

Pescadero Fog Workshop Summary

Coastal Fog as a System: Developing an Interdisciplinary Research Agenda



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Coastal Fog as a System Steering Committee:

Jeffrey Collett, Jr., Ph.D.

Rene Garreaud, Ph.D.

Carolyn Jordan, Ph.D.

Patricia Matrai, Ph.D.

Michael O'Rourke, Ph.D.

Alicia Torregrosa, MS

Kathleen C. Weathers (Chair), Ph.D.

Lisa Borre (scribe), MES

Introduction

Fog researchers convened in a workshop “Coastal Fog as a System: Developing the Research Agenda” held 25-27 June 2013 in Pescadero, California.

The workshop was part of an interdisciplinary fog research planning project headed by Dr. Kathleen Weathers, Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, in collaboration with a steering committee (Dr. Jeffrey Collett, Colorado State University; Dr. Rene Garreaud, University of Chile; Dr. Carolyn Jordan, University of New Hampshire; Dr. Patricia Matrai, Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences; Dr. Michael O’Rourke, Michigan State University; Alicia Torregrosa, US Geological Survey) who guided the one-year project. The workshop was funded by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation through Grant GBMF3414 to Kathleen C. Weathers, Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies.

Dr. Weathers, along with Facilitators Dr. Jonathan Kramer and Ms. Emily Shepard (illustrator), and the Steering Committee, planned and organized the two and a half day workshop. The agenda included both structured and unstructured time for participants to work in plenary and small group sessions and to have time for informal discussions and to get to know one another. Four disciplinary background presentations provided a foundation for the interactive discussions that followed.

The specific goals of the workshop were to address several key questions:

- What are the research frontiers? What are the basic science questions?
- What are the tools, models and methods necessary? What do fog researchers need to advance our field?
- How do we catalyze interdisciplinary fog research?

The 25 participants represented various disciplines of active fog research, and included climatologists, meteorologists, atmospheric scientists, oceanographers, geospatial analysts, ecologists, and eco-hydrologists. It was the first multi-disciplinary gathering of the fog research community for most in attendance.

At the outset of the workshop, Dr. Weathers encouraged the participants to reach beyond their disciplines to achieve success, and pointed to potential *barriers* to success:

- *Not moving intellectually out of our silos or boxes.* Participants were invited, and indeed, strongly encouraged to move outside their disciplinary boundaries during workshop discussions.
- *Getting lost in the details.* Participants were encouraged to think about the big picture of fog systems research and see the forest not just the trees.
- *Focusing on what we cannot do.* Participants were encouraged to focus on “What can we do?” and “How can we move forward?” rather than become mired in what cannot be done.



Participants at the Fog Research Frontiers Workshop in June 2013.

Workshop Participants

Sara Baguska, University of California, Santa Barbara
Lisa Borre (Writer), Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies
Jan Cermak, Ruhr-Universität Bochum
Patrick Chuang, University of California, Santa Cruz
Jeff Collett, Colorado State University
Clive Dorman, Scripps Institution of Oceanography
Eli Dueker, CUNY Queens College
Gary Ellrod, NOAA
Holly Ewing, Bates College
Ian Faloon, University of California, Davis
René Garreaud, Universidad de Chile
Ismail Gültepe, Environment Canada
Barbara Han, University of Georgia
Lelia Hawkins, Harvey Mudd College
Barry Huebert, University of Hawaii
Jim Johnstone, University of Washington
Carolyn Jordan, University of New Hampshire
Jon Kramer, University of Maryland-SESYNC
Paty Matrai, Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences
Mel Nordquist, National Weather Service NOAA
Travis O'Brien, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab
Michael O'Rourke, Michigan State University
Zach Piso, Michigan State University
Kerri Pratt, University of Michigan
Martha Scholl, U.S. Geological Survey

Emily Shepard (Illustrator)
Armin Sorooshian, University of Arizona
Robert Tardif, University of Washington
Alicia Torregrosa, U.S. Geological Survey
Kathleen Weathers, Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies
Chris Zappa, Columbia University



Facilitator Jon Kramer of SESYNC during the opening session of the workshop.

Facilitation Process

Facilitator Dr. Jonathan Kramer, Director of Interdisciplinary Science at the Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center (SESYNC), Annapolis, MD, led the group through interactive discussions with the help of Emily Shepard, a San Francisco-based artist and illustrator with experience in graphic facilitation.

In preparation for the workshop, Shepard, with input from Weathers, Collett and Kramer helped to refine the conceptual framework diagram (“coastal fog as a system”) developed by the Steering Committee. During the workshop, Shepard recorded the discussion on a white board in real-time, including illustrations and visual representations of the discussion topics. This was the first experience any of the participants had with a graphic artist helping facilitate discussions. Illustrations are provided in Appendix 1.

During the first evening session, participants introduced themselves after dinner by stating their name and affiliation, placing their photo (mounted on a sticky label) on a part of the diagram that they identified with in terms of their own research, and briefly explaining why they placed the photo where they did (Fig. 1). The photos were distributed throughout the diagram, with several participants noting secondary interests. The exercise turned out to be an extremely effective “ice breaker” and an informative way to visually represent the multi-disciplinary nature of the group.

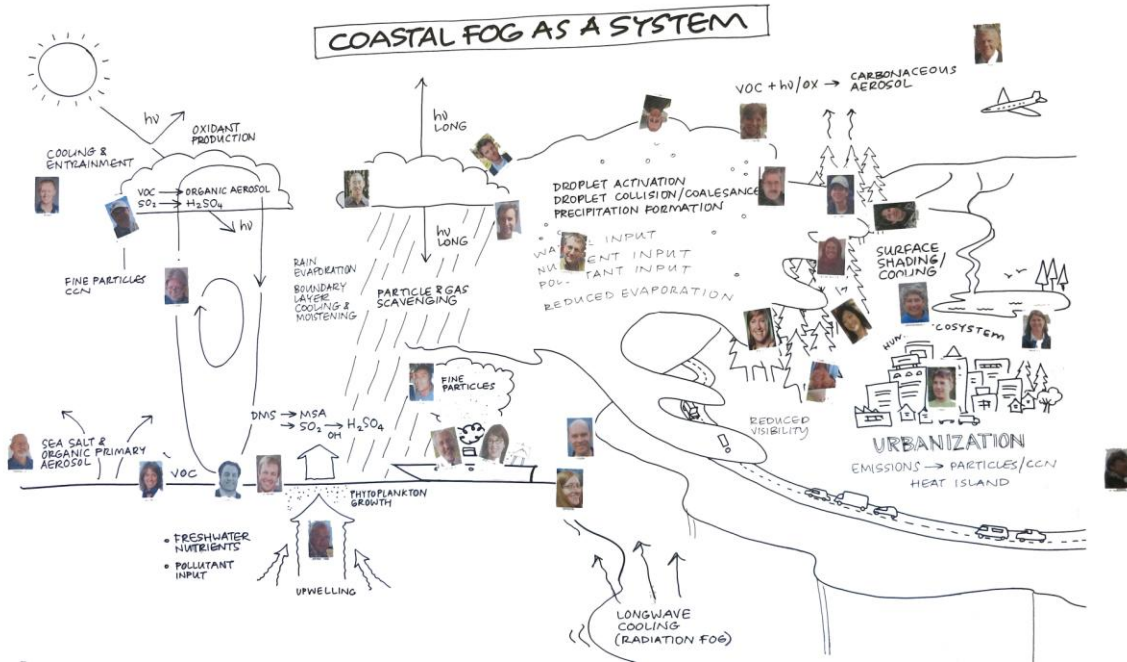
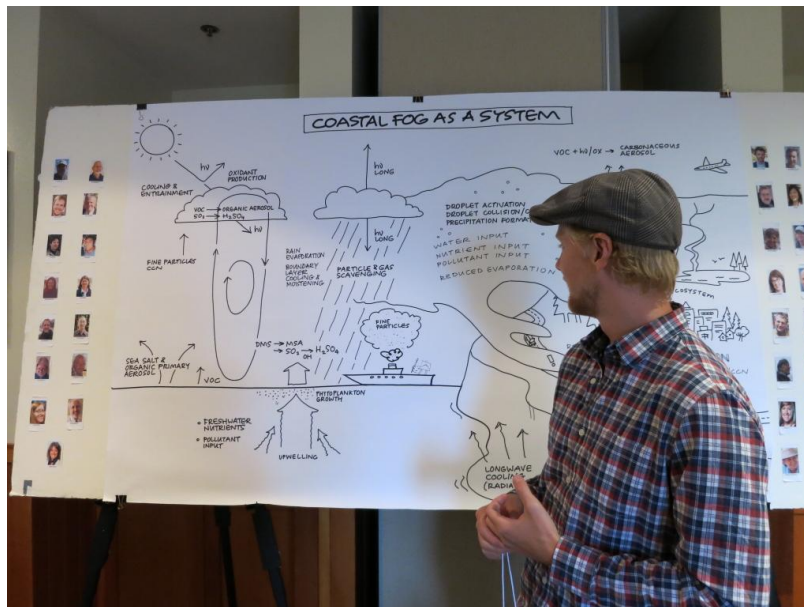


Figure 1. Coastal Fog as a System diagram after participant introductions.



Travis O'Brien studies the Coastal Fog as a System conceptual framework before placing his photo on the diagram during Pescadero workshop introductions.

The conceptual framework was also used during the meeting wrap-up where participants had an opportunity to suggest modifications to the diagram and to indicate how their interests evolved during the meeting. Most kept their photo in its original location but used a red marker to indicate new research interests or areas of the fog system where they would like to start working (Fig. 2). Almost every participant expressed interest in new areas of research and in working collaboratively with scientists in other disciplines.

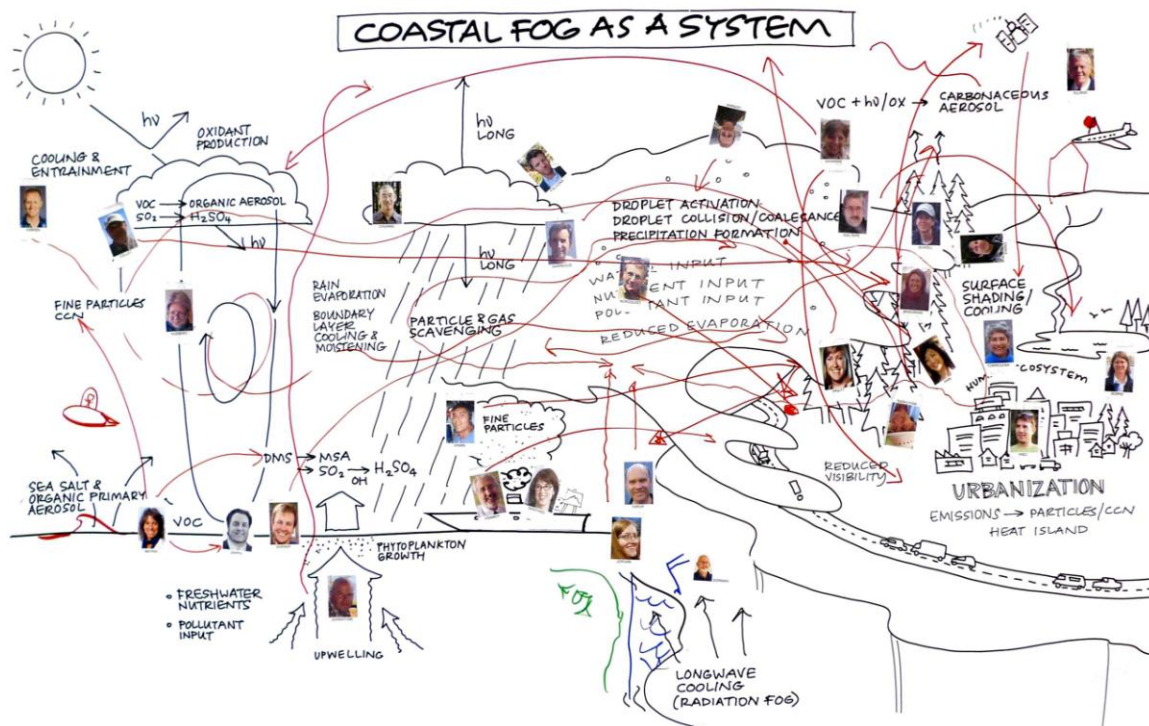


Figure 2. Coastal Fog as a System diagram at the end of the Pescadero Research Frontiers Workshop.

By the end of the workshop, consensus was reached on using the Coastal Fog as a System diagram as a conceptual framework for developing an interdisciplinary fog research agenda.

Lightning Round Research Introductions

Interested participants were invited to present two slides over five minutes on the most interesting topic they are working on. The Lightning Round Research Introductions were an informal and voluntary event after dinner on Days 1 and 2. It was an “off the record” opportunity for presenters to share a few of their fog research passions and ideas.

The following workshop participants made presentations during the first “Lightning Round”: Jeff Collett, Carolyn Jordan, Rene Garreaud Salazar, Paty Matrai, Alicia

Torregrosa, Kathleen Weathers, Sara Baguskas, Barry Huebert, Martha Scholl, Mel Nordquist and Jan Cermak.

Presentations during the second “Lightning Round” included: Robert Tardif, Lelia Hawkins, Travis O’Brien, Eli Dueker, Jim Johnstone, Ismael Gültepe, Chris Zappa and Barry Huebert.

Presentations on the Current State of Fog Research

As a way to establish a foundation for the research planning discussions at the workshop, four participants were challenged to provide broad overviews of the current state of research in four subject areas:

- Ocean-Atmosphere (Patrick Chuang)
- Chemistry-Biology (Barry Huebert)
- Fog Frequency and Geographic Distribution (Gary Ellrod)
- Deposition and Impacts to Natural and Human Systems (Holly Ewing (Kathleen Weathers, Todd Dawson))

These are summarized in the illustrations provided in Appendix 1.

Disciplinary Research Frontiers

Workshop participants identified disciplinary research priorities during the first small group discussion session. These are summarized in the White Paper and in the illustration provided in Appendix 1.



Small group discussions at the Pescadero Fog Research Frontiers Workshop.

Interdisciplinary Research Frontiers

The second and third small group discussions were devoted to identifying interdisciplinary research frontiers. These are summarized in the White Paper and in the illustration provided in Appendix 1.

Key Knowledge Gaps and Research Challenges

The following knowledge gaps were identified:

- Improve understanding of fog precursor aerosols
- How does the fog activation process differ from cloud activation?
- Fog and aerobiology
- What makes fog different in different locations?
- Literature Review of Fog Research to Date
- Need to consider cold fog
- Finding ways to link non-uniform data and make those data available to fog researchers
- The role of topography in fog formation
- How can we better predict the wind three-dimensionally, in addition to temperature?
- What is the correct scale?
- Understanding how climate change and variability will affect fog
- Lack of information about paleo-fog and the history of fog
- Lack of climate proxies
- Better decision support and prediction of fog events on a short-term time scale
- International collaboration
- Research platform restrictions
- Common definitions and standard methods

Key knowledge gaps and research challenges are described in the White Paper and summarized in the illustration provided in Appendix 1.

Outcomes

The results of the workshop are documented in the White Paper, and include:

- Review of the current state of research and key gaps in knowledge.
- Identification of some research frontiers.
- Agreement on the utility of a conceptual framework around which to structure coastal fog research.
- New interdisciplinary research collaborations initiated.

Factors Contributing to the Workshop Success

The Steering Committee evaluated the workshop outcomes and determined that a number of factors contributed to its resounding success, including:

- Meeting designed with careful attention to facilitation (skilled facilitator who understands science working with an illustrator were conscious choices).
- Meeting agenda allowed time for informal discussions and small group sessions.
- Workshop participants were carefully selected by the Steering Committee to represent a broad range of backgrounds, disciplines and career stages, and an interest in working across disciplines.
- Meeting held in a beautiful, comfortable and relatively remote setting with healthy meals.
- All participants required to attend for the duration of the workshop and to stay at the meeting venue.
- Participants were encouraged to limit phone and internet communications during workshop proceedings to minimize distractions. Although not by design, the meeting venue had limited cell phone and internet access.



Foggy mornings created an appropriate setting for the workshop.

Appendices

A.1. Illustrations by Emily Shepard

List of Illustrations:

1. Agenda
2. Opening Session
3. Research Presentations (Chuang and Huebert)
4. Research Presentations (Ellrod and Ewing)
5. Session 1 Group Reports
6. Session 2 Group Reports
7. Session 3 Group Reports
8. Common Elements, Challenges and Gaps
9. Fog Definitions
10. Interdisciplinary Research Opportunities and Closing

FOG AS A SYSTEM

AGENDA

DAY ONE

DAY TWO

- 7:30 B.R.E.A.K.F.A.S.T
- 8:30 WELCOME & EXPECTATIONS
- 9:30 FOG as a SYSTEM PRESENTATIONS
 - PATRICK CHUANG • BARRY HUEBERT
- 10:30 B.R.E.A.K
- 11:00 • GARY ELLROD • HOLLY EWING
- 12:00 L.U.N.C.H
- 1:30 INTROS to SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS
- 1:45 PART I: FOUNDATIONAL FOG SCIENCE & RESEARCH PRIORITIES
- 3:00 B.R.E.A.K
- 3:20 PLENARY/INSTRUCTIONS
- 3:30 PART II: SPANNING FOG RESEARCH DISCIPLINARY BOUNDARIES
- 4:30 SMALL GROUP REPORT OUTS
- 5:00 A.D.J.O.U.R.N
- 6:30 DINNER: REDWOOD/OAK ROOM

- 7:30 B.R.E.A.K.F.A.S.T
- 8:30 PART III: SYNTHETIC INTERDISCIPLINARY FRONTIERS
- 9:30 GROUP REPORT OUTS
- 10:30 B.R.E.A.K
- 11:00 PLENARY DISCUSSION of FINDINGS, GAPS & INSIGHTS
- 12:00 L.U.N.C.H
- 1:00 AGENCY PERSPECTIVES & FUTURE ENGAGEMENT
- 2:00 REVISIT & REVISE CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORKS/ NEXT STEPS
- 3:50 A.D.J.O.U.R.N

THE CARY INSTITUTE

COASTAL FOG

AS A SYSTEM

DEVELOPING A RESEARCH AGENDA

JUNE 25-27, 2013
PESCADERO, CA



PATRICK CHUANG
PHYSICAL PROCESSES in COASTAL FOG

Liquid Content	Moisture Content	Saturation Content
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VERY Sensitive System!!

• 0.5 - .5 grams DIFFERENCE

VERY SMALL CHANGE IN ENVIRONMENT can impact if FOG Appears

Should we fly?

WARM ADVECTION

WARM SEA TEMP.

FOG

COLD SEA TEMP.

WHAT IS DISSIPATION PROCESS?

STRATIFORM/STRATOCUMULUS clouds

IN regions of PERSISTENT HIGH PRESSURE SYSTEMS (H)

LONG WAVE COOLING

Free Troposphere

BOUNDARY LAYER

WARM DRY AIR

cold & moist

turbulence

Entrainment

CLOUD

COLD WATER

Northerly wind

- COASTAL JET STRENGTHENS DURING the DAY -
- TURBULENCE INCREASES AT NIGHT
- CLOUDS/FOG = PART of UPWELLING SYSTEM for OCEANIC ADAPTERS

② JUNE 26, 2013. E. SHEPARD

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

FOR PATRICK

COASTAL CALIFORNIA FOG is **NOT** CAUSED BY ADVECTION

WANTS to CATEGORIZE/MODEL HETEROGENEITY of CLOUDS/FOG? NOT YET...

WHAT MAKES FOG & STRATOCUMULUS DIFFERENT?

SQUISHED in a VERY LOW MARINE BOUNDARY LAYER... No good Name!

CHARACTER of CLOUD OVER LAND MASS is DIFF. than OVER WATER

MISLEADING that we KEEP FOGS in DIFFERENT "BINS"...

BARRY HUEBERT
The CHEMICAL & BIOLOGICAL COMPOSITION of FOG

Nitrate in Droplet → BIOTA may CONSUME it, Keeping it from becoming a NUTRIENT on Land

Hey! That's MY Food!

Pollution & Dust from ASIA

Particles from SHIP CHANGES REFLECTIVITY of STRATOCUMULUS CLOUDS...

CHEMICAL COMPOSITION IMPACTS NATURE of FOG...

Nutrient Input

Pollutant Input

Rate of Evaporation

Droplet Size Distribution

VERY RICH MIXTURE of CHEMICALS Dissolved in Droplets

DIFFERENT TRANSPORT

CLOUD WATER INTERCEPTION

Nitrate is formed ABIOTICALLY

Trade winds... NO₂ blown OFFSHORE

KONA wind... NO₂ blown ONSHORE

collected by Vegetation

ALSO FOUND PHOSPHOROUS

LIVING CREATURES in FOG DROPLETS = HUGE WILD CARD... How to treat them?

COMPONENTS OF FOG B/twn: NATURAL sources ↔ URBAN/INDUSTRIAL sources

Natural THERMOSTAT ON EARTH

Lost as a Paradigm

BUT CLAW'S IDEA of SYSTEM STILL STANDS

NEED TO WORK ACROSS DISCIPLINES!

GARY EUROD FOG DISTRIBUTION & FREQUENCY

SURFACE OBSERVATION SITES
 AIRPORTS • AUTOMATED • SHIPS • BUOYS

OVER LAST CENTURY
 ON PACIFIC COAST MORE FOG:
 WEST COAST FOG HAS DECREASED
 SOUTH EAST FOG HAS INCREASED

► HIGHER PRESSURE
 ► COLDER SST

SATELLITES

• POLAR: HIGHER RES, FEWER LOOKS/DAY
 • GEOSTATIONARY: LOWER RES, HIGHER FREQUENCY

NEW CAPABILITIES
 • VISIBLE: IRVIE COLOR BAND, LOW LIGHT VISIBLE, LOW FREQUENCY
 • INFRARED

RESEARCH CHALLENGES

DATA BEFORE 1900? | Improve detection from SPACE | Exploit New Satellite Assets

③ JUNE 26, 2013. ESHEPARD

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

CAN WE FIND CONSISTENT WAY TO DEFINE FOG, CEILING HEIGHT, VISIBILITY....
 TO BE CONSISTENT W/ HOW WE MEASURED FOG IN PAST?

CAN SATELLITES SHOW INTERSECTION OF TREES/LAND/FOG? (yes)

HOW TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION CHANGING LANDSCAPES AROUND AIRPORTS (NO LONGER RURAL)

FOG = PIECE A BIGGER OCEANOGRAPHY SYSTEM, CAN GET SENSE OF BIG PATTERNS

FOG NOW DEFINED AS VISIBILITY OF 1/2 MILE OR LESS. (THIS CHANGED AT ONE POINT...)

TREE RING? SEDIMENT DEPOSITS? AS WAY TO TRACK PAST RECORDS

HOLLY EWING FOG DEPOSITION/DELIVERY ECOLOGICAL INTERACTIONS

FOG FREQUENCY & DISTRIBUTION

FOG IS DIRECTIONAL

REDWOODS

INLAND CHILE

SONOMA SITE

FOG →

MORE WATER... MORE NITROGEN (Fog brings in 20%) MORE PHOSPHORUS MORE MICROBIAL

LESS

MARINE & TERRESTRIAL MICROBES

SOUTHERN CHILE

OCEAN FEEDING THE INLAND AREAS

N. CALIFORNIA

EVIDENCE of BIOLOGICAL RELIANCE on FOG as WATER SOURCE...

• COMING IN THEIR CUTICLE
 • FUNGAL ENDOPHYTES ACTING as "WICKS"?

OCEAN LAND CONNECTION? MICROBIAL?

MULTI-DISCIPLINARY

Field measures | Greenhouse | STRAND COLLECTION | ISOTOPES | TREE CORES

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

USING POLLEN COUNTS TO TRACK HISTORIC RECORDS OF REDWOODS/OAKS?

ISSUE: A DRIZZLE PRODUCTION - HOW TO MEASURE? HOW ACCURATE? FOR CHEMICAL ANALYSIS...

SUMMER FOG SEASON" → No more than 2 ml. in open collection.

PART 1 GROUP 1 RESEARCH PRIORITIES

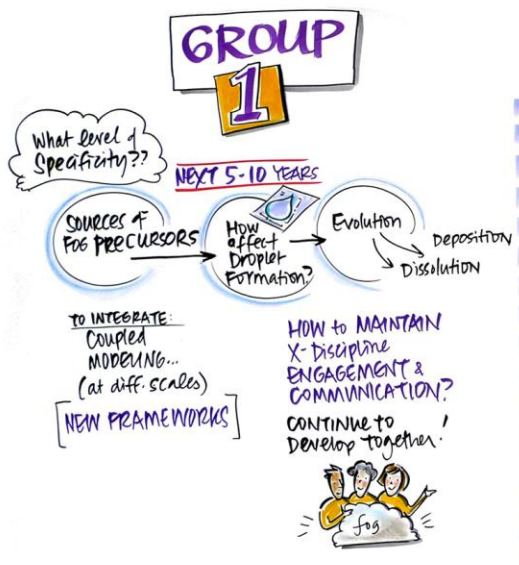
- HOW IMP. IS FOG to PLANT SPECIES? (HYDROLOGICAL, CHEMICAL, & STRESSORS)
- OVERCOMING LIMITATIONS in KNOWLEDGE Re: MICROBES in Fog (esp: Infectious Diseases)
- NEW APPLICATIONS of TECHNOLOGY to identify MORE than the < 10% we now I.D.
- MODELING MULTI-SCALE FOG VARIABILITY (dynamics) BRIDGE GAPS in spatial/temporal scales (cover full range: 5m → Lg)
- DEVELOP a FOG CLIMATOLOGY: Use of information ON past changes in spatial/temporal occurrence to understand the processes that govern occurrences of FOG
- UNDERSTAND/STUDY of LOWER atmosphere over coastal upwelling zone.
- HOW DO SPATIAL/TEMPORAL PATTERNS of FOG INFLUENCE DISTRIBUTION of PLANT SPECIES?
- UNDERSTANDING CHEMICAL REACTIONS in FOG DROPLETS? (GASES in Aqueous REACTIONS, organic composition of precursor aerosols)
- LAGRANGIAN FOG SAMPLING to follow progress of aqueous chemistry during fog events
- REMOTE SENSING of FOG VERTICAL STRUCTURE to REVEAL - Height above ground, intersection w/ Urban environment/ecosyst, depth of Fog layer & persistence
- UNDERSTAND MARINE EXCHANGE PROCESS: Develop universal parameterization of marine aerosol generation (SALT, SPRAY, MICROBES, GASES) & mechanical generation (WIND, WAVE, BUBBLE, RAIN IMPACT on SURFACE)
- WHAT FACTORS/SCALES control Fog process? (DROPT SIZE, DYNAMICS, EVOLUTION, & OTHER PHYSICAL DRIVERS)
- RESOLVE LAES BTWN PARTICLE GENERATION/FORMATION & FOG GENERATION
- HOW COMPREHENSIVE DO WE NEED to BE to CAPTURE & MODEL FOG PHYSICS?

GROUP 2 RESEARCH PRIORITIES

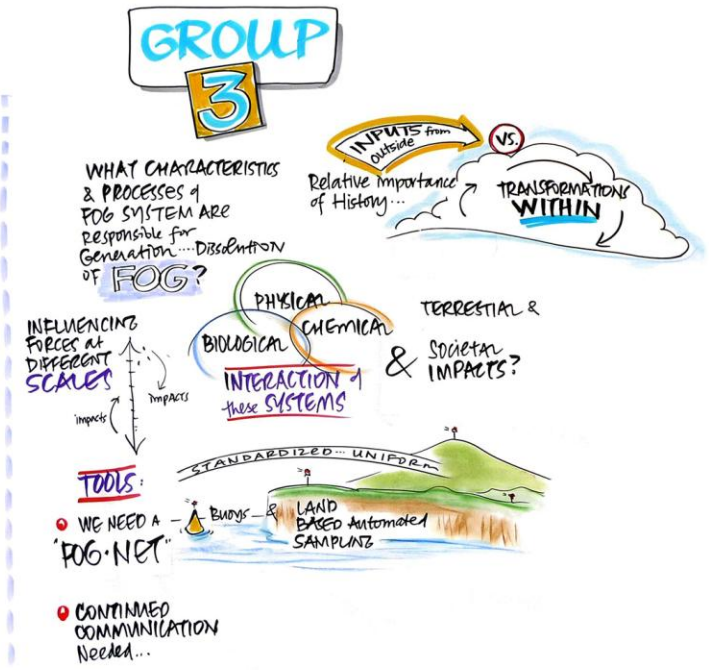
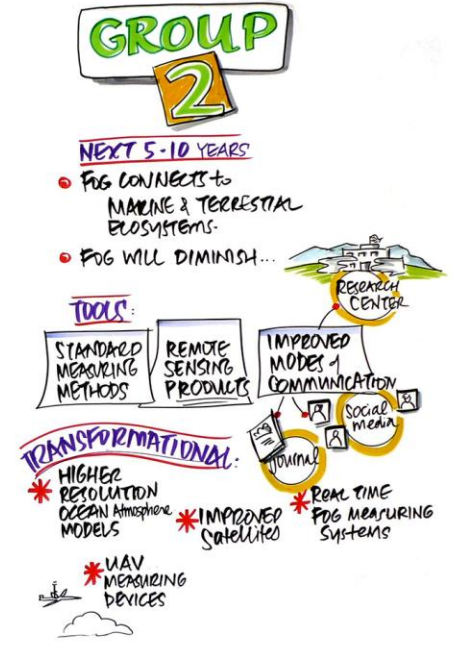
- BETTER MEASUREMENT of FOG PHYSICAL PROPERTIES
- PARTICLE - FOG FEEDBACKS
- DROPLET LIFETIMES? (Not to be confused with fog-event duration)
- BIOLOGICAL ACTIVITY → Chemical REACTIONS
- DEPOSITION RATE
- DOES BIOLOGY MATTER? → Field/Lab Experiments
- DO BACTERIA "CATCH A RIDE" or LIVE/GROW?
- BIO EFFECT ON FOG/FOG CHEMISTRY
- LAND USE CHANGE IMPACTS on FOG CLIMATOLOGY
- URBANIZATION
- DEFORESTATION
- DEVELOP REFERENCE METRICS/DEFINITION of FOG
- FLUX CHARACTERIZATION: H₂O, SOLUTES, BIOTA
- WHAT are FOG SUPERSATURATIONS?
- HOW will fog CHANGE in FUTURE CLIMATE?
- CURRENT TRENDS? WHAT CAN WE MEASURE to help PREDICT this? eg: BIOSPHERE RECORDS vs. FOG DEPOSITION, PALEOCLIMATE PROXIES

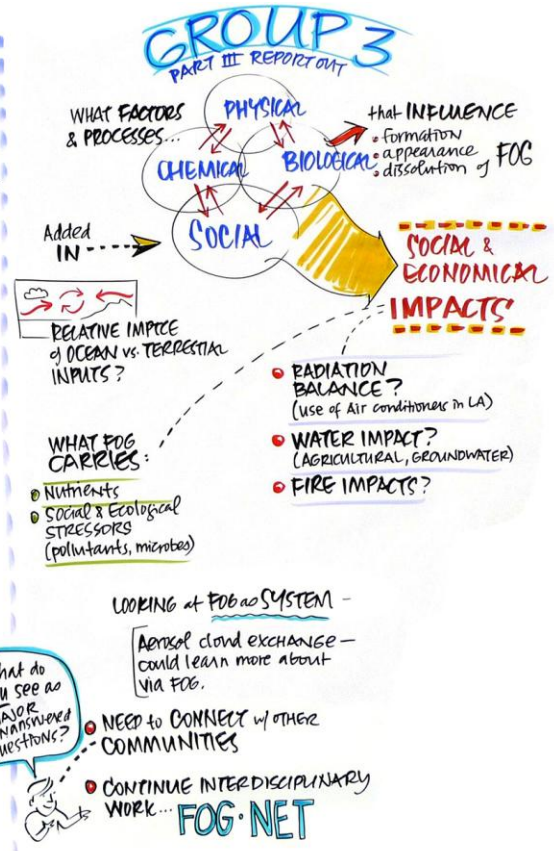
GROUP 3 RESEARCH PRIORITIES

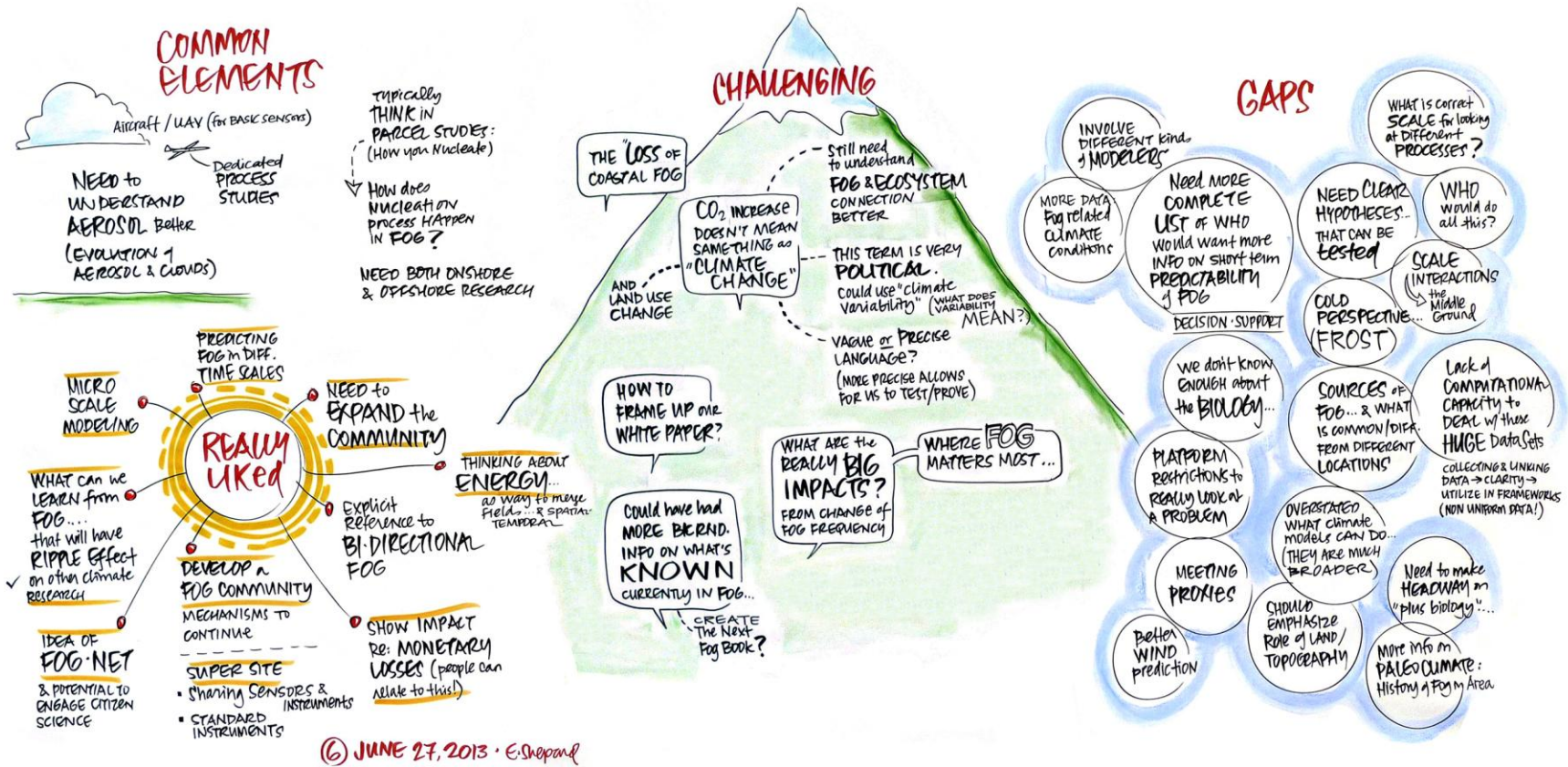
- FOG WATER COLLECTOR - WITH AUTO-SAMPLER for CHEMISTRY, VOLUME & BIOTA
- GROUND-BASED SENSOR NETWORK
- LWC VERTICAL PROFILES IN SITU & FROM Satellite
- CLOUD WATER INTERCEPTION with BIOTA at LEAF to LANDSCAPE SCALE
- COMPOSITION of FOG WATER & CLOUD WATER to do TIME SERIES FLUX CALCULATIONS on ORGANICS, NUTRIENTS, GASES & MICROBES
- BIG MULTI-PARAMETER DATABASE w/ CAPACITY to Analyze & Compile DATA SETS
- FOG EFFECT on PARTICLES & GASES ~ Drying & Rehydrating PARTICLES
- HISTORY & PROJECTION of AIR MASSES
- BI-DIRECTIONAL FLUX of BIOLOGICAL & CHEMICAL PROCESS & PARTITIONING of SOURCES (Anthropogenic & Natural)
- GLOBAL CLIMATE DYNAMICS IMPACT ON REGIONAL FOG SYSTEM
- TIME SERIES of VERTICAL PROFILES of TEMPERATURE, MOISTURE
- TIMING of FOG (ONSET, EVOLUTION & BURN OFF) TO provide societally relevant information at different scales

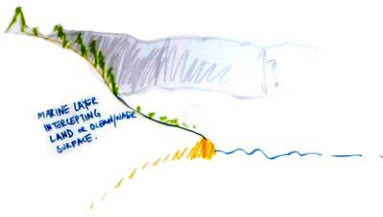


④ JUNE 26, 2013. E. Shepard









FOG DEFINITIONS

(INCLUDE YOUR LENS/PERSPECTIVE)
 c. cloud at the ground
 Lens: context

Fog - B.L. cloud that touches ground, vis. ≤ 1 km.

a cloud that intercepts the ground, from which water is deposited horizontally by impaction rather than by falling vertically (atmospheric deposition/ecology)

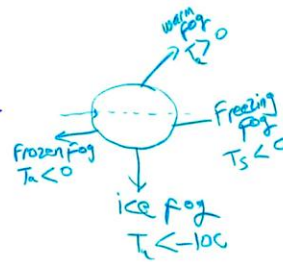
Fog is a cloud touching the ground, or temp = dew pt temp OR visibility ≤ 3 km. (lens of micrometeorology)

Fog: pea soup (driver)

Meteorology
 Fog = reduction in visibility caused by many tiny, suspended water droplets.

Fog represents particles with sizes less than a defined size that particles stays in without falling. (Meteorology)

FUNCTIONAL: CLOUD DROPLETS AT GROUND | DITTO
 PRACTICAL: EXTREMELY LOW STRATUS | ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCE
 Fog = Funky Organic Good | Funny? happy hour



Suspension of small/microscopic water droplets in the air, usually reducing visibility at the Earth surface to ≤ 1000 m (WMO)

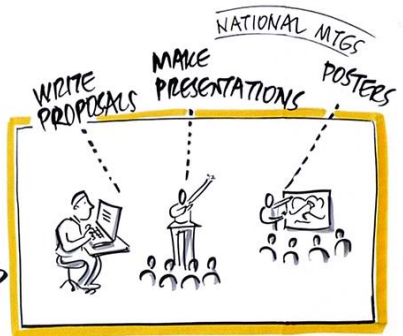
Atm chemist
 Ground level cloud with small droplets such that solute concentrations are high and pH can be quite low





CLOSING AND NEXT STEPS...

SEND YOUR FEEDBACK
 Re: WHO ELSE / WHAT OTHER DISCIPLINES SHOULD BE INVOLVED?



RESPOND TO FEEDBACK REQUEST ON WHITE PAPER Draft

JAN. 2014
 WHITE PAPER PUBLISHED

PEER REVIEWED SYNTHESIS

HOW TO SUSTAIN OUR NETWORK....?

- Make others aware of OPPORTUNITIES...
- LOGO (?)

THIS IS AN ONGOING EXPERIMENT!

THANK YOU for COMING!

YOU ARE THE AMBASSADORS!

AJIT SUBRAMANIAM

- PLEASE RESPOND to EMAIL I'll BE sending...
- KEEP PONDERING the CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK... & WHERE YOU FIT IN

⑦ JUNE 27, 2013: EShepard