

## ELWANDLE NODE

### Monthly Update NOVEMBER 2010

#### Key Achievements in November

##### *Algoa Bay LTMRP*

- UTR Bird Island inner, UTR Woody Cape and UTR Bay Mouth were retrieved and new units redeployed on 3 November. UTR Central (60m) was retrieved on the same day and redeployed on 30 November.
- UTR Sundays washed ashore on Thursday the 4<sup>th</sup> November, which was presumably dislodged after a large swell event which affected that part of Algoa Bay between 30 October and 2 November. Data was successfully secured and the unit was re-deployed on Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> November.
- Dr. Matt Dickon carried out his monthly fieldtrip to Bird Island on the 20<sup>th</sup> November.
- PE-LTEMP monthly sampling was carried out on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November.
- UTR Port Alfred inner (30m) and UTR Port Alfred outer (80m) were serviced on 23 November. Data were successfully retrieved and units re-deployed on the same day.
- UTR St Croix and the surface HOBOS sensors on Bell Buoy reef were successfully serviced on 30 November.
- Servicing requirements for all Continuous Monitoring Platforms are up to date.

##### Data Management

- Data population and dissemination continues.
- Sentinel site CMP data were disseminated to Paula Patrick (PhD candidate, Zoology Department, NMMU and PE-LTEMP participating researcher) and Mr Rowan Vaneeden (UCT)

##### Fort Hare University Honours Research Programme

- Students are making good progress with writing their respective research documents. Final submission has been scheduled for mid January.

##### Proposed activities for December

- PE-LTEMP monthly sampling 1-15 December 2010
- Continue with research programme registration
- Start uploading data to Metacat and Nairobi Convention portals
- Continue with preparation and procurement of equipment for Sentinel Site CMP expansion phase (Cape Recife and St Francis Bay units).

##### **South African Estuaries Information System (SAEIS)**

- Nulette Gordon is currently on maternity leave.
- Data base complete and ready for trial distribution in 1<sup>st</sup> Q 2011

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### **Marine Protected Areas:**

- On the 2<sup>nd</sup> November Dr. Albrecht Götz attended the Elwandle Node meeting held at SAIAB in Grahamstown.
- At the meeting Dr. Gotz did a presentation on the SAEON Elwandle Marine Protected Area Unit. Anthony Bernard assisted Dr. Gotz on the preparation for the presentation.
- Dr. Gotz did an NRF 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter report nugget for SAIAB titled "Assessment of habitats on the Agulhas Bank."
- A newspaper article appeared in the Sunday Times on the 7<sup>th</sup> November 2010 titled "Yellow Submarine in Coelacanth search". The web based press release can be viewed at: <http://www.timeslive.co.za/sundaytimes/article748729.ece/Yellow-submarine-in-coelacanth-search>
- On the 23<sup>rd</sup> November Dr. Gotz and Anthony Bernard assisted on a fieldtrip, recovering thermistors and deploying it off Port Alfred.

### Tsitsikamma National Park (TNP)

- During November Anthony Bernard has continued working on the analysis of data collected on the TNP fieldtrip.

### Table Mountain National Park (TMNP)

- Anthony is also continuing with his paper on the development of the volunteer programme.

### Additional outputs

- During November Anthony has attended the WWF Marine Protected Area management forum.

### Isimangaliso

Sean still working on data from this year's iSimangaliso field trip and will do so for the rest of the year.

### Proposed activities for November

- Anthony Bernard will be working on preparations for the next fieldtrip to TNP in February 2011.
- Additional mapping by the council for Geoscience will be taking place at the TNP.
- TMNP: Anthony will be doing a summer survey of the Atlantic reefs and concentrating on the project handover scheduled for 18<sup>th</sup> January 2011.

### **ACEP:**

- 1 November, Dr. Thomas Bornman offloaded the R/V Algoa in PE after mooring cruise.
- 1 – 7 November, prepared fish specimens for IUCN workshop.
- 8 – 17 November. Dr. Bornman attended the IUCN Seamounts Workshop at SAIAB.

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- 16 – 27 November, participated on the ROV field trip to Agulhas Bank.
- 15 – 19 November, prepared and sent out ACEP call to projects for SAMSS 2011.
- 17 – 25 November, Dr. Bornman prepared sailing orders, logistics, etc. for ASCLME / NOAA / IFREMER mooring cruise onboard the R/V *Algoa*.
- 23 November, Dr. Bornman and Ryan Palmer assisted on the Algoa Bay fieldtrip.
- 22 – 29 November, Dr. Bornman prepared and organised for the launch of the ASCLME SWIO long-term monitoring programme in Cape Town.
- 25 – 30 November, Dr. Bornman organised South African scientists to participate in SWIOFP cruise on Nansen along the Southern Mascarene Plateau.

### Proposed activities for December

- 2-3 December, Dr. Bornman and Dr. Paterson will attend the ACEP Natal Bight Project meeting at ORI in Durban.
- 6 December, Dr. Bornman and Dr. Paterson will attend the ASCLME SWIO long-term monitoring programme launch in Cape Town.
- Dr. Bornman has a meeting scheduled with Lynn Erasmus at NRF to discuss ACEP finances.
- 6 – 21 December, Dr. Bornman will be on the SWIOFP cruise on Nansen along the Mascarene Plateau.

### **Education**

- At the beginning of November computers were disconnected and removed from the premises of Ntsika, TEM Mrwetyana and Nyaluza high schools for security reasons.
- At Mary Waters High School the computer and other components of the weather station are being stored in a safe in the principal's office because their security is adequate and equipment will be safe over the December break.
- The wrap up session for educators did not happen because the final examinations started late, towards the end of October.
- Nozi attended the SAASTEC conference which was held on the 23-25 November 2010 at Arcelor Mittal Science centre in Saldana. SAASTA sponsored SAEON to attend the conference.

### Proposed activities for December

- No activities are planned over the December period due to closure of schools.

### **Staff and Student Matters**

- Shaun Deyzel is doing well on his PhD. Corrections on Chapters 2 and 3 are complete and he is making good progress on chapters 1, 4, 5 and 8.
- Mr Ntuthuko Masikane is finalising the submission copy of his MSc and he is on track for submission on the 7<sup>th</sup> January 2011.