

FINAL REPORT

POGO VISITING PROFESSOR DAVE CHECKLEY

By
Anja Kreiner

18 July 2011

Prof Checkley arrived in Namibia on 8th January and stayed until 1st July, with a trip to South Africa in April. He was based in the environmental subdivision at the National Marine Information and Research Centre (NatMIRC) in Swakopmund, Namibia.

During his stay Prof Checkley had many discussions and gave guidance to three Ph.D candidates at NatMIRC (Beau Tjizoo, Nadine Moroff and Chris Bartholomae). He worked with Beau Tjizoo on the draft of a manuscript and assisted in reanalyzing data on spawning habitat of sardine and anchovy with regard to salinity and temperature during different time periods.

Prof Checkley further assisted Mr Deon Louw with the calibration and use of the fluorometer. He had many discussions with me on the use and analysis of the collected CUFES data. He also visited our research vessel *RV "Welwitchia"* to have a look at the CUFES set up and the functioning of the thermosalinograph. He wrote a document with recommendations on how to improve the data collection, analysis and use of the CUFES data. These recommendations will be addressed in the subdivision to improve the quality and outputs of the CUFES data.

Prof Checkley assisted our technicians Allie Gumbo and Victor Hashoongo with microscopic analysis of the CUFES samples and optimizing the use of the microscope.

Prof Checkley had many discussions on the Northern Benguela system and the big question on why the sardine does not recover with me, Anja van der Plas, Carola Kirchner and Chris Bartholomae. During the regular Friday seminars, all interested staff members and an interested scholar (Nantwin Kuhn for the Private School Swakopmund) were invited and joined discussions on several aspects of the pelagic system in the Northern Benguela upwelling system. These seminars were very popular and provided an excellent opportunity at NatMIRC to exchange ideas on a regular basis.

Prof Checkley also participated in meeting on the proposed Gecko Industrial Park, a controversial development in the region, and gave very valuable comments during these meetings.

During the NansClim midterm meeting, Prof Checkley gave a presentation and gave valuable input during the discussions. The local participants (from Angola, Namibia and South Africa) at the meeting valued the expert input from Prof Checkley.

On World Oceans Day, Prof Checkley led a discussion on the film “The end of the line” which was open to invited scholars and members of the public. Reviews from those discussions were very positive and there were requests to repeat these kinds of discussion.

After a public lecture by Prof Checkley on World Oceans Day, he was approached by several schools to repeat the lecture in the schools. Again feedback was very positive.

Apart from the list of trainees from NatMIRC (see list below), many UNAM (University of Namibia) and UCT (University of Cape Town) students, who were in the fortunate situation to attend lectures and practical sessions with Prof Checkley benefited from his broad knowledge.

My personal perspective on Prof Checkley’s six month stay at NatMIRC is very positive. He was always open for questions and discussions, initiated many of these and exchanged ideas and made suggestion in his very own humble way. He showed great interest and understanding for the challenges faced at NatMIRC. I consider ourselves very fortunate that he spent six months at our institute and I am sure that many of the ideas sparked through discussions with him will be taken further and contribute to a better understanding of our marine system and improved management of our fisheries.

I would like to thank POGO for the financial support given to Prof. Checkley and I can assure that the money was well spent.

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List of trainees:

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