

ELWANDLE NODE

Monthly Update
FEBRUARY / MARCH 2010

Key Achievements in February / March

Launch

The Elwandle Node had its launch. The event was regarded as a success with very good feedback from the NRF and DST.

Algoa Bay LTMR

- On the 16th – 17th February, Shaun Deyzel attended a RDM training workshop for estuaries in Pretoria.
- The 23rd February 2010 Shaun together with Algoa Bay researchers work shopped the booking and usage system for uKwabelana.
- Sean retrieved and replaced Cape Recife (CR) Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler (ADCP) and the Cape Recife 30 m Underwater Temperature Recorder (UTR) array. The CR ADCP unit sustained damage on the communication port but it is in the process of being repaired in order to retrieve the data.
- Sean successfully retrieved and replaced two 80 m Underwater Temperature Recorder Arrays on the 16th March 2010. They were: 1) Bird Island 80 m UTR and 2) Algoa Bay mouth 80 m UTR. Data were successfully retrieved and securely sent to Dr. Wayne Goschen for population and analysis.
- Shaun managed the production of 15 Algoa Bay Principle Investigation Posters for display at SAEON/ACEP/ASCLME Launch.
- Shaun compiled the SAEON Projects 2008-2010 document for display at SAEON/ACEP/ASCLME Launch.
- He also managed the use of uKwabelana by Algoa Bay PI's and is happy to report that the booking and management system lined out in the meeting held on 23rd March at NMMU with respective PI's worked extremely well.

Proposed activities for April

- Deploy a deepwater (60-70 m) UTR in the mid-shelf region of Algoa Bay, a shallow (30 m) off Boknes, east of Bird Island.
- Meet with Algoa Bay PE-LTEMP PI's (Prof Eileen Campbell, Dr Angus Paterson, Dr Tommy Bornman, Mrs Berny Snow, Mr Luzuko Dali) aimed at work shopping science, logistical and field sampling items, as well as to identify deliverables for 2010 to 2012.
- Co-ordinate and conduct a field trip aimed at testing sampling equipment to iron out foreseeable problems before our first Monthly sample to be taken early May 2010.
- Set up SAEON's Parataxonomy for zooplankton analysis (PE-LTEMP)
- Fort Hare Honours Student Research Programme:
 - Invite students for a 2 day field preparation water safety workshop;
 - Complete field work (last quarter of April);
 - The students will start the laboratory analysis at SAEON/SAIAB under the supervision of respective mentors.

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Marine Protected Areas:

- The 25th January - 12th February 2010 Dr. Albrecht Götz successfully completed the ROV Pilot / Technician II Course at Marine Solutions in Cape Town.
- 4th March Albrecht attended the Board of Faculty of Science Meeting at Rhodes University.
- The 10th March the ADCP and thermister string was serviced, downloaded and redeployed off Cape Recife by Albrecht.
- The 18th March Albrecht did an honours lecture on the subject of fisheries management, marine protected areas and long-term monitoring at the Department of Ichthyology and Fisheries Science at Rhodes University.
- 25th March Albrecht attended the SAEON launch in Port Elizabeth.
- The 31st March Albrecht did a WWF progress and financial report AWPW05 for Table Mountain National Park.
- Sean Bailey is still working on the benthic invertebrate data for Isimangaliso. The final report for this data will be complete by mid April.
- Anthony Bernard was on the Tsitsikamma National Park Summer field trip from the 22nd January until the 22nd February 2010, which was successfully completed.
- Anthony Bernard has also successfully completed the Table Mountain National Park fieldtrip. Key research was the comparative assessment of the sensitivity of selected demersal fish monitoring methods to detect MPA effects between the Castle Rocks sanctuary and the adjacent Caravan Reef.
- On this fieldtrip, he enrolled an international intern student to assist with the project for a period of 5 months.
- Anthony entered into discussions with Nic Hanekom about allowing FIN volunteers access to boat diving from Storms River.
- Anthony began data analysis of the Fish trap and RUV's (baited and unbaited) data in the Tsitsikamma National Park and obtained final quotes from Marine Solutions for deep water BRUV.
- The FIN website is up and running and ready for use by volunteers.
- The Council of Geoscience has started the mapping of the core monitoring sites in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans.

Proposed activities for April

- Albrecht is currently finalizing the Isimangaliso report and will be participating in the Isimangaliso fieldtrip in May.
- Albrecht will do an oral presentation on the Table Mountain National Park long-term monitoring programme for the Cape Research Centre seminar series at SAN Parks on the 14th April.
- He will also be participating in the Agulhas Bank fieldtrip in April.
- He is currently reviewing two papers.
- Anthony is continuing with data analysis.
- Sean is working on the Isimangaliso benthic invertebrate data report.

ACEP:

- Dr. Thomas Bornman co-ordinated the first Natal Bight Cruise which was successfully completed at the end of February. A few challenges presented on the cruise, the main challenge was to harmonize the diverse and conflicting sampling requirements on the

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first multidisciplinary, multi-institutional research cruise to take place off the KZN coast for many years.

- Dr. Bornman attended the Ocean Sciences 2010 meeting in Portland, Oregon, USA from the 1 – 7 March 2010 where 12 abstracts on various aspects of the Agulhas Current and its global influence was presented. Also in attendance at the conference was Raymond Roman, Jonathan Durgadoo and Juliet Hermes of South Africa.
- On the 15 March, along with researchers and admin staff from SAIAB, Dr. Bornman attended the SAIAB Bosberaad at Sunday's River.
- 24 March Dr Bornman and Ryan set up the ACEP II display at Sci-fest. This year the Sci-fest was held from the 24th – 30th March 2010. The festival provided a good opportunity to showcase some of the work ACEP II has done over the past few years.
- From the 8 – 25 March Dr Bornman and Ryan Palmer organized the ACEP launch which took place on the 25th March and which was a huge success!! They also finalized the ACEP II Glossy brochure, which was on display at the launch.
- Dr Bornman did a short presentation on the ACEP project at the launch held at the PE Yacht Club in Port Elizabeth.
- Dr. Bornman and Ryan attended the ACEP II PI's meeting on the 26th March to discuss progress and challenges to date.
- 31 March Dr Bornman finalized the ACEP II month-end progress report.

ACEP – proposed activities for April

- 7 April 2010 Dr. Tommy Bornman attended the Algoa Bay LTMP meeting at NMMU.
- 10 – 14 April Dr. Bornman will lecture at the ASCLME training course in Mauritius.
- From the 19 – 23 April he will also present at the Data Buoy Co-operation Panel meeting in Cape Town.
- From the 19 – 23 April Ryan Palmer will assist in the SAEON Algoa Bay sampling exercise.
- Tommy and Ryan will partake in the Fort Hare sampling trip in Algoa Bay from the 26 – 30 April.

Scientific Output:

- GÖTZ, A. Monitoring Fish and Invertebrate Life on the Reef Pinnacles of the Agulhas Bank.
- GÖTZ, A. Marine Protected Area Unit Projects, Collaborators and Publications.
- GÖTZ, A. Long-term monitoring of inshore linefish populations in the Tsitsikamma National Park.

Education:

- On the 11th and 12th February the education team, consisting of Nozi Hambaze, Thomas Mtontsi, Hadley-John Lyners, Joe Sibiya, Sibongile Mokoena and Bernadette Snow, had a meeting in Pretoria to discuss and plan the node education events for the year.
- An educator workshop took place on the 18th February 2010 which was well represented by most schools. The workshop was also attended by two district officials, Phumeza Khalipha and Rejoice Bhatyi.
- The following was discussed at the workshop:

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- The ideal location for the installation of whiteboards at respective schools.
- A selection criterion was decided on to determine which learners and educators will attend the Science camp in Port Elizabeth during the September school holidays this year. The purpose of the camp will be to share and compare data between the semi-coastal town of Grahamstown and the inland town of Phalaborwa whose learners will also be attending the camp.
- Sci-fest 2010 and learner workshops were actively promoted to the educators in order for them to encourage and arrange for their learners to attend these type of functions.
- Ms Zintle Songwaru of TEM Mrwetyana High School in Grahamstown gave feedback to the educators on the MCEN conference she attended in Cape Town in January this year.
- The first edition of the education newsletter is currently in circulation. Educators were encouraged to submit articles for the next issue.
- The inclusion of this workshop made a huge difference and contribution in terms of awareness of what the education sector is doing at Elwandle Node. All tickets for the workshop were sold out.
- The weather monitoring project – expansion of the school yard weather monitoring project has been established for SAEON Ndlove Node. Berny Snow conducted a first workshop and cages have been erected in schools in Phalaborwa.
- Schools in Grahamstown has started with the weather data collection.
- Nozi attended the Eastern Cape Environmental Education Forum launch and the Elwandle Node received a certificate for recognition for participating in the forum.
- The Elwandle Node launch was a huge success wherein Berny played a very important role in terms of organizing and overseeing of the education stand.
- At the 2010 Sci-fest, 24 – 30 March, the new Elwandle Node exhibition stand was launched. Sibongile Mokoena, Education Outreach Co-ordinator, Nozi Hambaze, education officer, Luzuko Dali and Elodie Heyns both research interns at Elwandle Node manned the stand.

Education – proposed activities for April

- Early April Nozi will be conducting school visits and checking up on servicing of equipment;
- The last weather station will be set up, and;
- The schools will continue collecting and recording data.

Staff and Student Matters:

- Ntuthuko Masikane submitted his final sections for his thesis, viz Discussion and respective abstracts to his supervisor, Prof. Tris Wooldridge. Ntuthuko has been ably assisted by Shaun Deyzel herein. Ntuthuko has since left for the CSIR.
- Shaun prepared and presented a detailed progress report on his PhD to the Dean of Science, NMMU, Prof Andrew Leitch.
- After working through every aspect of his progress to date and schedules for completion (2010) Shaun was granted the opportunity to register his PhD for 2010.