

# Center will study ocean's health

~~National Fisheries~~ Marine Lab

6-10-98

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SANTA CRUZ — The well-being of the world's oceans will be the focus of a new center at UC Santa Cruz.

Funded largely by a \$5 million grant from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the Center for Ocean Health will integrate marine research, environmental policy and public education in a common goal to better preserve the oceans.

"The Center for Ocean Health will be the capstone of UCSC's long-standing commitment to marine and environmental research and education," said Chancellor M.R.C. Greenwood.

She will formally announce the establishment of the center today at a reception following a ground-breaking ceremony for the National Marine Fisheries Service lab next to the university's Long Marine Lab.

The announcement comes at a time when all eyes of the marine research community are on Monterey Bay for the National Oceans Conference later this week.

Other centers concentrate on marine research or on public policy, but few do both, Greenwood said.

The Center for Ocean Health will be able to study and shed light on ocean sus-

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tainability, commercial capacities and issues associated with El Nino and the effects on society, Greenwood said.

The center will provide oceanfront research space for Long Marine Lab and other components of the Institute of Marine Sciences, which has 35 affiliated marine science faculty and nearly 40 professional and post-doctoral researchers. The center will be a separate entity within the institute.

The approximately 20,000-square-foot facility will replace aging trailers used by Long Marine Lab staff. It will include offices and labs for faculty, researchers and graduate students and a 50-seat conference room.

IMS Director Gary Griggs said he envisions the new facility as not only a research center but as a "think tank" that will bring together scientists and policy makers and play a key role in creating

public policy at state and national levels.

Plans for the Center for Ocean Health include an annual ocean health summit, quarterly ocean health seminars and a visiting governmental fellows' program.

"The adverse effects of human activities on the earth's oceans can be seen in declining water quality, habitat destruction, loss of biodiversity and overexploited fisheries," Griggs said. "Addressing these problems effectively requires a coordinated effort of marine research, environmental policy formulation and public education."

The Packard Foundation's grant is the first major step toward realizing these plans. The university will seek additional funding for construction and program costs.

Created in 1964, the foundation provides grants in several major program areas, including science, population, conservation

and children and community. The foundation's support of programs at UCSC, beginning in 1979, now totals more than \$9.4 million.

"It gives me particular pleasure to know that a new marine research facility will soon be a reality at the north of Monterey Bay," said county resident Julie Packard, a foundation trustee and UCSC alumna. "This facility will enable UC Santa Cruz and its partners to advance research goals essential to our understanding of ocean systems and our role in protecting them."

The center will be yet another addition to the developing research community on the city's Westside.

The state Department of Fish and Game opened its Marine Wildlife Veterinary Care and Research Center next to Long Lab in July.

At Long Marine Lab, a new Marine Discovery Center, which will share the work of local scientists with schoolchildren, teachers and families, is under construction. The NMFS will also begin building a facility this year.

There will be close to 100,000 square feet of new state-of-the-art marine research space built within the next two and half years in this neighborhood, Greenwood said.