

Spring 2016

Telonicher Marine Laboratory

HSU Telonicher Marine Laboratory
Humboldt State University

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Spring 2016

HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY



HSU TELONICHER Marine Laboratory

Dear Brian,

The Spring semester has ushered in a variety of new and interesting events at the lab. Beginning with the acquisition of a gorgeous 12 foot squid from a local fisherman, a new website, the return of our popular K-6 Summer Program, and a new Marine Science Summer program for Undergraduates, there is a lot happening at the lab these days. Read on to learn about some of these exciting events.

HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY

ABOUT FACILITIES PEOPLE INSTITUTE PROGRAMS GIVE VISIT HOME

HSU Telonicher Marine Laboratory



The Humboldt State University Marine Lab opened in 1965 and was established to provide a center for marine and environmental science teaching and research for the students and faculty of the College of Natural Resources and Sciences. Located on a bluff that overlooks the Pacific Ocean in Trinidad, the HSU Marine Lab provides ready access to the local marine environments of rocky shorelines, sandy beach and offshore kelp beds. This dramatic coastline of California remains one of the most pristine natural areas of the state. The lab is well-equipped to support both teaching and research projects on the marine life and the ocean environments.

NEW Marine Lab Website!

Our website has been completely redesigned to better showcase our facilities, our students and faculty research projects. Check it out to learn more about what we've been up to, including a history of the lab and the details for our K-6 and undergraduate summer programs.

HSU Marine Lab Snags a Big Squid

In February we had an unusual visitor to the lab: a robust club-hook squid that weighed between 60-70 pounds and was at least 12 feet in length from mantle to tentacle tip, according to Grant Eberle, Equipment Technician at the lab.

It's just an awesome specimen." HSU student Shelby Shapiro said. "This would be really cool if we could put it on display. It'll help to show the diversity of large invertebrates that we have because most people focus on large sport fish."

The squid was a by-catch from a local fishing vessel's dragline net that was about 1200 feet underwater. The squid was caught nearly 10 miles south of Eureka and was brought into Eureka on Feb. 17, Eberle said.

[Link to Newspaper Article](#)

[Link to TV Coverage \(with video\)](#)



Summer Programs Open for Registration



K-6 Marine Science Summer Program Returns

Now in its 15th year, our summer program is designed to offer children a hands-on opportunity to learn about diverse marine habitats. Each program includes observations of live marine animals, a walk to a local beach, and a project to bring home. The 5-day camp provides children ages 6-12 the opportunity to explore local marine habitats, organisms, and history. Sessions run July 18-22 (6-9 years of age) and August 1-5 (10-12), from 9 am. to 3 pm.

[More Information](#)



NEW Undergraduate Marine Science Summer Program

The Redwood Coast Marine Science Summer Program at HSU takes advantage of Northern California's redwood coast marine environments. All courses are taught at the Marine Lab, situated on a bluff that overlooks the Pacific Ocean in Trinidad. The lab is a 5-minute walk to a wide range of habitats. This dramatic coastline of California remains one of the most pristine, unique, and unstudied natural areas of the state.

Rocky intertidal zones, sandy beaches, kelp forests, deep offshore reefs, and the Humboldt Bay

estuary provide an exciting setting for an array of hands-on ocean learning activities carefully designed to stimulate undergraduate students' interests and provide experience-oriented learning.

[More Information](#)

Students Success Stories

Congratulations to our undergraduate marine lab technicians for these outstanding achievements:

- **Kindall Murie** (Biology) was named to CCAA's (California Collegiate Athletic Association) all-academic team as a member of the Women's Basketball team;
- **Jacob Pardita** (Oceanography/Applied Math) was awarded a Fellowship at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute in their Summer Student REU program;
- **Mahallelah Shauer** (Biology) was awarded a Fellowship at the Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences in their Summer REU program.

And kudos to this year's recipients of the *Malcolm Oliphant Scholarships in Marine Science*:

- Graduate students **Corianna Flannery** (Fisheries) and **Katherine Osborn** (Fisheries);
- Undergraduate students **Lily McIntire** (Biology), **Kaitlyn O'Brien** (Fisheries), and **Shelby Shapiro** (Biology).

Featured Students: Ian Kelmartin & Jay Staton

Collaborative Research to Assess Fish Communities in Northern California Marine Protected Areas

By Ian Kelmartin

Ian Kelmartin and Jay Staton are master's students in Humboldt State University's Department of Fisheries Biology working under the direction of Dr. Tim Mulligan. Jay received a BS in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences from Purdue University in 2011, Ian received a BS in Marine Biology from the College of Charleston in 2012.



Ian (left) and Jay (right) hard at work.

In 2012, 19 marine protected areas (MPAs) were established along the North Coast, the final step in the completion of California's Statewide MPA network, which protects about 16% of state coastal waters. Jay and I work with charter captains and volunteers to assess the state of the fish communities associated with nearshore rocky reefs along the North Coast, so that in the future scientists will be able to evaluate the efficacy of the MPAs in the region.

Rocky reef associated species include the Rockfishes (*Sebastes* spp.), Lingcod and Cabezon, many of which are targets of Northern California's popular sport fishery. To assess the populations, we work off of chartered commercial passenger fishing vessels-more commonly referred to as 6-pack charters (the captain is licensed to take up to 6 passengers). Once we arrive at a study site, which

can either be an MPA or a nearby reference site that acts as a "fished" control, four people fish using standardized hook-and-line gear for a set period of time. When fish are caught, they are identified to species, measured, tagged and released. When compiled, this information gives us a snapshot of the rocky reef fish communities at the time of MPA implementation: what species of fish are present, how large they are, and how abundant each species is. In the future, monitoring surveys using the same methods will be able to tell how the fish communities are responding to protection. This collaborative research approach is beneficial for all involved; the charter captains get business, the volunteers get a day of ocean fishing, and we're able to collect our data more easily and economically than we would be able to using a dedicated research vessel.

An important goal of the study is to build relationships with the captains and volunteers, and foster a deeper understanding of the MPAs in commercial and recreational fishing communities along the North Coast. The volunteers we've taken out run the gamut from students who had never caught a rockfish to seasoned recreational fishers, and long days on the ocean provided much time for productive conversation. Along stretches of our remote coast resources enforcement of MPAs are scarce, so for the successful protection of species the fishing communities must value the MPAs enough to respect their boundaries.

Over two years of field work and 40 days of sampling we captured 4248 individual fish of 22 species, and deployed 3491 tags. Jay and I are now in the analysis stage of our project, and we are working to model the habitat preferences of several commonly encountered fish species at multiple spatial scales. We hope this work will shed light on how many species of fish utilize the relatively limited nearshore habitat in Northern California, an area where little study has been undertaken. Questions about this work can be directed to Ian at idx16@humboldt.edu, or Jay at jms1860@humboldt.edu.



Toddler Has Hilarious Reaction to Hermit Crab!

Liam Kell of Arcata had a funny reaction to a hermit crab last week and his dad was lucky to catch it on camera. Johnny Kell told ABC News that he took his two boys, Liam, 1, and Lucas, 5, to the HSU Marine Lab where they visited the touch tank. Liam let out a high shriek and ran away upon seeing the crab.

[Watch the Video on ABC News](#)

[Give Now!](#)

[Help Support the Lab!](#)

If you are interested in supporting the lab your donations can help fund a number of activities; even a small donation is important to us. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to give me a call or send an e-mail.

Sincerely,

Brian Tissot, PhD
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