Having a BLAST in San Diego

Five members of the BLAST (Boundary Layer And Sediment Transport) group (part of MPOC) presented their work at the 22nd Biennial Conference of the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation in San Diego in November.

While there they also attended a workshop, Lens-CoaSTS at CICESE, a government-funded research institution in Ensenada, Mexico. Rafael Ramirez, a PhD student within MPOC, is a technician at CICESE. He organised the two-day workshop with the aim of fostering collaboration and the exchange of ideas between CICESE and NOC. Alex Souza gave an overview of NOC’s capabilities in oceanographic research, while Jenny Brown, Karen Amoudry, Rafael Ramirez, and Laurent Amoudry showcased some of MPOC’s work.

Strengthening links

Signing a new Memorandum of Understanding in the historic surroundings of the Ambassadors’ Waiting Room at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, reflects NOC’s long-established and mutually beneficial relationship with the Maritime Policy Unit.

The common thread to this existing relationship has been that of marine research, with both organisations being the UK lead in their respective areas of domain expertise. The FCO leads on legal and policy aspects, and NOC on science and technology. This resulting exchange of knowledge is to the mutual benefit of both.

The MoU will help maintain joint activities, encourage exchange of information and promote the publication of the mutual benefits of collaborative work. These efforts include projects such as defining the UK’s continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and the delimitation of these areas, enabling access to data from UK Overseas Territories for use in marine governance and diplomatic clearance support allowing UK scientists access to foreign waters. Such activities, along with general advice on issues relating to marine scientific research, provides a framework which enables NOC to act as a conduit for access to other specialists in other institutes via either the NOC Association network or other professional relationships.

For further information relating to access and collaboration with the Maritime Policy Unit please contact Alan Evans or Roland Rogers.

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The sea level workshop brought together approximately 120 scientists and students to discuss the progress and challenges in understanding sea level change.

The background for the meeting was set by three hour-long presentations by Anny Cazenave (a lead author of the Sea Level Change chapter), Jonathan Gregory (a lead author of the Sea Level Change chapter) and Jonathan Bamber (a review editor of the Observations: Cryosphere chapter) reviewing the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report. Additional presentations covered many aspects of global and regional sea level changes, spanning a wide range of timescales, and the impacts of these changes on society.