



**MEDIA ADVISORY**

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## **Press briefing planned for Autonomous Ocean Sampling Network project**

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**What:** Oceanographers from more than a dozen prestigious research institutions have converged on Monterey Bay this month to examine the bay as never before, collaborating in a unique research experiment involving a host of high-tech tools, including underwater robots, ships, aircraft, satellites, drifters, buoys, and cutting-edge computer models. A panel of researchers will give a project briefing and an opportunity to see autonomous underwater vehicles being used in the experiment.

**When:** **Tuesday, August 12 from 1:30 to 3:30 pm Pacific Time**

**Where:** Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI), 7700 Sandholdt Road, Moss Landing. Directions: <http://www.mbari.org/about/directions/directions.html>. Teleconference via phone is also available for the panel discussion from 1:30-2:30 pm. Dial 818-354-3434 and enter meeting ID "AOSN" (2676) when prompted by the operator.

**Description:** The field experiment for the Autonomous Ocean Sampling Network (AOSN) project began last week in Monterey Bay and will continue through the first week of September. Funded by the Office of Naval Research and coordinated and hosted by MBARI, the experiment has brought together physical oceanographers, marine biologists, computer modeling experts, and engineers who design robots for undersea research. Together they are using a mix of sophisticated instruments and computer models to observe and predict upwelling of nutrient-rich water that occurs in the bay during the summer. Key to the experiment are measurements by a fleet of autonomous underwater vehicles or AUVs, underwater robots that are pre-programmed to follow a specific course underwater, collecting data as they go. Returning to the surface, the vehicles radio their measurements to a ship or shore station. AUVs are relatively new tools for oceanographers and never before have such large numbers been deployed simultaneously.

**Panel:** James Bellingham, Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (Project Lead); Allan Robinson, Harvard University; Steve Ramp, Naval Postgraduate School; David Fratantoni, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution; Russ Davis, Scripps Institution of Oceanography; Yi Chao, NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory; Francisco Chavez, Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute.

**Images/links:** Video b-roll and still images are available. For still images, see [http://www.mbari.org/news/news\\_releases/2003/bellingham-aosn-images.html](http://www.mbari.org/news/news_releases/2003/bellingham-aosn-images.html). Project information: [http://www.mbari.org/news/news\\_releases/2003/bellingham-aosn.html](http://www.mbari.org/news/news_releases/2003/bellingham-aosn.html)