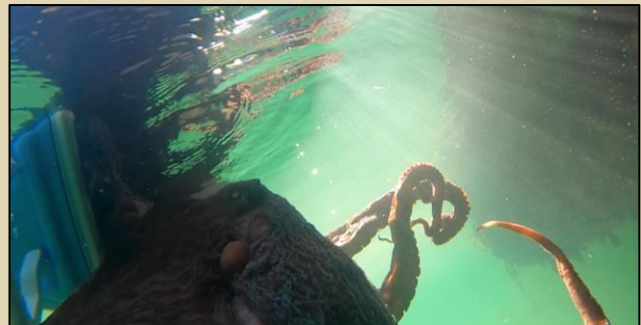
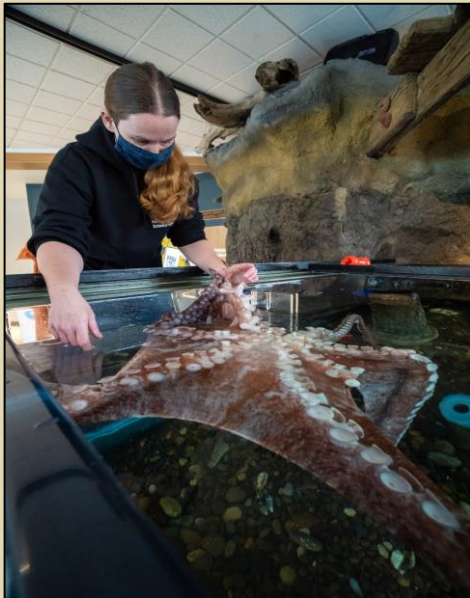


Visitor Center Updates

We all enjoy the different personalities and level of activity that each resident octopus displays while on exhibit in the Visitor Center. Our last resident octopus GPO 19-02 certainly did not disappoint. She was a very curious and friendly animal to observe and interact with. She spent the last year with us, longer than most octopuses on exhibit. She was doing so well that the aquarists started a painting enrichment project with her. The painting project continued each Monday during the months of May, June and July. This was a great opportunity for OctoCam viewers to check in and see her activity. Her paintings advanced with time, and we now have a collection of her work ready for display.

During routine feedings and matrix assessments in July, the aquarists noticed definite signs of senescence. GPO 19-02 was released on July 14th into the bay. We watched her quickly swim away with the hopes that she will have the opportunity to mate and reproduce.

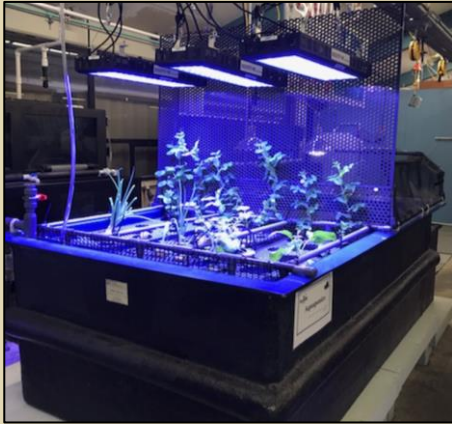


Pictured above: Jamie's last interaction with 19-02, Mina displaying the octopus painting collection, underwater photo of the release.

In the meantime, the octopus tank was cleaned and prepped for a new exhibit animal. GPO 20-02 is currently adjusting to its new environment. Check out the OctoCam to see if you can catch a glimpse of activity. This one is much smaller than the previous resident octopus.



Animal Husbandry Updates



Research Aquarist Sid Stetson has been working on an aquaponics system in the west wing. This project focuses on illustrating an innovative way to export nutrients and grow food for many of the animals onsite. The herbs and vegetables that are growing in this system are not just a food source, they also aid in water quality by metabolizing nitrates from fish waste. Something that you might not know about the west wing animal holding area is that it is utilized daily as a teaching laboratory.

Sid is always looking for different ways to filter the water and exemplify the concepts that are taught chapter and verse, or farm to tank in this case, to Aquarium Science students and vet students. When he builds these teaching systems, he tries to create system builds and filtration types that are not already present at the teaching aquarium at the College or next door at the Oregon Coast Aquarium.

Volunteer Highlight with Donna Scurlock

The ocean and the mysterious life under its surface were among my first loves. My college admission essay exposed my thinly disguised dream of shipping off with Jacques Cousteau on the Calypso in a bikini, or even better, a sleek, French-style SCUBA suit. I left ocean-less Denver for northern California and found myself doing undergraduate research on Monterey Bay. Clearly misreading the signs, I believed Marine Science wasn't going to help save the world and switched to medicine. After med school and residency, I plied my trade in New Zealand and Zimbabwe and eventually settled in Eugene. After shepherding my now young adult kids out the door, I reembraced my infatuation with Global Health, got an extra degree in Tropical Medicine and Public Health in England, and then spent months to years in Kenya, Uganda, and briefly Peru and Guatemala in various settings, including village health centers and UN refugee settlements and camps.

Now retired, I have more time to bask in the wonderland that is the Oregon coast, including walking the entire the Oregon Coast Trail. (Note: FYI - A brand new Mountaineers mile-by-mile guidebook to the Oregon Coast Trail will be published fall 2021) Driving to Newport is a pleasure when it means joining educational meetings and of course, shifts at the visitor center chatting with budding scientists. By my circling back to Marine Science, now Hatfield, its staff, and my volunteer colleagues are among my current loves.



Donna has been volunteering at Hatfield since 2011 contributing 1,083 hours to date. Thank you to Donna for sharing her story and for volunteering with us!