

WAVE

MOSS LANDING MARINE LABORATORIES

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The Neurotoxin Lurking in Coastal Fog

**Dr. James Harvey
Named Director**

MLML's Big Idea for Monterey County Gives!

**An Uncertain Future for the
R/V Point Sur**



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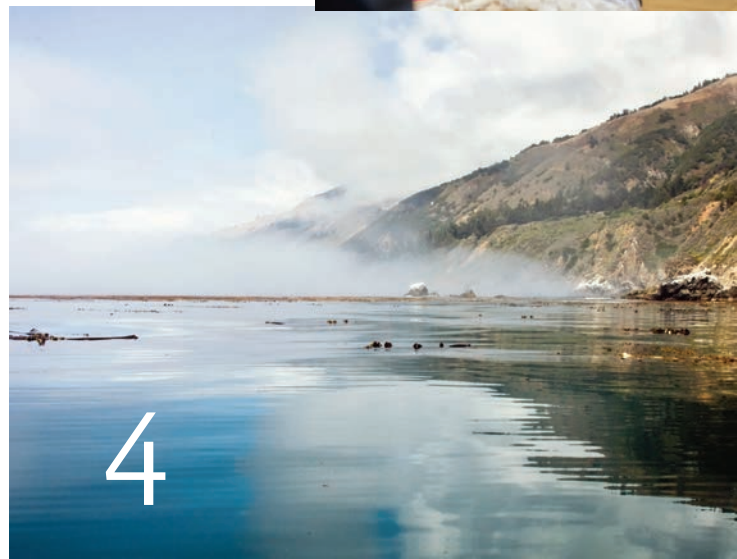
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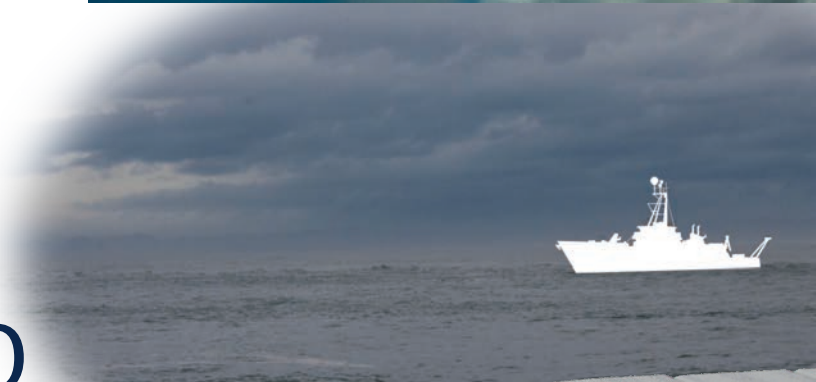
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ABOUT THE COVER

Coastal fog creeps over the terrain of Big Sur. Photo: Scott Gabara

ABOUT THESE PHOTOS

From top: photo of James Harvey by David Schmitz, photo of Big Sur coast by Scott Gabara

For more information, or to change your address, please call (831) 771-4401, email friends@mlml.calstate.edu, or write Friends of MLML, 8272 Moss Landing Road, Moss Landing, CA 95039.

Moss Landing Marine Labs is part of an interdisciplinary team of scientists studying fog, and the dangerous neurotoxin found within

Seeing Thro

So often, our vision of the world is seen through lenses crafted by the tools of our discipline. This vision is necessarily focused on specifics and has a relatively shallow depth of field. For example, scientists often see the world in terms of genomes or atoms or chemical reactions or subatomic forces or ecological interactions ... Specialization is not only expected in academia, it is rewarded. Unfortunately, this can lead to a fairly narrow and incomplete view of the world. The oceans, crust and atmosphere blend, churn and mix both processes and contents. To see the world more clearly yet requires an integrated perspective, one in which the “or’s” are substituted by “and’s.” Some of the most groundbreaking research occurs when a multidisciplinary approach is applied to a system. This is particularly true of the coastal system at the land/sea interface. Here it is almost impossible to talk about one process without talking about several

Through the Fog

by Kenneth Coale

others. The integrated approach to ocean science has given rise to the field known as Biogeochemistry, which seeks to understand the flows of materials and energy (carbon, nutrients, metals, protons, etc.) in terms of the multiple processes and forces which act upon them.

Recently the Chemical Oceanography Lab at MLML was given the opportunity to expand our understanding of the land/sea margin through an integrative program funded by the National Science Foundation. In this program we will be studying fog, or more specifically, we will be trying to determine what processes give rise to the finding that fog water contains ten times the methyl mercury as does rain water. Here is why this is interesting...

