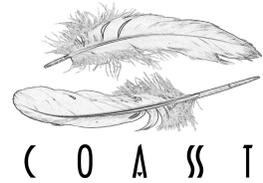


The Coasst Line

News for COASST Citizen Scientists

Spring 2004



Welcome to the premier issue of *The Coasst Line*, a newsletter written especially for our dedicated volunteers! Each quarter, we will publish a new edition with news, quizzes and photos (including *live* birds as a reminder of why we are doing this important work). Enjoy!

New Faces at the UW COASST Office

We are thrilled to welcome new interns, volunteers and staff. Interns Emily Slayton and Rebecca Monti have amazed us with their ability to jump right in and move projects forward. Anna Coles is volunteering her time to organize and file all of our photos. Shelly Ross has joined the staff on a part-time basis as Outreach Coordinator. She will lead our fundraising and outreach efforts, including media relations.

Daily Deposition Project to Commence

A group of students from Fisheries 101 at UW will survey two Puget Sound beaches daily for ten days to help COASST obtain estimates of *daily* deposition rates.

This will help us determine the *arrival* rate of carcasses, a vital statistic (combined with persistence rates) in beached bird mortality models. If you could find the time to do daily surveys for a week or more on your beach, COASST could certainly use your observations. One of our goals is to have at least a week of daily deposition data for each region, for each month! With daily survey data, COASST will be able to piece together a much more rigorous estimate of the total number of birds beached along our coastlines annually. This is because the patterns of deposition, persistence, and scavenging are both beach and bird specific. Daily surveys will allow us to estimate how long those small species – like phalaropes and murrelets – persist.



Alki Beach, West Seattle

photo by Shelly Ross

COASST year ends May 31; annual report planning begins

COASST staff are in the process of planning for the 2003 - 2004 annual report, and we need your help to meet some important deadlines. To facilitate the analysis of the ever larger amount of data you collect, we've moved the COASST year back one month, from June to May.

This means you will receive COASST reports earlier! **Because the COASST year now ends May 31, it is critical that we receive all of your survey data by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, June 1.**



Surf Scoters

photo by Shelly Ross

Thank you in advance for meeting this critical deadline. With your help, the staff will have enough time to verify and analyze data, write and edit the report, submit the copy for graphic design and print the reports in early September. The 2003 - 2004 report will include the usual features in addition to new

analyses. We now have four years of data for some regions, so this report promises to be our most engaging yet!

How your data will help COASST advance marine conservation

On behalf of all of us at COASST, thank you for your outstanding commitment to marine conservation over the past year. We cannot stress enough how valuable your data are, even if your surveys often reflect zeros. Thanks to your diligence, COASST responded to a number of events in the region—such as the Northern Fulmar dieoff and the Point Wells oil spill—with rigorous, credible baseline data.

As we look ahead to the 2004 - 2005 COASST year, we are excited about the work that volunteers are doing, and how we can continue to use the data you collect to advance marine conservation in Washington and Oregon. We are currently



Double-crested Cormorants photo by Shelly Ross

organizing meetings with natural resource management agencies, Audubon groups and other organizations that can use COASST data to support their management, conservation and advocacy work in our region. By networking with a broad range of marine conservation groups, we hope to inform policy and action that benefits our marine ecosystems. The

quality of the data and analyses we provide depends on consistent beach surveys and timely data entry. **Our goal for the new year is to ensure that beaches are surveyed consistently each month, and that all data are submitted immediately.** Your cooperation is essential to the success of our outreach plans, so we are sending a heartfelt plea for your commitment to getting out there and sending us your data.

We understand that life happens, and sometimes it isn't possible to survey your beach. Don't sweat it when something comes up, but please call your volunteer coordinator as early as possible to arrange a substitute. Thank you!

Quiz



photo by Mary Sue Brancato

Found: 2/26/04
 North Coast (Hobuck Beach)
 Bill: 14 mm
 Wings: 14 cm
 Tarsus: 29 mm

VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS

North Coast and Strait of Juan de Fuca:

Mary Sue Brancato, 360-457-6622, ext. 20

Barbara Blackie, 360-457-6622, ext. 26

Puget Sound, San Juan Islands, South Coast, Oregon:

Todd Hass, 206-221-6893

UPCOMING TRAINING SESSIONS

North Puget Sound:

Sunday, May 23, noon to 3 p.m., Bellingham. We will meet at the RE Store (600 W Holly Street). Please RSVP to Wendy Steffensen at 360-733-8307 or waters@re-sources.org

North Coast and Strait of Juan de Fuca:

Saturday, June 26, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. This training will take place in Forks or Port Angeles; please call to confirm location.

Sunday, June 27, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., Port Townsend Marine Science Center (located at the end of the pier).

We also offer training sessions at Hobuck Beach in Neah Bay between the 19th and 29th of each month, usually on a weekday. Join us for a refresher, or tell your friends! Please call to confirm dates and times.

Answer to quiz: ancient murrelet