HAB Forecaster

BACKGROUND

In this activity, students can take on the role as a resource manager or scientist, tasked with deciding if razor clam harvesters should go out onto the beach to harvest razor clams.

This activity has been adapted from an activity conducted with a summer science program with the Quileute Tribal School. The slideshow used for that summer science program is attached at the end of this document.

This activity assumes participants understand upwelling off the coast of WA and OR and how the process of upwelling can lead to blooms of phytoplankton. The NANOOS activity "Well, Well, Well" walks students through looking for signs of upwelling off the WA and OR coast.

For background information on harmful algal blooms, see "What are HABs?": http://www.nanoos.org/products/habs/harmful_algal_blooms.php?section=what_are_habs

For info on HABs in the Pacific Northwest see: http://www.nanoos.org/products/habs/harmful_algal_blooms.php?section=habs_in_pnw

For info on the Environmental Sample Processor, see: <u>http://www.nanoos.org/products/habs/harmful_algal_blooms.php?section=nanoos_and_habs</u> and see: <u>http://www.nanoos.org/products/real-time_habs/about/esp.php</u>

GET STARTED

1) Go to www.nanoos.org

2) Navigate to the NANOOS Visualization System (NVS)

3) Once on the home page of NVS, select the "Data Explorer" button. NVS Data Explorer is the "kitchen sink" of NVS – it has a LOT of different data. Have fun looking around on all the different data types and different ways ocean scientists are collecting data.



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4) You will see symbols that are colored and you may find symbols that are gray. The grayed symbols are off-line for some reason. Some symbols are active only seasonally and others may not be transmitting data. Monitoring in the marine waters is difficult for many reasons. It is not an easy place for sensors to be! Scientists are constantly looking to see IF their sensor is collecting data even before they look at the data. Occasionally data may seem wrong, especially if the data changes dramatically.

FIND THE DATA – Will HABs make it to the beach?

IMAGINE: You are a scientist responsible for alerting your community to a possible HAB event. You are using real time data and forecasts to see if there is a bloom forming at the Juan de Fuca Eddy, and if the bloom may make it to shore.

STEP 1: WATER TEMPERATURE

Comparing water temperature at different buoys – closer to shore and further from shore, can indicate upwelling conditions. Find 2 Buoys near the WA Coast: NDBC Elizabeth and NDBC Tillamook. If there is upwelling, which buoy may show warmer temperatures?

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| Station location | Water Temperature TODAY | Average water temperature for past 7 days (approximate) | Upwelling prediction |
|------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------|
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STEP #2: WIND DIRECTION

Wind direction is given in degrees from which the wind is coming **FROM**. On the compass rose below, the red curve shows the general direction wind blowing *from* the NORTH would look like.



Wind direction in red outlined areas of graph would mean winds blowing FROM the North

Find 2 stations along the WA Coast that are currently measuring wind direction. Do the wind data indicate upwelling conditions? Do you think the winds may blow the waters of the JUAN de FUCA EDDY towards shore?

| Station location | Wind Direction TODAY | Average wind direction (estimate) for past 7 days | Prediction |
|------------------|-------------------------|---|------------|
| | | | |
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| Observations Forecasts | Comp | arator | Details | History |
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| LiveOcean | NAM | WAVE | WATCH III | |
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| Air Temperature (7 ft) | | | | |
| Barometric Pressure (0 ft) | | | | |
| Relative Humidity (7 ft) | | | | |
| Wind Direction (33 ft) | | | | 1 |
| Wind Gust (33 ft) | | | | |
| Wind Speed (33 ft) | | | | |

We can also see the FORECASTS for winds for the stations. These are from a computer model called NAM (the NORTH AMERICAN MESOSCALE model). In the pop-up window for your station, find the Forecast" tab and choose the NAM model and scroll down to wind direction

| Station location | Average wind direction FORECAST for next 3 days | Prediction |
|------------------|--|------------|
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STEP #3: CHLOROPHYLL

The abundance of phytoplankton, the base of the coastal ocean's food web, is measured by **chlorophyll**, a photosynthesizing pigment in plant cells. Here is an example of how the chlorophyll concentrations can change during upwelling – the first visualization is from Jun 8-21, 2013, when it was not upwelling, and the second pic is from July 8-21, 2013, when it had been upwelling for over a week.





Under Remote Sensing, scroll down to Satellite data and select the MODIS Chlorophyll data. Select a time range (1 Day to 1 Month) and be sure to select a date/time within the cyan color bar(on timeline at bottom of page) to see the data.

What is the concentration of chlorophyll (mg of chlorophyll per cubic meter of water - mg/m³) near the Juan de Fuca Eddy? Does it seem like there is a bloom there?

You can also see how the amount of chlorophyll compares to past years by looking at the chlorophyll anomaly. Scroll down further in the Remote Sensing menu and select OSU MODIS Climate and select Chlorophyll (Anomaly) and then choose May 2016 as date. Is there more chlorophyll this May than in past years?

| | Observations and predictions |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| MODIS satellite | |
| Chlorophyll | |
| Chlorophyll | |
| Anomaly | |

Step #4: Columbia River Plume

The Columbia River Plume can act as a barrier or as a pathway to helping HAB blooms reach the coast. Scientists at the Univ. of WA have created a computer model called LiveOcean to forecast the ocean conditions in the Pacific Northwest. Select "Models", scroll down to LiveOcean and select Salinity. Freshwater from the Columbia River plume will show up as "bluer" or "colder" color. What does it look like the Columbia River Plume is Forecasted to go over the next few days?

| Columbia River | |
|----------------|--|
| Plume | |

Step #5: ESP DATA

Does it seem like there are blooms of the different phytoplankton species the ESP monitors for? What are the concentrations of Domoic Acid? Use NVS to see the ESP data from NEMO <u>http://nvs.nanoos.org/Explorer?action=oiw:fixed_platform:APL_Nemo:observations:H1_Pressure</u> or visit <u>http://www.nanoos.org/products/real-time_habs/</u>

| ESP Data | |
|----------|--|

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

Now that you have sleuthed through the data for clues, your final task is to give a recommendation. Do you think there may be a risk of a HAB event happening now or in the near future? Why? What should be done?



Northwest

Association of

Networked

Ocean

Observing

Systems



- What does that mean?





Protectors:

Raven

Eagle Wolf

Orca



The Red Circle: Life



The Center: Ocean

WHAT IS AN OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM?

- Network of people and technologies
- Collecting data on the atmosphere, ocean, and coast
- Regularly (minutes, hours, days)
- Sustained over time



WHY IS THIS DATA COLLECTED?

- Healthy Ecosystems
- Living Marine Resources
- Coastal Hazards
- Marine Operations
- Public Health Risks
- Climate





HOW ARE THESE DATA COLLECTED?

- Buoys
- HF Radar
- Meteorological Stations
- Shore stations
- Research vessels
- Vessels of
 Opportunity
- Satellites
- Robots
- Animals









The Regional Associations of IOOS Alaska Ocean Observing System **NERA**COOS NANOOR ireat Lakes Observing System Mid-Atlantic Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association oserving our Oceans CeNCOOS F. A. CALIFORNY 00 Ce Top Pactoos Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System

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GCOOS

GULF OF MEXICO COASTAL OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM

CARA

Caribbean Regiona

MANY People & Programs together:

- University of Victoria
- Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary
- University of Washington
- Washington Department of Ecology
- Washington Department of Natural Resources
- Pacific Shellfish Institute
- USGS
- Quileute
- Quinault
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)
- NOAA Pacific Marine Environmental Lab (PMEL)
- NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
- NOAA National Ocean Service
- Vancouver Island University
- Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC)
- Oregon Health and Sciences University
- Oregon State University (OSU)
- South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS)



Current focus:

- HABs & Ocean acidification





- Shellfish and salmon
- Coastal hazards (erosion, waves)
- Maritime sector
- Ecosystem health









WA COAST





Anthropogenic CO₂ inputs

Precipitation STRAIT OF JUAN DE FUCA SEATTLE California Current COLUMBIA RIVER **River Inputs** CO₂ CO₂ POSTLAND (carbon & nitrogen) Pelagic Predators Shellfish Phytoplankton Zooplankton Citation of Wind-driven Bacteria 🎺 Coastal Upwelling (High CO₂ / Nutrients and Low O₂) Bacteria Organic Carbon California Undercurrent CO₂



Cha'ba Buoy and NEMO profiler, La Push, WA

(((((

ADCP 600kHz Workhorse

with CTD, O2, velocity, fluorescence,

turbidity and SUNA nitrate sensors

inductive coupler (ICC)

McLane profiler

data transmitted to surface mooring

by VHF radio modem in telebuoy

(~400 m from surface mooring)

85 m stopper -

45" syntactic foam float float depth 15 m in winter

SBE 37 MicroCat-

18 m (13 m in summer) stopper -

10 m in summer



U)

data telemetered

WQM+ISUS (CTD,Fluorescence,

to shore near real-time

backscatter, O2 and nitrate)

(CTD, fluorescence,

(4) Benthos glass floats

Overview



NEMO ESP SUBSURFACE MOORING

Version: May 3rd, May 2016 deploy



| Drop Anchor: | Date: | Time: | Hdg / Spd: | Lat: | Long: |
|--------------|-------|-------|------------|------|-------|



BE A HAB FORECASTER

WHAT DATA CAN HELP US?



WATER TEMPERATURE at 2 Buoys

If there is upwelling, which buoy may show warmer water?







WIND DIRECTION Real Time and Forecast

WIND DIRECTION





WIND FORECAST



WIND FORECAST



CHLOROPHYLL





COLUMBIA RIVER PLUME



LiveOcean Salinity @ -10ft



ESP DATA

