# Ocean-time series as windows into scales of variability in the sea

Two things never to do with a time series: start one, end one

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# Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI)

Founded in 1987 by David Packard (www.mbari.org)

The mission of MBARI is to achieve and maintain a position as world center for advanced research and education in ocean science and technology, and to do so through the development of better instruments, systems and methods for scientific research in the deep waters of the ocean. David Packard, November 1995

> Executive Directors: R.T. Barber 1987-91 P.G. Brewer 1991-96 G.R. Heath 1996-1997 M. McNutt 1997-2009 Chris Scholin 2009-



### The societal drivers

## Outline

- Monterey Bay Time Series
- Global climate variability during the twentieth century from SST
- Primary production over the past 20 years from SeaWiFS, BATS, Cariaco, La Coruña (Spain), HOT, MB and Peru
- Looking to the past to learn something about future changes in climate
- Some thoughts about the future

### Monterey Bay Time Series

 Since 1989 combines ship, mooring, AUV, satellite and modeling Resulted in over 150 publications Generates new ideas and process studies Provides a natural laboratory for technology development Studies biological responses to climate variability and global change









### The history of Monterey Bay measurements at Station H3/M1



### **An Introduction to Anomalies**















### M1 and ship section average



### Slope between M1 and ship = 1

### Diatom domination that transitions to pico-dominated offshore



### Locations where the full photosynthetic plankton community was enumerated and sized by flow cytometry and microscopy



All stations collapsed into a single latitudinal profile and the same done with SeaWiFS chlorophyll

### $PP = 0.66125 * PAR / (PAR+4.1) * Z_{eu} * B_0 * \mu * DL$



n ocean Picoplankton 1 µm mts

> R=0.91 between cruise data and composite satellite chlorophyll

Sum all of the groups and estimate ~50 Petagrams carbon per year







### Drawdown of CO<sub>2</sub> driven by seasonal cycle of light, temperature and productivity



Offshore exactly opposite due to warming



# We see this CO<sub>2</sub> drawdown pattern in upwelling shadows:

- Monterey Bay
- Southern California Bight, Baja

• Peru



### Dinoflagellates solution to CO<sub>2</sub> problem!

# The Paleocene

 Dinoflagellates were prominent globally along coastal margins 55 million years ago when there was a rapid carbon release into the atmosphere and oceans, rivaling the present anthropogenic release of CO<sub>2</sub>, and the world was significantly warmer

### The Length of the Record is Important



#### Greening correlated with cooling and increase of nutrients at depth



### Monterey Bay Temperature at Depth

Monterey Bay Nitrate at Depth

Monterey Bay Surface Chlorophyll

### What is responsible for greening of California coastal waters?



#### Monterey Bay chlorophyll

#### Southern California chlorophyll

#### Peru chlorophyll

#### San Francisco Bay chlorophyll

## Global data sets

Sea surface temperature (SST) - >100 y
Sea surface height ~ 18 y
Sea surface chlorophyll ~ 12 y

Strong coherence

# Scales of variability

Past century – ENSO, AMO, PDO, NPGO, El Niño Modoki
Past 400-500 years – Medieval Warm Period, Little Ice Age, the present
THE Ice ages – not treated here
Global warming – which of the above is the most likely analog?

In the following series of SST maps the global trend from 1910 to 2009 and seasonal cycle has been removed and an EOF analysis performed. The first mode captures ENSO. Many other properties, like sea level, chlorophyll, sea level pressure (next slide), PAR or sunlight, winds, currents (last not shown) also display ENSO as their dominant mode.

The principal component time series are identical and correlated with the Multivariate ENSO Index (MEI)



### The first four global modes of SST variability (Messie and Chavez, sub) El Niño/ La Niña Pacific Decadal Oscillation





GEOPHYSICAL RESEARCH LETTERS, VOL. 35, L08607, doi:10.1029/2007GL032838, 2008

#### North Pacific Gyre Oscillation links ocean climate and ecosystem change

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#### El Niño Modoki and its possible teleconnection

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## Past century in the Pacific

- M1 = ENSO (high interannual and some multidecadal energy)
- M3 like but not the same as PDO
  PDO = M1 + M3

• M4 associated with the North Pacific Gyre Oscillation and El Niño Modoki (one and the same; Modoki is Japanese for like but not the same) – increasing in amplitude, negative recently, recent El Niño events more western than eastern.

# Pacific multidecadal variability and regime shifts, same pattern as recent cooling



### The recent shift in the mid 1990s "bigger" than others because M1 (ENSO), M3 (PDO) and M4 (NPGO, Modoki) are in phase (negative) –coincidence?







1900 1910 1920 1930 1940 1950 1960 1970 1980 1990 2000

### Regional Ocean Model System 12-km with NPZ (red warm, blue cold, relief sea surface height = eddies)



Ecological Forecasting of Central California salmon

Peruvian anchoveta



High resolution blended winds



### Equatorial Pacific Chlorophyll Forecast













### Bidigare et al. (2009) The 1997-98 regime shift at HOT







### *In situ* oceanographic data off Peru shows that ocean losing nitrate (oxygen is zero so nitrate electron donor) and increasing productivity



#### Fish Scale Record from a core off Peru



Gutierrez et al. (2009) Biogeosciences

Cores off Callao (and Pisco), Peru show dramatic changes in oxygen and ocean productivity from the LIA (higher oxygen, lower productivity) to the present (lower oxygen, higher productivity). Is this trend continuing and being exaggerated by global warming? How long can it continue?



### Medieval warm period has the same pattern as present but Little Ice Age does not





2

Temperature Anomaly (°C)

.5

7

9

1.4

Mann et al. 2009, Science

-2.5

-.9

-7

-.5

- 3

### Driven by a southward migration of the Intertropical Convergence zone (ITCZ) during the Little Ice Age



Opposite happening today as the world warms

## Ocean warmer during El Niño and El Viejo El Niños of 82-83, 97-98



#### Same thing during El Viejo

i.e. warmer coastal upwelling and warmer world

# A developing Paradox?

Observations from the modern record show that the entire globe warms during El Niño and El Viejo and in coastal upwelling systems temperature goes up and biological productivity goes down. The opposite seems to happen during the Little Ice Age when the coastal upwelling system off Peru warmed, ventilated and became less productive. We must be looking at very different mechanisms ....

## Conclusions

- Climate variability has strong and measurable impact on global ocean ecosystems
- Ocean ecosystems adapt to large natural climate changes – what are their limits?
- Anthropogenic global change (i.e. ocean acidification, fishing) exists without a doubt but climate change harder to pinpoint
- There will be "two faces to global warming-driven climate change" just like there are "two faces to climate variations like El Niño (and El Viejo)"
- There will be many surprises. Change may not follow current patterns of climate variability
- Our science (observing/modeling) and management needs to be adaptive; management needs to include variability and change

# The future

My future that is = retirement

Controlled, Agile and Novel Observing Network (CANON)

# The biological pump: a complex process in an ever-changing and moving ocean



2010+ development of a system that can follow a process in 4-D Start with HABs using toxin as tracer Mobile and fixed platforms Instrumentation and "samplers" for water, particles, rates Novel analytical methods Software to intelligently sample and control in situ assets Decision Support System (DSS) to integrate information, planning and analysis tools



#### sigma

