

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

SEPTEMBER 2003 RAP MEETING

Host: MBARI

Friday, September 12, 2003 9am to 12pm

In Attendance:

Members:

Chris Harrold, MBA - Chair

Greg Cailliet, MLML

Churchill Grimes, NOAA/NMFS

Steve Moore, CSUMB

Francisco Chavez, MBARI

Mark Stephenson, CDFG/Mar. Pollution Studies Lab

Geoff Wheat, NOAA/NURP

Caroline Pomeroy, UCSC

Aaron King, MPA

Gary Sharp, CCORS

Guests:

Erica Burton, MBNMS

Sean Morton, MBNMS

Sarah Smith, MBNMS

PRESENTATIONS

Institutional Update: The Regional Observatory efforts (CenCOOS) and PaCOS (a NMFS effort for monitoring the west coast) (Francisco Chavez)

Francisco Chavez gave an update on the current status of IOOS (Integrated Ocean Observing System). From the Washington perspective, IOOS is “a federation of observing systems.” MBARI is looking to hire a regional ocean system coordinator for CenCOOS (Central California Ocean Observing System). Francisco asked the RAP for suggestions, and if they felt that the RAP was representative of various marine institutions in the area. The RAP agreed to consider suggestions for the position and agreed that it was fairly representative. Francisco described some difficulties in managing observing systems including over-observation, under-observation and disorganization.

Benefits of ocean observation for the public include: better understanding of climate change, mitigation of natural hazards, helping marine operations, national security, public health, and a better understanding of marine ecosystems and marine resources. The presentation continued

with a discussion of how the data will be managed within CenCOOS. Francisco mentioned that a strong coupling between operations and research (as well as secure funding) is needed for successful data coordination.

Finally, there was a discussion on how to address needs of the various observing systems. The funding or organizational needs of PaCOS (Pacific Coastal Observing System) or other regional programs may differ from one another. Similarities between programs may exist as well and this “backbone” may be better managed at the federal level.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Update on Sanctuary Currents Theme and suggestions for speakers (Mark Stephenson/Sarah Smith)

The theme for the Sanctuary Currents Symposium 2004 is water quality. Major topics that the RAP felt would be valuable to mention on water quality were: harmful algal blooms, desalination, domoic acid, cruise ships, exotic species in ballast water, influence of power plants. A concern was raised during the Currents discussion that the SAC would solicit RAP input on desalination, and there may be a need for more information and a consensus opinion in the future.

Speaker Suggestions include:

Mary Silver (nonanthropogenic harmful algal blooms)

A senior at CDF&G

Mike Thomas/Karen Wooster (regional water quality board)

Tony Jones (desalination)

Brad Damitz

Fred Watson-watershed institute

EPA representative in SF (mercury in pelagic fish)

Pete Raimondi (entrainment-power plants)

Foster report-thermal influence of power plants

BREAK

INSTITUTIONAL UPDATE: MBARI (Marcia McNutt)

Marcia McNutt updated the RAP on current events at MBARI. The AUVs are relieving the ROVs of a large quantity of data collection. This allows the capabilities of the ROVs to be explored and frees them up to do different tasks. Successful developments include training a computer to detect items of interest in a video frame and training the ROV to lock on to a particular organism and follow it with the camera. She highlighted various researchers at MBARI and gave an update on the status of projects.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was brought up.

Meeting adjourned .