

## Oregon Sea Grant Readiness



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Things have changed dramatically for us all. We are grateful to have the opportunity to share information in a virtual way. From public outreach and marine education to shop at the dock, here is a look at Oregon Sea Grant's approach during the COVID-19 pandemic. [OSG Readiness Document Here](#)

## Views from the Visitor Center

Missing the VC? It is a quiet place these days. The time when we can work with our amazing volunteers and welcome the public to explore the exhibits just can't come soon enough! Here's a glimpse of some of the exhibits that you all are so familiar with. We recently weighed our giant Pacific octopus (20-02). She weighed in at 23.5lbs. I have had the opportunity to work with her routinely. She is doing well in her VC tank habitat. The touch pools, estuary and nearshore tanks are also featured here. Our awesome aquarists Sid and Jaimie have been diligently keeping our aquatic animal systems going, taking the best care of all animals onsite.



## Volunteer Highlight With Bill Kopplin

I have been interested in oceanography since I was 14, but growing up in rural Minnesota it was tough to study it. I was admitted to Oregon State Univ. the fall of 1971. In Jan. 1972, I volunteered to go on a benthic cruise on the *R/V Yaquina*. I was hooked after that. Over the next three years, I did an additional six cruises on the *R/V Cayuse*. I realized that what I really enjoyed was going to sea and operating the instruments. I transferred to Clatsop College in Astoria and graduated in 1975 with two degrees: Oceanographic Technology and Marine Technology. I was hired by the Institute of Marine Science, Univ. of Alaska, Fairbanks (UAF) after graduation: It was my dream job. I went from ship to ship collecting data, repairing and calibrating instruments. This was during the Outer Continental Shelf Environmental Assessment Program (OCEAP) in the mid 70's. Over the next six years I averaged 130 days/year at sea and was able to participate in some truly amazing projects. I was part of the first ground fish survey in the Bering Sea. I assisted in collecting samples on St. Augustine volcano six weeks after it blew in 1976. I helped design and retrofit a ship for research in Southeast Alaska. I made multiple dives under the ice in the Alaskan Beaufort Sea, and I assisted in baseline studies before the Exxon Valdez oil spill. However, all good things must come to an end and early 1981 the funding for my position ran out. During the summer of 1981, I was hired by a consulting



company as the project manager out of Prudhoe Bay, Alaska (know as the North Slope or just The Slope) for four different field projects. We had four open boats (three jet boats and one open Boston Whaler) and five technicians/boat drivers. It was after this that I got the hair brained idea that I would buy, retrofit and operate a research vessel in the Arctic Ocean. Little did I realize that I would provide a vessel for scientists for the next 38 summers. In 1982 I took the *R/V Annika* to Prudhoe Bay, AK. She is still there today.

In 2011 I brought a second vessel the *R/V Ukpik* (Inupiat for snowy owl), to The Slope. I had the pleasure to work on some interesting projects over the years. Some of these were a 36 year ice gouge and strudel scour study, 16 years of a Bowhead whale foraging project, taking Dr. Bruce Mate (OSU) over into the Canadian Beaufort Sea to tag Bowhead whales and one of the first successful vibra-coring projects in the Alaskan Beaufort Sea. In 2017 I sold both vessels and the business to my employee, but I stayed on operating the "Annika Marie" for the next three years. After building my house, getting married, raising two great kids and living in Alaska for 42 years, we pulled up stakes in 2017 and moved to South Beach, OR. It was good to be back on the Oregon coast. I enjoy tide pooling, biking and I am currently transitioning from building cabinets to wood turning on a lathe. I look forward to seeing everyone at the Hatfield Marine Center and especially the visitors. Thank you for reading my ramblings. Cheers, Bill Kopplin

Bill joined the volunteer program in 2021. Welcome Bill! We are looking forward to working with you!

