

MVCO WAVES

May. 30, 2002

Vol. 1

Issue 4



The Martha's Vineyard Coastal Observatory has completed an exciting and successful first season. Since the node was deployed last June we have established our data archive, launched our web pages, and supported the pilot program for the Coupled Boundary Layer Air Sea Transfer (CBLAST) experiments. Despite some challenges our vision of the observatory as a significant tool for a growing community of scientific users is now coming to fruition.

Field Ops

Our dauntless dive team of Glenn McDonald, Esmail Ali, and Sandy Williams, led by Jay Sisson and supported by Dave Olmsted executed the recovery of the upper instrument frame for annual maintenance. A preliminary dive cleaned the node, prepared bolts and cables to be disconnected, and rigged the lift bridle. The following week, in nice low sea conditions, they zipped in, unbolted and set the upper section on the bottom away from the pedestal and attached the buoyed lift line to the bridle.

Dave Olmsted then steamed in, picked up the buoy and hauled the node onto the deck of the R/V Asterias.

Once again we have seen how critical a strong dive team is to the success of this installation. A precision plan perfectly executed by our team!

Point of View

As you can see from the pictures, one thing we have learned much about in this first year is bio-fouling, or the growth of biological organisms on deployed instruments. Keeping the node clean enough for the divers to access connectors and instruments has been a significant challenge. However, when the node arrived on the dock biologists Annette Govindarajan and Nan Trowbridge promptly descended on it with their buckets to collect hydroids. While Marga was bemoaning the odor, mess and work required to prepare the system for redeployment, they were thrilled to find several interesting species.



Dive Team News

Terry Rioux is setting up his spring-summer diver training classes so now is the time to contact him if you want to join our dive team. We are looking for general support divers as well as divers willing to train for dry suits, surface supply and underwater communications gear. Terry's program is available to experienced sport divers interested in becoming WHOI divers as well as new divers seeking their first certification.



MVCO Phase 2: CBLAST

Progress has been made on the expansion plans for the MVCO. In January a contract was issued to Appledore Engineering of New Hampshire to design the Air-Sea Interaction Tower (ASIT) that will be the terminus of a new cable from MVCO, about 1.5km southwest at the 15m contour. It is anticipated that the cable will be laid/buried in June. Negotiations are currently progressing for the tower construction-installation contract and the tower is expected to be installed in late July.

Web Page Update

Users should note that due to the underwater instrument package being

ashore for annual maintenance we will see real-time data only from the met mast on the web page for a few weeks. Also a better address for accessing the web page is:

<http://www.whoi.edu/mvco>

New sections have been added to assist users in planning instrument deployments at the MVCO. Please let us know how to make these sections more useful to you.

Looking for a nice sunrise or what the surf was like on Monday? The beach images are now available on the data page. At this time they are *all* in the archive so remember the time is in GMT and it gets very dark about four hours from when you would expect it be!



Future Plans

We have had an exciting number of people inquire about working at the MVCO and are looking forward to the expansion of Peter Traykovski's instrument burial studies. Jim Preisig and a diverse group of associates from other institutions are planning the deployment of several tripods and buoys for acoustic studies near the CBLAST site. Overall we are looking forward to an exciting second year at the MVCO.