

Monthly Update
OCTOBER 2011

Key Achievements in October

Management

- o 4 October: Dr. Tommy Bornman had a meeting with NMMU Productivity researchers to discuss upcoming field trip.
- o 4 October: Meeting with Luzuko, Shaun and Angus regarding Luzuko's PhD.
- o 5 October: Meeting with Dr Rajkaran from Botany Department, Rhodes University regarding collaboration.
- o 10 October: Conduct productivity experiments off Port Alfred, part of Algoa Bay productivity experiments.
- o 12 October: Tommy, Bruce Donovan and Ryan Palmer deployed six new Gully Probes around Port Elizabeth.
- o 13 October: Algoa Bay productivity research meeting at NMMU.
- o 14 October: SAEON meeting with the Chief Director of Oceans and Coasts Research, Department of Environmental Affairs, Cape Town.
- o 17 – 20 October: Tommy attended the Benguela Current Commission Science Forum in Swakopmund, Namibia.
- o 25 October: SAEON presentation at the Oceans and Coasts Management meeting, Cape Town.
- o 26 October: Tommy, Sean and Bruce deployed 3 Gully Probes around Jeffrey's Bay and St Francis Bay.
- o 27 October: Tommy, Sean, Matt and Reece retrieved and re-deployed thermistor strings at Woody Cape and Dunes and replaced surface UTRs at Safeway marker and Bell Buoy.
- o 30 October: Tommy and Shaun opened the GSN Indibano with 2 presentations.

Proposed activities for November

- o 15 November: Elwandle Node Liaison Committee meeting, Grahamstown.
- o Submit the following two manuscripts:
 - Bornman, T.G. & Smailes, P. Biogeography of the coastal phytoplankton of South Africa. To be submitted to the *African Journal of Marine Research*
 - Bornman, T.G., O'Reiley, B. & Campbell, E.E. Phytoplankton ecology of the Mozambique Channel. To be submitted to *Deep Sea Research II* as part of the special issue: The Mozambique Channel: Mesoscale Dynamics and Biological Production.

Estuaries

- o The monthly Kariega Estuary physico-chemical survey was conducted on 14 October.

Algoa Bay LTMRP

- Unfavourable sea conditions persisted throughout the month of October. Wind speeds in excess of 20 knots and large swells placed immense pressure on the Sentinel Site team to sometimes utilise suboptimal conditions for sampling. The team managed to conduct a satisfactory amount of work this month with RV uKwabelana, which is once again available.
- 3 October, the Plankton Group conducted the monthly monitoring. They also conducted the first series of productivity experiments at Port Alfred and in Algoa Bay from the 10th – 13th October. These experiments form part of the PE-LTEMP jointly managed by Elwandle Node and NMMU. The aim is to do productivity experiments every month for the next 12 months. The Plankton Group is scheduled to meet early December for an annual review of the 2011 sampling year.

Data Management

- The SAEIS meeting scheduled for 13 October was postponed to 3 November.
- Applications for CMP data have been received from Dr. Matt Dicken of Bayworld, Mr. Rhett Bennett and Ms. Amber Childs, the latter PhD students affiliated with the OTN programme. Their applications are currently being processed.

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 November

- 1-11 November: PE-LTEMP monthly sampling.
- 3 November: Attending SAEIS meeting at NMMU.

Marine Protected Areas:

- 6 October: Dr. Albrecht Gotz attended a Board of Faculty of Science meeting at Rhodes University in Grahamstown.
- 9-13 October: Dr. Gotz participated on the Still Bay BRUV Fieldtrip with UCT students.

Isimangaliso

- Sean Bailey continues on his writing of fish paper which he intends submitting to the *African Journal of Marine Science* by the end of this year.

Proposed activities for November

- Dr. Gotz will be accompanying PhD student, Ms Elodie Heyns on the Tsitsikamma Fieldtrip.
- Dr. Gotz will also be participating on the Still Bay fieldtrip with MSc student L. van Zyl.

CMP's Maintenance / Diving / Boating

- UTR Port Alfred (30m) and GTP Port Alfred serviced on 10 October.
- Elwandle/Egagasini's CMP expansion strategy was initiated this month (CMP Phase IV). 8 GTPs were deployed, 5 units west of Port Elizabeth between Cape Recife and Skoenmakerskop on the 12 October and 3 more in St Francis Bay (Jeffreys Bay to Rebels Rust) on 26 October.
- 3 Hobo Temperature loggers were deployed in the Dwessa Cwebe Reserve, 2 in the Mbashe River and 1 in the Mbanyana River.
- 3 Diving trips were also done to service the Port Alfred UTR as well as the Woody Cape and Dunes UTR's. These have all been deployed on acoustic releases.
- Education harbor trip was undertaken for Nozi on the 3 October on Hockenii.
- uKwabelana had its annual seaworthy survey and also had a bow-mounted capstan winch installed.

Proposed activities for November

- 11-20 November: CMP servicing in Algoa Bay.

Stakeholder relations

- Elwandle Node staff assisted with the roll out of the deployment phase of the Ocean Tracking Network (OTN) by coordinating field deployments of 11 VR2 strings on 6 October and a further 5 strings on 28 October near Bird Island.
- Dr Matt Dicken conducted his monthly Great White Shark monitoring around Bird Island on 22 October on RV uKwabelana.

Scientific Output

KERWATH, S.E., WINKER, H., GÖTZ, A. and ATTWOOD C.G: An investigation of fishing behaviour and catch rates before and after the establishment of Goukamma, a South African Marine Protected Area. Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association Symposium, Mombasa, Kenya, 24th - 29th **October 2011**

BERNARD, A.T.F. and GÖTZ, A: Development and optimization of a Remote Underwater Video (RUV) monitoring protocol: the effect of bait and deployment time on the observed fish community and spatial variability. Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association Symposium, Mombasa, Kenya, 24th - 29th **October 2011**

GÖTZ, A., KERWATH, S., BERNARD, A.T.F. and PALMER, R: The application of Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs) for monitoring of sub-tidal reef biota. Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association Symposium, Mombasa, Kenya, 24th - 29th **October 2011**

Joint ACEP Marine Platform Operations:

- Ryan on official leave

Proposed activities for November

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Education

- Ndlovu Node, hosted by Elwandle attended the annual Murray and Roberts Grade 11 science camp, which took place from the 1st – 5th October, at The Willows resort in Port Elizabeth (PE). New activities were added to this year's camp, which included a game drive in the Addo Elephant National Park, star gazing, a visit to the Auto Pavilion and to the South African Weather Services. Computer skills were also taught. The main focus of the camp was to teach learners how to conduct scientific research and to expose them to different career opportunities. Judging on feedback received from learners, the camp was a life changing experience for most.
- 17th October 2011, Nozi Hambaze attended the National Marine week hosted by SAMREC in PE. Organisations present included Bayworld, NMMU Botany Dept, Coast Care, WESSA, CACADU Municipality and the Swartkops Trust.
- There has not been much interaction with schools due to examinations starting. Weather stations and computers have been disconnected and brought back to the office for security reasons, with the exception of Mary Waters High School. Their weather station and computer will be kept at the school in the principal's office.

Proposed activities for November

- 2 November: Cop 17 Youth Awareness Day at Rhodes University in Grahamstown.
- 25 November: Planning Educator's workshop in Grahamstown.

Staff and Student Matters

- Mr. Shaun Deyzel has received a draft copy of an article by Mr. Ntuthuko Masikane, PhD student at UKZN/CSIR. The aim is to publish his Algoa Bay work by early next year.
- Mr Luzuko Dali is making good progress with his sample analysis and also participated with field work this month.