

**CERF Hot Sheet for News Media: Tuesday, November 3, 2009**

**Conference contacts for Media**

Katie Phillips: (541) 231-8006 [katielphillips@gmail.com](mailto:katielphillips@gmail.com)

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**Science Presentation Highlights of the Day: Chautauquas at 4:00-5:30 pm**

**Media Availability at Media Table in Exhibit Hall A immediately after Chautauquas**

Four “Chautauqua”-style discussions will examine developing issues of climate change adaptation, with a particular regional emphasis on the Pacific Northwest.

*Climate change* – Nathan Mantua, University of Washington, and William Peterson, NOAA Northwest Fisheries Science Center, Newport, Ore., will discuss the impact of climate change on ecosystems and society, and applying climate information to resource management. Contact: [nmantua@u.washington.edu](mailto:nmantua@u.washington.edu); Contact: [Bill.Peterson@noaa.gov](mailto:Bill.Peterson@noaa.gov)

*Salmon (Past, Present, Future)* – John Ferguson, Robin Waples, Michael Ford, John Williams, and Thomas Quinn, of the Salmon Data Access Working Group, will discuss salmon management using a comprehensive set of goals and principles through which they hope to ensure that wild salmon populations thrive long into the future. Contacts: [John.W.Ferguson@noaa.gov](mailto:John.W.Ferguson@noaa.gov), [Robin.Waples@noaa.gov](mailto:Robin.Waples@noaa.gov), [Mike.Ford@noaa.gov](mailto:Mike.Ford@noaa.gov), [John.G.Williams@noaa.gov](mailto:John.G.Williams@noaa.gov), [tquinn@u.washington.edu](mailto:tquinn@u.washington.edu)

*Ocean Acidification, The Other CO2 Problem* – Richard Feely, NOAA Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory, and Burke Hales, Oregon State University, will discuss the results of recent studies that demonstrate that warmer ocean temperatures and increased concentrations of carbon dioxide in the oceans are causing significant changes in marine ecosystems. Contacts: [Richard.A.Feely@noaa.gov](mailto:Richard.A.Feely@noaa.gov), [bhales@coas.oregonstate.edu](mailto:bhales@coas.oregonstate.edu).

*Puget Sound/Urban Estuaries* -- David Dicks, executive director of the Puget Sound Partnership, helps to coordinate a large-scale initiative to tackle some of the foremost habitat restoration needs in Washington’s Puget Sound basin. A recent PBS *Frontline* presentation, “Poisoned Waters,” highlighted some of Puget Sound’s issues. Contact: [david.dicks@psp.wa.gov](mailto:david.dicks@psp.wa.gov)

**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 – 443-624-5468 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