

Project Update: April 2021

Below is a summary of key project outcomes over the last 4 months. The last project update was sent to you both on the 24 December 2020. I am advancing well with the project. Here are some key points:

- Over the summer we did some nice dives. We collected interesting data and took some great photos. I will send you a Google Drive link to the portfolio of photos.
- I delivered a report to The Nature Conservancy (TNC) on the 31 January 2021. The report describes the kelp forest ecosystem of south-central Chile. The report has been distributed to the local NGO Oceanosfera, to assist them with their marine education programme. TNC is using the information from the report to update the marine component of their draft conservation plan.
- As part of our laboratories outreach programme, we are producing a poster of our photos that will be exhibited publicly. Also, we will distribute the poster to schools, universities, fishing and community groups, and partners (Rufford Foundation and TNC).
- I presented (via Zoom) an update of my PhD progress to academics and students at the Universidad Austral de Chile, and members of the public on the 14 April 2021.
- I received notification from the journal (*Latin American Journal of Aquatic Research*) about my scientific paper, and I need to make some additional changes then re-submit the paper. The journal was very encouraging because very little published data exists for the region.
- I am currently working on a second scientific paper.
- We are still awaiting delivery of some items that we have purchased, photographic equipment and dive gear.

We are planning more fieldwork in the coming months.