

**Monthly Update**  
JULY 2011

**Key Achievements in July**

***Algoa Bay LTMRP***

July was a very productive period for monitoring in Algoa Bay due to a very welcome 2 week long weather window. Conditions were remarkably good, with little to no wind and swells less than 1.5 m in height. The following tasks were completed:

- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July, retrieved the UTR Cen (60m) and UTR Bay Mouth (80m), as well as the 2 arrays deployed east of Bird Island along the 60m and 80m depth contours for Mr. Rowen Van Eeden's MSc project on penguin movements. Data was successfully downloaded and sent to Dr. Wayne Goschen for processing.
- Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July, conducted monthly PE-LTEMRP sampling off R/V *uKwabelana*.
- Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July, Elwandle and SAIAB dive team retrieved and re-launched UTR Cape Recife (30m), UTR Sundays (30m), UTR St Croix (30m), retrieved ADCP Cape Recife (30m) and deployed UTR Central (60m). The communication port of the ADCP Teledyne "Workhorse", retrieved from the Cape Recife site was unfortunately fused as the protective cap dislodged during deployment. Mr Sean Bailey, Elwandle Node Senior Technician, has lodged the issue with the suppliers, Radio Holland. Discussions with the Canadian suppliers around mitigation measures are underway.
- Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July, UTR PA 80m retrieved and deployed off R/V *uKwabelana*, on her run to Port Alfred where she will be moored for repairs and servicing by LeeCat.
- Dr. Matt Dicken conducted his monthly Great White Monitoring around Bird Island on Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> June.
- SANPark's Mini-Symposium on Marine Research in Algoa Bay was held on Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> July 2011 at the Addo Elephant National Park. The symposium was attended by various SANParks officials including the Park Manager Mr N Jonson. In total, 8 presentations ranging from physical oceanography to Great White sharks were given. Shaun Deyzel opened the first session with a presentation entitled "***Building a Sustainable Long-term Ecological Monitoring and Research Programme in Algoa Bay, SAEON Elwandle Node's Premier Sentinel Site with an overview of Monitoring and Research Activities: 2006 to present***". The objective was to provide an overview of the development of Elwandle Node's Sentinel Site, Algoa Bay. The content was well received, with a number of enquiries around project registration with SAEON. It is also worth noting that all invited speakers from institutions SAIAB, Rhodes University, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University and Bayworld, Percy FitzPatrick Unit, were supported by SAEON in one way or another in terms of registered projects, platforms and data.

**Data Management**

- Facilitated data delivery, namely the temperature data from 2 experimental UTR deployments east of Bird Island, to Mr Rowen Van Eeden.
- Project Registration and Data Agreement negotiations with relevant parties as alluded to in the April-May report still ongoing.

- Started negotiations with Mr Adrian Evans, a PhD student at Zoology Department NMMU, regarding project registration. Mr Evans is supervised by Dr. Malcolm Smale of Bayworld and Dr. Ronel Nel of the Zoology Department at NMMU.
- Similarly, also started negotiations with Mr. Kyle Smith of SANParks regarding project registration and project support through Elwandle Node's MPA platform.

#### Laboratory Parataxonomy Interns

- Sample analysis by lab interns for Principle Scientist, Ms Fiona Mackay of the Oceanographic Research Institute, are ongoing.

#### Proposed activities for August

- 1-20 August: PE-LTEMP monthly sampling
- 16-18 August: Attending SAIAB's PDP Awardees Induction Workshop as Co-supervisor of PDP Bursary recipient, Mr Luzuko Dali.
- 22 August: Attending Elwandle/Egagasini meeting in Cape Town.
- Simultaneously, attending the SAEON Book launch in Stellenbosch
- Shaun will attempt to finalize the project registration with Dr. Tommy Bornman, Prof Eileen Campbell and Dr. Nadine Strydom.

#### **Marine Protected Areas:**

- 1 – 14 July 2011, Dr. Albrecht Gotz and Elodie Heyns embarked on the SAEON / SAIAB Tsitsikamma fieldtrip.
- Dr. Gotz has submitted an application for funding as a rated scientist and is awaiting the outcome thereof.

#### 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. Likewise, his continual updating of the iSimangaliso database and focus on analyses of all data collected over the past 3 years.

#### Proposed activities for August

- Dr. Gotz is currently attending a fire fighting at sea course in Port Elizabeth and once completed will undergo <25 Ton Skipper training also in Port Elizabeth for 1 month.

#### **Joint ACEP Marine Platform Operations:**

- Submitted a press release and a popular article regarding the Sodwana ROV trip.
- All projects making good progress with most in the writing-up stages.

Proposed activities for August

- ROV trip to Rye Banks (when the weather permits)
- 2 August: Ryan had a meeting with the NRF grants office.
- Attending Ocean Tracking Network launch in Pretoria

**Education**

- Elwandle Node had a very successful grade 10 science camp, co-ordinated by Nozi Hambaze, during the June school holidays. Chris McCartney, contracted by Murray and Roberts, played a huge role in facilitating the camp and introducing learners to scientific methods. Learners used this knowledge and embarked on a study of the rocky shores in Kenton-on-sea and presented their studies at the Young scientists Eskom Expo competition held on the 22 July at Rhodes University. Two learners were awarded bronze medals and it must be noted these learners were competing against close to 200 students, the majority being from far more affluent schools, but yet they still managed to make the final 17 and will be representing the Grahamstown region in the national finals on the 6-8 October 2011 in Johannesburg. Well done!!
- 25<sup>th</sup> July, Nozi had a meeting with Bernadette Snow and Chris McCartney in PE to discuss the progress to date on the Murray & Roberts programme and future plans.
- 29<sup>th</sup> July, Elwandle education took part in the “take a learner to work day” as part of the National Science Week activity. Learners spent their “work shadow day” at the genetics lab and collections department at SAIAB and the Parataxonomy Lab at SAEON.

Proposed activities for August

- 2 August, Nozi attended the DoBE Career Expo at Makana indoor sport centre in Grahamstown.
- 10 August, Educator workshop in Grahamstown
- 15-18 August, Educator workshop in Phalaborwa
- 26 August, Educator workshop in Cape Town
- The preparations for the Network of Education experts meeting still in progress.

**Management**

- Performance agreements for 2011/2012 was completed for all staff and submitted to National Office.
- 6 July: Meeting with Johan Pauw in Grahamstown.
- Completed the SAEON Elwandle media feature and nuggets.
- 8 July: Had a meeting with Dr Mike Roberts re *in situ* observation in Algoa Bay and St Francis Bay.
- 8 July: Had a meeting with Dr Ronel Nel, Dr Malcolm Smales and Mr Adrian Evans to discuss the NMMU Research Dive Unit and SAEON dive gear as well as the Sardinia Bay MPA research and registering the project with SAEON.
- 19 July: Attended the CMP and OTN Environmental Assessment meeting at SAIAB.



**SAEON**  
South African Environmental  
Observation Network

## ELWANDLE NODE

- 21 July: Node staff meeting
- 22 July: Met with Dr. Derek du Preez, Head of the School of Biological Science, NMMU regarding support for a SARChI Chair in oceanography
- 24–30 July: Attended the Indian Ocean Panel (IOP-8), Sustained Indian Ocean Biogeochemistry and Ecosystem Research (SIBER-2) and Indian Ocean Observing System Resource Forum (IRF-2) meetings on behalf of ASCLME and SAEON in Chennai, India.

### Proposed activities for August

- 2 August: attended the official launch of the Ocean Tracking Network (OTN) in South Africa in Pretoria.
- 4 August: attending the CAPE Estuaries Programme Task Team meeting in Cape Town.
- 4 -5 August: Meeting with SAEON Egagasini to discuss collaboration.
- 22 – 24 August: SAEON Book Launch and scientific meeting, Stellenbosch.

### ***Staff and Student Matters***

- Mr Luzuko Dali spent a considerable amount of time in the laboratory this month. He also devoted time for finalizing his project proposal.
- Mr Tinus Sonnekus is completing his literature review and will start his phytoplankton identification in earnest from 8 August.