

CERF Hot Sheet for News Media: Monday, November 2, 2009

Conference contacts for Media

- Rhett Register – 541 207 7258

- Ally Doughty – 703 587 3660

Science Presentation Highlights of the Day

TITLE: Production and Protection: A Quarter-century of Salmon Science in North Pacific Estuaries CONTACT: Daniel Bottom

This talk illustrates the recent history of salmon management and its shift from a production centric management paradigm to one of protection. Emphasis is placed on the role of estuarine habitats in the life history diversity and resilience of salmon populations.

LOCATION: A107 – 109 TIME: 8 – 8:30

TITLE: SoundCitizen: Geochemical Studies of Aquatic Systems Using a Volunteer-based Sampling Network CONTACT: Rick Keil

Introduction to “SoundCitizen,” a program run by undergraduates in the School of Oceanography at the University of Washington, that brings university students, K-12 students and citizen volunteers together to investigate regionally and nationally significant questions on the chemical connectivity between households, watersheds and receiving waters.

LOCATION: A105 TIME: 9:30 – 9:45

TITLE: Lessons Learned in Predicting the Extent and Movement of Harmful Algal Blooms on the West Florida Shelf CONTACT: Richard Patchen

This paper describes the issues relating to incorporating the results of a finely resolved coupled numerical hydrodynamic model into NOAA's operational Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Forecast System.

LOCATION: C120 –122 TIME: 10:30 – 10:45

TITLE: The Oregon Coast Before the Arrival of Europeans CONTACT: Roberta Hall

This presentation describes anthropological studies of the lifeways of indigenous peoples and discusses animal species (birds, fish, molluscs, and sea mammals) common to estuaries and nearshore habitats in and before the year 1750.

LOCATION: A105 TIME: 2:30 – 2:45

TITLE: The Economic Interpretation of Biophysical Gains and Losses: Measuring and managing coastal ecosystem goods and services CONTACT: James Boyd

Discussion on how social scientists measure economic wealth derived from ecosystems and its implications to coastal ecological management. The talk will illustrate the ways that economic analysis links with biophysical science to depict the value of ecosystem goods and services.

LOCATION: A105 TIME: 4 – 4:15

TITLE: A Salmon-Centric View of Climate Change Impacts on the Pacific Northwest

CONTACT: Nathan Mantua

This talk presents climate change as it impacts Pacific Northwest salmon. Consideration is paid to differences in rainfall and snowmelt fed watersheds, the effects of warmer water temperatures on salmon stream estuarine and ocean habitats and to the increased variability of the winds that drive upwelling off of the NW coast.

LOCATION: A107 – 109 TIME: 5 – 5:30

CERF Science Leaders Available for Interviews

Susan Williams, PhD – 707-478-1781; available M, TU, W morning and M, W evening; NOT available Thursday morning. *Susan may be contacted for questions about invasive species, ecosystem functions and services, climate change, seagrasses and seaweeds.*

At the Bodega Marine Laboratory at University of California, Davis, Williams' team researches the ecology of nearshore marine ecosystems, particularly seagrass and seaweed beds and coral reefs. These ecosystems are highly productive and provide a number of ecosystem services such as recycling of organic matter and providing habitat and food for numerous marine species. As CERF president for 2009-11, Williams notes that the CERF conference and federation networks the next generation of scientists with managers and decision makers to develop successful communication about coastal and estuarine science.

Robert Howarth, PhD – 607-255-6175

The outgoing CERF president, Howarth is the David R. Atkinson Professor of Ecology and Environmental Biology at Cornell University. His conference science presentation will address the long standing debate over the impacts of nutrient pollution on the coastal zone. He shows, through the use of a whole system monitoring approach, the primacy of nitrogen in the decrease of coastal zone water quality.

Of CERF he says, "With a vibrant mix of research scientist and environmental managers [CERF is] one of the most effective scientific societies at bridging the gap between knowledge and practice... The members of CERF are in the forefront of using objective, science-based information to better manage and protect coastal waters."

Walter Boynton, PhD Available: Monday morning. All day Tuesday-Thursday (but not early evenings on any days). *Walt is the contact for land-use, water quality, seagrass, general food web but not about fisheries or toxic issues.*

A professor and an estuarine field ecologist at the University of Maryland System Center for Environmental Science Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, Boynton has many research interests, including fish recruitment, seagrass ecology, sediment biogeochemistry, and water quality monitoring. He has been active in efforts to communicate science to management for most of his career. For instance, in recent years he has have been active in the design and re-design of the Chesapeake Bay Monitoring Program, an EPA Science Advisory Board panel examining hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico, and his local county's Zoning Appeals Board (where many coastal land use decisions are made).

An ERF member since 1977, Walt recently is president-elect of CERF. He says, "I have always enjoyed and learned from the diversity of our CERF membership including those with science, education, and environmental management interests and extraordinary skills. I believe this mix of skills and interests in our membership is rare among scientific societies. CERF needs, therefore, to both meet the needs of these groups and skillfully use the power that such a mix of expertise provides in addressing environmental needs of our coastal areas and the world in general." Professor Boynton will receive the Odum Lifetime Achievement Award at the conference, to be shared with Michael Kemp.

Conference Leaders

Bob Bailey (co-chair) – (503) 508-2215; Oregon Coastal Management Program manager
Mike Graybill (co-chair) – (541) 294-0983; South Slough Estuarine Research Reserve manager
Bob Emmett (science co-chair, talks) – (541) 961-0691; NOAA Fisheries
Walt Nelson (science co-chair, posters) – (541) 908 4740; US EPA, Chief, Pacific Coastal Ecology Branch