



Moss Landing Marine Laboratories

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PRESS RELEASE

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CSU Moss Landing Marine Laboratories Professor Nick Welschmeyer to present at United Nations International Maritime Organization

by Brynn Hooton-Kaufman

The International Maritime Organization of the United Nations, charged with prevention of marine pollution by ships, has invited Moss Landing Marine Labs' Dr. Nick Welschmeyer to present a research perspective titled, "Progress in Rapid Biological Methods for Shipboard Ballast Water Compliance Testing" next week in London. Dr. Welschmeyer was awarded first place in a recent ballast water technology competition funded by the German government, leading to this prestigious invitation.



Dr. Nick Welschmeyer with a ballast test kit

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) developed regulations requiring ships to reduce the number of live organisms in their ballast water, essential for vessel stability, to curtail the invasive species epidemic. Because many international vessels carry enough ballast water to fill more than forty Olympic-sized pools, it is

impossible to ensure every vessel meets these standards by microscopically examining thousands of liters of water.

Dr. Welschmeyer is the Lead Scientist for the Golden Bear Facility, a collaboration between the CSU California Maritime Academy and Moss Landing Marine Labs, focused on the effectiveness of ballast water treatment techniques and the development of new ballast water analysis technologies. His team is currently developing a solution that will be available in a package as compact as a purse, and as simple as a swimming pool chemistry test. It was this innovative thinking that won Dr. Welschmeyer the German Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency's first place award. Said Dr. Welschmeyer, "There are roughly 70,000 international vessels that will be required to maintain compliance with international and US ballast regulations. We hope to put simple, accurate instruments in the hands of all stakeholders so that non-technical personnel will be able to make rapid evaluations of ballast water quality."

Moss Landing Marine Laboratories is the graduate program in marine science for California State Universities East Bay, Fresno, Monterey Bay, Sacramento, San Francisco, San Jose and Stanislaus. To learn more information about MLML and Dr. Nick Welschmeyer, visit www.mlml.calstate.edu.



Dr. Nick Welschmeyer in tight quarters sampling zooplankton with former graduate student Erin Jensen