

Project Number: 901009

Project Start: Jan. 1, 2016¹ **Project Duration (in years):** 2 of 5¹

Please indicate if proposal includes requests for any of the following (mark all that apply).

☒	☐	☒	☒	☐
Ship Time	ROV	AUV	Wave Glider	Mini ROV

Please indicate what type of project is being proposed (mark only one).

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Feasibility/Scoping [Less than 100 days effort]	Development ²	Research	Infrastructure ²	Education
	☐	☒		
	Time Series	Institute Initiative		

Project Manager³: Francisco Chavez

Principal Investigator: Francisco Chavez, Chris Scholin, Robert Vrijenhoek, Alex Worden

Lead Scientist: Francisco Chavez

Lead Engineer: Yanwu Zhang

Project Title: Controlled, Agile and Novel Observing Network (CANON)

¹ This date and number should remain the same for the duration of the project. If your project start date for 2017 is not January 1, please indicate the start date in the first cell of the milestone chart. Format for duration example: "Year 2 of 5".

² Development and infrastructure projects must complete the risk matrix (see item #5 at the end of the proposal form).

³ Not all projects will require all four titles to be filled in. Please indicate individuals only for those titles that are appropriate for your project.

1) ABSTRACT (new projects only)

[Paste abstract here]

2) PROPOSAL

a) New Projects

Statement of the problem, why it is important

[Click here to enter text]

How does it relate/contribute to MBARI's mission and strategic plan?

[Click here to enter text]

How does it relate/contribute to the Packard Foundation's Ocean Visions Grantmaking policies?

(See http://mwww.mbari.org/oed/OED_Documents.htm#Packard for documents.)

[Click here to enter text]

Does it relate to the Technology Roadmap? If so, please describe how.

(See <http://mwww.mbari.org/oed/TechnologyRoadmap.pdf>.)

[Click here to enter text]

Approach to the problem

[Click here to enter text]

Publications (from other projects over the last 5 years)

[Click here to enter text]

b) Continuing Projects

If the proposed project includes multiple individual projects, please list each of these projects as a subheading in the proposal. For each subheading, please address the following:

Current status of project and results to date

CANON is directed at understanding ecosystem processes that are critical to sustaining and conserving ocean health as well as emerging threats posed by climate change. To do this CANON is developing

systems that provide persistent presence focused on studying biogeochemical transformations, the biological pump and ecosystem processes including forage species. The combined science and engineering team continues to make steady progress on these goals. Short, weeklong experiments, approximately once per month, have been used for scientific discovery and for system development and testing. We are on target for our intensive Fall experiment. Key accomplishments are as follows:

AUVs, gliders and targeted sampling – Tethys, Dorado and Wave glider have been used routinely during the weeklong experiments to test samplers, test deployments from shore, develop new algorithms and study harmful algal bloom (HAB) development. After the large 2015 HAB event that closed the lucrative crab fishery, there has been concern of another outbreak. The CANON assets have been used to detect and understand a HAB outbreak – to date Pseudo-Nitzschia have been detected but no large toxic bloom is apparent. We do not plan any vehicle development as part of CANON in 2017. Targeted sampling will be an important focus in 2017 and that work is described in the Zhang et al. proposal.

Floats and lagrangian sediment traps – Successful testing of floats has occurred in conjunction with the weeklong experiments. We are on track to having Lagrangian Sediment Traps ready for deployment during the Fall intensive experiment.

ESP and water sampler – We have been using the water sampler routinely during the weeklong experiments. We continue to find causes for failures and sub-optimal water volume collection. Sampler development will continue and be expanded for other platforms (including wave glider) under the MBTS proposal (Jones lead). We have not yet had access to ESP pending continued development by that team. Below we propose to use this device heavily in 2017.

Information management and planning – We continue to develop ODSS and STOQS and to use these heavily during our experiments. We hope to wrap up most of the development on these two systems and transition to routine operation in 2017 with the understanding that some engineering work will be required. We propose to focus more heavily on planning (both before and after deployment of assets) during 2017.

HiPP – CANON HiPP 'deepdark' computer built in 2015 was enhanced with 4 GTX Titan X GPU cards bringing its performance equivalent to the NVidia Digits DevBox. Several iterations of deep neural net models were trained using stock images from ImageNet and some learning about configuring and optimizing deep neural nets. Hardware and software for Xilinx Zynq for computer vision was evaluated and determined that Zynq was presently not viable for automated plankton identification 'at sea', but will continue watching FPGA development. Worked with Yogesh Girdhar on use his unsupervised learning software on embedded system Tegra X1 which is the hardware platform planned for second half of 2016. Will work with the Working Group led by Jules Jaffe on plankton image processing and classification. Will begin work on integration of Tegra X1 on Wave Glider.

Significant changes from previous project proposal

None

Publications based on the results of this project only

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- Garcia-Olaya, A., F. Py, J. Das and K. Rajan An Online (2012) Utility-Based Approach for Sampling Dynamic Ocean Fields in *IEEE J. of Oceanic Engineering* 37(2), 185–203
- Godin, M., Y. Zhang, J. P. Ryan, T. Hoover, and J. G. Bellingham (2011) Phytoplankton Bloom Patch Center Localization by the Tethys Autonomous Underwater Vehicle, *Proc. MTS/IEEE Oceans'11*, pp. 1-6, Kona, HI, U.S.A.
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- Gottlieb, J., R. Graham, T. Maughan, F. Py, G. Elkaim and K. Rajan (2012) An Experimental Momentum-based Front Detection Method for Autonomous Underwater Vehicles, *International Conf. on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*, St. Paul, Minnesota,
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c) New and Continuing Projects: Plans for 2017

Research Activities

Our scientific interests remain on the intermittent and heterogeneous nature of the ocean environment. For example, observed abundances of foragers in coastal upwelling systems cannot be explained on the basis of the average concentration of their prey. Predators require more energy to search for their prey than what they can gain by consuming it. The average therefore is not a faithful representation of either the temporal or spatial distribution of prey implying it is patchy and that there are times and regions where resources are highly concentrated relative to the mean. Consumers have learned to rapidly exploit these enhanced areas. The term “hotspot” has been used in the literature to describe times and places where resources are concentrated. Hotspots permeate the ecosystem at all levels: 1) microbes that sporadically encounter increases in their favored substrates; 2) phytoplankton that encounter increased nutrient concentrations due to upwelling; 3) small pelagic fish that find increased concentrations of crustaceans associated with bathymetric features; to 4) top predators that forage on anchovies or sardines. Our understanding of these ecosystem processes that lead to these hotspots and the biological responses has been limited by our inability to find and follow the development, maturation and decay of the hotspots. There are three research activities/experiments focused on hotspots proposed for 2017:

- 1) **Spring experiments** that utilize multiple AUVs with ESPs and samplers. We have a unique opportunity to utilize the MiVegas fleet to study ecosystem processes in Monterey Bay prior to their delivery to the University of Hawaii. This is a win-win situation since similar multi-vehicle experiments are planned in Hawaii (in conjunction with the Hawaii expedition) under logistically more difficult circumstances. Gaining experience in Monterey Bay will be of great value. We will follow a similar plan as during 2016 with short experiments at approximately monthly intervals to test planning, operations and targeted sampling leading up to a combined exercise with the Western Flyer and the NOAA rockfish cruises in May 2016. The Rockfish surveys have identified recurrent krill hotspots in the Monterey region. Krill are a primary food source for both fish and mammals. We propose to use our fleet and work in tandem with our NOAA colleagues to: 1) find and adaptively sample areas of enhanced phytoplankton activity and microbial response (in a similar manner as planned in Hawaii); 2) find and adaptively sample areas with enhanced concentrations of krill; and 3) coordinate traditional net samples taken by our NOAA

colleagues with visual observations by our mini-ROV and with eDNA samples collected by our LRAUVs.

- 2) **Fall experiment** to continue studies of ecosystem hotspots as during the Fall of 2015 and 2016. We will pick up the weekly experiments in August leading to a shorter 4-5 day cruise on the Western flyer in early October 2017. These studies attempt to link oceanographic processes with high concentrations of predators and their prey in the Año Nuevo region.
- 3) **January experiment** in Peru in collaboration with German and Peruvian scientists. Ulf Riebesell is leading a mesocosm experiment to look at the effects of different N:P ratios on pelagic ecosystems (Figure 1). The hypothesis is that the mesocosms will mimic conditions expected in a future ocean and hence give a window into how ocean ecosystems will respond. They require knowledge of the in-situ conditions prior to the collection of waters from the oxygen minimum zone (OMZ) off Peru. LRAUV with T, S, O₂, NO₃, Fl/BB would be an ideal candidate for collecting these initial conditions. Experiment start date is January 30, 2017 and the mesocosms will incubate for two months with samples taken from them every other day. LRAUV deployment proposed for late January. Riebesell has pledged 20K to cover shipping, and personnel transportation and per diem. They will also cover costs of a customs agent that would be responsible for import and export of the vehicle. Our collaborators have graciously agreed to collect eDNA samples from the mesocosms – will hotspots develop in the mesocosms in a manner similar to how they develop in nature?

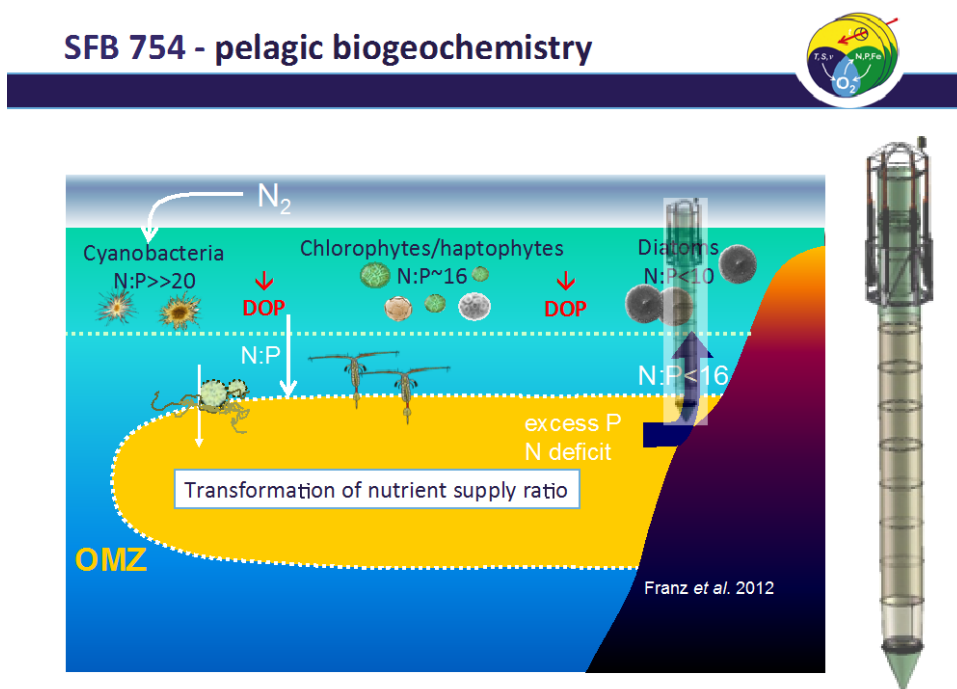


Figure 1. Conceptual model of mesocosm experiment for Peru, January 2017.

Engineering/technology development

Floats and lagrangian sediment traps

For 2017 we are planning 3 activities associated with the floats and associated sediment traps: 1) Improved operations (requires 21 days Paragon and 40 hours machine shop); 2) Development and implementation of a float low power mode (requires 200 hrs EE, 200 hrs ME and 120 hrs Machine shop); and 3) Revisions and upgrades of sediment trap. Brent Jones is leading this effort and proposes to spend 35% of his time on this activity (accounted for in 901112).

Information management and planning

We continue to develop ODSS and STOQS and to use these heavily during our experiments. The goal for the remaining work in 2016 is to complete major feature development for the following areas: 1. Implement situational awareness improvements (vehicle tracking, mapping overlays, ease of use); 2. Implement physical sample tracking platform (both web and mobile based); 3. Implement experiment ‘summary’ that contains experiment information and a user-curated catalog of the best data sets related to the experiment; 4. Implement authentication and authorization. We plan to wrap up most of the development on these two systems and transition to routine operation in 2017 with the understanding that some engineering work will be required. For the ODSS and STOQS components we are expecting some hours in 2017 to implement small feature requests and bug fixes, but the majority of the hours requested will be for supporting these systems for the field experiments (Gomes 160 hours, Cline 100 hours, Edgington 120 hours and McCann 80 hours).

MBARI’s ODSS currently provides a ‘situational awareness’ view of MBARI’s autonomous platforms and ships; this capability has proven invaluable to field programs such as CANON. In addition to situational awareness, there is a compelling need for more tools that support mission planning and execution, and we have been advancing these capabilities within ODSS and evaluating third-party tools as well. Rueda first implemented a vehicle scheduling calendar tool for ODSS in 2015; this prototype allows users to schedule asset deployments in a timeline view along with associated map-based approximate trajectories and patterns, and is currently being used and evaluated by scientists and operations personnel. Rueda is refining the vehicle calendar in 2016 based on planned work and user feedback. O’Reilly is collaborating with [LSTS at the University of Porto](#) to evaluate the [Neptus](#) graphical vehicle graphical planning tool. Neptus provides a map-based interface that allows users to specify mission characteristics, simulate those missions, translate them to specific ‘native’ commands recognized by specific vehicles, and then upload the commands to the vehicle. O’Reilly is collaborating with LSTS to demonstrate integration of MBARI’s LRAUV with Neptus this year. We are also collaborating in 2016 with the Keck Institute for Space Science (KISS). The KISS team is developing software that utilizes ROMS model predictions to determine sampling locations within dynamic mesoscale features in order to maximize information gain, and translates these sampling locations to ‘waypoint’ commands that can be issued to a heterogeneous fleet of AUVs, ASVs, and UAVs. We are exploring the design and capabilities of the KISS software in 2016, through telecons and engagement in the 2016 KISS field program in Monterey Bay.

We propose to take next key steps toward realizing the promise of computer-assisted mission planning and coordinated and autonomous execution with the following tasks for 2017:

1. Refine Neptus to enable operators to efficiently and effectively command multiple LRAUVs during

the spring 2017 deployment in Monterey Bay

2. Demonstrate autonomous commanding of multiple vehicles including LRAUVs, sea gliders and Wave Gliders using KISS mission refinement algorithms, during the spring 2017 deployment in Monterey Bay.
3. Design and implement interfaces between ODSS, Neptus, and the KISS planner, allowing information exchange and interoperability between these tools. We envision the design of these programmatic interfaces to also allow ODSS interoperability with other tools and systems, both internal (e.g., LRAUV Dashboard) and external, as deemed useful or necessary.

We propose that O'Reilly be allocated 40 days and Rueda 45 days for these tasks (i.e. a total of 85 days). This work will build on MBARI's ODSS, and will leverage the work of collaborators at KISS and LSTS wherever possible, with potential major benefits for MBARI in the form of improved mission planning user interface capabilities, as well as automated command generation and mission execution by a fleet of autonomous vehicles.

HiPP

Plans for 2017 include: 1) an upgrade of the deep learning embedded system hardware from the Maxwell based Tegra X1 to the Pascal based Tegra (P1) contingent on power/performance alignment with Waveglider 2) maintenance of DeepDark server; 3) software infrastructure upgrades for improving both server based training and running neural models at sea; 4) collaboration with the Video Tag, and the Automated Plankton Identification Working Group lead by Jules Jaffe, and 5) collaboration with Sergey Missan of 4Deep on GPU processing along with the imaging cytometer project lead by Tom O'Reilly (320 hours Maughan).

Field programs (detail ship requirements/deployments/diver requirements)

We are requesting Western Flyer with ROV for 7 days in Spring to coincide with NOAA Rockfish cruises and 5 days in the Fall. We are requesting Paragon and Wave glider to support these experiments.

Isotope Usage

Project teams must provide details regarding any planned isotope use on shore, on ships, in the Sanctuary, etc. Please review the guidance on isotope usage at <http://www.mbari.org/at-sea/cruise-planning/hazardous-materials/> and policy at http://mwww.mbari.org/safety/SafetyManual/Isotope_Use_Policy.pdf, and then provide details on plans below.

Covered in MBTS (901112) proposal

Specific deliverables

[Click here to enter text]

Milestones (see [personnel classification list](#))

2017 Proposal Process – Internal-Only Projects
Submission Deadlines: Phase I – July 20th at 8:00 a.m., Phase II – September 7th

[Click here to enter text]

2017 Project Start Date: MM/DD/2017	Milestone 1	Milestone 2	Milestone 3	Milestone 4	Milestone 5	Total Resources⁴ for each resource category for all milestones listed here
Milestone Date						
Milestone Description						
EE						
SE						
ME						
EE Tech						
SE Tech						
ME Tech						
Machine Shop						
Divers						

Budget justification

[Click here to enter text]

Project team

Francisco Chavez (oceanography and biogeochemistry), Chris Scholin (ESP, HABs), Bob Vrijenhoek (zooplankton, molecular techniques) and Alex Worden (phytoplankton, molecular techniques) – Scientists who will contribute to intellectual leadership of CANON

Monique Messie (Res. Spec.) – Works on determining classification algorithms, top predators and LRAUV data (220 hours)

John Ryan (Res. Spec.) – Works on physical-biological coupling, science planning (320 hours)

Larry Bird (Mech. Eng.) – Works on LSTs (280 hours)

⁴ This number should be the same number you entered on the resource requests for this particular resource.

2017 Proposal Process – Internal-Only Projects
Submission Deadlines: Phase I – July 20th at 8:00 a.m., Phase II – September 7th

Danelle Cline (Soft. Eng.) – Works on ODSS (100 hours)

Duane Edgington (Soft. Eng.) – Works on ODSS, project management (120 hours)

Kevin Gomes (Soft. Eng.) – Leads ODSS development (160 hours)

Brett Hobson (Mech. Eng.) – Leads LRAUV development, time requested for operational support (15 hours)

Brian Kieft (Soft. Eng.) – Works on LRAUV development, time requested for operational support in MB and Peru (160 hours)

Denis Klimov (Elec. Eng.) - Time requested for LRAUV operational support (15 hours)

Tom Maughan (Soft. Eng.) – works on HiPP development (320 hours)

Paul McGill (Elec. Eng.) – Works on LST electronics (200 hours)

Mike McCann (Soft. Eng.) – Works on STOQs development (80 hours)

Ed Mellinger (Elec. Eng.) - Time requested for LRAUV operational support (15 hours)

Tom O'Reilly (Soft. Eng.) – Works on planning (320 hours)

Carlos Rueda (Soft. Eng.) – Works on planning (360 hours)

Chris Wahl (Wave Glider ops) – 120 hours

Erich Rienecker (CTD tech) – 100 hours

Jared Figurski (Paragon) – 100 hours

Project lab and office space requirements

In addition to any changes to current space usage, please also include anticipated office and lab needs for students, postdocs, collaborators, etc.

[Click here to enter text]

Data storage requirements (see Todd Ruston for assistance)

[Click here to enter text]

Data availability outside project team, uniqueness

[Click here to enter text]

R/V Paragon Requests

If the project team will be requesting time for the R/V Paragon, please specify the operators in the group and provide estimates of their availability to operate the vessel.

Jones, Kieft, Hobson, Wahl and Figurski are requested and can operate the Paragon

Export Regulation

Does the project team anticipate any foreign collaborations or international travel? If so, please identify collaborators by name, institution, and country.

Peru

Does the project team plan or anticipate export controlled purchases, shipments, or transfers of items (e.g., research instruments, proprietary data, hand-carried tools or samples) outside the U.S. temporarily or permanently? If yes, please identify country or countries and indicate whether these items will remain under MBARI control while abroad or controlled by others. Will the items be exported to more than one country? Please include foreign collaborator information as described above.

Peru, under MBARI control. No export, there and back.

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS)

General Permit

Projects teams need to indicate if any work will be performed that is either: (1) currently authorized under our general permit; or (2) will require that we obtain authorization. The current permit can be viewed at http://mwww.mbari.org/pco/permits/mbnms-2015-002_feb2015.pdf. Please see Mandy Allen for questions.

Is a permit with MBNMS required for your work?

No or under existing permit.

SESAs ([General map](#))

Projects will need to indicate whether or not work will be conducted within one of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary's Ecologically Significant Areas (SESAs). An interactive map can be found on the Sanctuary's SIMoN webpages at <http://sanctuarysimon.org/maps/sesa/>. (Note: It may take a moment for the page to load, so please be patient. Also, if prompted for a login, hit "Cancel" and then you will be able to access page.) To determine if your work will occur in a SESA, specific coordinates can be entered using the locator function (click on the red "target" button in the toolbar at the top of the map). If your work will be conducted in one of these areas, please indicate which area, by number.

None

Authorizations/Permits from other Agencies or Organizations

Is the project team aware of any other permits or authorizations that will be necessary to perform the proposed work? If so, please list below along with status of authorizations (obtained, pending, need to apply, etc.). Please see Mandy Allen if you have questions.

[Click here to enter authorizations needed, if applicable, or enter "None"]

Active Acoustics

We are compiling information on active acoustic use at MBARI. If the project involves using active acoustic instrumentation, please describe plans.

[Click here to enter text]

Risk matrix (development and infrastructure projects only)

	Technical Risk	Organizational Risk	Tech Transfer Risk	Labor Estimate Risk
High				
Medium				
Low				