

72nd Annual Eastern Pacific Ocean Conference

Timberline Lodge, Mt. Hood, Oregon

Sept. 16-19, 2026

Meeting Chairs: Michael P. Montgomery and Natalie N. Dornan

EPOC President: Will White

EPOC Treasurer: Jasen Jacobsen



Photo: Ricky Brokaw

A COUPLE OF EPOC REQUESTS

First, please vote for your favorite student presentations using the link or QR code below. Thank you in advance for supporting our student presenters.

[Click here to access judging form](#)



Second, we would like your help filling in gaps in the Eastern Pacific Ocean Conference archive. Full conference programs for this historic meeting are available on the EPOC website, but only go back continuously to 2013. We are particularly interested in securing EPOC programs for most of the years between 2001 and 2012. Previous conference locations known to this year's organizers are included in the following list, but note that we do not currently have full programs for any of these years. To celebrate the tradition of the Fireside Chat, an Appendix on the last page of the program lists all EPOC Fireside "Chatters" from 2007-2026.

Years in need of a full EPOC program:

2001

2002

2003

2004 – Dunsmuir, BC

2005 – Fallen Leaf Lake, CA

2006

2009 – Sidney, BC

2010

2012

If you have physical or digital documentation of any of these or other prior EPOCs, or ideas on where to find them, please email Michael Montgomery (mpmontgomery@ucsb.edu) or Will White (will.white@oregonstate.edu).

EPOC 2026 - PROGRAM SUMMARY

DAY 1: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

4:00 PM		Check-in Begins (<i>Barlow Room</i>)
6:00 PM	- 7:45 PM	Dinner (<i>Cascade Dining Room or Ram's Head Bar</i>)
7:45 PM	- 8:00 PM	Conference Welcome (<i>Lobby Patio</i>)
8:00 PM	- 9:00 PM	Fireside Chat, Dr. Francisco Chavez (<i>Barlow Room</i>)

DAY 2: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

7:30 AM	- 8:15 AM	Breakfast (<i>Cascade Dining Room</i>)
8:30 AM	- 12:00 PM	Morning Sessions (<i>Ullman Hall</i>): (S1) Drivers and Consequences of Marine Hypoxia in the Eastern Pacific Ocean (S2) General Session: Oceanography of the Eastern Pacific Ocean
12:00 PM	- 3:00 PM	Lunch and Free Time (<i>Cascade Dining Room</i>)
3:00 PM	- 5:30 PM	Afternoon Sessions (<i>Ullman Hall</i>): (S2) General Session: Oceanography of the Eastern Pacific Ocean (cont.) (S3) Technological Advances in Oceanic and Ecological Observations
5:30 PM	- 7:00 PM	Dinner and Free Time (<i>Cascade Dining Room or Ram's Head Bar</i>)
6:30 PM	- 7:00 PM	Poster Session Setup (<i>Y'Bar</i>)
7:00 PM	- 9:30 PM	Poster Session and Reception (<i>Y'Bar</i>)

DAY 3: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

7:30 AM	- 8:15 AM	Breakfast (<i>Cascade Dining Room</i>)
8:30 AM	- 11:00 PM	Morning Session (<i>Ullman Hall</i>): (S4) Ocean Observing Systems at a Crossroads
11:00 PM	- 3:00 PM	Lunch and Free Time (<i>Cascade Dining Room</i>)
3:00 PM	- 6:00 PM	Afternoon Session (<i>Ullman Hall</i>): (S5) Physical-Ecological Interactions in the California Current System
6:00 PM	- 7:00 PM	Free Time
7:00 PM	- 11:00 PM	Banquet and Entertainment, Larkspur Grass (<i>Ullman Hall</i>)

DAY 4: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

7:30 AM	- 8:15 AM	Breakfast (<i>Cascade Dining Room</i>)
8:30 AM	- 11:00 AM	Morning Session (<i>Ullman Hall</i>): (S6) Data and Information in Support of Place-based Management Needs for the West Coast
11:00 AM	- 12:00 PM	EPOC Business Meeting (<i>Ullman Hall</i>)
	12:00 PM	End of Meeting

EPOC 2026 - THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

*Student Presenter

8:30 AM	- 9:50 AM	Drivers and Consequences of Marine Hypoxia in the Eastern Pacific Chair: Jack Barth
	8:30 AM	Introductory Remarks
	8:35 AM	Jaime Färber Lorda: Seasonal variability of the Oxygen Minimum Zone off the Mexican tropical Pacific, and consequences on zooplankton vertical distribution
	8:50 AM	Alli Moreno: Nutrient stress controls respiration quotient and oxygen demand
	9:05 AM	Stephen Huie*: Using an observation-based model to assess hypoxia and reoxygenation in an upwelling shadow bay along the California Current System
	9:20 AM	Mercedes Pozo Buil: Tracing oxygen variability through source-water contributions in the California Current System
	9:35 AM	Jack Barth: Repeated autonomous underwater glider surveys reveal extreme, near-bottom, shelf hypoxia during the upwelling season off central Washington, U.S.A.
	9:50 AM	<i>Morning Coffee Break</i>
10:10 AM	- 11:30 AM	General Session: Oceanography of the Eastern Pacific Ocean Chairs: Michael Montgomery and Natalie Dornan
	10:10 AM	Introductory Remarks
	10:15 AM	Elizabeth McHuron: Developing predictive tools for a California Current indicator species using a half-century of data
	10:30 AM	William Gross*: Characterizing nonlinear internal wave morphologies on the Washington coast using variational mode decomposition
	10:45 AM	Eliza Lerman*: TS relationship status? It's complicated! Conservative mixing and temperature variability in the Columbia River estuary
	11:00 AM	Andrew Scherer*: Reconstructing temperature variability in the Northern California Current System using Lagrangian derived transit time distributions
	11:15 AM	Thomas Connolly: Stratification, frontal dynamics, and mixing in an upwelling bay: A thermal variance perspective
	11:30 AM	<i>Discussion for both morning sessions</i>
12:00 PM	- 3:00 PM	Lunch and Free Time

EPOC 2026 - THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 (CONT.)

*Student Presenter

3:00 PM	- 3:30 PM	General Session: Oceanography of the Eastern Pacific Ocean(cont.) Chairs: Michael Montgomery and Natalie Dornan
	3:00 PM	Emily Lemagie: Impacts of shelf-break anticyclonic eddies on surface chlorophyll concentration in the Gulf of Alaska in summer
	3:15 PM	Maggie Chen*: Eddy predictability in the Gulf of Alaska using persistent eddy characteristics
3:30 PM	- 4:45 PM	Technological Advances in Oceanic and Ecologic Observations Chair: Jordan Snyder
	3:30 AM	Introductory Remarks
	3:35 PM	Dan Costa: The tradeoff between large body size and foraging ecology in the deep ocean
	3:50 PM	<i>Afternoon Coffee Break</i>
	4:00 PM	Leilane Passos: CormOcean and fishing for hypoxia: Near real-time coastal ocean datasets collected by bird-borne biologists and crab-pot sensors
	4:15 PM	Jessica Garwood: Recent advances and opportunities for multi-robot systems in oceanography
	4:30 PM	Jose Solorzano*: Patterns of subsurface oxygen change in the Central North Pacific: Models and observations
	4:45 AM	<i>Discussion for both afternoon sessions</i>
5:00 PM	- 5:30 PM	Poster Session Introductions
5:30 PM	- 7:00 PM	Dinner and Free Time
6:30 PM	- 7:00 PM	Poster Session Setup
7:00 PM	- 9:30 PM	Poster Session and Hors d'Oeuvre Reception

EPOC 2026 - FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

*Student Presenter

8:30 AM	- 9:35 PM	Ocean Observing Systems at a Crossroads: Accomplishments, Innovations, and Vision Chair: Ed Dever
	8:30 PM	Introductory Remarks
	8:35 AM	Rosie Gradoville: Reshaping a long-term ocean and estuary observing system for tribal stewardship in the Columbia River
	8:50 AM	Seth Travis: ORCA2.0: Implementing buoyancy-driven biogeochemical profiling moorings in Puget Sound, Washington
	9:05 AM	Henry Ruhl: The essential role of large research vessels in marine ecosystem observations and ocean sustainability
	9:20 AM	Alexander Kurapov: OOI glider data assimilation and other improvements in the NOAA's US West Coast Ocean Forecast System (WCOFS)
	9:35 AM	<i>Morning Coffee Break</i>
	9:50 AM	Darren Pilcher: Regional observing systems provide critical insight for evaluation of an ocean biogeochemical model
	10:05 AM	Marco Corrales-Ugalde: Mesozooplankton size data from fine-scale in situ imaging reveals mesoscale drivers of size spectra variability in the northern California Current
	10:20 AM	Charles Seaton: Calibration and validation of the STOF3D-Pacific operational forecast using Eastern Pacific Ocean observations
	10:35 AM	<i>Discussion</i>
11:00 AM	- 3:00 PM	Lunch and Free Time

EPOC 2026 - FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 (CONT.)

*Student Presenter

3:00 AM	- 3:20 PM	Physical-Ecological Interactions in the California Current System) Chair: Art Miller and Ariane Verdy
	3:00 PM	Introductory Remarks
	3:05 PM	Ricky Brokaw: Impacts of island wakes and eddies on coastal connectivity
	3:20 PM	Ariane Verdy: Constraining California Current Sub-Mesoscale Dynamics and Biogeochemistry with SWOT
	3:35 PM	Will White: Physical oceanographic factors driving zooplankton abundance in an upwelling system vary with life history: meroplankton are retained, holoplankton are advected
	3:50 PM	Mikaela Provost: An integrated oceanographic and physiological framework for identifying climate refugia for marine invertebrates
	4:05 PM	Mark Ohman: Is 'greener green and bluer blue' developing in the California Current Ecosystem?
	4:20 PM	<i>Afternoon Coffee Break</i>
	4:40 PM	<i>Conference Photo</i>
	4:50 PM	Ian Black* Bio-optically-derived sinking POC flux across the Oregon shelf over multiple upwelling seasons
	5:05 PM	George Colaco*: Biologging reveals multi-scale responses of sea lions to oceanographic variability in the California Current System
	5:20 PM	Dawn Barlow: Monitoring biodiversity in a changing ocean: aligning timeseries across projects, sensors, and trophic levels from physics to plankton to whales
	5:35 AM	<i>Discussion</i>
6:00 PM	- 7:00 PM	Free Time
7:00 PM	-11:00 PM	Banquet and Entertainment with <i>Larkspur Grass</i>

EPOC 2026 - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

*Student Presenter

8:30 AM	- 9:50 AM	Data and Information in Support of Place-Based Management Needs for the West Coast Chairs: Henry Ruhl, Clarissa Anderson, and Jan Newton
	8:30 PM	Introductory Remarks
	8:35 AM	Lorenzo McCleese* : Detecting single and compound marine extremes in the California Current Large Marine Ecosystem
	8:50 AM	Rachel Holser : Out of sight, out of mind: Foraging hotspots and energetic impact of adult male northern elephant seals in the Northeast Pacific
	9:05 AM	Lynn Rannankari : Marine mammal acoustic presence and habitat use at Clayoquot Slope, British Columbia: Insights from a year of passive acoustic monitoring
	9:20 AM	Jan Newton : Forecasting harmful algal blooms in the Pacific Northwest: Harnessing science, technology, and community to optimize the system
	9:35 AM	Clarissa Anderson : Plankton Data Assembly Center: A vision for developing an instrument-agnostic community hub in support of NHABON, Marine Life, MBON, and more
	9:50 AM	<i>Discussion</i>
	10:15 AM	<i>Morning Coffee Break & Checkout</i>
11:00 AM	-12:00 PM	EPOC Business Meeting & Student Awards
	12:00 PM	EPOC 2026 is Adjourned

EPOC 2026 - POSTER PRESENTATIONS

***Student Presenter**

SESSION 1

Drivers and Consequences of Marine Hypoxia in the Eastern Pacific

Tia Bottger*

An intercomparison of Puget Sound models for hypoxia research

Leila Gonzales*

Hot algae summer changes in oxygen demand in phytoplankton

Melodi Hernandez Pacheco*

Controls on Monterey Bay surface stoichiometry

Selah Hyson*

Impact of nutrient stress on oxygen demand and respiration quotient of HAB phytoplankton

Skyln Jara*

Nutrient-driven variability in the respiration quotient: implications for coastal oxygen dynamics

SESSION 2

Ocean Observing Systems at a Crossroads: Accomplishments, Innovations, and Vision

Mar Arroyo

Improving observation-based biogeochemical reconstructions in the California Current Large Marine Ecosystem by incorporating the coastal ocean observing system

Zoe Crow*

Developing a marine wind and wave height climatology for ENSO phases in the Pacific Northwest

Ed Dever

The NSF Ocean Observatories Initiative Coastal Endurance Array: Retrospective and prospective views

Melanie Fewings

Extreme subsurface hydrographic events in the Northern California Current

EPOC 2026 - POSTER PRESENTATIONS (CONT.)

SESSION 3

Physical-Ecological Interactions in the California Current System

Gawain Antell

Increased sedimentation rate beginning in the mid-nineteenth century is the first fingerprint of human impacts on the Santa Barbara Basin

Albert Hermann

Modern techniques for for immersive 3D visualization of remotely served regional ocean model output

Tyler Morgan*

Marine heatwave impacts on model plankton communities vary with latitude, body size, and trophic level

Maxwell Seale*

A numerical recipe for northern anchovy: insights into recent boom-bust dynamics from a climate-to-fish model

Garrett Staller*

Impacts of kelp forests on coastal mixing and transport

SESSION 4

Data and Information in Support of Place-Based Management Needs for the West Coast

Jessica Bolin

Using physical oceanographic data to define species-specific climate refugia for marine management

Hadley Clark

How the West Coast Ocean Sound Observation Network is translating soundscapes to support place-based management

Amy Duh*

Evaluating dynamic ocean management tools in the California Current Ecosystem

Henry Ruhl

Technology evaluations for meeting information needs at the scales needed for ocean management - A Synchro pilot study

Stephanie Matthews

The development and application of an eDNA toolkit for a rare species

EPOC 2026 - POSTER PRESENTATIONS (CONT.)

SESSION 5

General Session: Oceanography of the Eastern Pacific Ocean

Christine Cass

Trinidad Head Line zooplankton communities: Body composition by season, body size, and year

Emma Nuss

Regional Model of the Ocean Refined Adaptively (REMORA): A gpu-enabled regional ocean model

Vivek Seelanki

Evaluation of a coupled ocean and sea-ice model (MOM6-NEP10k) over the Bering Sea and its sensitivity to turbulence decay scales

Walter Torres

Coupled wave-ocean modeling of Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor, WA

Manman Wang

Self-organizing maps of surface circulation regimes in the Strait of Georgia from HF radar observations

Leah Wilczynski*

Chinook salmon smolt migration outcome shaped by phenology of ocean entry and pulses of strong southward currents



Photo: Ariane Verdy

APPENDIX: TWENTY YEARS OF THE EPOC FIRESIDE CHAT, 2007-2026

All names are verbatim from the available programs or organizer emails. If you can fill in any of the gaps please contact Michael Montgomery (mpmontgomery@ucsb.edu).

2007 – Russel Barsh
2008 – Charles Goldman
2009 – Rick Thomson
2010 – ??
2011 – Dick Dugdale
2012 – ??
2013 – Jim Kitchell
2014 – Dick Feely
2015 – David Checkley
2016 – Dudley Chelton
2017 – Mary Silver
2018 – Zack Powell
2019 – Antonietta Capotondi
2020 – n/a, virtual roundtable
2021 – Loo Botsford
2022 – Gretchen Hofmann
2023 – Claudia Benitez-Nelson
2024 – Steven Ramp
2025 – Melanie Fewings
2026 – Francisco Chavez