

**Monthly Update**  
October 2012

**I. Overview**

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**1. Key achievements: October 2012**

- PE-LTERM sampling completed despite bad weather
- St Francis Bay CMP serviced
- Kromme, Swartkops and Gamtoos estuaries sampled and CMPs serviced / deployed.
- AGU Chapman Conference attended
- Numerous meetings and workshops regarding the proposed Faculty of Maritime Studies and the Institute for Coastal and Marine Research at NMMU

**2. Key activities proposed: November 2012**

- Sentinel Site CMP maintenance
- PE-LTERM sampling in Algoa Bay
- Estuarine CMP maintenance and LTER sampling
- DST Global Change Conference in Johannesburg

**II. Achievements: October 2012**

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**1. Management, Student and Staff Relations**

- 4 October: Meeting with Dr Ane Oosthuizen from SANParks scientific services (marine) to discuss registration of SAEON projects conducted in SANParks MPA's.
- 4 October: Meeting with Mr Shane Brown, Director of Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality's Disaster Risk Management Unit.
- 8 – 10 October: Tommy attended and presented a poster at the AGU Chapman Conference at Spier, Stellenbosch.
- 10 October: Shaun attended ACEP Phuhlisa planning meeting at SAIAB
- 17 October: Meeting with SAEON Egagasini and Tim Moltmann from IMOS (Australia) in Hout Bay, Cape Town.
- 19 October: Meeting with Anton Cloete at CMR, NMMU, to discuss garaging, servicing and use of Honckenii at NMMU.
- 19 October: Meeting with Prof Campbell and Tim to discuss DST Global Change Conference abstract and poster on surf zone ecology.
- 19 October: Shaun attended SciFest Meeting at SAIAB
- 23 October: Shaun attended ACEP Phuhlisa meeting at SAIAB to discuss strategy for 2013
- 24 October: Meeting with ASCLME regarding ship availability.
- 29 October: Johan Pauw and Tommy had a meeting with the Dean of Science, Directors of CMRU and Prof Maarten de Wit (AEON) at NMMU.
- 31 October: CMRU Advisory Board Meeting, NMMU.

## **2. Monitoring Platforms**

### **a. *Algoa Bay LTMRP***

- 1 Oct: PE-LTEMRP monthly sampling conducted
- UTR's Sundays, St Croix & CR are planned to be serviced this week.

### **b. *St Francis Bay LTMRP***

- 2 trips were carried out in October (12<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>) to service the St Francis offshore UTR moorings.

### **c. *Estuaries LTMRP***

- Monthly sampling in the Kromme Estuary (Tommy, Nick, Alexis).
- Deployed loggers in Swartkops (2 loggers) and Gamtoos Estuary (1 logger).

## **3. Marine Protected Areas**

### Meetings/Workshops attended:

Dr. Gotz had a Board of Faculty of Science Meeting at Rhodes University on the 4<sup>th</sup> October 2012.

### Funding applied for:

NRF - Blue Skies concept note October 2012

NRF - Professional Development Programme October 2012

### Technical reports:

South African Marine Linefish Status Report (in preparation) Species profiles compiled for roman (*Chrysoblephus laticeps*), Cape stumpnose (*Rhabdosargus holubi*) and blue stingray (*Dasyatis chrysonota*).  
Oceanographic Research Institute, Special Publication.

### Popular articles:

PARKER, D. and A. GÖTZ (submitted) Long-term monitoring of subtidal reef fishes in the Tsitsikamma MPA

### Media releases:

5<sup>th</sup> October 2012: Short report on E-news Prime Time on BRUV project in False Bay.

### New students:

Carolyn Sanguinetti – MSc degree: Baited remote underwater video survey of reef fish in the Table Mountain Marine Protected Area, University of Cape Town, South Africa.

#### 4. Data Management

- 3 October: Shaun initiated project registration with Meaghen McCord (South African Shark Conservancy)
- 20-21 October: SAIAB/SAEON/ASCLME migration to SANReN completed
- 30 October: Shaun initiated project registration with Alistair McInnes (PhD student, Percy FitzPatrick Institute, UCT)

#### 5. Education

- Marine week local outreach did not materialise due to bad weather.
- SAEON exhibited at the Monument in Grahamstown at a marine week event organised by SANCOR through the Botany Department (RU) with SAIAB, DIFS and DEA. We were very disappointed at the poor attendance though.
- On the 26<sup>th</sup> October, Nozi attended a careers day event at Ntaba Maria School, where the learners dressed according to their planned future careers.

#### 6. Parataxonomy Laboratory

- Sample analysis conducted on behalf of ORI (ACEP II project) was completed this month
- Sadly, Mr Kholikile Mpako (Kholi), one of the parataxonomists that has been with Elwandle from the beginning, passed away after a short illness. This is a great loss to SAEON, the NRF and in particular the Elwandle Node. He will be sorely missed. Our condolences to his family and friends.

#### 7. Technical: CMP Maintenance/SCUBA Diving/Boating

- 2 new AR-60 transducers were ordered to replace the lost one.
- Honckenii trailer brakes tended to by Tunstead Marine on 29th Oct.
- Ongoing problems with the comms of the SeaBird CTD and AFM. Still working on problem.

#### 8. Stakeholder Relations

##### a. *Joint ACEP Marine Platform Operations*

The weather during October has made very few good sea days available for the ACEP marine platforms. uKwabelana was used only on two occasions, both for SAEON projects; a plankton trip and servicing the CMP in St Francis Bay. Demand on the vessel is mounting with the backlog of work and the continuing poor weather conditions.

##### b. *SAIAB-ACEP/SAEON/UFH/WSU Phuhlisa Programme*

- Final sampling trip to Sunday's Estuary completed.
- 2 day Professional communications course by Chris Upfold.
- Swimming course by David Woker and Kelly Johnson.
- Strategies workshop at Hogsback with all UFH and WSU supervisors and ACEP staff and SAIAB communication staff.  
Gavin Twedde spent 5 days at WSU working with WSU honours students on data analysis.

### III. *Proposed Activities: November 2012*

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#### 1. **Scheduled appointments**

- 7 November: CAPE Estuaries task team meeting, Cape Town
- 26 – 28 November: DST Global Change Conference (Tommy & Ali)
- 29 - 30 November: SAEON Science and Management meeting (Tommy & Ali)

#### 2. **Monitoring Platforms and CMP Maintenance**

- PE-LTEMRP monthly sampling trip 1-14 November

#### 3. **Marine Protected Areas**

- 26<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> Global Change Conference (Ali, Denham)
- 17<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> Workshop in Hobart Australia: Global analysis of human impacts on patterns of marine biodiversity (Ant)
- 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> Marine protected area forum (Elodie)

#### 4. **Data Management**

- Complete project registration with Alistair McInnes (UCT) and registration of student projects linked to Dr Pierre Pistorius long-term monitoring programme on Gannets in Algoa Bay.

#### 5. **Education**

- No interaction planned with schools due to final examinations.
- All equipment will be taken from schools and kept in the office for security reasons and will be set up again in January when schools re-open.