

# Report on the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Phytoplankton Taxonomy Workshop 2<sup>nd</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> July 2012 at the Marine Biological Association, Plymouth

## Organising Group

R K Pipe and M Jutson - The Marine Biological Association (MBA)

C M Taylor and G Brice - Sir Alister Hardy Foundation for Ocean Science (SAHFOS)

## Speakers

Prof Carmelo Tomas (University of North Carolina, USA)

Dr Karen Steidinger (University of South Florida, USA)

Dr Diana Sarno (Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn, Napoli, Italy)

Dr Ian Probert (Station Biologique de Roscoff, France)

Dr Abdul Chrachri (MBA)

Dr Richard Pipe (MBA)

Dr Gerald Boalch (MBA)

Ms Gemma Brice (SAHFOS)

## Guest Speaker

Prof Pat Harvey (University of Greenwich)

## Participants

Argentina	Universidad Nacional de la Plata
Estonia	Marine Systems Institute
Finland	Finnish Environment Institute
Ghana	University of Ghana
Italy	University of Bologna
Namibia	Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources
Portugal	University of Azores and University of Madeira
Saudi Arabia	King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals
South Africa	Rhodes University; BCLME
UK	CEFAS; PML; APEM; SAHFOS
USA	Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

## Report

The 2<sup>nd</sup> International Phytoplankton Taxonomy Workshop was organised by The MBA & SAHFOS to improve the taxonomic knowledge of scientists working on phytoplankton. The workshop was limited to twenty delegates working within marine ecology. We were overwhelmed with applications, with over 250 people expressing an interest.

Support for the workshop and student attendance was provided by:

- Carl Zeiss Ltd
- The British Ecological Society
- The EU-ACP Science and Technology Programme
- The EU INTERREG Marinexus project
- The Partnership for Observation of the Global Oceans (POGO)

Credits for Continuing Professional Development were provided by The Society of Biology. The course comprised a mixture of presentations and laboratory sessions with an emphasis on practical microscopy skills. The participants had a Zeiss Primo Star or Axio Lab microscope each and worked with advice and guidance from the speakers, organising group and other MBA and SAHFOS staff. In addition Zeiss provided several inverted microscopes for picking out algal cells and a top of the range Axio Imager 2 research microscope linked to a television screen for demonstration of algal cell structure.

Samples used for training (live and fixed material) were from a variety of sources. These included; preserved tow-net samples collected locally during the last 12 months; fresh tow-net samples; living cultures from the MBA Culture Collection and samples from both lecturers and participants from their own geographical area of interest.

Course content included:

- microscopy techniques
- identification of diatoms, dinoflagellates, haptophytes and other marine flagellates
- isolation, culturing & enumeration techniques
- molecular techniques for identification
- harmful algal blooms
- potential use of microalgae for biofuels

## **Feedback**

Feedback forms were distributed to the students and comments received were extremely positive with all participants enjoying the workshop. Organisation, speakers and venue were all very highly rated. Access to good quality microscopes for each individual was greatly appreciated.

### **Specific comments from students included:**

“Thank you for everything, very good course, I can recommend it to everybody”

“The venue was wonderful – being able to see samples and know what is was is super valuable”

“Facilities used for the course were up to date and well maintained. Microscopes were of good quality”

“The course has been most enjoyable and have realised there is so much more to learn in the world of phytoplankton”

“Excellent course! Great venue, organisation, communication and refreshments. The combination of detailed lectures and hands on practical (I like access to a microscope for everyone) was perfect. You have a winning formula!”

## Photographs from the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Phytoplankton Taxonomy Workshop

