

A leader in global research

Open house at UCSC's Long Marine Laboratory

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SANTA CRUZ — As Monterey Bay becomes a world center for marine research, a leading role will be taken by UC Santa Cruz's Long Marine Laboratory.

Over the next few years the laboratory will more than triple in size, becoming home to a United States Geological Survey marine research branch, a center designed to aid the rescue of sea mammals injured in oil spills, as well as other research projects.



Researcher Jenifer Zelig gets a friendly kiss from Beaver, a male sea lion. In bottom photo, a sea lion swims before a Long Lab viewing room.

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"In the big picture the Monterey Bay just keeps getting incredible recognition as a center of marine sciences," said UCSC Professor Gary Griggs, current lab director.

On Sunday the lab will open its doors for an open house, an annual event which draws thousands of people, according to officials.

The event features demonstrations by sea lions trained to ferry scientific equipment in

the open sea, including camera gear to film whales and other sea life, as well as talks by leading scientists and films from deep within Monterey Submarine Canyon.

It is an opportunity to see how scientists work, as well as to gain an understanding of some of the mysteries of the bay — without having to don a mask and snorkel.

The waters of the bay offer scientists an almost endless opportunity for marine research — from spores floating through the

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filtered light of kelp forests, to the behavior of marine mammals and phosphorescent worms, to the toxins found in a drop of sea water.

"Two of our biggest areas of research are marine mammals and toxicology," Griggs said.

UCSC scientists at the lab also study ocean pollution and other environmental health issues, as

well as search for new marine organisms and compounds which can be used in the manufacturing of drugs to fight cancer and other diseases.

According to Steve Davenport, assistant lab director, marine science is now branching into other fields of study, and complementing other research programs.

"Marine science is becoming more global," Davenport said. "There is more interaction between marine scientists studying fish and those studying global changes. They used to be in different worlds."

Research facilities in the Monterey Bay have come a long way since "Doc" Ricketts founded a laboratory near Cannery Row in Mon-

terey, in days later written about by John Steinbeck.

After Ricketts came the Hopkins Marine Laboratory; the Navel Post Graduate School in 1950; the Moss Landing Marine Laboratory in 1966 and the Long Marine Laboratory in 1978.

According to Griggs, the real explosion in interest and research facilities has come after the opening of the Monterey Bay Aquarium in 1984, and with the founding of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary this year.

The open house begins at 10:30 a.m. with talks and demonstrations, as well as a barbecue continuing until 3:30. Parking and a shuttle bus are available at Silicon Systems on Delaware Street.

