

ELWANDLE NODE

Monthly Update MARCH 2011

Key Achievements in March

Algoa Bay LTMRP

- Dr. Matt Dickon of Bayworld in Port Elizabeth carried out 3 sampling sessions around Bird Island aboard R/V uKwabelana on the 3rd, 7th and 10th March.
- All the gully temperature probes were serviced on the 21st March and the data was sent to Dr. Wayne Goschen.
- The bookings for uKwabelana and the Plankton Group meetings were carried out on 29th March.
- The PE-LTEMP monthly sampling was carried out on the 30th March.
- A field logistics meeting was held with Dr Matt Dickon on the 25th February.
- The Penguin monitoring experimental design meeting was held with Mr Rowan Van Eeden at UCT on 25th February.

Data Management

- Dr. Matt Dickon's Great White Sharks of Algoa Bay Project was registered with SAEON and data agreements were signed on the 25th March 2011.
- Shaun undertook the process of negotiating Project Registration and Data Agreements with Dr Paul Cowley of SAIAB, Dr. Nadine Strydom of NMMU and Dr. Sue Jackson of Stellenbosch University.

Laboratory Parataxonomy Interns

- Interns are ongoing in their sample analysis of benthic samples on behalf of Oceanographic Research Institute, Principle Scientist Ms Fiona Mackay.

Proposed activities for April

- Shaun Deyzel will be attending the SAMSS conference from the 4-7 April.
- Shaun will be involved in the collection of sea sponges off the Ruy Banks in Algoa Bay for Prof. Mike Davies-Coleman and the Microbiology Department at Rhodes University on the 1st April.
- 1-20 April: The PE-LTEMP monthly sampling.
- Shaun will be planning and mediating the annual uKwabelana booking meeting with Sentinel Site affiliated researchers from the 20-30 April.
- 8-10 April: Deployment of 80m and 60m UTR east of Bird Island for the Penguin Monitoring Programme.

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- Nuette has audited the Database and have sent the flashdisks to Janine Adams, Taryn Riddin, Pierre de Villiers and Angus for testing.
- She is currently busy compiling key holdings for each author / organisation for release on the Database.

Marine Protected Areas:

- Dr. Albrecht Gotz attended the Board of Faculty of Science meeting at Rhodes University on the 10th March.
- During March he worked on the ACEP information brochure.
- Dr. Gotz also completed the final financial report for the Table Mountain National Park volunteer monitoring programme.

Tsitsikamma National Park (TNP)

- No work was done on the Tsitsikamma project for March.

TableMountainNational Park (TMNP)

- Anthony compiled and submitted the final report for the Table Mountain project.

Isimangaliso

- The 2011 Isimangaliso fieldtrip took place from the 1-10th March 2011.
- A poster for the project has been done for presenting at the SAMSS conference at Rhodes University in April.

Proposed activities for April

- Sean Bailey will be working on the new 2011 data, for fish and invertebrates and analysing the data during the next few months.
- Dr.Götz will be attending the SAMSS conference at Rhodes University.
- Dr.Götz will submit an application for NTF incentive funding.
- Dr.Götz will be submitting an abstract for WIOMSA.
- Anthony Bernard is focusing on writing his thesis.

ACEP:

- 1 – 8 March: Dr. Tommy Bornman and Ryan Palmer embarked on the ACEP SodwanaBay Field trip in KwazuluNatal.
- 9 – 10 March: Dr. Bornman attended the SAIAB Financial Management training workshop.
- 23 & 29 March: Ryan wrote his < 25 ton skippers exams.
- 10 – 31 March: Ryan co-ordinated the ACEP progress brochure for SAMSS conference.

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- 10 – 31 March: Dr. Bornman and Ryan finalized the admin of ACEP scientists and researchers attending the SAMSS conference.
- 10 – 31 March: Dr. Bornman and Ryan planned the ROV field trip to Sodwana in May 2011.
- 25 March: Dr. Bornman attended online HR training at SAIAB.
- 30 March: Dr. Bornman and Ryan attended the Algoa Bay LTMP meeting at NMMU.

Proposed activities for April

- 1 – 8 April: Dr. Bornman will complete the < 9 m skipper practical examination.
- 4 – 7 April: SAMSS conference
- 14 – 30 April: Dr. Bornman will be getting married and going on honeymoon. Congratulations!!
- 1 – 30 April: Ryan will practice his ROV piloting in Algoa Bay, organize his pilot exemption for the port of Port Elizabeth and finalise the plans for the ROV fieldtrip to Sodwana Bay in May 2011.

Education

- Outreach component to local primary schools has been considered to use up all the material that was bought using Murray and Robert funding.
- Series of meetings were held to develop further interaction with the Nodes.

Proposed activities for April

- DTBC – Data handling workshop at Elwandle;
- Ongoing preparations for Sci-fest;
- Purchasing materials for other nodes.

Staff and Student Matters

- Mr Ntuthuko Masikane MSc thesis returned from reviewers with minor revisions. We are very pleased with this great achievement and are most proud of Ntuthuko.
- Dr Paterson finished his term as Manager of SAEON. Dr Paterson will act as interim manager until a replacement is appointed.