

**Research Activity Panel Meeting Summary**  
Gregor M. Cailliet, MLML, RAP Chair

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**FEBRUARY RAP MEETING**

Host: California Department of Fish and Game @ the new Moss Landing Marine Laboratories  
Friday February 11, 2000

Attendance: 13 RAP members and 25 guests

**PRESENTATIONS**

**CDFG Marine Pollution Laboratories Update** (Mark Stephenson)

Mark Stephenson is the Director of this group of 35 people located at Moss Landing Marine Laboratories (MLML) and Granite Canyon Lab. Their budget is roughly \$ 1.5 million per year.

- Current projects at Granite Canyon include:  
Toxicity in the Salinas and Pajaro Rivers; EMAP analyses for sediment toxicity; developing new methods to measure toxicity; San Francisco Bay Regional Monitoring, and more (a detailed handout was provided).
- Current projects at MLML include:  
Sediment toxicity, Mussel Watch, CALFED Mercury Project, and numerous student projects.

**California Coast National Monument** (Donna Blitzer)

- By executive authority, the President created the California Coastal National Monument protecting California's coast and islands (within 12 miles, above mean high tide line).
- Management authority remains with BLM and CDFG. In the near future, Congressman Farr's office will pull together BLM, CDFG and MBNMS in a meeting to address future issues and management needs. Clearly, one need is to map and catalogue the rocks and islands associated with the Coastal Monument.

**DISCUSSION**

**Rocky shore changes at Hopkins Marine Station** (George Somero/Rafe Sagarin, HMS)

- Reprints of scientific papers on long term changes at HMS rocky shores were made available. Since 1933, "southern species" have become more abundant, correlated with global temperature increases.
- This study will be linked with PISCO to begin to address issues about causes, perhaps related to recruitment and population size of different species. Eventually, basic physiology will be needed to understand mechanisms of change.

### **Data sets from the shores of Pt. Pinos (John Pearse, UCSC)**

- Pt. Pinos is a place many have visited because it is spectacular in terms of rocky shore species and heterogeneous habitat. There are no systematic long term surveys of this site because it has few flat surfaces that scientists like to use in quadrat studies.
- The famous phycologist, Isabelle Abbott has algal species lists from the area and there are many HMS student publications from studies on invertebrates at this site. However, the abundance of individual species is probably not noted in these sources.
- The intertidal zone at Pt. Pinos was the location of the Pacific Grove sewer outfall in the 1970's. Dr. Pearse began visiting the area in the 70's, has seen dramatic improvement since the outfall was shut off and has not seen subsequent dramatic negative changes.
- Carmel Point and Pt. Pinos have similar species diversity, and these are all locations students go to see dramatic rocky shore communities. Relatively cryptic brittle stars and one flat worms have decreased in abundance at this site, though these species are not normally collected. A long term study by Dr. Nybakken at MLML on nudibranchs may be an important data set to document change.
- It is clear that effective monitoring is needed to understand changes in natural resources. Fortunately, a collaboration of groups, including the MBNMS, have worked to obtain \$70,000 for two years to assess existing literature, do site comparisons with different levels of human access, and initiate an effective monitoring program at Pt. Pinos.

### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

#### **Update on the Sanctuary Currents program (Mario Tamburri)**

The agenda for the upcoming Sanctuary Currents was presented.

#### **MBNMS ecosystem monitoring program (Mario Tamburri)**

RAP members were asked to provide comments on the draft table of all existing monitoring projects in the MBNMS, which will be key in developing the program.

#### **California Marine Habitat Mapping workshop (Andrew DeVogelaere)**

The RAP was briefed on the California Marine Habitat Mapping workshop; the web site is available for those interested in more information: <http://skyler.monterey.edu/-cahabmap/>

#### **Mission, Vision, Critical Issues Document (Bill Douros)**

Bill Douros summarized this document and presented copies to the RAP.

#### **Research Needs for Sea Otter Studies (Steve Shimek)**

The Marine Mammal Commission has completed a document on this subject.

#### **MBNMS kelp management plan (Aaron King)**

Aaron King received comments on the present draft of this management plan in progress.

#### **Tour of the new Moss Landing Marine Laboratories facility (Gregor Cailliet)**

For those interested, a tour was led around MLML's new facility.