

**Monthly Update**  
September 2012

**I. Overview**

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**1. Key achievements: September 2012**

- Estuarine research and management meetings with SANParks (Knysna and Swartveli estuaries) and the Gamtoos Estuary Management Forum.
- Port Alfred CMP maintenance and re-deployment to a new less hazardous site.
- Moored Seabird CTD deployed at Bird Island.
- Monthly PE-LTERMP Plankton sampling completed in Algoa Bay.
- Numerous media mentions of the MPA Research
- Grade 11 Education Science Camp

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

- Chapman Conference in Stellenbosch.
- Benguela Current Commission Scientific Forum and African Large Marine Ecosystems Caucus meeting in Windhoek.
- Algoa Bay PE-LTERMP and productivity field trip
- St Francis Bay CMP maintenance field trip
- Kromme Estuary LTERMP field trip
- Marine Week outreach to local schools

**II. Achievements: September 2012**

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

- 4 September: Shaun attended the monthly uKwabelana operations meeting
- 10 September: ASCLME Technical meeting
- 10 September: SAEON Elwandle Staff meeting
- 13 September: Meeting with Paul Cowley of SAIAB to discuss new and safer location of Port Alfred moorings.
- 17 September: ASCLME / SWIOFP Strategic Action Programme Panel meeting and presentation on Monitoring and Indicators in Johannesburg.
- 18 September: NRF Internship Programme visit to Elwandle Node in Grahamstown
- 20 September: Meeting with DWA and SANParks re long term monitoring of the Knysna and Swartvlei estuarine systems
- 21 September: Meeting with Dr Toufiek Samaai (DEA) and Dr Sven Kerwath (DAFF) re ACEP Walters Shoal project.
- 25 September: Meet with Dr Lorien Picheru re penguin research in Algoa Bay

- 27 September: Tommy & Alexis attend and present at the Gamtoos Estuary Management Forum meeting, Gamtoos Ferry Hotel.

## 2. Monitoring Platforms

### a. *Algoa Bay LTMRP*

- 26 September: The PA UTR's (30m, 80m) were serviced and redeployed west of the Riet River mouth.
- 26 September: The moored Seabird CTD was deployed on a new mooring at Bird Island.
- 30 September: Monthly PE-LTEMRP Plankton sampling completed in Algoa Bay.

### b. *St Francis Bay LTMRP*

- UTR 80m St Francis East broke loose and washed ashore on 16 September and will be re-deployed in October.

### c. *Estuaries LTMRP*

- 4-6 September: 4 new CT loggers were deployed in St Lucia and the existing loggers were serviced.

## 3. Marine Protected Areas

- 20<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> September: ACEP Walter's Shoal proposal and budget meeting with DEA and DAFF, SAEON Elwandle in Grahamstown.
- Media releases:
  - 24<sup>th</sup> September 2012: Web article on news 24 on BRUV project in False Bay <http://www.news24.com/SciTech/News/Fish-eye-view-research-in-False-Bay-20120924>
  - 25<sup>th</sup> September 2012: Short report on kykNET news and e-News Channel Africa on BRUV project in False Bay.
  - 27<sup>th</sup> September 2012: Newspaper article in Cape Times and web article on Cape Times Edition on BRUV project in False Bay <http://www.iol.co.za/capetimes/octopuses-outsmart-marine-scientists-1.1391134#.UGQ9Wo3iajY>
- Papers accepted:
  - BERNARD, A.T.F. and A. GÖTZ (accepted) Assessment of remote underwater video for surveying sub-tidal reef fish in the Agulhas Bioregion, South Africa. *Mar. Ecol. Progr. Ser.*
- Papers submitted:
  - BERNARD, A.T.F., A. GÖTZ, S.E. KERWATH and C.G. WILKE (submitted) An independent double-observer approach to assess observer bias in underwater visual census fish counts. *J. Exp. Mar. Biol. Ecol.*

- JAMES, N.C., L. VAN NIEKERK, A.K. WHITFIELD, W. POTTS, A. GÖTZ and A.W. PATERSON (submitted). A review of the possible effects of climate change on South African estuaries and associated fish species. *Glob. Change Biol.*

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

- 4 September: Stand-alone project registered with Dr Pierre Pistorius (Zoology Dept, NMMU): “Long-term monitoring of Cape Gannets at Bird Island, Algoa Bay” (ELW2012STA#0139).
- 4 September: BI SAWS data sent to Dr Pierre Pistorius
- 7 September: Student Project registered with Ms Elodie Heyns (Zoology and Entomology Department, RU): “Trophic ecology of shallow and deep temperate reef communities in the Tsitsikamma Marine Protected Area” (ELW2012STU#0140).
- 19 September: Elwandle Node IT infrastructure meeting was held (via Skype) between Shaun Deyzel, Andrew Grant (SAIAB IT), James Stapley (ASCLME IT), Wim Hugo and Louwrie Fourie

#### **5. Education**

- 3 – 4 September: Nozi attended the Education Experts Symposium in Cape Town.
- 5 – 7 September: Nozi attended the NRF outreach workshop in Pretoria.
- 28 – 30 September: Grade 11 Education Science Camp at Willows Resort in Port Elizabeth.

#### **6. Parataxonomy Laboratory**

- Parataxonomy Laboratory staff members, Mr Mpako and Mr Poni are continuing with the analysis of ORI benthic samples.
- The Parataxonomy Laboratory has also been utilised this month for sample analysis of ACEP Phulisa Programme Student Projects.

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

- Diving took place on 26<sup>th</sup> September for the moored CTD deployment.
- R/V *Honckenii* received its seaworthy certification on 27<sup>th</sup> September.
- Draft MoA on research diving between SAEON, SAIAB, RU and NMMU circulated for input and comment.

#### **8. Stakeholder Relations**

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

- R/V uKwabelana was out of the water for most of September for maintenance, thus putting pressure on the monthly users. On the return trip from Port Alfred to Port Elizabeth we were able to get work done, including SAEON CMP servicing and ATAP/OTN deployments.
- The vessel is back in Port Elizabeth and due for its safety survey in early October. After that we will try catch up with some of the work that was missed in September during the downtime.

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

- 12 September: Sampling trip to the Sundays Estuary for ACEP honours project with Lukhay Vumazonke and Oyama Siqwepu.
- 28-30 September: Shaun is hosting three WSU Honours students for sample analysis and specimen identification
- Garth (ACEP) attended the SARIMA conference in Port Elizabeth, 4 - 7 September.
- Study bursaries paid to 7 Fort Hare honours students.
- Gavin Tweddle contracted to assist with WSU sampling analysis, data analysis and write-up.

**III. Proposed Activities: October 2012**

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**1. Scheduled appointments**

- 3 October: Meeting with NMMU to discuss use of R/V Honckenii and the research diving MoA.
- 3 October: Meeting with Dr Ane Oosthuizen from SANParks Scientific Services to discuss collaboration and setting up a MoU/MoA.
- 3 October: Meeting with Shane Brown from Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality Disaster Management Unit to discuss collaboration.
- 1 – 5 October: Mbashe Estuary fieldtrip, early October to service existing loggers and possibly deploy a Star-Oddi CT logger.
- 7 – 10 October: Tommy to attend the Chapman Conference in Stellenbosch.
- 15 – 17 October: Benguela Current Commission Scientific Forum and African Large Marine Ecosystems Caucus meeting in Windhoek.
- 17 October: ACEP Sundays sampling.

**2. Monitoring Platforms and CMP Maintenance**

- The profiling CTD needs attention to re-establish comms with the AF module on the rosette.
- St Francis UTR's need servicing followed by UTR's at Sundays, St Croix & Cape Recife (easily achievable with Honckenii).
- Monthly sampling in the Kromme Estuary scheduled for 5 October.
- Deploy CT loggers in Gamtoos Estuary (TBA).
- Monthly PE-LTEMRP Plankton Sampling in Algoa Bay

**3. Marine Protected Areas**

- Finalise ACEP proposal.
- Submit the following papers:
  - WATT-PRINGLE, P.A., P.D. COWLEY and A. GÖTZ (in preparation) Movement behaviour of three endemic sparid fishes in their rocky intertidal nursery habitat, South Africa. *Afr. Zool.*
  - KERWATH, S.E., H. WINKER, A. GÖTZ, and C.G. ATTWOOD (in preparation) Marine protected area improves yield without disadvantaging fishers. *Science*

- KERWATH, S.E., C.G. WILKE and A GÖTZ (in preparation) The effects of barotrauma on five South African line caught fishes. *Afr. J. Mar. Sci.*
- DE VOS, L., A. GÖTZ, H. WINKER and C.G. ATTWOODD (in preparation) Baited remote underwater video survey of reef fish in the Stilbaai Marine Protected Area, with an assessment of monitoring requirements.

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

- Finalise PE-LTEMRP Data Management document and circulate to collaborators.
- Follow up on outstanding Project Registration application forms.

#### **5. Education**

8 – 12 October: Marine Week will be held at local schools in Grahamstown.