



Western Fisheries Research Center (WFRC)

## Western Fisheries Science News



Secretary Jewell and Congresswoman DelBene tour WFRC laboratories and meet researchers with WFRC Director Jill Rolland. Photo courtesy Ryan McClymont, USGS

### Western Fisheries Research Center Hosts Visit from U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and U.S. Representative Suzan DelBene

On October 15, U.S. Department of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell traveled to the site of the SR530/Oso landslide in Washington State to discuss the heightened risk of natural disasters caused by climate change and mitigation to this and other threats. Jewell, along with U.S. Representative (WA 1st district) Suzan DelBene, spent the morning at the site of the SR530/Oso landslide and then traveled to Western Fisheries Research Center (WFRC) in Seattle for the afternoon. While visiting the WFRC, Jewell and DelBene participated in a panel discussion on climate change and natural disasters, toured the WFRC, and visited with scientists.

During the panel discussion, Jewell and DelBene engaged with scientists from USGS, and members from the Stillaguamish Tribe, Washington State's Department of Natural Resources, and the Sierra Club. The discussion focused on how to use science to better prepare for and prevent disasters in the future. Rich Ferrero, Regional Director for the Northwest Region, moderated the discussion on topics of fire, floods, earthquakes, landslides, and sea level rise. Jewell and DelBene were interested to hear about current science (Continued on page 2)

### Events

**USGS Scientist Provides Talk about Elwha River Research at NatureBridge Event:** On October 23, 2015, WFRC research ecologist Jeff Duda spoke to the national and regional board of directors to NatureBridge and 150 guests at the Seattle Aquarium. NatureBridge is a non-profit that offers nature education programs at campuses across the country, including Olympic National Park where their program includes the science discoveries associated with dam removal, river restoration, and salmon recolonization in the Elwha River. For more information, contact Jeff Duda, [jduda@usgs.gov](mailto:jduda@usgs.gov), or 206-526-2532.

**USGS Shares Fisheries Science in Local School:** On October 7, 2015, Roz Lehner and Lynn "Chip" Applegate visited Meridian Park Elementary (Shoreline, WA) to give scientific presentations on salmon passage to 75 first graders and participate in a field trip to Hiram A. Chittenden Locks. Lehner and Applegate introduced students to fisheries science and discussed scientific professions. For more information, contact Roz Lehner, [rllehner@usgs.gov](mailto:rllehner@usgs.gov), or 206-526-2526.

**USGS Scientist Participates in Panel Discussion at Oregon Lakes Association Conference-Klamath Falls:** On October 2-4, 2015, WFRC scientist Dave Hewitt participated in the 2015 Oregon Lakes Association's annual conference in Klamath Falls, OR. The theme of the conference titled "Klamath Lake Perspectives: Lesson for Oregon's Lakes" focused on the Klamath watershed and other lake-related topics such as harmful algal blooms, invasive species, and lake management. Hewitt participated on a panel discussion centered on the Klamath Basin resource management issues, along with (Continued on page 2)

and how it can help with preparedness, as well as discuss important science needs and tools. The use of high-resolution LIDAR imaging was one reoccurring topic, as well as the use of science to predict and monitor changes as they occur. The USGS currently has scientists in the region working on topics such as water, fire science, earthquake hazards, climate change, and threats to fish and aquatic sciences.

Following the panel discussion, WFRC Director Jill Rolland, led a tour of the center and laboratories—state of the art facilities for conducting experiments that explore factors that influence fish biology, fish behavior, fish genetics, disease resistance, infection processes, pathogen virulence, and transmission of pathogens—and talked about research at WFRC. Jewell and DelBene engaged in discussions along the tour with scientists working on habitat restoration, aquatic animal health, and immune response. The tour was extended, as Jewell and DelBene had many interests and questions about our research. “Congresswoman DelBene was particularly interested in the research being conducted in comparative immunology, specifically the work of estrogen-like compounds and their impacts on the fish immune system,” said Rolland, “The Congresswoman had worked in the field of immunology prior to her career in the high tech industry.”

It was an honor to have Jewell and DelBene visit WFRC. The visit provided a great opportunity to bring scientists, leadership, and stakeholders together to focus on natural disaster preparedness. It also gave us a chance to address challenges and highlight some of the great science already being done. We were happy to host the visit, meet our special guests, and share our science!

For more information contact Jill Rolland at [jrolland@usgs.gov](mailto:jrolland@usgs.gov), or 206-526-6291

## Events (Continued)

Dennis Lynch (Associate Regional Director for the USGS NW Region), Chrysten Lambert (Trout Unlimited), and Scott White (local Watermaster for Oregon Water Resources Department). Hewitt provided an overview of fish issues (listed and sensitive species, limiting factors, potential for recovery) and possible solutions to current challenges. For more information, contact David Hewitt, [dhewitt@usgs.gov](mailto:dhewitt@usgs.gov), or 541-273-8689 x215.

### USGS Western Fisheries Research Center Participates in Feds Feeds Families Campaign:

The WFRC-Columbia River Research Laboratory (CRRL) recently participated in the 2015 Feds Feed Families national campaign. Launched in 2009 as part of President Obama’s United We Serve campaign, Feds Feed Families was designed to help food banks and pantries stay stocked during summer months when they traditionally see a decrease in donations and an increase in need. The CRRL located in Cook, Washington collected a total of 148.5 pounds of food and will be donating to the Stevenson Food bank serving Skamania County in Washington State. For more information, contact Amy Hansen, [achansen@usgs.gov](mailto:achansen@usgs.gov), or 509-538-2299 x211.

## In The News

Research by USGS scientists was mentioned in various news media outlets, including the *Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Bulletin*, and the *Sportsman’s Spotlight* about a strategy to reduce mortality in juvenile fish at Dworshak National Fish Hatchery. A [USGS news release](#) on this topic was distributed on September 15, 2015. USGS researcher Rachel Breyta was also interviewed by Tom Walker of *Hatchery International*. For more information, contact Rachel Breyta, [rlife@usgs.gov](mailto:rlife@usgs.gov), or 206-948-2250.

On October 15, WFRC scientist Paul Hershberger was contacted by reporter, Chris Dunagan, from the *Kitsap Sun* and *Puget Sound Institute*. Dunagan was composing a story about diseases of fishes in the Salish Sea. Mr. Dunagan conducted his interview at Marrowstone on October 29, 2015. For more information, contact Paul Hershberger, [phershberger@usgs.gov](mailto:phershberger@usgs.gov) or 360-385-1007 x225.

## Publications

- Tonra, C.M., K. Sager-Fradkin, S.A. Morley, J.J. Duda, and P.P. Marra.** 2015. The rapid return of marine-derived nutrients to a freshwater food web following dam removal. *Biol. Conserv.* **192** (2015): 130-134. DOI: 10.1016/j.biocon.2015.09.009.
- Adams, N.S., C.D. Smith, J.M. Plumb, G.S. Hansen, and J.W. Beeman.** 2015. An evaluation of fish behavior upstream of the water temperature control tower at Cougar Dam, Oregon, using acoustic cameras, 2013: *U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 2015-1124*, 62 p. DOI: 10.3133/ofr20151124.
- Hewitt, D.A., E.C. Janney, B.S. Hayes, and A.C. Harris.** 2015. Status and trends of adult Lost River (*Deltistes luxatus*) and shortnose (*Chasmistes brevirostris*) sucker populations in Upper Klamath Lake, Oregon 2014: *U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 2015-1189*, 36 p. DOI: 10.3133/ofr20151189.
- Purcell, M.K., C.L. McKibben, S. Pearman-Gillman, D.G. Elliott, and J.R. Winton.** 2015. Effects of temperature on *Renibacterium salmoninarum* infection and transmission potential in Chinook salmon, *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha* (Walbaum). *J. Fish Dis.* (*Early View*). DOI: 10.1111/jfd.12409.

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