

Overview of Research Activity Panel for 1998

The Research Activity Panel (RAP) met nine times at different locations each time and sponsored by UCSC's Big Creek Marine Ecological Reserve (BCER), Landels-Hill Big Creek Reserve and Monterey Bay Environmental Science and Technology (MBEST) Center, California Department of Fish and Game's (CDFG) Marine Division, Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) and its CIRPAS program, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS), NMFS's Pacific Fisheries Environmental Lab (PFEG), U.C. Sea Grant, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories (MLML), Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve (ESNERR), and National Undersea Research Program (NURP). At each meeting, institutional updates provided RAP members with updates about marine research activities. The RAP provided input to the Sanctuary Advisory Council and MBNMS staff on diver disturbance in kelp beds, the Sustainable Seas Expedition, the Highway One management plan, the expanding live fish fishery, and the programs for the 1998 Sanctuary Currents. In addition, the RAP helped coordinate sea floor mapping activities and McArthur cruise and develop the NPS shared tank facility. The RAP members heard presentations on krill and blue whales, PEARL, fish and fishery ecology studies at the BCER, USGS and MBARI mapping activities, El Nino events, and California and federal legislative activities on the marine environment. We also participated in the newly developed Monterey Bay Crescent Ocean Research Consortium (MBCORC) and provided input on their planned regional GIS and research coordination/funding projects. The main contribution of the RAP was enhanced communication among individuals representing the increasing number of scientists at the many marine science facilities in the MBNMS area.

Submitted 16 November, 1998 by Gregor M. Cailliet (RAP Chair, MLML) and Andrew DeVogelaere (Research Coordinator, MBNMS)