



Reef Watcher Production Team
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All contributions are subject to editing.
Deadline for next issue: 1st June, 2007

Reef Watch Marathon Dive 2007

This year's Marathon Dive continued to grow on the success of previous years. This major annual monitoring event is now so well known that the Mayor for the City of Onkaparinga, Lorraine Rosenberg, paid a visit and stayed for a while, discussing the program with Reef Watch personnel. Councillor Rex Manson also paid a visit.

With approximately 30 divers donning their gear during the day, volunteers were kept busy ferrying divers to and from Noarlunga Reef. This year the Marathon Dive took

on extra significance as SARDI Reef Health Program divers also took to the water during the week before and the week after to compare the data from community

divers and scientific divers.

Marathon Dive 2008

March 16, 2008 - book it into your calendar, diary, on your fridge.



Meet the CCSA Marine Team

The Conservation Council's Marine Team has now grown to the extent that we actually have to have regular meetings to keep track of each other. So this is a short introduction.

General head honcho is **Chris Ball**. Chris started at the CCSA as Reef Watch Project Officer and has moved up to managing all the CCSA marine projects.

Steve Leske and **Mark Kaehne** are the two current Reef

Watch dive trainers. Steve also works as the current Reef Watch Project Officer, organising workshops and training around the State. **James Brook** is the outgoing Reef Watch Project Officer and is now going back to training divers in Reef Watch monitoring techniques.

Josh Coates is the Project Officer for the South Australian Fish, Sharks and Rays project (see back page) and part-time Coast and Marine Facilitator.

Agnes Cantin is the Intertidal Program Co-ordinator. Currently a PhD candidate at Flinders University, Agnes works closely with the marine scientists who prepared the methodology for the intertidal program.

And finally, myself - **Alex Gaut**. I have been involved with Reef Watch since 1998. Recently I have been contracted to work on Intertidal Program materials and am now temporarily taking on a communications role.

Reef Watch Training Days

This summer has been a busy season for Steve and Mark. They have extended the Reef Watch program out to some new areas including Port Lincoln, Whyalla and the south-east.

Our intrepid instructors have been training groups in both subtidal and intertidal monitoring techniques.

In Whyalla the dive group had an extremely hot weekend and eight local divers turned up for two days of intense training on the Fish Survey techniques and identification. This group can look forward to completing their certification with the LIT and Invertebrate Survey training. Mark would like to thank Lana, Dave, Rod and Deb in particular for their assistance.

Steve has been busy on the Yorke Peninsula, making multiple trips there during the summer with a good



New Reef Watch group in Whyalla.

turnout each time. Two places where Steve got an excellent reception were Hardwicke Bay and with the Aboriginal community at Point Pearce. Steve looks forward to returning to the Peninsula and continuing to spread the Reef Watch program amongst the Yorke community.

Steve was fortunate to return to Kangaroo Island in February this year and follow up with further training for eleven intertidal monitors and ten keen divers who were interested in the Feral or In Peril program. The Feral or In Peril training is available for all interested dive groups, so email Steve if you are interested.

Future Training Dates

Sunday 22nd April—Underwater Explorers Club of SA. Boat dive to Broken Bottom for members. See their website for further details:

www.geocities.com.au/uecofsa

Steve and Mark will be coming to an area near you over the next few months to continue training and monitoring. Dates are being organised as you read this.

Check the Reef Watch website frequently for the latest dive and training dates:

www.reefwatch.asn.au

Big fines for reef poachers

Two women have been fined over \$8,700 each following a recent court case.

My Tran, 26, and Ngoc Bao Tran, 22, both of Paralowie, were found guilty of a number of offences related to the harvest of abalone from the intertidal reef area within the Troubridge Hill Aquatic Reserve near Edithburgh, on southern Yorke Peninsula.

Fisheries Officers charged the two following a tip-off from the public to the Fishwatch telephone hotline.

Officers seized a total of 525 abalone, all undersize, and a quantity of other shellfish.

In South Australia, it is illegal to remove any bottom-dwelling organisms from any intertidal reef from high water mark out to a water depth of two metres.

From PIRSA Fish Facts, Issue 8, 2007
To subscribe: www.pir.sa.gov.au/fishfacts

Reef Watch ID Workshop — Glenelg

New Reef Watch (RW) Project Officer, Steve Leske, ran his first Reef Watch ID workshop in February at Glenelg Scuba.

Up to forty people attended the evening, with many new divers bringing friends and family along too, so the program got good exposure to a wide cross-section of the community. There were even a few international divers at the evening - one English family had only immigrated to Australia 8 weeks prior to the workshop, so they were diving in headfirst!

Dr. Scoresby Shepherd, one of Australia's most respected marine scientists, gave a motivating talk about the importance and significance of community monitoring and the contribution that volunteers make to data collection. It is now widely

recognised amongst the scientific community that community monitoring through volunteers can generate not only large amounts of data, but valid and regular data that contributes important and often missing seasonal data to the monitoring process.

Presenters included:

1. Dr. Scoresby Shepherd had live marine specimens of reef organisms;
2. Dr. Bob Baldock spoke about the importance of algae using fresh specimens;
3. Mark Kaehne talked to groups about the RW program;
4. Steve informed groups about the Feral and in Peril program;
5. Alex Gaut had a display of SA Museum specimens, and spoke about the major groups of marine



Bob Baldock (red) showing participants algal samples.

invertebrates.

The participants were very interested in all aspects and asked lots of questions. Even those who were not divers were interested and surprised at the variety of organisms in the marine environment.

Alex Gaut
Editor

Feral or In Peril—where are you?

Somewhere in South Australia there are almost 1,500 Feral or In Peril kits. We've given away thousands of kits with identification charts to very keen divers.

However, we are not receiving any data—where are you? Or perhaps we should be asking where are the ferals and the 'in perils'?

If you are seeing them, please report them, it's easy to send a fax or hop on-line, or send us an email.

If you are not seeing them what does this mean? Both good news and bad news. Great that you might not be seeing a spread of invasive species, but bad that

you are not seeing the potentially threatened species.

Following up on two specimens found at Kingscote Jetty, Kangaroo Island - both were positively identified as native species. What a relief.

Look out for a new 'Wanted' poster to be hitting the dive shops in the next couple of months. It will encourage those without kits to take a free one and start reporting.

For further information about Feral or In Peril, go to the Reef Watch website:

www.reefwatch.asn.au

Don't shy away!

Just because the water is cooling down, don't let it stop you diving. Importantly, don't let it stop you monitoring!

Reef monitoring data drops dramatically during winter - but this is the time we need you most, so that Reef Watch scientists can get a complete picture of the ecology of our temperate reefs.

If your dive club has adopted a reef, now is the time to be planning your winter and spring monitoring dives.

So dust off your dry suit and get out your hoods - be one of the brave souls who will get cold for our reefs!

Reef Watch Intertidal Program

Aldinga Monitoring Group

The Aldinga monitoring group have maintained regular monitoring of Snapper Point and will continue until the end of April, after which is the winter hiatus. The Aldinga Tideline Monitors will be continuing to meet over the break. This group have been very successful and enthusiastic about the program and will be providing long-term data about the health of Snapper Point.

Expansion into other local and regional areas

Lady Bay is the next group to be formed within the local region. An introductory session was held on Saturday 3rd March. A follow-up monitoring session will be held in late March. Council and residents are keen to have more activities that will educate and gather information and hence create a clearer picture of the

health of their local environment. Steve Leske and Mark Kaehne have added the intertidal program into their repertoire of training. As a result groups in the south-east, Whyalla, Port Lincoln and Yorke Peninsula have been trained in the methods. Over the next year more regional groups around the state will be given the opportunity to be involved in this program.

School Program

Victor Harbour Primary School is the first school to adopt the intertidal program and have done so very eagerly. A teacher training session was held in early December to introduce the methods and discuss ideas on what the kids will enjoy. Their first monitoring session was held in

February with about 60 kids learning about their local reef. A framework has been established to aid the school in adopting the program and indications are for a successful educational and fun experience for the kids.

Agnes Cantin
Intertidal program co-ordinator



Agnes training Victor Harbor Primary School teachers.

Future intertidal dates

1st April - Monitoring/training session, Lady Bay. Meet 9.30 am.

15th April - Snapper Point, Aldinga, monitoring session. Meet at 9:00 am at the Snapper Point carpark on The Esplanade.

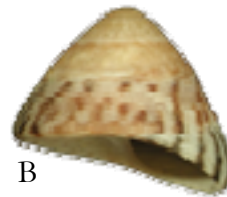
For more information on upcoming events or for any information about the Intertidal program contact Agnes on:

0427 183 734 or email:
intertidal@ccsa.asn.au

Test yourself...



A



B



C



D



E



F

Answers on page 5

Heard Around The Reef

Impacts of Climate Change

The impacts of climate change are likely to subject the marine environment and the coasts to major change and damage. Generally, ocean waters are warming, sea level is rising increasingly quickly and, importantly, the sea is becoming more acidic. As stated in a recent report by Stephen (2006), 'the causes are clear: elevated greenhouse gases in the atmosphere have led to a global warming that has also increased temperatures in the surface waters of the oceans. This leads to rising sea levels due to thermal expansion of the water and due to melting ice masses. At the same time, the continuously rising CO₂ concentration in the air causes CO₂ to be absorbed by the sea, where,

through chemical reactions, the seawater acidifies'. For coastal and marine environments the threat of climate change is also compounded by other pressures such as pollution, invasive species, or extractive activities.

Gina Newton

From MCCN Waves, Vol. 13, No. 1

Seahorse protection

Did you know that all members of the seahorse fish family (Syngnathidae) are protected in South Australia? The legislation came into effect last year. There is now a \$4,000 penalty for taking any of the species in this group including seadragons, seahorses, pipehorses and pipefish.

While we're on the topic, famous seahorse breeder, Tracy Warland, has moved from Port Lincoln to Port Adelaide. Her fantastic breeding facility is open to the public and schools. For more details:

www.saseahorse.com

Beyond the Coast

This new documentary series aims to highlight the importance of temperate reef environments. It is a joint collaboration between the Reef Health Program (SARDI Aquatic Sciences) and the Masters in Natural History Film Making Course, Flinders University. The series consists of two DVDs, for sale at \$5 for the pair from your local participating dive store. Or email us.

Please send us any coast and marine news clips from around SA: info@reefwatch.asn.au

Marine monitoring, African style

Dr. Sue Murray-Jones was lucky enough to spend three months setting up some basic marine monitoring programs in Mozambique last year.

Sue will give a talk about why it's important, what she did, differences between community monitoring in Australian and Africa and how others could get involved in this work.

Sue might also sneak in some pictures of terrestrial conservation programs in Swaziland and the amazing animals of Kruger National Park.

This is a joint event for Reef Watch and the SA chapter of the Australian Marine Sciences Association. Nibbles & drinks available afterwards for a donation.

Date: Friday 4th May, 5.30 pm

Venue: SARDI Aquatic Sciences, Hamra Ave., West Beach

World Ocean Day

8 June, 2007

Every year, many of us are aware of World Environment Day, on June 5, but very few of us are aware that there is a separate World Ocean Day only 3 days later.

This time is usually used by organisations to highlight the importance and the plight of the world's oceans.

Why not go to a World Ocean Day event? Or even better, organise an event with your dive club. Perhaps arrange your winter monitoring session at your adopted reef on or near this date. Organise a clean up dive, plant

some native dune plants, organise for a local marine expert to give a talk to your dive club. Take your dive club to the Seahorse Farm at Port Adelaide, or ask Reef Watch to provide you with some Feral or In Peril training. There are lots of ideas.

Why not check out some of the events and ideas at the World Ocean Day website:

www.theoceanproject.org/wod

While you're there, sign the petition to ask the UN to officially endorse World Ocean Day.

Answers to 'test yourself', page 4: A. *Austrocochlea* sp. B. *Bembicium* sp. C. *Cominella lineolate*. D. *Dicathais orbita*. E. *Nerita atramentosa*. F. *Turbo undulatus*.

Many thanks to our generous sponsors

Reef Watch currently receives most of its funding from the Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board through the Natural Heritage Trust.

Additional support is provided by the Kangaroo Island, Eyre Peninsula, Northern and Yorke NRM Boards.

Other supporting organisations

include:

- Primary Industries and Resources SA via SARDI Aquatic Sciences
- Department for Environment and Heritage
- PADI Project Aware

Reef Watch also acknowledges the generous support of the diving industry for Reef Watch events.



If undeliverable return to:

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Adelaide 5000
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Help save time, money and the environment! Please send me Reef Watcher via email only. Email your details: info@reefwatch.asn.au

Protecting South Australia's Fish, Sharks and Rays

We all understand the need to protect threatened species on land such as the Bilby or the Red-Tailed Cockatoo but what about our finned friends?

The Conservation Council has recently commenced the 'Protecting South Australia's Fish, Sharks and Rays' project. This project will increase awareness of the status of fish species of conservation concern amongst

marine and coastal managers and the general community. We will be helping Natural Resources Management Boards, Local Government, industry and the broader community to identify and put in place the actions required to reduce the threats to species at risk, and, where appropriate, achieve protection under relevant legislation.

The project will develop a number

of resources useful to all those with an interest in marine conservation in South Australia.

Project publication are likely to become available in April and a series of regional workshops are scheduled for May. Check the Conservation Council website for more details: www.ccsa.asn.au

Josh Coates
Project Officer, CCSA