

CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR 2011 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s)

Marissa A. DeVogelaere

Project Number

J0803

Project Title

Should You Look to the Ocean to See What Will Happen in the Sky?

Abstract

Objectives/Goals

We all know that weather is slightly different every year, if not a lot. I wanted to describe the weather patterns in Moss Landing and see if it correlated with ocean surface temperature.

Methods/Materials

By looking at the sky before going to school each morning over the last nine years, I was able to get average weather conditions and calculate how each year was different from average. I was also able to get ocean temperature information from a research buoy in the Monterey Bay that has been recording ocean temperature since 1990.

Results

In general, when the ocean temperatures were cooler than average, there was more fog and less sun compared to the average weather pattern.

Conclusions/Discussion

There were exceptions to the patterns I saw, and more frequent, detailed sampling would probably improve my understanding between the links of ocean temperature and weather.

Summary Statement

I correlated 9 years of weather patterns in Moss Landing (cloudy, sunny, fog, rain, overcast) with local ocean temperature buoy measurements.

Help Received

I was just going to do my project on the weather in Moss Landing, but I thank Mr. Kreeger for suggesting that I correlate it with something else. I thank my father for all his advice on my project, and my mom, who helped with my poster. I also thank my brother for gathering data three years before I started school.