



Advancing ocean research, education and policy

Weekly Newsletter

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President's Corner

This week the Washington Post ran an article that highlighted research being conducted off Andros Island in the Bahamas at the Navy's Atlantic Undersea Test and Evaluation Center. The research seeks to evaluate how beaked whales respond to playbacks of mid-frequency sonar and killer whale calls. I encourage you to read CORE's analysis of this article in the Ocean News section of the Weekly.

This week the Senate passed the Commerce, Justice and Science spending bill. This bill funds NOAA, NASA and NSF and has already passed the House. The two legislative bodies will now go to conference to iron out differences in the two passed bills. The President has threatened to veto the bill as it spends more than \$3 billion above his request. A deeper analysis of the bill can be read in the Congressional News section.

Congratulations to Dr. Susan Avery for being named the new President of Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute. Please see the Ocean Community News section of this Weekly for more information.

Congressional News

CONGRESSIONAL CALENDAR

- | | |
|---|---|
| Tuesday, Oct 23
10 AM
406 Dirksen Bldg | Senate Environment and Public Works Committee will hold a hearing on the human impacts of global warming. |
| Tuesday, Oct 23
2 PM
2318 Rayburn Bldg | House Science and Technology Subcommittee on Energy and Environment will hold a hearing on a GAO report on the status of NOAA's Geostationary Weather Satellite Program. |
| Wednesday, Oct 24
10 AM
2318 Rayburn Bldg | House Science and Technology Committee will markup H.R.1834, a bill to authorize the National Ocean Exploration Program and the National Undersea Research Program within NOAA. |
| Wednesday, Oct 24
10 AM
1324 Longworth | House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans will hold a hearing on pending legislation including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ H.R.1187 – Gulf of Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries Boundary Modification and Protection Act➤ H.R.1907 – Coastal and Estuarine Land Protection Act➤ H.R.3352 – Hydrographic Services Improvement Act Amendments of 2007 |
| Thursday, Nov 8
10 AM
2167 Rayburn Bldg | House Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Water Resources and the Environment will hold a hearing titled "Progress Toward Improving Water Quality in the Great Lakes." |

SENATE APPROVES OCEAN SCIENCE FUNDING MEASURE

This week, the Senate approved the FY2008 Commerce-Justice-Science spending bill by a veto-proof margin of 75-19. The legislation has received a veto threat from President Bush as it spends \$3.2 billion more than requested by the President. The bill provides \$4.2 billion for NOAA - \$400 million above the President's request and \$200 million more than the House-approved level. The measure must now be reconciled with the House version before being sent to the President, who is expected to veto the bill. The federal government continues to operate under a continuing resolution through November 16th.

Ocean Community News

View the CORE Ocean Community Calendar through the CORE web site, <http://www.COREocean.org/Dev2Go.web?id+243722&rnd=18330> -- if you have any additions, please email submissions to Gregg Schmidt at gschmidt@COREocean.org.

CORE ANALYSIS OF WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE ON NAVY SONAR AND KILLER WHALES

This week the Washington Post ran an article that highlighted research being conducted off the Bahamas' Andros Island, at the Navy's Atlantic Undersea Test and Evaluation Center, to evaluate how beaked whales respond to playbacks of mid-frequency sonar and killer whale calls. By attaching sophisticated tags which record the timing, depth, dive angles and ascent rate to beaked and pilot whales, researchers can ascertain how the animals react to the playbacks.

Peter Tyack, a senior scientist at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution a co-investigator for the project, was quoted as saying that "this project starts with the acknowledgment that there is an association between sonar exercises and atypical mass strandings of beaked whales but that we have no idea of what the causal chain of events is."

So far the researchers have placed tags on six beaked whales and four pilot whales. Two of the tags stayed attached long enough to monitor several deep dives and surface intervals (that include shallow "bounce" dives). These two tagged whales were exposed to mid-frequency sonar playbacks and killer whale calls. In one situation there was little apparent change in behavior to the mid-frequency sonar playback but an almost immediate cessation of echolocation in response to the killer whale call.

We know so little about these whales, their diving physiology, and how they react to mid-frequency sonar, other human-generated sounds and the calls of predators. Yet, scientists recognize that only through research can we find the key that could protect these ways from harm. Yet organizations like National Resources Defense Council seem unwilling to support this much needed scientific research. In the article Michael Jasney of NRDC was quoted as saying: "It's great to learn more about beaked whales, but we can't see how this research could properly be used to set future policy."

While this first year is essentially a "proof-of-concept" and protocol refining effort, the research will continue for another two years. Undoubtedly the information from these studies will yield data critical in assisting the Navy in developing effective mitigation strategies for mid-frequency sonar that will protect these whales from harm while still allowing training.

UNITED NATIONS CELEBRATES LAW OF THE SEA'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Earlier this week the United Nations' Convention on the Law of the Sea declared the Law of the Sea treaty a success. To honor the treaty's 25th anniversary the United Nations launched a seminar.

On December 10, 1982, the convention was completed and opened for signature at Montego Bay, Jamaica. Two months ahead of that milestone, the U.N.'s Division of Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea invited delegates to review and discuss the 25-year history and status of the treaty.

The morning segment of the forum took a look at how the treaty relates to security issues, the global fishing industry and the ongoing work of the Commission. The meeting also looked at the Limits on the Continental Shelf to review states' claims to areas of the ocean bottom extending beyond the 200 nautical mile exclusive economic zone (EEZ), which may contain rich reserves of oil, natural gas and mineral deposits.

SUSAN AVERY NEW PRESIDENT & DIRECTOR AT WOODS HOLE OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTION

The Board of Trustees of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) announces that Dr. Susan K. Avery has accepted the position of President and Director becoming the ninth director in WHOI's 77-year history, and the first woman to hold the position. The selection was made by the Executive Committee of the WHOI Board of Trustees, based on the recommendations of a search committee that included members of the Board and WHOI senior staff members.

Avery will be formally introduced to WHOI staff and students on October 17th. She will officially assume the office early in 2008, succeeding James R. Luyten, who has served as acting President and Director since June 2006 and Robert B. Gagosian, who served from 1993-2006.

Avery earned a bachelor's degree in physics from Michigan State University in 1972, a master's in physics from the University of Illinois in 1974, and a doctorate in atmospheric science from the University of Illinois in 1978.

Avery is an atmospheric physicist with extensive experience as a leader within scientific institutions. She comes to WHOI from the University of Colorado at Boulder (UCB), where she most recently served as interim dean of the graduate school and vice chancellor for research. From 1994-2004, Avery served as director of the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES), a 550-member collaborative institute between UCB and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Avery was the first woman and first engineer to lead CIRES. She also has an interest in scientific literacy and the role of science in public policy. She is the author or co-author of more than 80 peer-reviewed articles.

ARCTIC 'REPORT CARD' PROVES CONTINUOUS CLIMATE CHANGES

An international team of research scientists, including NOAA lead author James Overland, created a peer-reviewed Web site, <http://www.arctic.noaa.gov/reportcard/> that tracks multiple changes in the Arctic environment. Since the 1980s the region has lost almost 40 percent of the summertime sea ice in the central Arctic in 2007. While the continued loss of summertime sea ice is the most dramatic example, changes are also seen in the atmosphere, on land, in the ocean, and in location and abundance of Arctic species.

Overland is a scientist at NOAA's Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory in Seattle, Washington and has identified a wind circulation pattern blowing more warm air towards the North Pole, compared to the circulation patterns in the 20th century.

Some indicators are showing mixed signals. In one case, the North Pole ocean temperatures are returning to what they were in the 1990s, but currents are fairly warm around the Arctic Ocean rim.

Permafrost temperatures are stabilizing in both North America and Eurasia, but permafrost melt remains a serious problem. Changes in Arctic animal populations show mixed tendencies over decades.

Many caribou and reindeer herds have declined (some up to 80 percent relative to their peaks), while Arctic goose populations have generally grown.

The Report Card is organized by NOAA and will be updated annually. It is a contribution to the international Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) and the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) Programme.

MASTER OF ADVANCED STUDIES IN MARINE BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION – APPLICATION DEADLINE 4 FEBRUARY 2008

The Center for Marine Biodiversity and Conservation (CMBC) at Scripps Institution of Oceanography announces an application deadline of 4 Feb 2008 for the Master of Advanced Studies in Marine Biodiversity and Conservation. The multidisciplinary program will begin 30 June 2008, and includes courses in natural, social, and information sciences; marine policy, economics, and law; and training in important cultural and communications skills. The well-rounded curriculum is designed for early to mid-career professionals to prepare them to effectively work with diverse stakeholders, complex solutions, and the interdisciplinary science often involved in biodiversity and conservation efforts. Students complete the degree in one calendar year. Courses and fieldwork are led by professors from Scripps's CMBC, the UCSD departments of economics, political science, and history, and the Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies. Students are formally admitted through UCSD's Office of Graduate Studies. The World Wildlife Fund, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Southwest Fisheries Science Center, and other government and non-government agencies enhance the program by providing special lectures and discussions. No more than 14 master's students are admitted to the program each year. It is possible to enroll in the 15 unit summer course only. More information, including an online application, is available on the web at www.mbc.ucsd.edu (Jane Weinzierl, (858) 822-2886, jweinzierl@ucsd.edu).

NOAA ISSUES ADVANCED NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING ON SCIENTIFIC PERMIT PROVISIONS

NOAA published for comment an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) which provides recommendations for changes to the MMPA regulations. NOAA (specifically National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is seeking review and comments on measures to improve in the regulations that would benefit the permitting process. On May 10, 1996, a final rule was published establishing requirements for issuing permits to take, import, or export marine mammals (including endangered and threatened marine mammals) and marine mammal parts under (NMFS) jurisdiction for purposes of scientific research and enhancement, photography, and public display. NMFS intends to revise these regulations to streamline and clarify permitting requirements, simplify procedures for transferring marine mammal parts, possibly apply the General Authorization (GA) to research activities involving Level A harassment of non-ESA listed marine mammals, and implement a 'permit application cycle' for application submission and processing of all marine mammal permits. NMFS intends to write regulations for photography permits and is considering whether this activity should be covered by the GA. The ANPR will be followed by a proposed rulemaking once comments are received and reviewed and incorporated into draft regulations. Any other recommendations regarding regulations at 50 CFR part 216 received in response to this ANPR will be considered prior to proposed rulemaking.

Please provide comments by the close of the comment period (November 13, 2007). For further information please contact Michael Payne (Michael.Payne@noaa.gov) or Amy Sloan (Amy.Sloan@noaa.gov) by email or at (301) 713-2289. CORE will be providing comments and welcomes all input from the research community. Input should be provided to Nina Young at nyoung@coreocean.org.

NOPP CALL FOR PROPOSALS: DUE DECEMBER 11, 2007

The National Oceanographic Partnership Program (NOPP) and the President's Interagency Committee on Ocean Science and Resource Management Integration (ICOSRMI) are currently seeking proposals under the following topics:

- Forecasting the Response of Coastal Ecosystems to Persistent Forcing and Extreme Events
- Sensors for Measurement of Biological, Bio-Optical or Chemical Properties of the Ocean
- Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC)

For more information, refer to the full Broad Agency Announcement: <http://www.onr.navy.mil/02/BAA> - under BAA #07-040. Up to \$24.75 M over three years may be available for this solicitation, subject to appropriation and final approval by the Interagency Working Group on Ocean Partnerships (IWG-OP) of the ICOSRMI.

NOPP is a collaboration of fifteen federal agencies to provide leadership and coordination of national ocean research and education initiatives. The ICOSRMI provides oversight to the nation's ocean activities, including those involving ocean resource management. For more information visit, www.nopp.org and <http://ocean.ceq.gov/about/icosrmi.html>.

CALIFORNIA SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 2009

DEAN JOHN A. KNAUSS MARINE POLICY FELLOWSHIP

The Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship Program is a National Sea Grant sponsored Federal Fellows Program that provides a unique educational experience to students who have an interest in marine/ocean/Great Lakes resources and in the national policy decisions affecting these resources. The program matches highly qualified graduate students with hosts in the legislative branch, the executive branch, or appropriate associations/institutions located in the Washington, D.C. area for a one-year paid fellowship (\$34,000 stipend). An additional \$8,000 will be used to cover mandatory health insurance for the Fellow, moving expenses, academic degree-related and fellowship-related travel.

The full request for application and application guidelines are available on California Sea Grant's Knauss website at <http://www.csgc.ucsd.edu/EDUCATION/Knauss2009.html>. For more detailed information about host offerings, selection processes, and the placement process in Washington DC, please visit the National Sea Grant Knauss site at <http://www.seagrant.noaa.gov/knauss/knauss.html>.

Timetable 2008

- February 29: Application materials from each student due at the California Sea Grant Office.
- March 7- 21: Interviews for selection of CA Sea Grant candidates.
- April 10: Application materials from Sea Grant Programs due at the National Sea Grant Office.
- May: Sea Grant Programs notified of selection results.
- November: Placement Week (exact dates TBD): Selected applicants required to travel to Washington, DC, for interviews with potential hosts.
- Feb 1, 2009 Start of the fellowship.

For more information please contact Shauna Oh at nsgoproposal@seamail.ucsd.edu or 858-534-4440. For those considering this program, please notify Shauna Oh of your intent to apply.

DISCO XXI SYMPOSIUM – Application deadline April 18, 2008

The twenty-first research symposium of a continuing series for new PhDs in chemical oceanography will be held October 5–October 10, 2008 at the East-West Center, Honolulu, Hawaii. The DISCO symposia afford new and upcoming doctorate recipients in chemical oceanography a unique opportunity to present and discuss their dissertation research in an open forum with their professional peers. Travel, hotel accommodations, and meals for 25 invited participants will be paid by the sponsoring agencies (NSF, NOAA). Participation in DISCO is by invitation only. For more information about eligibility and

application material, please go to <http://www.discosymposium.org>. If more information is needed, contact Simone Metz at smetz@nsf.gov or Syreeta Tate at disco@aibs.org.

PODS V SYMPOSIUM – Application deadline April 18, 2008

The fifth research symposium of a continuing series for new PhDs in physical oceanography will be held October 5–October 10, 2008 at the East-West Center, Honolulu, Hawaii. The PODS symposia are designed to bring together new PhDs and doctoral candidates soon to receive their degrees in physical oceanography or a related field of environmental fluid dynamics for the purpose of scientific discussion and the forging of future professional relationships. Travel, hotel accommodations, and meals for 25 invited participants will be paid by the sponsoring agencies (NSF, NOAA, NASA, and ONR). Participation in PODS is by invitation only. For more information about eligibility and application material, please go to <http://www.pods-symposium.org>. If more information is needed, please contact Eric Itsweire at eitsweir@nsf.gov or Syreeta Tate at pods@aibs.org.

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS OPEN: AAAS SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY POLICY FELLOWSHIPS

The [online application system](#) for the 2008-2009 fellowship year is now open. The Fellowships help to establish and nurture critical links between federal decision-makers and scientific professionals to support public policy that benefits the wellbeing of the nation and the planet. The Fellowships are designed to educate scientists and engineers on the intricacies of federal policymaking; provide scientific expertise and analysis to support decision-makers confronting increasingly complex scientific and technical issues; foster positive exchange between scientists and policymakers; empower scientists and engineers to conduct policy-relevant research that addresses challenges facing society; and increase the involvement and visibility of scientists and engineers in the public policy realm. The Fellowships support the AAAS objectives to improve public policymaking through the infusion of science, and to increase public understanding of science and technology and are part of [AAAS Science & Policy Programs](#). **The deadline is 20 December.**

Job Announcements

To access the job announcements page, go to CORE's homepage (www.COREocean.org) and click on employment. **Reminder:** As a service to the ocean community, job announcements from our readers are posted on the CORE website with the Weekly Newsletter. In an effort to keep our job listing current, announcements will run for **90 days**, unless CORE receives notification to continue posting a specific job announcement. Notification can be provided to gschmidt@coreocean.org.

New this week:

- Research Assistant II (Position #1688), Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, Michigan State University
- Faculty Positions, School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences, University Of Alaska Fairbanks

Calendar of Events

If you have additions, please forward to gschmidt@COREocean.org.

Calendar Year 2007:

- 22-24 Oct U.S. National Committee Biological Ocean Observing workshop, Washington, DC
- 24-26 Oct Ocean Studies Board meeting, Arnold and Mabel Beckman Center, Irvine, CA
- 1-2 Nov Commission on Professionals in Science and Technology national conference, Washington, DC (<http://www.cpst.org>)
- 7-8 Nov Consortium for Ocean Leadership Board of Trustees meeting, Washington, DC
- 14-16 Nov Society of Naval Architects & Marine Engineers Maritime Technology Conference, Fort Lauderdale, FL

- 14-17 Nov NAAEE 36th Annual Conference, Virginia Beach, VA (<http://www.naaee.org/conference>)
- 14-18 Nov Census of Marine Life All Program Meeting and Public Symposium Day, Auckland, New Zealand
- 6-7 Dec Ocean Research and Resources Advisory Panel (ORRAP) Meeting, Washington, DC
- 10-14 Dec 2007 Fall AGU meeting, San Francisco, CA (<http://www.agu.org/meetings/>)

Calendar Year 2008:

- 9 Feb NOSB Regional Competitions (www.nosb.org)
- 23 Feb NOSB Regional Competitions (www.nosb.org)
- 2-7 Mar 2008 Ocean Sciences meeting, Orlando, FL (<http://www.agu.org/meetings/>)
- 8-11 Apr OCEANS '08 MTS/IEEE Kobe: "Voyage toward the Future"
(<http://www.oceans08mtsieeeekobe-technoocean08.org/>)
- 13-18 Apr European Geosciences Union (EGU), Vienna, Austria
- 25-27 Apr NOSB Final Competition, Seward Alaska
- 18-22 May National Monitoring Conference, Atlantic City, NJ
- 19-23 May Effects of Climate Change on the World's Oceans International Symposium, Gijon, Spain
- 7-11 Jul 11th International Coral Reef Symposium, Fort Lauderdale, FL (www.nova.edu/ncri/11icrs)
- 15-18 Sep OCEANS '08 MTS/IEEE Quebec City: "Oceans, Poles, and Climate: Technological Challenges"
(<http://www.oceans08mtsieeequebec.org/>)
- 15-19 Dec 2008 Fall AGU meeting, San Francisco, CA (<http://www.agu.org/meetings/>)

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