

## Message from the Superintendent

Oregon State University's Coastal Oregon Marine Experiment Station (COMES) includes faculty, staff, and students located at the Hatfield Marine Science Center and the Seafood Laboratory in Astoria. COMES is the largest applied marine research unit in Oregon and the largest branch experiment station in the United States dedicated solely to coastal and marine issues. COMES was established in 1988 by the Oregon legislature to conduct interdisciplinary and cooperative research to understand, utilize, and sustain Oregon's marine resources, industries, and coastal communities. Under the leadership of Lavern Weber and an advisory board chaired by Captain Barry Fisher, the Station began with three faculty and a handful of graduate students. Seventeen years later the Marine Experiment Station has grown to include 11 tenured faculty, 30 staff and research associates, 40 graduate students, and over \$3 million annually in external grants and funds.

The research programs of COMES encompass seven primary areas: Aquaculture (Chris Langdon, Fish Disease (Paul Reno), Fisheries Science (David Sampson), Fishery Management (Susan Hanna), Marine Mammals (Bruce Mate), Marine Economics and Marketing (Gilbert Sylvia), Salmon and Marine Fisheries Ecology/Genetics (Michael Banks), and Seafood Science and Engineering (Michael Morrissey, Jae Park, Yi-Cheng Su). Approximately half of the COMES faculty have joint positions within their academic homes, Oregon Sea Grant, and/or the Oregon Department of Fisheries and Wildlife. Much of the research involves diverse cooperators including OSU faculty, other national and international research institutes, and industry, state, and federal government including National Marine Fisheries Service and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. COMES also helps sponsor workshops and conferences which further the mission of the Station in supporting wise use of marine resources. COMES is now hiring three tenured-track faculty in Fisheries Ecology, Cetacean Biology, and Pinniped Biology which is expected to substantially boost the growth of COMES over the next five years.

The year 2004-2005 was highly successful and marked continued growth of the Station. Based on the Oregon Invests database, in 2004-2005 COMES programs generated over \$10 million in economic impacts and produced 30 new jobs for Oregon and Pacific Northwest coastal communities. These impacts are the result of research leading to improved utilization of marine resources, increased production of commercially harvested and cultured seafood, development of value-added seafood products, and improved policies for resource management. COMES published 78 manuscripts and reports including 45 in refereed journals and books. COMES graduated 18 students including 12 MS and 6 Ph.D's. COMES faculty also gave over 100 presentations and organized 16 workshops and conferences. For 2004-2005 it is estimated that for each \$1 million in state dollar expended, COMES faculty leverage an additional \$3 million in federal grants and private support.



Gil Sylvia, Superintendent  
Coastal Oregon Marine Experiment Station