

**Monthly Update**  
SEPTEMBER 2011

**Key Achievements in September**

***Management***

- o 5 – 8 September: SAEON Network of Education Experts meeting and field trips to the Kowie Estuary and Algoa Bay.
- o 9 September: Dr Tommy Bornman undertook the > 9 m skippers training course.
- o 20 September: Mossel Bay research meeting at Elwandle, attended by Isabelle Ansorge, Tommy Bornman, Angus Paterson, Shaun Deyzel, Wayne Goschen and Renae Logston.
- o 23 September: Data management meeting with NMMU researchers.
- o 27 – 30 September: ASCLME Steering Committee meeting in Maputo, Mozambique

Proposed activities for October

- o 3 October: Sean and Tommy will be taking educators and learners to sea on either R/V *uKwabelana* or R/V *Honckenii*.
- o 4 – 7 October: SAEON meeting with DEA (1 day)
- o 4 – 7 October: SAEON meeting with DAFF (1 day)
- o 14 October: SAEIS meeting at NMMU
- o 24 – 28 October: Node Liaison Committee meeting in Grahamstown (1 day)
- o 30 October: Presentation at GSN Indibano
- o Complete drafts of the following two manuscripts:
  - o Bornman, T.G. & Smailes, P. Biogeography of the coastal phytoplankton of South Africa. To be submitted to the *African Journal of Marine Research*
  - o 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 Elwandle Node has facilitated several sessions aimed at steering our vision around the Estuaries Monitoring Platform. The objective is to initiate monitoring physical, lower trophic level parameters in several St Francis Bay and Algoa Bay estuaries in conjunction with the Estuarine Researchers fraternity.
- o Tommy Bornman and Shaun Deyzel attended the Wild Coast Living Laboratory Workshop held at Cobb Inn and hosted by Eastern Cape Parks, UCT and Penn State University, from 12-15 September. The objective was to seek synergies with these institutions and participants with regard to our vision of a Wild Coast Estuaries Monitoring Programme.
- o 22 – 23 & 26 - 30 September: Survey Sediment Elevation Table (SET) stations in to sea level in the Swartkops and Kromme estuaries.

Proposed activities for October

- 3 – 7 October: Tommy Bornman and Jadon Schmidt survey Sediment Elevation Table (SET) stations in to sea level in the Knysna Estuary.
- 10 – 14 October: Sean Bailey and Nikki James to sample and deploy temperature recorders in two estuaries near Dwesa on the Wild Coast.

### ***Algoa Bay LTMRP***

- September offered little relief in terms of suitable weather conditions for sea-based sampling. Wind velocity rarely dropped below 10 knots (~20 km/h), while swell size ranged between 2-3.5m, peaking in size around 4.5m. In spite of difficult conditions, both the PE-LTEMRP and Bird Island teams managed to secure sampling trips for September. The Plankton group sampled all stations on the 7<sup>th</sup> September, while Dr. Matt Dicken managed to sample around Bird Island on Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> September.
- Gully Probes were serviced on Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> September and the data harvested from these units was forwarded to Dr. Wayne Goschen for processing and cataloguing on Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> September.

### ***Data Management***

- The 8<sup>th</sup> SIMSC meeting was held at SAEON Elwandle Node, on Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> September. This was the first the SIMSC meeting hosted by Elwandle Node.
- Started negotiations on project registration and data sharing agreements with the Ocean Tracking Network (OTN) researchers and students (SAIAB)
- The Plankton Group held a meeting on Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> September to discuss project registration and data management.

### ***Laboratory Parataxonomy Interns***

- Interns are continuing their analysis of benthic samples on behalf of Oceanographic Research Institute (Principle Scientist: Ms Fiona Mackay, ORI).

### ***Other***

- Shaun attended the Quarterly SAIAB Managers meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> September on Dr Bornman's behalf.

### **Proposed activities for October**

- PE-LTEMP monthly sampling 1-11 October.
- CMP servicing in Algoa Bay 1-11 October.
- Launch of first OTN observation 'line' in Algoa Bay on 3<sup>rd</sup> October.
- Finalise project registration for salt marsh climate change project.
- Finalise project registration for the PE-LTEMRP projects.
- Finalise project registration for Ms Paula Patrick (NMMU), Mr A. Evans (NMMU), Ms Amber Childs (RU/SAIAB), Mr Rhett Bennett (RU/SAIAB).
- Attending SAEIS meeting at NMMU on 14 October.
- Giving a talk at GSN meeting on 30 October

**Marine Protected Areas:**

- 30 August – 1 September: Dr. Albrecht Gotz continued his <25T skipper training with Cpt Carl Block in Port Elizabeth.

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- Sean Bailey has worked up and analysed all the fish data for 2009 – 2011.
- He is currently busy writing a paper which he intends submitting to the *African Journal of Marine Science* by the end of this year.
- Invertebrate data for 2010 and 2011 still to be worked on.

Proposed activities for October

- Sean will continue work on his paper.
- Dr. Gotz will be attending meetings in Cape Town at MCM, SANBI and SANP.
- Dr. Gotz and Anthony Bernard will be attending the WIOMSA conference in Mombasa, Kenya.
- He will also be undertaking a fieldtrip to Stilbaai with UCT students and Cape Nature rangers.

**CMP's Maintenance / Diving / Boating**

- Weather has been inclement therefore gully probes and 3 outstanding UTR's (diving) will be serviced over the next 2 weeks.
- No diving has taken place during September.
- ADCP has been repaired and serviced and retrieved data sent to Dr Wayne Goschen.
- Galvanised gully anchors have been made up and are ready for deployment.
- R/V *Honckenii* was surveyed by SAMSA end of August.
- R/V *uKwabelana* used for monthly sampling, Education harbour trips and by Dr Matt Dicken for his Bird Island trips.

Proposed activities for October

- Outstanding CMP's (diving & boating) to be serviced.
- ADCP's to be deployed.
- New gullies to be deployed from Cape Recife southwards on spring low tide.
- R/V *uKwabelana* will be surveyed on the 6<sup>th</sup> October.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> October: Education harbour trips.
- Monthly sampling, Matt Dicken's monthly bird island trip and CMP's intended.

***Joint ACEP Marine Platform Operations:***

- Ryan Palmer, Dr Ali Gotz and Bruce Donovan undertook a trip to Port Elizabeth and managed to get the ROV setup on R/V *uKwabelana*. Bad weather unfortunately did not permit a trip out of the harbour.
- ACEP II cruises have been completed and most projects are finishing up in terms of writing up and publishing.
- The publication list is slowly growing and thus far 30 publications from ACEP II have been done.
- The continuation of ACEP has been approved by DST.

Proposed activities for October

- ROV trip to Algoa Bay, dependent on suitable weather conditions.
- Ocean Tracking Network (OTN) moorings are ready for deployment and the Bird Island line of 20 receivers will be put in at next weather opportunity.
- At the end of October, Ryan will be attending a Seabird CTD training course in Seattle U.S.A.

***Education***

- Elwandle node hosted the Education Symposium, which was very successful and was well received by stakeholders.

Proposed activities for October

- 1-6 October: Grade 11 Murray and Roberts Science camp.
- 17-21 October: Marine week activities in Port Elizabeth and educator workshop
- 24-28 October: COP 17 Awareness Day

***Staff and Student Matters***

- Mr Luzuko Dali has spent a considerable amount of time in the laboratory this month. He also went on the monthly field trip, coordinating the University of Fort Hare BSc Honours students' field work. His contribution this month was satisfactory.
- PhD student at UKZN/CSIR, Mr. Ntuthuko Masikane's publications from his Masters Dissertation with SAEON will be ready for publication by the end of this year.
- 19-22 September: Elwandle hosted the University of Fort Hare BSc Honours students for Laboratory Work and a data analysis workshop.
- Mr Tinus Sonnekus completed the phytoplankton cell counts from the Seamounts cruise and spent 2 weeks at NMMU doing Scanning Electron Microscopy work.
- Mr Jadon Schmidt is progressing well with the final field data collection and leveling survey of the Rod SETs.  
Mr Adrian Evans is progressing well with his data analyses and chapter write-up for his PhD.