

CERF Hot Sheet for News Media: Thursday, November 5, 2009

Conference contacts for Media

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Science Presentation Highlights of the Day

TITLE: The Vicious Circle of the Baltic Sea

CONTACT: Emil Vahtera

Toxic phytoplankton and fish deaths from historic loads of human produced nitrogen are troubling the Baltic Sea. Although pollutants have recently been reduced, the sea is caught in a vicious cycle where recovery is slow and internal feedback loops uphold the deteriorated state of the sea. Vahtera will present his plan to break the cycle of inhibited recovery and recuperate a healthy Baltic Sea.

LOCATION: C120-122 **TIME:** 8:30 - 8:45

TITLE: Pacific Northwest Marine Ecoregional Assessment: Identifying potential biodiversity conservation areas on the continental shelf and slope

CONTACT: Joanna Smith

Several marine biodiversity conservation areas have been identified using criteria to maximize conservation and minimize social conflicts. The areas meet management objectives across sectors in alternative energy developments, marine protected areas and fisheries management. Used by ocean managers and other stakeholders, the assessment meets conservation goals on a large scale off the coasts of Oregon, Washington and California.

LOCATION: B115-116 **TIME:** 2:45 - 3:00

TITLE: Ecosystem Services and Human Well Being

CONTACT: James Summers

New research links specific ecosystem services to human and community health as a measure of overall human well-being. A comprehensive theory and practice characterizes, quantifies and values these services to ensure that they are incorporated into environmental decision-making. These methods will support environmental decision-makers at many levels of governance, industry or citizen action.

LOCATION: C124 **TIME:** 4:00 - 4:15

TITLE: Conserving Marine Biodiversity to Sustain Ecosystem Services, Increase Resiliency, and Enhance Human Well-Being

CONTACT: Paul Sandifer

Human health and survival depend on a functioning ecosystem and the services it provides like food, medicine and protection from extreme weather events. Lower property values, declining tourism and toxic algal blooms are all linked to impaired biodiversity and ecosystem function along our coasts. Practical management efforts focused on conservation of biodiversity increase the resiliency of coastal ecosystems and

the human communities associated with them, especially important with regard to the unanticipated effects of climate change.

LOCATION: C124 TIME: 5:15 - 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: 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 received the Odum Lifetime Achievement Award at the conference, shared with colleague 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