

ELWANDLE NODE

Monthly Update SEPTEMBER 2010

Key Achievements in September

Algoa Bay LTMR

- Serviced 30 m UTR and Gully Probe at Port Alfred on 1st September 2010, data retrieved and disseminated securely.
- PE-LTEMP monthly field trip was successfully carried out on the 14th September 2010. A full complimentary set of parameters were sampled at 6 coastal monitoring sites.
- Successfully deployed HOBO sensors on two Safeway Marker Buoys: 1) Bell Buoy and 2) channel marker off main shipping lane. This is a significant achievement that required an immense liaising effort with Transnet National Ports Authority and Light House Services. We aim to foster and built on this relationship, which should enable more deployments throughout the Bay, particularly in areas where shipping traffic is known to be high. These deployments will offer the first continuous surface temperature time series data.
- Dr. Matt Dickon carried out his monthly fieldtrip to Bird Island on the 1st and 25th September on board RV uKwabelana.

Data Management

- Data population and dissemination continues.

Fort Hare University Honours Research Programme

- Students are making good progress with writing their respective research documents.

Parataxonomy Laboratory Matters

Benthic sample analysis for Ms Natasha Karenyi (SANBI) has been completed successfully. All extracted fauna has been posted, and received by Ms Karenyi. She was extremely satisfied with the work conducted by SAEON's Parataxonomy Laboratory Interns.

Proposed activities for October

- PE-LTEMP monthly sampling, 1 – 20 October 2010.
- Service UTR at Bird Island and Woody Cape.
- Continue with research programme registration.
- Start uploading data to Metacat and Nairobi Convention portals.
- Attend SAEON Summit in Cape Town, 5-6 October.
- Meet with Sentinel Site Collaborators (PE LTEMP) in Port Elizabeth during the first quarter of October.

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South African Estuaries Information System (SAEIS)

- Nulette is still awaiting replies from the stakeholder organizations. Response to her requests for the return hereof has been very poor.
- She had a very productive meeting with Dr. Wayne Goschen, Dr. Angus Paterson and Wim Hugo on the 7th September at Egagasini and the following was outlined:
 - Nulette was to follow up and finalise release forms and SAEIS documents, tend to splicing of frontpages;
 - Design the CD and CD box covers;
 - Ensure that Angus received the updated 1st version of SAEIS for distribution together with updated logos;
 - Angus to check all wording in blurbs, such as acknowledgements, etc;
 - Angus also to source a student assistant for CD printing and data transfer for distribution;
 - Wayne to develop an installation image programme for the DVD / CD series, with instructions for loading on PC's, and;
 - To test the installation image on various versions of Windows, e.g. Vista, XP and Windows 7, and;
 - To develop the web-based version of the SAEIS with the same functionality of the PC version. The first version is available on the www.seaonmarine.co.za/saeis/ website page.
 - Wim Hugo to determine what would work best for the DVD series;
 - The deadline for the web-based version is the end of October 2010.

Proposed activities for Nulette for October

- 4-8 October, tend to release agreements, metadata files and attend the SAEON Summit;
- 11-15 October, process returned release agreements, finalise the SAEIS files and format, test the SAEIS website and test the SAEIS DVD series.
- 18-22 October, liaise with key researchers and user groups about their impressions of the SAEIS and address feedback.
- 25-29 October, finalise final version of SAEIS and distribute accordingly.

Marine Protected Areas:

- 1 September, Dr. Albrecht Gotz recovered and deployed the thermister strings off Port Alfred;
- He attended an R-course at Rhodes University from the 7-10 September.
- During the recent visit, on the 13th September, by the Minister of Science and Technology, Naledi Pandor, Dr. Götz did an oral presentation on the Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV).
- He has also been working on a WWF and AWPW05 financial report for TMNP.

Tsitsikamma National Park (TNP)

- During September Anthony Bernard compiled data and videos from the winter field trip;
- He has begun analysis of new videos; and
- Tended to the updating of the database; and
- Submitted an application for the SANCOR international travel student award.

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Table Mountain National Park (TMNP)

- Anthony has started writing a paper on the development of the volunteer programme, and;
- Is currently working on the 3rd quarter progress report on TMNP.

Isimangaliso

Sean is continuing on working up the data from this year's iSimangaliso field trip.

Proposed activities for October

- Anthony Bernard has been preparing oral presentations for the SAEON Summit and Rhodes University seminar day.
- He will also be embarking on an October TMNP fieldtrip and will be attending stakeholder meetings to discuss the project handover to SANParks.
- Dr. Gotz, will be submitting the following papers in October:
 - KERWATH, S.E., A. GÖTZ, C.G. ATTWOOD and W.H.H. SAUER (in prep) Putting MPAs to the test: A critical evaluation of the evidence for conservation and fishery benefits of a Marine Protected Area in South Africa. *Cons. Let.*
 - JAMES, N.C., A. GÖTZ, P.D. COWLEY and W.M. POTTS (in prep) Temporal variability of a temperate fish assemblage in Africa's oldest marine protected area. *Mar. Ecol. Prog. Ser.*

ACEP:

- 1 – 10 September, ACEP Agulhas Bank cruise First Leg was underway from Port Elizabeth to Mossel Bay. Dr. Thomas Bornman was Chief Scientist onboard.
- 11 – 22 September, ACEP Agulhas Bank cruise Second Leg took place from Mossel Bay to Cape Town with Mr. Ryan Palmer as Chief Scientist onboard.
- 12 – 24 September, Dr. Bornman attended the ASCLME Steering Committee meeting in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania followed by ASCLME meetings in the Seychelles and Mauritius with regard to research permits and escort for the upcoming mooring cruise.
- 25 – 27 September, the FRS Algoa steamed back to Port Elizabeth with teachers and learners onboard as part of the "Teachers at Sea" and "Adopt a Drifter" programme.
- 27 – 28 September, the offloading of samples and gear from the Agulhas Bank cruise took place and loading of NIOZ and NOAA moorings for the upcoming cruise.
- 28 September 2010, the FRS Algoa departed PE on the ASCLME/ACEP/NOAA/NIOZ mooring cruise to the South Western Indian Ocean.
- 29 September, the ACEP Month-end progress report was sent out.

Proposed plans for October

- 1 - 10 October, tend to completion of the ACEP III concept document.
- 1 - 10 October, request ACEP papers for SAMSS.
- 10 - 30 October, Dr. Bornman will be onboard the Atlas mooring cruise (Toamasina, Madagascar to PE).

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Scientific Outputs

- GOTZ, A, S.E. KERWATH, C.G. ATTWOOD and W.H.H. SAUER (submitted) A simple method to determine the stock status of resident reef fishes; based on differential fishing effort across a marine reserve boundary. *Afr. J. Mar. Sci.*

Education

- The monitoring of weather at schools have been going along smoothly for the most part, a few hiccups here and there have been dealt with.
- SAEON's Network of Education Experts meeting was held in Palaborwa on the 7th -9th September 2010. Present were all node education officers and the education advisory board. Mr Du Preez from Nombulelo high school represented Grahamstown educators. He presented how schools are using weather data linking it to curriculum requirements.
- At a symposium all education officers were given the opportunity to present their activities at the nodes.
- The educator workshop which was planned for September did not materialized due to the national strike.
- A session to prepare learners for the camp was held with them to give them SAEON's background and prepare for what is expected of them at the camp.
- The Science camp held at Willows Resort in Port Elizabeth was a great success. Scientific investigative methods learnt at the camp will always be applied in any project that learners come across whether it is at school or tertiary level. The highlight was to have a variety of scientists fully participating in the programme and according to their areas of expertise.
- Another highlight for the learners was the boat ride onboard the RV uKwabelana. For most it was the first time being out to sea. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the outing.

Proposed activities for October

- 7 October: Educator workshop in Grahamstown coinciding with a visit from Murray and Roberts on the same day.
- 12 October: Feedback and inspiration from the camp and grade 11 presentation to Grades 9 and 10.

Staff and Student Matters

- Shaun Deyzel has completed Chapter 2 corrections on his PhD and has received back the corrections from his supervisor for chapter 3 and is making good progress on chapter 4.
- Mr Ntuthuko Masikane is also making good progress on finalising his thesis. He aims to submit the final draft for proof reading by mid-October.