

Visitor Center Updates

March was a busy month with quite a few moving parts. After some time away in the west wing animal holding area, the giant Pacific octopus and the Pacific spiny lumpsuckers moved back on exhibit. This was just in time to welcome an increased amount of visitors over spring break. Thank you to all of you that supported us in the Visitor Center during those busy weeks!

The monthly volunteer gatherings included the opportunity to take a closer look at the HMSC Innovation Lab and the OSU R/V Oceanus.



A Message From Emily Bjornsgard

As some of you know, I am moving out of the area in the beginning of April. I got a job at Western Washington University's SEA Discovery Center in Poulsbo, Washington. It is a small facility, similar to the Visitor Center in that it showcases primarily native fish and invertebrates of the Pacific Northwest. I am so excited to get started in my new role, but it is incredibly bittersweet to leave. Thank you all so much for welcoming me into the community of the Hatfield Visitor Center. I have had such a wonderful time getting to know you all and working with you. I will never forget my time here and will definitely be back to visit.

If you ever find yourself in the Poulsbo area, please stop by and say hello! And if you ever have any animals that you just can't quite figure out or something you think I might be interested in seeing, please don't hesitate to reach out. My email is ebjornsgard@gmail.com, and I would love to hear from you!

Animal Highlight

Moonglow Anemones

When you visit the tidepools along the Oregon Coast, one of the most common animals that you are likely to find are anemones. Varying from giant green anemones (*Anthopleura xanthogrammica*) to the numerous pink-tipped aggregating anemones (*Anthopleura elegantissima*). You may notice that the scientific names for these two species begin the same way, with the genus *Anthopleura*. There are actually four *Anthopleura* species found along our coast.

The two mentioned above, along with the sunburst anemone (*Anthopleura sola*), and our animal spotlight of the month, the moonglow anemone (*Anthopleura artemisia*).



Moonglow anemones are typically identified by a few different characteristics, including their typical habitat as well as their variation in color. They are found in the intertidal and shallow subtidal zones throughout the Pacific Northwest. As shown in this photo, they are often found partially or fully buried in the sand with their body column stretched down into the substrate to find a solid attachment point. They can also be found in holes in rocks carved out by boring clams or urchins.

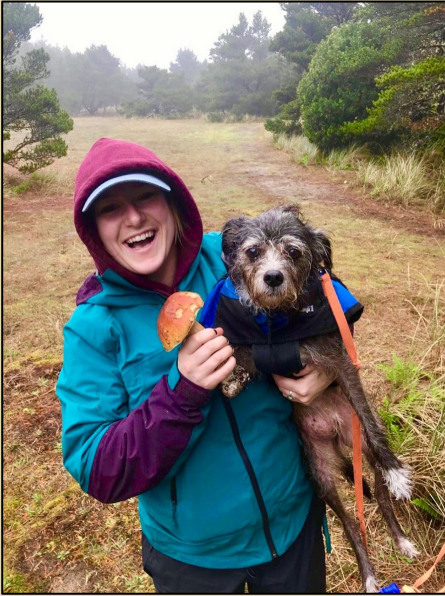
The differences between moonglow anemones and their common cousins, the giant green anemone and pink-tipped aggregating anemone, can be slight yet noticeable to a keen eye. Pink-tipped aggregating anemones are a similar size, but are often congregated in large groups, while moonglows are often found singly or in small groups. The giant green anemone, while sharing the low intertidal habitat, are usually much larger, with an exposed body column.

Any animal surviving the intertidal zone has to be hardy to survive in the ever-changing conditions. You can see these incredible animals in their natural habitat at local beaches like Seal Rock State Park, and in the Visitor Center, currently residing with the Northern Kelp Crab in the Crustacean exhibit!



New Education Project Assistants

We are excited to welcome two new Education Project Assistants to the Visitor Center team! Emilee Carpenter and Bailie Hampton both started in March. Here is a bit more about them.



Hi, my name is Emilee. I grew up in southern CA along the coast and was always down at the tide pools finding sea hares or octopuses. In 2012 I moved to WA and graduated in 2016 from Western Washington University with a BA in Environmental Education. After college I worked all around Washington state for a few years teaching environmental education for nonprofits. Currently I am going to school to get my certificate in Aquarium Science and am living in Depoe Bay. In the fall you can find me foraging for mushrooms and a lot of my time is spent walking my dog Jackson on the beach. I enjoy exploring new places and taking pictures along the way. I'm excited to begin work at HMSC and can't wait to meet everyone!

Hi my name is Bailie, and I am from Springfield, Oregon. I am a third-year student at Oregon State University, and I am currently taking the marine biology course here at Hatfield, I am very excited to be here! I am graduating after fall of 2022. After graduation I hope to travel cross-country before starting graduate school. I have a particular interest in research in rocky intertidal ecology. In my free time, I like to do a lot of hiking, and love to paint marine animals!



Upcoming Events

Marine Science Day! Join us online Saturday, April 9th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at <https://hmsc.oregonstate.edu/marine-science-day-2022>

Volunteer Meeting: April 12th at 10 a.m. in the VC Hennings Auditorium

