

Monthly Update

June 2012

I. Overview

1. Key achievements: June 2012

- SAEON Data Management Workshop, Cape Town
- PSSA Conference, Qolorha
- MCEN Conference, Durban

2. Key activities proposed: July 2012

- SASAQs Conference, St Francis Bay
- Camp for Grade 10 learners
- SAEON 10 year anniversary celebrations at Elwandle Node
- Tsitsikamma Field Trip

II. Achievements: June 2012

1. Management, Student and Staff Relations

- 1 June: SAIAB and SAEON joint operations meeting. Present was Sean Bailey, Shaun Deyzel, Tommy Bornman, Angus Paterson, Paul Cowley and Koos Smith.
- 4-7 June: Data management workshop, Cape Town. Tommy Bornman, Shaun Deyzel and Bruce Donovan representing Elwandle.
- 8 June: NMMU/ SAEON/ SAIAB MoU meeting. Attendees: Dr. Ronel Nel, Dr. Derek Du Preez, Prof. Andrew Leitch, Dr. Tommy Bornman and Ms. Jaci Barnett.
- 11 June: Meeting at SAIAB with Dr. Jabulani Nukeri (new director of SAASTA) regarding educational outreach.
- 12-13 June: France / South Africa collaboration workshop on mesoscale oceanography, CSIR, Cape Town.
- 14 June: Elwandle Staff meeting.
- 15 June: Shaun Deyzel mediated official hand-over from Mr Luzuko Dali.
- 17 – 22 June: Phycological Society of Southern Africa (PSSA) conference, Qolorha, Wild Coast.
- 18 June: Shaun Deyzel attended general ACEP meeting at SAIAB.
- 25-28 June: Poland/ South Africa collaborative research project sampling and data analyses at NMMU.
- 29 June: Meeting with Prof Rosemary Dorrington from Microbiology, Rhodes University, regarding collaborative research project on the Sundays and Swartkops estuaries.

2. Monitoring Platforms

a. Algoa Bay LTMRP

- 8 June: Shaun attended the monthly R/V uKwabelana logistics meeting at SAEON
- 11 June: Attempted to conduct the monthly PE-LTMRP sampling trip. Unfortunately the trip was cut short due to poor sea conditions and a faulty outboard motor. Shaun Deyzel and Sean Bailey were in attendance.
- Data retrieved from UTR thermistor strings at Woody Cape and Dunes.
- Faulty ADCP repaired and both BI & CR ADCP's to be serviced this week (28th June).

b. St Francis Bay LTMRP

- Nothing to report on St. Francis Bay LMRP.

c. Estuaries LTMRP

- The CT loggers in the Kromme Estuary were serviced on the 14th June. The Upper Geelhoutboom mooring was redeployed in a better position further towards the upper reaches. Data sent to Tommy.

d. Mossel Bay LTMRP

- The MB strings were retrieved by Dr. Paul Cowley on 19th June. One string did not surface. It is planned that the long thermistor strings in Mossel Bay will be replaced by single UTR's on short strings deployed and maintained by OTN.

3. Marine Protected Areas

- 3 June: OTN service diving trip from Port Elizabeth to Bird Island with uKwabelana
- 13th June 2012: ACEP Walter's Shoal planning meeting with DEA and DAFF, Foretrust Building, Cape Town.
- 12 – 19 June: False Bay baited underwater video survey fieldtrip with UCT Marine Research Unit

4. Data Management

- 4-7 June: Tommy, Shaun and Bruce attended the SAEON Data Management Workshop, Cape Town
- C.A.P.E. SAEMP database was handed over to Elwandle node by Wayne Goschen (Egagasini) during the Data management workshop held in Cape Town. (Bruce Donovan)
- Facebook application for the Citizen Science Programme is still in the process of development although nearing completion. Plans to host the website (and database backend) on the Egagasini server. (Bruce Donovan)
- SAEIS database is now up and running and available for public usage. The URL is <http://www.saeonmarine.co.za/saeis> (Bruce Donovan)

- **Education**

- Schools were busy with their mid-year examinations, resulting in less interaction with schools.
- 17th June: Nozi Hambaze co-ordinated a “work shadowing” for a learner, Ms Soqhama Peter, doing her Grade 11 at Victoria Girls High School in Grahamstown. Soqhama’s day was split between spending time in the genetics laboratory at SAIAB and the parataxonomy laboratory at SAEON.
- 25-29 June: Nozi attended and presented at the MCEN conference held in Durban.

5. Parataxonomy Laboratory

- 14 June: Shaun Deyzel hosted Mr Tim Vink (MSc, NMMU) to assist with zooplankton species identification
- The Progress of the ORI/ACEP benthic sampling done by the parataxonomy lab can be followed at:
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0Am3PeIOy7MqYdHNueXdBa3hmcDJwWTdpVVhqWFJ2V0E&authkey=CIWlp4gM#gid=0>

6. Technical: CMP Maintenance/SCUBA Diving/Boating

- R/V *Honckenii* is at Tunstead Marine for modifications that were requested by the Tsitsikamma users.
- Admin for new “Pipe moorings” for St Lucia system has been submitted and we are waiting for the order from HO before manufacture can begin.
- Still waiting for the final moored CTD cages from Lee Cat – have followed up and will receive them soon.

7. Stakeholder Relations

a. Joint ACEP Marine Platform Operations

- Due to poor weather conditions during June, uKwabelana was used for two trips.
 - OTN servicing – the OTN line at bird island was partially serviced. The rest of the line was brought back to SAIAB for battery changes and maintenance and will be replaced in late June or early July depending on the weather.
 - White shark tagging – one of the ACEP III projects is studying the movement of various fish including white sharks in Algoa Bay, linking in with the ATAP and OTN programmes. Six sharks were successfully tagged at Bird Island on the first tagging trip.



- Planned trips for July include the on-going monthly trips as well as an ROV trip to Tsitsikamma.

b. SAIAB-ACEP/SAEON/UFH/WSU Collaboration

- 19 June: Alexis Olds lead the first of three field trips to the Sundays Estuary for sampling of fish communities for UFH Honours project.
- 21 June: Shaun Deyzel conducted a water safety and life jacket course with UFH Honours students.
- 22 June: The first of three sampling sessions to the Swartkops Estuary for the collection of *Palaeomon* specimens for an UFH Honours project was successfully conducted.
- 26 June: Alexis attended UFH honours presentations at UFH along with Garth Van Heerden.

III. Proposed Activities: July 2012

1. Scheduled appointments

- 1-5 July: Tommy, Shaun, Sean, Bruce and Alexis to attend SASAqS conference at Cape St Francis.
- 12 July: SAEON 10 year anniversary celebrations at Elwandle Node, Grahamstown.
- 8 - 16 July: PE-LTEMRP monthly sampling trip.

2. Monitoring Platforms and CMP Maintenance

- Plan to service Safeway and Bell Buoy loggers as well as UTR's: 80m Bay Mouth, 60m Central, BI inner and BI outer in July.

3. Marine Protected Areas

- 16th – 26th July: Tsitsikamma NP fieldtrip for PhD projects Elodie Heyns and Denham Parker.

4. Data Management

- Amalgamation of the South African Estuaries management Protocol (SAEMP) Database and the South African Estuarine Information System (SAEIS) will be completed.
- Launch of the SAEIS database at the SASAQs conference in St. Francis Bay.
- Finalisation and 'launch road-trip' of the SAEON Citizen Science Elwandle Facebook application planned for mid-July.

5. Education

- 2 - 4 July: Camp for Grade 10 pupils at Assegai Trails.
- 23 July – 17 August: Nozi will be participating in an education outreach to Kuyasa Combined School in Port Alfred in collaboration with Rhodes University.

IV. Key Performance Indicators achieved in June 2012

1. SAEON Specific

- Number of scientific workshops and meetings organised or chaired = 0
- Number of scientific meetings or workshops attended = 3 (SAEON Data Management, PSSA, MCEN)
- Number of organisations with whom SAEON Elwandle has formed **new** agreements regarding data management = 0
- Number of interns mentored = 1 (Alexis Olds)
- Number of reviews (for funding organisations, NRF ratings, etc) completed = 0

2. NRF Generic

- Research Reports = 0
- No. students using facility for training = 21
- No. research staff providing training = 4
- No. postgraduates using facility for training
 - No. Students supervised by staff:
 - Hons = 10
 - MSc = 5
 - PhD = 5
 - No. staff involved in student supervision
 - Hons = 3
 - MSc = 2
 - PhD = 2
- No. linkages with postgraduate schools = 5 (UFH, WSU, NMMU, Rhodes, UCT)



ELWANDLE NODE

- No. funded international collaborations = 3 (OTN, ASCLME, University of Szczecin)
- No. science promotion publications = 0