



Area of Impact: Environment
Specialty: Ecology and Biodiversity

Along the coast of central Chile, human activities such as overfishing animals and algae produce serious, adverse effects on ecosystems. The consequences of human action can be irreversible if processes affecting the setup of ecosystems are altered, impacting the various benefits we get from them. The overall objective of this center is to move towards an understanding of the processes and biological interactions that affect biodiversity, population abundance, productivity and connectivity among coastal marine communities; also, understand how these processes are altered by fishing. Different forms of coastal resource administration that exist in Chile offer a unique opportunity to study and understand the social determinants of management, and to generate conservation plans that include all those involved, from legislators to fishermen and scientists.

This Nucleus Center is composed of an interdisciplinary group of scientists working in physical oceanography, ecology, social science and conservation planning. Their networks of collaboration with national and international scientists have contributed to solve central questions in the main lines of research of this initiative, and to create marine protected areas in Chile. An active and excellent team of outreach is behind the successful "Chile is sea" program, which transfers information about the care of marine ecosystems to society and promotes the active participation of citizens in conservation and management.



MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

- More than 90 people of 13 nationalities work together within our center: 35 research assistants, 30 undergraduate students, 14 MA students, 12 doctorate students, 6 post-doctorate researchers and 2 junior researchers.
- 10 research projects with external funding conceded to researchers at our center (FONDECYT and CORFO).
- 2 successful formal networks of collaboration with national and international entities with outstanding products: 3 international specialization courses, 1 training effort aimed at national legislators, 6 workshops, plus high-level scientific publications.
- Collaboration in the creation of 3 Protected Marine Areas in the Chilean territory.
- Winner of the UNESCO Innovation in Science Education Award 2014, Non-Formal Education category.

CONTACT INFORMATION

DIRECTOR: **Miriam Fernández**
ACTING DIRECTOR: **Sylvain Faugeron**



Miriam Fernández



Sylvain Faugeron

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FACULTAD DE CIENCIAS BIOLÓGICAS
PONTIFICIA UNIVERSIDAD CATÓLICA DE CHILE
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NÚCLEO MILENIO

RESEARCHERS

Principal Researcher:
Miriam Fernández

Acting Principal Researcher:
Sylvain Wielfrid Faugeron

Assistant Researcher:
Bernardo Óscar Broitman


Associate Researchers:
Evie Ann Wieters
Christopher Michel Aiken
Stefan Gelcich
Sergio Andrés Navarrete

Junior Researchers:
María Dulce Subida
Alejandro Pérez-Matus

Senior Researchers:
Steven Gaines
Juan Carlos Castilla

Postdoctorate Researchers:
Andrés Ospina
Silvia de Juan
Sergio Antonio Carrasco

 **PRODUCTIVITY PUBLICATIONS
(BETWEEN 2011-2016)**
ISI: 190 | TRADEMARK: 1

 **ACTIVE MILLENNIUM NUCLEUS CENTER**
From 12/24/2014 to 12/24/2017
The Millennium Nucleus Centers can be renewed after 3 years, reaching a maximum of 6 years.

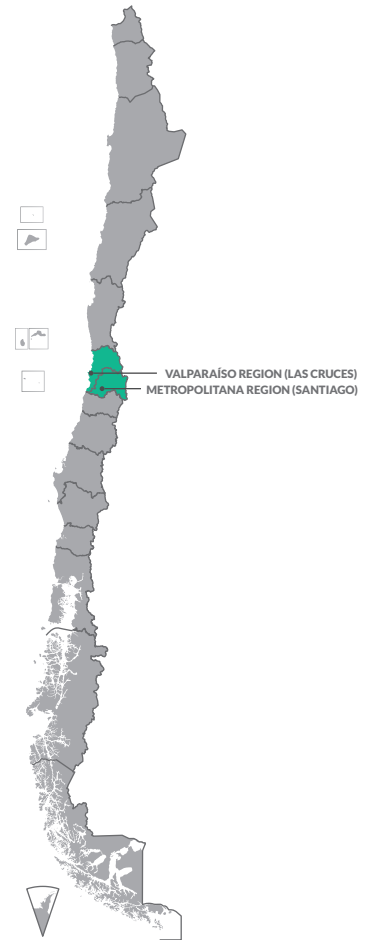
 **PRESENCE**
METROPOLITANA REGION
VALPARAÍSO REGION

RESEARCH TOPICS

- Coastal Oceanography.
- Metapopulation Ecology and Genetics.
- Sociology.
- Conservation and resource management.

NOTED OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

- **Development of the environmental education program "Chile is sea":** www.chileesmar.cl. The program has generated educational materials emphasizing the general characteristics of the Chilean sea, its productivity, and scientific knowledge produced at our center, in addition to promoting the conservation of marine ecosystems. Noteworthy is the space generated for children and families in Las Cruces, with a non-formal education program about the sea of our country.
- **Development of the first campaign for the responsible consumption of marine resources "Sea: Responsible Marine Food."**
- **Publication of the first book for children about the sea of Chile.**
- **Urban interventions over the sea (Murals "Charting the Sea in Valparaíso and Las Cruces).**
- **Science Camp for children "Our Ocean"** within the framework of the International Conference "Our Ocean 2015", organized by the Government of Chile and the US State Department.
- **Educational games for students focused on the ecology of coastal ecosystems**, which is a key area of our scientific research.
- **Collaborations with international NGOs**, operating in Chile, to establish protected marine areas in our country.
- **Creation of "Researchers" web capsules**, which present interviews to specialists in coastal ecosystems.



HOST INSTITUTIONS:

