Depoe Bay and a sea snake was discovered off the California coast. The number of species from areas such as Fiji and

Japan was the "most ever seen," Peterson said. **The impacts** Scientists suspect that the Blob played a huge role in the seabird die-off in late 2014, at which time tens of thousands of Cassin's auklets were found dead along the Pacific coast. Beginning in August of this year, murrelets started dying off. "We have had very high dead bird counts on the North Coast these past three or four months," said Haystack Rock Awareness Program Coordinator Melissa Keyser. She noted they counted 129 deceased birds on the mile of beach in front of Haystack Rock from August through October. The Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team has reported 3,985 dead murrelets along the west coast

so far this year, compared to 1,880 last year. With warmer waters, prey have dived deeper and the birds can't get to them, Peterson said. Humpback whales came into the Columbia River and closer to Haystack Rock looking for food because of the changes, as well. The Blob has been around for two years and could continue, potentially meaning more poor salmon returns and bird deaths. "It could be a nightmare," Peterson said. "I'm a little concerned about it, but I can't do much about it except tell people to be aware of it." Warming waters aren't actually anything new, he added. They have been happening since 1998, so instead of ignoring it, people should "worry about it right now."



Bill Peterson speaks on the topic of warming ocean waters at the Cannon Beach Library.

There is yet another player in the environmental headaches: the toxic algae bloom. **Toxic bloom** Toxic algae blooms can cause paralytic shellfish

poisoning. The shellfish don't get sick, but the mammals that eat them, including sea lions and humans, can. Death is rare but can occur. This year produced the widest toxic bloom on re-

cord, possibly due to the warmer waters, prompting razor clam closures on the West Coast. It is affecting dungeness crabs now for the first time, Peterson said. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife delayed the opening of crab season because of higher toxin levels in Southern Oregon. "This particular year is very poisonous," Peterson said. It could have a huge economic impact on the fishing industry. Scientists are searching for answers to the anomalies, but Peterson questions what surprises wait next. In the meantime, El Niño is set to hit this winter, expected to bring warmer than average conditions and below average precipitation to Oregon, according to the Seasonal Climate Forecast.



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SEASIDE

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Friendly and personable, great customer service-oriented attitude
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Renaissance Health
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Astoria, OR 97103
astoriarenaissance@gmail.com

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Super Crossword THE ARTIST WITHIN

ACROSS

1 Pink bird
9 — jongg
20 Spray types
21 Simian beast
22 The college world
23 Displayed collection of choice coffees?
25 Lawfulness
26 Spanish for "those"
27 Displayed collection of animals
28 Certain Nebraskan
30 Most draftable
31 Brew for a Brit
33 Group of connected electric generators?
36 2012 Robert Pattinson film
40 Las Vegas' state: Abbr.
41 Stale-smelling
42 Period when some butterfly-family plants are grown?

DOWN

1 Stardom
2 Most August-born folks
3 Western U.S. oil giant
4 — scale of hardness
5 "It — far, far better ..."
6 Yuletide beverage
7 Doughnut coating
8 Capital near Lillehammer
9 West of film
10 Cook's tie-on
11 2002 #3 hit for Cam'ron
12 Actor Rory
13 Liner locales
14 Refrigerator stick-on
15 Writer LeShan
16 Under
17 — acid
18 Person quoting
19 Inuit canoe
24 Metallic veins
29 Bullets, e.g.
31 Dr.'s gp.
32 Tedious list
34 YSL part
35 Variety
36 A-F link
37 Joie de vivre
38 — a hand

ACROSS

46 Vast, grassy Argentine plain
51 Actress Wynter
52 One day — time
53 Biol., e.g.
54 One driving too fast
56 Touchdown area
58 "Neon" tank swimmers
61 Daddy deer
62 Group overseeing quadrennial games?
67 Cartoonist Bil of "The Family Circus"
70 "It's — -brainer!"
71 Wee one
72 Beijing locale
73 Engine fuel sold all over the country?
79 Razor option
80 Lampon
81 Combo punches
85 Things that destroy Cousin of a 401(k)
89 Austrian peak
90 Inner Hebrides isle

DOWN

91 Muscle jerk
92 Slammer used by a global crime-fighting agency?
96 En — (all together)
99 Tree with acorns
100 Rate
101 The Netherlands before 1939?
107 Stuff in soap
108 "Ooh —!"
109 Name of 11 pharaohs
110 Actress — Dawn Chong
112 Generic dog
116 Radiating heat or light, say
118 Entertainer Rita did a pressing job?
122 Greatest
123 "... man — mouse?"
124 Came into, as debt
125 People going "Achoo!"
126 — degree
127 Their names are hidden in eight answers in this puzzle

ACROSS

39 Iquitos natives, e.g.
40 Supersecret org.
43 News note
44 — part (play on stage)
45 Nonday
47 Principles of artistic beauty
48 Cato's ending
49 The Evita of "Evita"
50 Soccer site
54 Cul-de —
55 It follows chi
57 Margarine
59 General — chicken
60 — tiller
63 Ark unit
64 Prefix with 72-Across
65 Redact jointly
66 Oxy target
67 Tree knots
68 Accept avidly
69 Skylit courts
74 It airs "Fresh Air"
75 "How — I to know?"
76 Whirl
77 Hang laxly
78 Like a live ball

DOWN

82 Stirred to life
83 Obligation
84 Deivializes
86 Austen title
88 Middle name of Elvis
89 Just swell
92 Compound variants
93 Guitarist
94 Italian father
95 Sugar ending
97 Make it there
98 Schick tool
101 Members of the masses
102 Japanese noodle soup
103 Beethoven's "Für ..."
104 Offscourings
105 Yellow fruit
106 Of — (in some way)
107 Helmsley or Lewis
111 "There's — in the air!"
112 Citadel
113 Concerning
114 Moose, e.g.
115 10:1, e.g.
117 "— who?"
119 Stadium cry
120 Here, in Haiti
121 Stacking
122 Stacking

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