

Monthly Update
NOVEMBER 2011

Key Achievements in November

Management

- o 2 November: Radio interview for RSG on Coelacanths – aired on Sunday 6 November.
- o 3 November: SAEIS progress and hand-over meeting at NMMU.
- o 7 November: French Coelacanth research team visited the Node and SAIAB.
- o 11 November: Deployed 4 gully probes in the Oyster Bay area.
- o 14 November: Meeting with Tim O'Connor to discuss Elwandle's Strategic Science Plan.
- o 15 November: Hosted the Node Liaison Committee meeting, also attended by Mr. Shaun Deyzel of Elwandle.
- o 16 November: Seabird CTD and ROV exercise in Algoa Bay.
- o 18 November: Monthly staff meeting.
- o 21 November: ASCLME technical staff meeting.
- o 22 November: Pelagic Ecosystem sampling in Algoa Bay.
- o 24 November: CAPE Estuaries Task Team meeting in Cape Town.
- o 30 November: Phytoplankton research meeting at NMMU.

Proposed activities for December

- o 1 December: Algoa Bay Pelagic Ecosystem Symposium at NMMU.
- o 5 December: ASCLME Technical staff meeting.
- o 9 December: Year-end function at Addo Elephant National Park.

Estuaries

- o **CAPE Estuaries Task meeting in Cape Town, attended by Dr. Bornman.**

Algoa Bay LTMRP

- o Unfavourable sea conditions, in the form of unseasonal W-SW winds often in excess of 20 knots accompanied by large swells often > 3m and rain persisted throughout the month of November proving challenging for sampling opportunities.
- o The Plankton Group conducted the monthly monitoring on Tuesday, 22 November.
- o The productivity experiments jointly run by Elwandle Node and NMMU have been postponed until early 2012, due to unfavourable sea conditions.
- o The Niskin Rosette and Seabird CTD was tested in Algoa Bay off uKwabelana on 16 November and has become the preferred equipment to sample instantaneous physico-chemical data and water samples during the monthly plankton sampling expeditions of the PE-LTEMRP.

Data Management

- o Mr Bruce Donovan represented Elwandle Node at the 9th SIMSC meeting held on 22 November at SAEON's Arid Node in Kimberley.

- Shaun Deyzel is currently in the process of registering a student project with Ms Renae Logston (UCT).

Laboratory Parataxonomy Interns

- Mr Kholekile Mpako has sustained some injuries during an accident at home and is currently recovering at home. In consideration of the severity of the injuries sustained, an absence of considerable duration is anticipated. Mr Lulama Poni, although working alone in the laboratory is doing incredibly well under the circumstances.
- We wish Mr Mpako a speedy recovery.

Proposed activities for December

- PE-LTEMP monthly sampling 1-11 December.
- CMP servicing in Algoa Bay scheduled for Friday, 2 December.
- Attending PE-LTEMP annual Meeting on the 1 December at NMMU.
- Dr. Matt Dicken is scheduled to sample on the 3 December.

Marine Protected Areas:

- Dr. Albrecht Gotz reviewed a paper for Fisheries Research.
- 11-16 November, Dr. Gotz participated on the SAIAB Tsitsikamma National Park fieldtrip.
- 24-29 November: Dr. Gotz also participated on the UCT Still Bay Fieldtrip.

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- Fish paper by Mr. Sean Bailey is continuous.

Proposed activities for December

- 5-7 December: Dr. Gotz will be undergoing the <25T skipper course in Port Elizabeth.
- 8 December: Dr. Gotz <25T skipper examination at SAMSA.

CMP's Maintenance / Diving / Boating

- All except 1 of the new gully probes have been deployed on the 11 November from Port Elizabeth to Oyster Bay.
- The 4 new thermister strings which form part of the OTN programme in Mossel Bay have been made up and have been deployed on the 29 November at Grootbak UTR (30m), Mosselbay, inner UTR (30m), Mosselbay outer UTR (43m) and Mosselbay Point UTR (30m).
- 1 new ROV exploration trip was carried out on uKwabelana in November and the Seabird CTD and Rosette was tested successfully on the same trip.
- Currently working on making up of St. Francis Bay thermisters.
- Capstan winches are currently being put onto the davits of both Honckenii and uKwabelana.

Proposed activities for December

- 80m Bird Island thermister service.
- Deploy Bird Island and Cape Recife ADCP's, weather and time permitting.
- Deploy St. Francis Bay thermisters, once again weather and time permitting.

Stakeholder relations

- Dr Matt Dicken conducted his monthly Great White Shark Monitoring at Houghum Park, western Algoa Bay on 15 November. The RV uKwabelana was used for this purpose.
- No sharks have been detected around Bird Island during the last two months. Monitoring is now focused on near-shore habitats within Algoa Bay.
- Dr Matt Dicken is aiming to tag juvenile Great White Sharks during the summer months.
- All field logistics are co-ordinated by SAEON Elwandle Node.

Joint ACEP Marine Platform Operations:

- Weather windows have been utilised at every opportunity and an ROV trip to Algoa Bay was undertaken at Cape Recife, 65m and Bell Buoy, 25m upon uKwabelana.
- Mr. Ryan Palmer is currently in the process of procuring a new HD video and stills camera unit and HID light.
- ACEP projects running smoothly and some students have started finalising of projects.

Proposed activities for December

- Should weather permit, plans are in place to test a clump weight system with the ROV off uKwabelana.

Education

- 2nd November 2011, Elwandle Node hosted a Pre-COP17 youth awareness day in collaboration with Rhodes University, Environmental Learning and Research Center ELRC at Rhodes University in Grahamstown.
- Climate related exhibitions were displayed at the event for learners from Kuyasa, Nombulelo, Ntaba Maria, Seventh Day, Ntsika and Archie TEM Mrwetyana high schools in order for learners to gain an understanding of and interest in climate factors. Some schools showed wonderful initiative by having their own displays.
- The exhibitions consisted of a variety of displays from energy sustainability solar panels, crafts and beadworks, waste sustainability and transport sustainability. Inqaba Yegolide youth cleaning initiative and SAIAB presented pull up banners of global warming and climate change which impressed representatives from Sweden, Tanzania and Bloemfontein attending the event and who have pledged their support of Urban Sustainability and are willing to join hands to fight climate change.



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- On the schoolyard program, a wrap up and planning educator workshop was held on the 24th November 2011 in Grahamstown, at which excellent ideas from educators on how to further utilise weather data in the curriculum were presented.
- Due to December shut down period at schools, there will be no interaction until next year when schools reopen.
- No date has been advised yet on the Marine and Coastal educators Network (MCEN) conference, which normally takes place during the first week in January.

Proposed activities for December

- Nozi Hambaze is currently working on preparations for Sci-fest 2012.

Staff and Student Matters

- University of Fort Hare Honours students visited Elwandle Node on Friday, 25 November. The purpose of their visit was to workshop data analysis, presentations and document writing. Both students mentored by Elwandle Node staff are progressing well and are on track to complete their respective research projects within the required time period.
- Mr Luzuko Dali partook in the monthly plankton sampling and has been working on his proposal, progress documents and presentation for the upcoming Plankton meeting at NMMU on the 1 December.