



Southern California Association of Marine Invertebrate Taxonomists

March, 2004

SCAMIT Newsletter

Vol. 22, No. 11

SUBJECT:	Pelagic Invertebrate Larvae
GUEST SPEAKER:	Kimo Morris
DATE:	9 August 2004
TIME:	9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p. m.
LOCATION:	Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County



Ascidiacea sp SD 5
San Diego Bay
July 2003

8 MARCH MINUTES

The meeting began with President Kelvin Barwick calling for nominations for SCAMIT officers). A motion to nominate the current suite of officers was put forth and seconded. Please remember that anyone can be nominated and if you're shy you can always wait until the ballots are distributed (at the end of this newsletter) and then, in anonymity, vote for a "write in" candidate.

Next, it was reported by Leslie that the suggested changes to the constitution passed by a majority, so hopefully SCAMIT's constitution is now a bit more current. There is a copy attached at the end of the newsletter.

We then got into an avid discussion scheduling upcoming meetings. I am pleased to say that we have meetings scheduled through September at this point. We will post the schedule for the next few months on the website, and it is also below.

August 9 - title to be announced (will deal with pelagic invertebrate larvae), Kimo Morris will be the guest speaker and it will be held at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County.

Sept 13 - deeper water echinoderms, Megan Lilly & Don Cadien, CSD Lab

Now, for the long awaited material on rules and regulations of hazmat transportation!... well, unfortunately, the reader will not find them below for two reasons: First and foremost, the Secretary (that would be me) managed to leave the minutes on the roof of her car and drive away, they are, sadly, lost to science forever (and yes, I did actually go dig through the trash bags at the park n' ride and look for them, if that makes anyone feel better, but my efforts were to no avail). Secondly, SCAMIT is not in a position, for liability reasons, to list rules and regulations for hazardous material transportation and have it used as an advisory per se. It would be too easy for me to make a simple typo and have someone be fined if they followed the SCAMIT newsletter instructions. Therefore, these two reasons considered I will give a brief synopsis of the overall message of the meeting which was basically that most of us are in violation most of the time when transporting or shipping specimens.

Leslie started with a few horror stories of Universities and other schools paying up to \$40,000 in violation fines. Mostly due to ignorance or an honest mistake, rather than a direct attempt to skirt the law.

The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County decided to be proactive before being fined and arranged for a three day workshop tailored to their specific needs of ethanol and formalin transport. After completing the workshop, Leslie Harris is now certified to deal with proper packaging, and labeling and shipping of hazardous materials.

There are courses on the internet that one can take in order to become certified, but they tend to not be as specific as the workshop Leslie attended.

At this point Leslie gave everyone in attendance a thick packet containing examples of training manuals from her class, MSDS sheets on Ethanol and Formalin, examples of properly and improperly filled out "Shipper's Declaration for Dangerous Goods" labels (even such minutiae as whether or not roman numerals versus standard numbers are used can be the difference between being fined or not), and the list goes on. It was SCAMIT's decision to not try to distribute this hand-out as it is too large (and therefore too costly to the organization) and I'm sure it was not intended for mass distribution.

The good news in all this is that there is one "loophole" if you can call it that, to some of the strict rules and regulations concerning the transport of specimens (in our case) and that would be MOT, or Materials of Trade.

To learn more about MOT go to:

<http://hazmat.dot.gov/pubtrain/mot42c.pdf>

After a lengthy discussion on the fine details of rules and regulations and review of the hand-out, we got to the "fun" part – packaging. To summarize:

Vial lids must be taped closed

The vials must then be placed in plastic bags

The plastic bags must then be filled with vermiculite or shredded paper

The bags full of vials and vermiculite must then be put in a box

The box must be filled with vermiculite or shredded paper

After the box is taped shut with such efficiency that it will take two hours and three sets of scissors to open it...

The box must be dropped six times from a



height of 4 feet to test its integrity (it should be an honest box).

("I don't know why she swallowed the fly... perhaps she'll die...")

On a lucky note, one can buy kits that come with all the necessities for packaging and shipping specimens. Ask Leslie for details on how/where to purchase such kits.

Considering the morass of detail and strict regulations now required to ship specimens, and the hefty, hefty fines that can be levied if a mistake is made, it was suggested by Leslie that people/organizations should consider scheduling a certification workshop tailored to their needs as the Museum did. SCAMIT is actually in the process of looking into this very idea, and may eventually be scheduling such a workshop at SCCWRP or some other location.

For more information regarding the subject of Hazardous Material transport see these websites:

<http://www.beyondcompliance.net/>

and the University of Alberta, Canada has some helpful information on its site. Click on the Transportation of Dangerous Goods section at:

<http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/facilities/safety/>

LATE

You will find below candidate statements. Attached at the end of the newsletter are the election ballot, a copy of the new and improved SCAMIT Constituion, and the 2003-2004 Treasury Summary. All these items are extremely over-due and I apologize, but your Secretary has been heavily preoccupied with the Bight'03 project as well as the City of San Diego's standard monitoring programs. Hopefully this newsletter will represent a return to more normal conditions, however,

when voting feel free to flex your constitutional muscle and write in your favorite candidate for this office or any other...

M. Lilly

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

PRESIDENT

Kelvin Barwick

I graduated with a B. S. degree in wildlife and fisheries sciences from Texas A&M University in 1983. Currently I work for the City of San Diego's Ocean Monitoring Program as a marine biologist/taxonomist. My taxonomic specialties are Mollusks and Polychaetes. In the past I have worked both as an independent taxonomic consultant, and for private environmental consulting firms, accumulating over 14 years experience in invertebrate taxonomy. I have been an active participant in SCAMIT for over 10 years and served as its Secretary in 1991-92. I hope to continue to develop our goals and plans for the future.

VICE-PRESIDENT

Leslie Harris

Collections manager of the Allan Hancock Foundation Polychaete Collection, at the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History. Ongoing research centers on taxonomy of the polychaete fauna of pacific North America, polychaete-algal associations (especially in *Macrocystis*), introduced species, and Caribbean reef polychaetes.

SECRETARY

Megan Lilly

Graduated from Humboldt State University in 1991 with a B.S. in Marine Biology. From 1991-1993, worked at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History where the taxonomy of marine mollusks was studied under Dr. Eric Hochberg, Paul Valentich Scott, and Henry Chaney. Currently working as a



marine biologist for the City of San Diego's Ocean Monitoring Program. Specialities include echinoderms, miscellaneous phyla and mollusks with an emphasis on cephalopods.

TREASURER

Cheryl Brantley

Cheryl is a marine biologist with the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County. She has worked for the Districts for 16 years primarily as a polychaete taxonomist. She graduated with her B.A. degree in Aquatic Biology from the University of California, Santa Barbara in 1985. She has formerly served as Secretary of SCAMIT from 1994-98.



Please visit the SCAMIT Website at: <http://www.scamit.org>

SCAMIT OFFICERS:

If you need any other information concerning SCAMIT please feel free to contact any of the officers at their e-mail addresses:

President	Kelvin Barwick (619)758-2337	kbarwick@sandiego.gov
Vice-President	Leslie Harris (213)763-3234	lharris@nhm.org
Secretary	Megan Lilly (619)758-2336	mlilly@sandiego.gov
Treasurer	Cheryl Brantley (310)830-2400x5500	cbrantley@lacsds.org

Back issues of the newsletter are available. Prices are as follows:

Volumes 1 - 4 (compilation).....	\$ 30.00
Volumes 5 - 7 (compilation).....	\$ 15.00
Volumes 8 - 15	\$ 20.00/vol.

Single back issues are also available at cost.

The SCAMIT newsletter is published monthly and is distributed freely through the web site at www.scamit.org. Membership is \$15 for the electronic copy available via the web site and \$30 to receive a printed copy via USPS. Institutional membership, which includes a mailed printed copy, is \$60. All new members receive a printed copy of the most current edition of "A Taxonomic Listing of Soft Bottom Macro- and Megainvertebrates ... in the Southern California Bight." The current edition, the fourth, contains 2,067 species with partial synonyms. All correspondences can be sent to the Secretary at the email address above or to:

SCAMIT
C/O The Natural History Museum, Invertebrate Zoology
attn: Leslie Harris
900 Exposition Boulevard
Los Angeles, California, 90007

SCAMIT Treasury Summary 2003-2004

During the past fiscal year April 2003 – March 2004 expenses totaled \$1,482.64 while our income, mostly from membership dues, totaled \$2,200.47. Because our expenses were relatively small this year we actually netted a bigger profit (\$717.83) than in previous years. Our biggest expense is still the hard copy version of our newsletter and its mailing. However, we have reduced costs associated with it by eliminating our blue and cream logo stationery. I miss it too, but we would rather spend the dollars on continuing with our great digital images of the animals we study. Our current membership is the highest it has ever been (117 members) due to some recent recruiting at the Southern California Academy of Sciences meeting in May. We also sold several SCAMIT T-shirts and mugs at the SCAS meeting but that won't be reflected in our financial summary until next year. We did not award any publication grants or honorariums this year but funds are always available for that purpose. Listed below is a summary of our income and expenses.

Account Balances

Checking	\$1858.89
Certificate of Deposit	<u>\$9498.99</u>
Total	\$11,357.88

Expenses

Hardcopy newsletter	\$988.31
Electronic newsletter	\$150.00
Postage	\$318.48
Stationery Supplies	<u>\$ 25.85</u>
Total	\$1482.64

Income

Membership dues	\$2084.25
Interest Income	<u>\$ 116.22</u>
Total	\$2200.47

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF
MARINE INVERTEBRATE TAXONOMISTS (SCAMIT) CONSTITUTION

Revised 5 April 2004

Preamble

In view of the diversity of marine invertebrates in the Southern California area and the many organizations studying the ecology of these organisms, the Southern California Association of Marine Invertebrate Taxonomists was organized by scientists who recognized the need to standardize systematic practices and taxonomic usage through a program of inter-calibration. On April 21, 1982, the Association was founded and a Constitutional Committee was formed to establish a working framework. This Constitution is the result of the Committee's activities.

Article 1: Name

The organization shall be the Southern California Association of Marine Invertebrate Taxonomists (SCAMIT).

Article 2: Purpose

The purpose of the Association shall be to develop standard procedures in systematic practices and taxonomic usage for marine invertebrates in the Southern California region. This will be accomplished primarily through an inter-calibration program and the exchange of information among persons interested in marine invertebrate taxonomy. This will include specimen exchange and confirmation, literature exchange, the periodic publication and distribution of standardized taxonomic listings, support for taxonomic quality control efforts, and financial support of taxonomic publication, and guest lecturers. SCAMIT will also own and operate an Internet website to further these purposes.

Article 3: Membership

Section 1: Membership

Membership in the Association is open to individuals or institutions interested in the systematics and ecology of marine invertebrates. Membership can be obtained upon written application to the Treasurer with an accompanying payment of dues.

Section 2: Types of Members

Only Charter, Individual, Institutional, and Honorary members are recognized.

Section 3: Rights of Membership

Honorary life members and all other members whose dues have been paid for the current year shall be considered members in good standing and shall be entitled to receive notices of the Association's activities, vote at meetings or by mail, and participate in any activities sponsored by the Association.

Article 4: Dues

Dues shall be fifteen dollars (\$15.00) annually with electronic format newsletter, thirty dollars (\$30.00) per year with mailed paper newsletter format, and sixty dollars (\$60.00) per year for institutional members. Dues are collected during the month of May for all members.

Article 5: Officers

Section 1: Officers

The elected officers of the Association shall be the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section 2: Term of Officers

All elected officers shall be elected by a simple majority vote of the members voting in the election. Officers may hold the same office for an unlimited number of terms. Newly elected officers shall assume the responsibilities of their office in April and continue through March of the following year.

Section 3: Election of Officers

Request for nominations will be entertained in the December newsletter and at the January meeting. Election shall be by means of a ballot sent out in the February newsletter. Ballots shall be sent to members in good standing. Results of the election will be announced in the newsletter.

Article 6: Meetings

The Association shall normally meet on the second Monday of every month. The President may change the date, venue, or content of a scheduled meeting if conditions arise to warrant such changes.

Article 7: Limitations

The purpose of the Association is listed in Article 2 of the Constitution. Lobbying, or any activities specifically designed to influence legislation, support political groups, or advance popular, political, scientific, or religious causes are not among the objectives of the Association and neither the Association nor any official group within the Association, or officer identifying themselves as such, shall engage in such activity.

Article 8: General Prohibitions

Notwithstanding any provision of the Constitution or Bylaws which might be susceptible to a contrary construction:

- a) The Association shall be organized exclusively for scientific and educational purposes;
- b) The Association shall not participate in, or intervene in political campaigns on behalf of any candidate for public office (including the publishing or distributing of statements);
- c) The Association shall not be organized or operated for profit;
- d) The property of this Association is irrevocably dedicated to scientific and educational purposes and no part of the net income or assets of this Association shall ever inure to the benefit of any officer or member thereof or to the benefit of any private person. Upon the dissolution or winding up of the Association, its assets remaining after payment, or provision for payment, of all debts and liabilities of this corporation shall be distributed to a nonprofit fund, foundation, or corporation which is organized and operated exclusively for scientific and educational purposes and which has established its tax exempt status under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code;
- e) At no time shall the Association use its funds to hire Employees or acquire any real property. In the event the Association pays for professional or labor services to further its educational and scientific purpose, it shall be done on a contract or fee-for-service basis.

Article 9: Amendments

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of those voting at any meeting of the Association or in a mail ballot. In either case, notice of the proposed action will be sent to each voting member of the Association by the Secretary.

Article 10: Bylaws

The Association may enact Bylaws for interpretation and implementation of the Constitution. Bylaws may be adopted, amended, or repealed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of those voting at any meeting of the Association or in a mail ballot. In either case, notice of the proposed action shall be sent to each voting member of the Association by the Secretary.

Article 11: Division

At the discretion of the officers, the Association may establish ad hoc committees to carry out activities under the overall sponsorship of the Association.

Article 12: Ownership

The acronym "SCAMIT", the Internet site listed as "<<http://www.scamit.org>>", the original art SCAMIT logos, and all other original items produced by the Association are copyrighted and protected by the Association under current copyright law. Items donated to the Association become its property and may be used or disposed of in accordance with the Association's purposes and goals.

BYLAWS

Bylaw 1: Types of Membership

The following types of members are recognized:

- a) Charter - members who joined the Association between April 1982 and March 31, 1983.
- b) Individual - Members who wish to be a part of the association and its activities.
- c) Institutional - Organizations or groups who wish to be a part of the association and its activities.
- d) Honorary Life - Membership awarded at the discretion of the executive committee in recognition of service to the association.

Bylaw 2: Duties of Officers

- a) **President** - The president or designate shall preside at meetings of the Association, represent the Association's interest in external business affairs. The President's name will be listed on the financial accounts. The President will have possession of the Association Constitution, and perform such other functions as may be defined in the Constitution and Bylaws.
- b) **Vice-President** - The Vice-President shall chair ad hoc committees, be responsible for tabulating and disseminating results of elections, and votes on Bylaws, and Amendments to the Constitution; and perform duties of the President during any period(s) when the President is unable to fulfill his or her duties as President of the Association.
- c) **Secretary** - The Secretary or designate shall keep minutes for all meetings, produce the newsletter, issue notices for meetings, conduct the correspondence of the Association, and be responsible for ballot preparation. The Secretary will also keep a copy of the membership list.
- d) **Treasurer** - The Treasurer shall collect dues, make necessary disbursements, keep the accounts of the association and monitor compliance with applicable federal and state laws and regulations. The Treasurer will present an annual summary of financial accounts in the newsletter. The Treasurer will inform the other officers of the current location of the Association's financial records. These accounts will be available for inspection by any elected officer upon request. All monetary funds of the Association are to be kept in FDIC insured accounts listing the Association name on the account title. The Treasurer's name will be listed on the financial accounts. The Treasurer will also maintain the current list of members in good standing and transmit a copy to the Secretary when the annual summary of accounts is produced.

Bylaw 3: Committees

- a) An executive committee shall be formed, composed of each officer and will meet at least once per year to discuss the Association's activities. This Committee is authorized to expend SCAMIT funds to further the association's goals. Special projects or activities requiring the expenditure of SCAMIT funds are approved by a majority vote of the Committee. All such special projects will be announced in the newsletter and posted on the SCAMIT Internet web site. The Executive Committee is authorized to engage in fund raising to support the Association's goals and purposes through the sale of SCAMIT identified items. The Committee may also direct the Association to apply for grants or contracts that will support SCAMIT's purposes listed in Article 2.
- b) The officers shall create ad hoc committees of volunteer members as needed to further the purpose of the association.

BALLOT FOR SCAMIT OFFICERS 2004-2005

Vote for one (1) nominee for each office. Please mail or return completed ballot to Leslie Harris by August 31 2004. You may return it to the Secretary or other attending officers at the August meeting. The address to mail it to is:

Attn: Leslie Harris
Worm Lab
Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History
900 Exposition Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90007

President - The president presides at all meetings and represents SCAMIT in external business affairs.

Kelvin Barwick

Write in: _____

Vice-President - The Vice-President chairs ad hoc committees, supervises the specimen exchange, tabulates election ballots, and fills in for the President as necessary.

Leslie Harris

Write in: _____

Secretary - The Secretary keeps minutes of the meetings, is responsible for the newsletter, and preparation of the ballots.

Megan Lilly

Write in: _____

Treasurer - The Treasurer collects dues, makes disbursements, keeps financial records, and makes an annual statement of the financial status of SCAMIT.

Cheryl Brantley

Write in: _____

2004-2005 SCAMIT Meeting Topics - Please suggest any topics you deem worthy of a SCAMIT meeting.

