

Monthly Update
AUGUST 2011

Key Achievements in August

Management

- 2 August: Dr Tommy Bornman and Ryan Palmer attended the official launch of the Ocean Tracking Network (OTN) in South Africa at the Canadian Embassy, Pretoria.
- 4 August: Attended the CAPE Estuaries Programme Task Team meeting in Cape Town.
- 4 -5 August: Meeting with SAEON Egagasini to discuss collaboration.
- 16 August: Johan Pauw's visit to Elwandle Node.
- 22 – 24 August: Tommy and Shaun Deyzel attended the SAEON Book Launch and scientific meeting in Stellenbosch.

Proposed activities for September

- 5 – 8 September: SAEON Network of Education Experts meeting and field trips to the Kowie Estuary and Algoa Bay.
- 8-9 September: Attend >9 m skippers course in Port Elizabeth.
- 13 – 15 September: The Wild Coast Living Laboratory Workshop, Kobb Inn Hotel, Wild Coast.
- 19 – 23 September: Survey Sediment Elevation Table (SET) stations in to sea level in the Swartkops, Kromme and Knysna estuaries.
- 27 – 30 September: ASCLME Steering Committee meeting in Maputo, Mozambique.

Algoa Bay LTMRP

- There was little opportunity for boat based work in Algoa Bay and surrounding areas due to wind velocity rarely dropping below 10 knots (~20 km/h) and huge swells exacerbating sea conditions.
- PE-LTEMRP and Bird Island teams postponed sampling efforts to early September, 5th to 11th September being earmarked for this purpose.
- The repairs to R/V uKwabelana are now complete, which is good news for the Algoa Bay research and monitoring operations.
- All teams are working closely together to ensure the work opportunity lost during August will be rectified in September.

Data Management

- Shaun Deyzel has received the final documentation and information from Mr Adrian Evans, a PhD student at NMMU, for registration of his PhD project with SAEON. Information is ready to be uploaded onto the SAEON Projects Database.
- Shaun has started negotiations with Ms Elodie Heyns, PhD student at RU/SAIAB/SAEON with regards to project registration. Ms Heyns is a PDP Bursary Holder through SAIAB and is jointly supervised by Dr. Albrecht Götz of SAEON and Dr. Nicole Richoux of Rhodes University.

Laboratory Parataxonomy Interns

- Interns are continuing their sample analysis of benthic samples on behalf of Oceanographic Research Institute for Principle Scientist, Ms Fiona Mackay.

Proposed activities for September

- 5-11 September: PE-LTEMP monthly sampling.
- 12-15 September: Shaun will be attending the Wild Coast Living Laboratory Workshop, and
- 16 September: Attending the 8th SIMSC meeting, which will be hosted by Elwandle.

Marine Protected Areas:

- No fieldtrips undertaken to Tsitsikamma during August.
- 1 – 2 August 2011, Dr Albrecht Gotz attended a Fire-fighting at Sea Course in Port Elizabeth.

Isimangaliso

- Sean Bailey's work on the invert data and fish video data collected from the 2010 and 2011 fieldtrips are continuous until the end of this year. Also continuous is the updating of the iSimangaliso database and analyses of all data collected over the past 3 years.

Proposed activities for September

- Dr. Gotz - Skipper's training in Port Elizabeth.
- For the rest of the month, he will be attending meetings and writing up papers in Cape Town.

Joint ACEP Marine Platform Operations:

- GÖTZ, A. and R. PALMER (2011): ACEP takes a new look at 'old-four-legs'. <http://www.saeon.ac.za/enewsletter/archives/2011/august2011/doc02/>
- ACEP II cruises are all complete and currently Ryan Palmer is writing up and finishing off most projects.
- Ryan has completed the ACEP Project overview booklet.
- ACEP III funding has been approved and finalised between DST, NRF and SAIAB.

Proposed activities for September

- ROV trip in Algoa Bay onboard uKwabelana.
- Ocean Tracking Network (OTN) equipment has arrived and moorings are being assembled. Deployment planned for September in Algoa Bay and October in Mossel Bay.

Education

- Elwandle Education, represented by Nozi Hambaze, was invited by the Department of Education to attend and exhibit at the career expo, held at the Makana Indoor Sport Centre in Grahamstown.
- Two successful Murray and Roberts educator workshops were held during August in Grahamstown and Phalaborwa, and;
- An initiation workshop for Egagasini Node was held in Cape Town. A report on the outcome of the workshop is pending and will be released shortly.

Proposed activities for September

- 5-8 September: Network of Education Experts Meeting in Grahamstown, including field trips to the Kowie Estuary and a ski-boat trip out of the port of Port Elizabeth into Algoa Bay.
- Preparations for the Grade 11 Science camp is ongoing.

Staff and Student Matters

- Mr Luzuko Dali presented his PhD proposal to SAIAB, Rhodes and SAEON staff on 16th August during a three-day PDP Awardees Induction Workshop held by SAIAB.
- Products from this workshop included detailed work schedules, clearly established performance indicators and under-signed performance agreements.