

**(SCAITE LOGO)**

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF  
ICHTHYOLOGICAL TAXONOMISTS AND ECOLOGISTS**

**04 March 2013, CMA**

**Attendance:** Julianne Passarelli (CMA); Bill Power, Fred Stern, Terra Petry (LACSD); Mike Mengel (OCSD); Jim Rounds, Craig Cambell, Greg Lyon (CLA - Hyperion); Robin Gartman, Adriano Feit, Geoff Daly, Mike Kelly (CSD); Dario Diehl, Shelly Moore, Ken Schiff, Valerie Raco-Rands (SCCWRP); Danny Heilprin (Ecorp Consulting); Jim Mann, Wendy Willis (ABC Labs); Rick Feeney (LACM); Charles Moore, Gwen Lattin (Algalita); Jonathan Williams (Occidental College); Damon Owen (Weston); Don Buth (UCLA); Chris Clark (Tierra Data Inc).

**Meeting Summary:**

Dr. Juli Passarelli opened the meeting with announcements regarding upcoming events and SCAITE business. Dr. Milton Love will give a lecture on April 19<sup>th</sup> at CMA from 7:00 – 9:00 pm entitled Better Than a Swift Kick Where the Sun Don't Shine – Interesting Fishes of the Pacific Coast. The annual two day SCAS meeting is being hosted by CSULB on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. Juli will be presenting on the development of the SCAITE group Friday, May 3<sup>th</sup> under the SCAMIT session.

1. SCAITE logo:

A new logo design has been selected. Slight modifications to the logo can still be made if desired.

2. SCAITE website:

Shelly gave a demonstration of the now working SCAITE website. The home page hosts the upcoming meeting dates and descriptions of the topics to be covered. Terra is continuing to format previous meeting minutes for addition onto the site. Shelly asked for other section ideas and volunteers to help provide content. Bill Power will write the "About" section encompassing the history of SCAITE, while Bill, Juli, and Dario will write the "By Laws" section. Danny volunteered to provide some useful links for addition under the "Links" section and it was suggested to post presentations under "Tools". There was some discussion on implementing membership dues and it seemed that the group was in favor of this idea.

3. Upcoming meetings:

Visit the SCAITE website at [www.scaite.org](http://www.scaite.org) for the latest meeting announcements.

Bight '13 Ingestion Study: The floor was then turned over to Ken, whom gave a brief introduction to an upcoming Bight '13 study, involving ingestion of plastics by marine fishes. This study will collect from three different habitats (benthic embayment, benthic offshore, and pelagic offshore) using trawling and seining. Shelly then presented data from the previous Bight '08 survey indicating the prevalence of debris in various habitats, followed by Charlie discussing other studies that found plastics in the gut content of Myctophids and other fish species. SCAITE was asked to give target species recommendations for the differing habitats. Anchovies, sardines, and top smelt were a few of the suggested pelagic species, while lizardfish, English sole, and sanddabs were suggested for the benthic habitat. After much discussion, it was recommended that perhaps a better approach for the benthic habitat would be to collect five individual fish from all species encountered from selected otter trawls.

Model Monitoring/SWAMP compatible data: Ken lead a discussion about the upcoming need for data to be SWAMP compatible and how SCCWRP has been tasked with creating Data Quality Objectives in the future. The Bight program is a good time to begin this process. The questionnaire previously discussed at the 03 December 2012 SCAITE meeting is a start to this program. The biggest problem/concern that the questionnaire results showed was the lack of consistency regarding standardization of taxonomists among participants and the non-uniform responses to QA/QC problems on trawls. Ken then discussed data quality objectives and the potential to manipulate data collected from Bight '08 to determine how differing types of errors impact the overall data set and what accuracy is needed to keep quality conclusions. The categories of errors to be analyzed are: species identification (rare vs. common, high abundance vs. low abundance), taxonomic resolution, counting accuracy, and biomass accuracy (size class errors will not be analyzed). The types of error to be analyzed are: cryptic/related species, most common errors, and random errors. The response metrics to be analyzed are: fish response index, species richness, abundance, density, and diversity. The proposed timeline is as follow:

- approach to error – Today
- data preparation – March
- error propagation/data analysis – April
- oral summary – May
- documentation (Bight '13 QA, journal publication) – June

Bight '13: A lengthy Bight '13 discussion then ensued regarding the use of a lab practicum instead of a bucket test for fish and inverts. It was decided that the bucket test approach for testing participants would once again be utilized. It was suggested that more buckets (4-5) need to be created. By doing so, specimens should be in better condition than those from the previous Bight bucket tests.

Miller and Lea revision: Juli is still requesting members to bring copies of annotated pages of Miller and Lea to the next meeting to help compile a “complete and updated” version of the book. Donations are being accepted through Friends of Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, making sure to specify Miller and Lea Revisions on the memo line. It looks like there will be about 300 new drawings needed for the book.