

## Visitor Center Updates

The Visitor Center entrance received a much needed update recently. The previous graphic on the front doors and windows had been up for 14 years. As you might have noticed, it had faded and was beginning to peel away.

We worked with NW Graphics to remove the old and install the new. We are very pleased with the vibrant octopus image to greet visitors as they come in.



We also updated the reservation form. There is no longer a process to create an account or password for a specific time slot. Visitors can now go to our website to purchase a ticket(s) for the day. They simply enter their name and email and choose the day that they prefer. This allows them to come for anytime that day between 10 – 4.

## Volunteers in Action

Volunteers have been busy in the Visitor Center and behind the scenes with a variety of projects. You all have been instrumental in connecting with our visitors and keeping exhibits running. We are beyond grateful! Pictured below: Jay talking with visitors about the octopus; the ‘Bonehead’ group Nancy, Era and Roseann working on the gray whale calf skeleton, and Scott ensuring that the wave tanks are ready for the day.



## Hatfield Pulls Together

Many thanks to the 24 participants who joined the "Hatfield Pulls Together" restoration event last month. In two hours, HMSC students, staff, and youth from the community helped groundskeeper Brent Butler remove large amounts of invasive English ivy from a forested portion of the HMSC campus.

These actions will allow diverse native plants to repopulate the forest understory. This event was hosted by the HMSC Green Team. Learn more about this group at <https://hmsc.oregonstate.edu/green-team>

Hatfield VC volunteer Annie is pictured here happily removing ivy.



When life hands you lemons, you make Crab Maroulosalata! The Aquatic Animal Husbandry staff participated in the the Newport Wild Seafood Cook-off on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Led by Sid, Jaimie and Jenn joined Oregon Sea Grant's Extension Agent Angie Doerr in a full day of culinary efforts in providing samples for 500 people.



This event was in collaboration with local commercial fishers. Oregon Sea Grant represented the Research Vessel Pacific Storm, and they received 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the crab division! Interested Sid's amazing recipe? Let us know, and we will get it to you.

## Big Skate Update

A skate egg case was found on the beach and collected by one of our amazing volunteers, Sally back in February of 2019. The first picture below shows the developing egg skate casing. The Aquarists cut a viewing window to allow monitoring and document the growth of the tiny skates inside. This particular casing had 3 newly formed baby skates. In April of 2019, the skates were big enough to break through their egg casing and swim around on their own. After a health check up from our Aquatic Veterinarian they were first introduced into the Oyster Exhibit!



Through the many months and multiple years following, these skates spent time in wetlands, kelp forest, and deep ocean exhibit tanks in the Visitor Center. Once they were big enough to start showing interest in mating, we had to transfer two of them to the Oregon Coast Aquarium. This mating behavior can cause injury and stress, and we did not intend to breed these skates. We have enjoyed having our one skate on exhibit through the years for visitors to see. Especially when children would get so excited when they found him and delight in pointing out his "smiley face" on the underside.

The time has come, and he has finally outgrown his exhibit in the Visitor Center. He is big enough and fast enough to successfully capture his tank mates. Which is wonderful to hear regarding his development and growth, but is not so great for his tankmates. He will stay close to "home" and will move to a different location here at Hatfield to assist in a skate behavioral study.

If you find an egg case that looks like it is in good condition, let us know!