

Research Activity Panel Meeting Summary
Chris Harrold, Monterey Bay Aquarium, RAP Chair

SEPTEMBER 2002 RAP MEETING

Host: Moss Landing Marine Labs
Friday, September 13, 2002 9am-12pm

In Attendance:

Members

Chris Harrold, Monterey Bay Aquarium – Chair
Jeff Paduan, Naval Postgraduate School – Vice Chair
Andrew DeVogelaere – RAP Coordinator
Greg Cailliet, MLML
Churchill Grimes, NMFS
Deborah Johnston, CDFG
Mark Carr, UCSC
Fiorenza Micheli, Hopkins
Francisco Chavez, MBARI
Rick Starr, UC Sea Grant
Kerstin Wasson, ESNERR
Caroline Pomeroy, UCSC
Charles Wahle, MPA Center

Guests

Erica Burton, MBNMS
Kelly Newton, MBNMS
Irena Kogan, MBARI/MBNMS
Sarah Lyons, MPA Center
Kenneth Coale, MLML
Dennis Long, MBSF
Rebecca Goldman, ESNERR
Jim Oakden, MLML
Stacy Kim, MLML
Dan Malone, MLML

PRESENTATIONS

Institutional Update: Moss Landing Marine Labs (Kenneth Coale)

Kenneth presented an overview of new projects taking place at MLML. C-CORE, an intergrated coastal monitoring program, is a new NOAA funded program at MLML. The goal of the program is to develop a coastal observatory system along the West Coast, much of which is under-sampled. Measurements taken will include wind speed and direction, temperature, water

level, salinity, currents, and nutrients. Studies will be conducted on benthic invertebrates, plankton, birds, mammals, turtles, fish, invasive species, and toxic phytoplankton. Another project at MLML is the Leatherback turtle tagging project. The project is in its third year, and to date six turtles have been tagged this year, bring the total number to 11. The Leatherbacks are captured using the R/V Sheila B. and a spotting plane. Satellite transmitter tags are attached and genetic samples are collected and the turtle is released. A turtle tagged in 2000 traveled across the Pacific toward Indonesia and then turned around and headed back before the tag failed.

Pacific Shark Research Center (Greg Cailliet)

Moss Landing Marine Labs, Mote Marine Lab, the University of Florida, and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science all received funding from the National Marine Fisheries Service to form the National Shark Research Consortium. There are 5 objectives of the Pacific Shark Research Center: life history studies, population structure and dynamics, fishery related studies, taxonomic issues, and captive elasmobranch studies. Life history studies will include a life history database, age determination and validation, feeding habits, reproduction, and habitat association studies. Moss Landing Marine Labs has been studying sharks and rays since 1977, and age and growth studies have been conducted on seventeen species. Sharks and rays exhibit slow growth, have late age maturity, they have a long gestation period, low fecundity, and are long lived.

Thermal Plume Monitoring at the Moss Landing Power Plant (Jeff Paduan)

Data collection was successful over the past month! Floats equipped with thermister sensors were placed around the plume, and measured the temperature of the plume at 1 ft below the surface, 5 ft below the surface, and 3 ft above the bottom. Data loggers measuring temperature were also placed on the highway 1 bridge at Elkhorn Slough. Ship surveys and overflights of the area were also conducted to aid in the mapping of the thermal plume. This study was conducted to measure the plume extent and temperatures during maximum operating capabilities of the upgraded Duke Power Plant.

DISCUSSIONS

Biogeography work for Joint Management Plan Review & Processes to Review Documents (Erica Burton)

Comments from RAP members have been incorporated into the Biogeographic Assessment. The Biogeography team is requesting that interested RAP members come to a one-day meeting to review the revised product. Please contact Erica Burton for more information at (831) 647-4246 or erica.burton@noaa.gov

The Sanctuary would like to know how the RAP would like to review future Sanctuary documents. Historically the RAP chair would discuss the document at a RAP meeting and a subcommittee would form with members who had expertise on the subject. After a lively discussion the RAP decided that when the Biogeographic Assessment is complete, and the

members have reviewed the final product, a letter will be written to the Sanctuary with a series of suggestions on how to proceed in the future with regards to reviewing Sanctuary documents.

Monterey City's Request for Water Quality Monitoring in Vessel Traffic Lanes (Andrew DeVogelaere)

The city of Monterey sent a letter to the Sanctuary requesting water quality monitoring in the vessel traffic lanes. RAP members thought this type of study would be very difficult to conduct due to offshore weather conditions, and because it is unknown if discharge is occurring from large vessels. It was suggested that a study could be done to identify what is being discharged. The RAP thought that the City should release the RFP, but work with SIMoN. The RAP Chair agreed to write a letter to the Sanctuary suggesting potential further steps.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Point Pinos Tidepool Update (Chris Harrold)

Chris updated the RAP on the status of the Point Pinos Tidepools. He presented a document entitled "Pt. Pinos: History and Issues" that he recently completed. It summarizes the regulations of the Pacific Grove Marine Gardens Fish Refuge, and documents the interactions between the City of Pacific Grove, local researchers, and the California Department of Fish and Game. For more information please contact Chris Harrold, charrold@mbayaq.org

Management Plan Update (Chris Harrold)

Chris gave an update to the RAP on the MBNMS Management Plan revision process. See the MBNMS web site for more detail on this effort. <http://montereybay.nos.noaa.gov>