

Important & Noteworthy Upcoming Dates in 2010

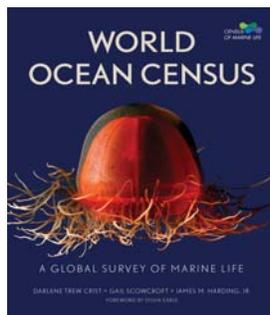
- 22 January: Japan Premier of the Galatée Film *Oceans*
- 27 January: European Premier of the Galatée Film *Oceans*
- 10 February: Synthesis Group Meeting, Goa, India
- 11-12 February: SSC Meeting, Goa, India
- 20 February – 20 May: Deeper Than Light Exhibition at Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in Washington, DC, USA
- 21-23 July: 2010 Product Review & Communications Strategy Workshop, Narragansett, RI, USA
- 4-7 October: Census 2010 – A Decade of Discovery events, London, UK

Top News!

Beyond Sunlight, the latest news release from the Census of Marine Life, received global coverage in November. TV stories were featured on the BBC, AP Television, Reuters TV, Al-Jazeera TV, and CNN. Articles blanketed the pages of newspapers throughout the world including the US, UK, Germany, Norway, Italy, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Turkey, and China. Most notably, stories were featured in the *Washington Post*, *Times of London*, *Chicago Sun-Times*, *MSN.com*, *Boston Globe*, *Belfast Telegraph*, and the *Toronto Star*. This press release was also the first to include a “creature feature” video by National Geographic, who will support our communications activities throughout 2010. Congratulations to CeDAMar, CenSeam, ChEss, COMARGE, MAR-ECO and the E&O team on a successful release! To visit the release, including video and photo footage of the deep, visit the Census website.



In the Celebes Sea, an odd transparent sea cucumber, Erypriastes, creeping forward on its many tentacles at about 2 cm per minute while sweeping detritus-rich sediment into its mouth. Photo courtesy of Larry Madin, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.



Congratulations to Darlene Crist, Gail Sowcroft, Jay Harding of the E&O Team and Sylvia Earle on **the publication of *World Ocean Census by Firefly Books***. The 256 page book highlights stories behind the Census through text and over 250 images. Setting the stage for the release of the Census in 2010, the book is an exciting synthesis product for audiences of all ages. For more information, visit the Firefly website.

Photo Credit – Firefly Books

The Census of Marine Life was **featured in the print edition of *The World in 2010--The Economist's*** annual collection of predictions for the year ahead. The article featured interviews from Ron O’Dor of the Secretariat and Andy Rosenberg of the USA NRIC and focused on Census research and its technologies. Read the full text article available here.



© The Economist

The Census of Marine Life was featured in the **December 23 *Popular Science*** article “Your Guide to the Year in Science: 2010.” The article gives a general overview of the Census and discusses the contributions made to technology and scientific knowledge by Census scientists, as well as the usefulness of Census data to marine management decision making. To read the full text article, visit the Popular Science website.

Scientific Steering Committee (SSC)



Photo Credit – Dan Costa

The Scientific Steering Committee of the Census of Marine life met in Monaco, October 10-12, to discuss the progress of the program towards the final release of the Census in 2010. The meeting focused upon reviewing the status of many upcoming synthesis products to be released and to plan for the finale events in London. During the meeting, the committee was also privileged to take part in the events surrounding an early screening of the Galatée film *Oceans*. Census scientists partnered with Galatée to provide scientific guidance for the film. A scientific symposium was held at the Musée Océanographique the night preceding the screening, and

SSC members Myriam Sibuet and Patricia Miloslavich spoke about the Census. The screening of *Oceans* was held during the Awards Ceremony of the Foundation Prince Albert II of Monaco at the Grimaldi Forum. The next SSC meeting will be held 11-12 February in Goa, India.

***Natural Gas and the Jackrabbit*, a speech given by Jesse Ausubel to the Power South Energy Cooperative in 2009, was published** in the latest version of *The Reference Shelf: Representative Speeches 2008-2009*. The collection, published by H.H. Wilson, includes notable speeches on popular topics, including the global energy crisis under which Jesse’s speech was published. Congratulations to Jesse on the publication! To see a list of speeches in the full publication, click here or to read Jesse’s speech click here.

Synthesis

The Synthesis Group met 8-9 October in Monaco, where they discussed progress on the myriad of synthesis products in the works, including the Wiley-Blackwell book edited by Alasdair McIntyre, the regional PLoS-ONE collection, articles for a *Nature* cluster, and the Census “Digest Book” by Paul Snelgrove. The Synthesis Group also worked through issues pertaining to the Decade of Discovery events in October 2010. The next Synthesis Group meeting will be on February 10, preceding the SSC meeting in Goa, India.

The 2010 presentation of scientific findings through a news conference, symposium and celebration – “Census of Marine Life 2010: A Decade of Discovery” – **is scheduled for 4-7 October in London**. Mark your calendars!

Conferences



The Census of Marine Life will hold a session at the 2010 Ocean Sciences meeting in Portland, Oregon during the week of 22-26 February. The session, titled “The Census of Marine Life: Understanding Marine Biodiversity for Better Ocean Management,” will focus on novel approaches to collecting marine life data, biological technologies ready for implementation in observing systems, data and statistical models, and results that have applications for sound ocean management. For more information, visit the Ocean Sciences

Photo Credit – Ocean Sciences

website.

Several members of the Census of Marine Life attended the Ocean Obs '09 meeting, titled “Ocean information for society: sustaining the benefits, realizing the potential,” in Venice, Italy in September 2009. Ron O’Dor chaired a community forum to seek input from the ocean observing community on possibilities in biological ocean observing in the next decade. The forum built on Dr. O’Dor’s plenary presentation and focused on the biological and technological opportunities available to the community as a result of a decade of the projects of the Census. Edward Vanden Berghe of OBIS gave a talk about the future of OBIS and was pleased to hear other speakers at the meeting refer to OBIS as an example to follow for the community. The community white paper on OBIS resulting from the meeting is available online here.

Mapping & Visualization

Pat Halpin of the Mapping & Visualization Team **represented the Census in Ottawa, Canada at the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** “expert workshop on scientific and technical guidance on the use of biogeographic classification systems and identification of marine areas beyond national jurisdiction in need of protection.” The workshop, held 29 September – 2 October, was designed to help parties in their efforts to apply CBD criteria and guidance. The M&V team has been an integral part of the Census of Marine Life’s efforts to provide the best available scientific data, tools and methods to assist the CBD in identifying ecologically or biologically significant areas. An official report of this workshop is expected to be released soon here.

Database: Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS)

OBIS has reached 21.9 million records with the addition of over 1.5 million new records from ICOMM. Other new additions are 5 new datasets (including MBARI, MARMAP, and SEAMAP-South Atlantic) from the OBIS USA RON, an update from CMarZ, and new data from CMarZ Asia.

OBIS-USA just received 126,692 records in a new data set from the Gulf of Mexico. The dataset contains 13,626 taxa—making it the second most diverse dataset in OBIS-USA! 7,587 of the taxa are unique to the Gulf of Mexico dataset alone. The new dataset, along with all the other data available in OBIS-USA can be accessed here.

Oceans Past: History of Marine Animal Populations (HMAP)

HMAP has released a **call for papers for their conference *Oceans Past III: Stories from the sea – history of marine animal populations and their exploitation***. The symposium, to be held at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland November 18-20, 2010, will reflect on the project's major achievements, look ahead and consider the future of marine environmental history and historical ecology, and consider how the knowledge assembled to date can be applied to marine resource management and conservation. Applications must be submitted by March 1, 2010. For more information, including the themes desired for papers and information on submitting, visit here.



Photo credit – www.videnskab.dk

HMAP was named as the **best Danish research project** of 2009 by the science website www.videnskab.dk of Denmark. HMAP won the prize, voted on by 4,000 readers, over ten other projects representing all areas of science. Bo Poulsen, coordinator of HMAP, accepted the award on 2 December at the Main Library in Copenhagen. Congratulations to HMAP!



Photo Credit - HMAP

Oceans Future: Future of Marine Animal Populations (FMAP)

Boris Worm and Catherine Muir, of FMAP, were recently **featured in an article on Public Servant Daily**, a British online newspaper. The article discusses the effects of ocean acidification and was inspired by the UN climate talks in Copenhagen, Denmark. In the article, Worm and Muir say “Close cooperation between scientists, policy-makers, researchers and industry is required to promote such rebuilding efforts and ensure action is taken to limit the speed and magnitude of global warming.” To read the full text article, visit the Public Servant Daily online.

Ocean Present: Realm Field Projects

Near-Shore: Natural Geography In Shore Areas (NaGISA)

A **NaGISA protocol workshop** was held at Nha Trang, Vietnam on 28-30 August 2009, hosted by Ms. PHAN Thi Kim Hong at the Institute of Oceanography, Nha Trang. Sixteen participants from institutions in Vietnam, Chile, and Japan conducted sampling at a seagrass site (ThuyTrieu, Cam Ranh) and a rocky shore site (Hon Chong, Nha Trang) and learned sampling methods based on the NaGISA protocol. The participants will plan sampling in their local sites in the near future. Lectures on polychaetes, benthic fauna in Nha Trang, and macrobacteria were also presented by Prof. Victor Ariel Gallardo.



Photo Credit – Victor Gallardo

A team of twelve students from Niceville High school ventured to Egypt to establish the first NaGISA collection site on the Red Sea. The students left on 26 December and returned on 9 January 2010 and were joined by Dr. Anne Knowlton of University of Alaska, Francois Michonneau from the University of Florida, and Dr. Edward Kimani of the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Institute. The students, along with Kimani’s team from Kenya, successfully sampled areas on the Sea with the help of Sharm el Sheikh College. The students also sampled rocky shores further into Nabq National Park on the following days. The trip marked a great success for NaGISA—creating a new sampling site and building a great collaboration with Egyptian colleagues.

NaGISA divers Brenda Konar and Rob Robbins are **featured in a new film on YouTube** that displays the sampling techniques used by NaGISA. The film, shot in Arrival Heights, Antarctica, even features a surprise appearance by a Weddel Seal! Find the film here.

Reefs: Census of Coral Reefs (CReefs)

The Australian Biological Resources Survey (ABRS) and CReefs, with support from the Great Barrier Reef Foundation, have **provided funding to five scientists** from Australian museums and other research organizations to work with the CReefs project to bring new marine life to the surface. The grants, worth collectively \$1.2 million over three years, are joined with cash and in-kind contributions from the scientists’ host institutions to make a total contribution of \$2.7 million to finding new reef life. All the award recipients will be performing research in Heron, most for repeat visits. However one award recipient, Dr Robert Adlard, is going for the first time to begin work funded by the new research grant on reef fish parasites. The news was announced by the Honourable Peter Garrett MP, Australian Minister for the Environment, Heritage, and the Arts in October.

Regional Ecosystems: Gulf of Maine Area Program (GoMA)

GoMA co-sponsored the “**Gulf of Maine Symposium— Advancing Ecosystem Research for the Future of the Gulf**” on October 6-9 in St. Andrews-by-the-Sea to discuss current knowledge about the Gulf of Maine. The symposium, attended by two hundred leading marine scientists, managers, and policy makers from the US and Canada, was held to inform participants about current objectives, constraints, and future influences on management of marine resources, share new developments in scientific knowledge in the Gulf of Maine, and identify scientific directions to meet future needs from an ecosystem-based approach. For more information on the symposium, visit the symposium website.

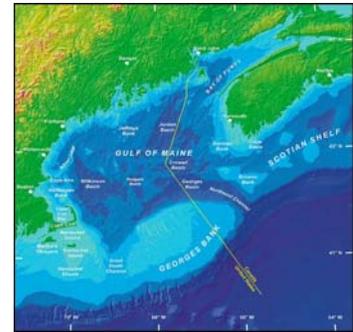


Photo Credit - GoMA

As part of the 2009 Darwin Celebration, GoMA, along with GOMMEA and The University of Southern Maine **held a student essay contest** called *Discovering our Modern Day “Darwins” in the Census of Marine Life*. The goal of the contest was to inspire high school students to pursue careers in science by exploring the fascinating work of the 2,000 men and women involved in the Census. Submissions are currently under review and should be announced on the GoMA website soon!

GoMA’s fall 2009 newsletter is available online. To see the latest issue, visit the GoMA website

Continental Shelves: Pacific Ocean Shelf Tracking (POST)



Image Source: *KQED QUEST - Some rights reserved.*

POST has successfully **tagged two dozen jumbo or Humboldt squid** (*Dosidicus gigas*) off Grays Harbor, WA. This marks the first time that the immense squid have been acoustically tagged. The tagging begins a pilot study to assess the species' suitability for acoustic tagging, and to determine the value of on-shelf tracking capability. If successful, the pilot should lead to larger future tagging efforts, helping inform fisheries managers about the potential impacts of northward-expanding jumbo squid ranges on other commercially important stocks.

Data gathered on the POST array led to the **protection of critical habitat** for the threatened Southern Distinct Population Segment of green sturgeon (*Acipenser medirostris*) on November 9. The protected zone consists of over 30,000 square kilometers of marine, estuarine and freshwater habitat, from Monterey Bay north to the Canadian border. Read the designation in its entirety here.



Photo Credit: *Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences*

Continental Margins: Continental Margin Ecosystems on a Worldwide Scale (COMARGE)



Photo Credit – *Deep Sea Research II*

COMARGE was recently **published in a special issue of Deep Sea Research II**. The special issue, titled "Deep-Sea Benthic Ecosystems of the Equatorial African Margin: The multidisciplinary BIOZAIRE Program - A Contribution to Census of Marine Life" discusses in detail the habitats that surround the West African Equatorial margin, including the areas off the Congo and Angola, specifically. The special issue was edited by COMARGE chair Myriam Sibuet and Annick Vangriesheim. To view the individual articles or download the entire issue, visit the Deep Sea Research II website.

Abyssal Plains: Census of the Diversity of Abyssal Marine Life (CeDAMar)

CeDAMar will host the **SOAP (Southern Ocean Annelid Project) Workshop on circum-Antarctic Polychaetes** from 8-12 March, 2010 in Woods Hole, MA (USA). The one-week workshop will compare material from selected families from the Weddell Sea and Ross Sea to determine whether polychaetes have circumpolar distributions or are endemic to one of the two areas. The workshop will also present an opportunity for young scientists to expand their knowledge and seek help from experienced taxonomists. For more information on the workshop, visit the CeDAMar website.

Mid-Ocean Ridges: Mid-Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem Project (MAR-ECO)

MAR-ECO recently hosted Ruth Meadows, a NOAA teacher-at-sea from Opelika, Alabama, aboard the *Henry H. Bigelow*. Meadows spent six weeks aboard the vessel as they cruised the Charlie-Gibbs fracture zone as part of a MAR-ECO cruise. “It was the most interesting thing I’ve ever done,” said Meadows of the cruise on which she saw icebergs, whales, sharks, and a myriad of other ocean life. Ruth has created a lesson plan, “Adaptations of the Deep,” for her middle school class back in Alabama and plans to use her experience to bring the deep-sea alive for kids. To read the full article on her experience, click here.

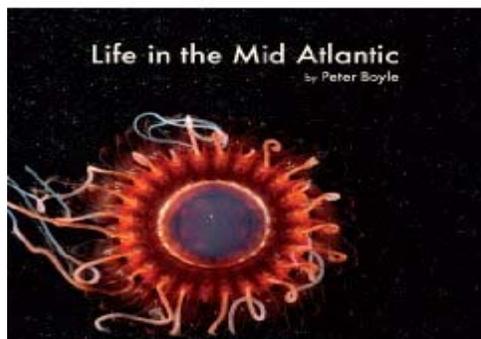


Photo Credit – Bergen Museum Press

The Census of Marine is proud to announce **the publication of “Life in the Mid Atlantic” by the late Peter Boyle** of the MAR-ECO project. The beautifully illustrated book is the account of one of MAR-ECO’s latest expeditions of discovery in the North Atlantic Ocean and the great submarine mountain range of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. Not only does the book explore the deep ocean, but serves a testament to the work of Peter Boyle who passed away in April from his battle with cancer. The book is available from Bergen Museum Press at selected museums and academic shops, as well as Amazon.co.uk

MAR-ECO met on 20-22 October in Norway for its final all-project workshop. The workshop presented an opportunity for MAR-ECO scientists to discuss results and plan for their involvement in the release of the Census of Marine Life in 2010 in London. MAR-ECO also hosted a large-scale science meeting with university and high school students. The event included four popular science discussions, live music, a slide show, and many other interactive elements. Titled “2009 A Deep Ocean Odyssey,” the event was broadcasted via the web on the MAR-ECO website for the international public. To experience the event yourself through recordings of talks, video of the slideshow, and other elements, visit MAR-ECO’s website.



Photo Credit – MAR-ECO

Seamounts: Census of Marine Life on Seamounts (CenSeam)



Photo Credit – Tom Bormman

CenSeam scientists joined the crew of the Norwegian research vessel *Dr. Fridtjof Nansen* to **investigate seamounts in the international waters of the Indian Ocean.** The voyage departed on November 11 from Reunion Island and sailed to the southwest Indian Ocean Ridge to study five seamounts located between 32°00' S and 41°00' S. The voyage was 40 days in total and culminated in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. A full blog was kept by scientists on board and can be reached by clicking here.

Vents & Seeps: Biogeography of Deep-water Chemosynthetic Ecosystems (ChEss)

Chris German, lead researcher of ChEss, led the first exploratory **cruise to search for and locate hydrothermal vents on the Cayman Rise** during October and November. The study area, also known as the Mid-Cayman Spreading Center, is one of Earth's deepest and slowest-spreading mid-ocean ridges. The NASA funded cruise, aboard Duke University Marine Laboratory's RV *Cape Hatteras*, explored the length of the 110km ultra-slow spreading ridge to prospect for new sites of hydrothermal activity. The team used the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution's new hybrid "Nereus" to sample in both AUV and ROV modes along the ridge. For a complete blog on the entire cruise, visit Chris German's blog [here](#).

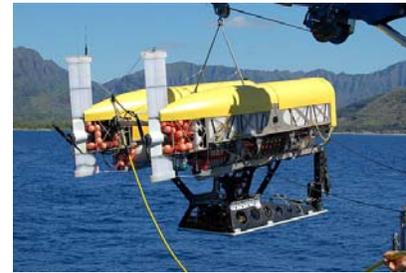


Photo by Robert Elder, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

Arctic: Arctic Ocean Diversity (ArcOD)



Photo Credit : Shawn Harper, UAF

ArcOD researchers dove under the ice of the frigid Beaufort Sea in October as part of a cruise funded by NOAA's Office of Ocean Exploration. Aboard the *USCGC Polar Sea*, ArcOD's ice team embarked on an expedition to tackle the unknowns of Arctic sea ice pressure ridges. Pressure ridges are structures made from compressed and piled up sea ice floes and can comprise as much as 50% of the Arctic sea ice volume, yet very little is known about their associated biota. ArcOD researchers set out to understand if ridges may have an important role to play as a refugium in an ever-shrinking Arctic sea ice cover.

ArcOD recently sent international zooplankton, benthos, and fish teams out in the Arctic Chukchi Sea to **survey biological communities as a part of the Russian-American Long-Term of the Arctic program**. As the Chukchi Sea and Bering Strait are thought to be particularly sensitive to climate change, establishing benchmark information about the distribution patterns of the fauna in these areas is critical for ArcOD's research. The program was made possible by NOAA and the Russian Academy of Sciences. Read more at the cruise blog [here](#).



Image courtesy Catherine Mecklenburg, University of California, Santa Barbara

ArcOD's special issue in Deep Sea Research II on the Canada Basin and Chukchi Sea findings is now available online here!

Antarctic: Census of Antarctic Marine Life (CAML)

"Into the Frozen Abyss," the documentary filmed during the International Polar Year – CAML cruise to the Ross Sea aboard the research vessel *Tangaroa*, aired on the Smithsonian Channel on December 27 at 9 pm. The 51 minute film, produced in high definition, is collaboration between Natural History New Zealand, the Smithsonian Network, and National Geographic Channel International. The film will replay often on these channels, so check your local listings!



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The South American Consortium for the Census of Antarctic Marine Life (LA CAML), along with the South American Network on Antarctic Marine Biodiversity and COMARGE, **hosted a workshop in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on 3-4 November titled "Antarctic-South American Interactions in the Marine Environment (ASAI)." The workshop represented an opportunity for scientists to exchange data and compile joint manuscripts, which will show the state of the art on potential Antarctic - South American biodiversity connections in the marine environment. This © Australia workshop allowed the gathering of available data collected either**

in Antarctica, South America or both continents, which could be relevant to understand their relationship as well. Attending were 55 researchers from 13 countries, including South, Central and North America, and Europe, who work on different marine realms (top predators, pelagic and benthic) and fields of study.

Top Predators: Tagging of Pacific Predators (TOPP)



Photo Credit - TOPP

TOPP was featured November 23rd on the NBC morning show “The Today Show.” Dr. Barbara Block was interviewed by Anne Thompson, chief environmental affairs correspondent for NBC. The interview focused on TOPP’s white shark research and their continuing collaboration with the Monterey Bay Aquarium. To watch the full interview, [click here](#).

TOPP scientists recently spent six weeks in the **Galapagos Islands for an ongoing project to tag fur seals**. The study focused on the development of the foraging and diving behavior of Galapagos sea lions in two colonies, one situated in the western part (Cabo Douglas on Fernandina) and one situated in the central part (Loberia, Floreana). On the latest round of activity, scientists focused on adult sea lion and fur seal females diving behavior to investigate seasonal differences with a special focus on one year old sea lions. 12 animals were tagged for two weeks before being recaptured to claim the tags and data. To read a full blog on this exciting project, visit TOPP’s website.



Photo Credit – Sara Maxwell, UC - Santa Cruz

The TOPP collection in PLoS is now available online. The collection currently holds six papers from TOPP scientists and others will be added as they are published! To visit the collection, [click here](#).

Zooplankton: Census of Marine Zooplankton (CMarZ)

Takumi Nonomura, of the Ocean Research Institute, University of Tokyo, has **been named as the CMarZ project researcher and Asian project manager** starting October 1, 2009. Takumi’s research will focus on the life history of calanoid copepods and management of the CMarZ database. Welcome to Takumi!



Photo Credit: CMarZ

CMarZ has collaborated with the CoML M&V team to produce a great new map displaying the **distribution of CMarZ members across the globe**. The map, attached to the left, can also be found in its full form on the CMarZ website

Microbes: International Census of Marine Microbes (ICoMM)

Several scientists from the International Census of Microbes **participated in the 11th annual Symposium on Aquatic Ecology (SAME)** in Piran, Slovenia from 30 August to 4 September. The symposium is designed to embrace different aspects of research in aquatic microbial ecology and offer opportunities to share information among ecologists, molecular biologists, biochemists, and all those in related areas. Talks from ICoMM scientists at the meeting included “Analysis Of Diversity Of Coastal Microbial Mats Using 454 Technology” by Henk Bolhuis and Lucas J. Stal and a keynote address entitled “Spatial And Temporal Variation Of Microbial Life In The Seabed – Deciphering The Role Of The Environment” by Antje Boetius. For more information on the symposium, [click here](#).

National and Regional Activities

Japan

The Asia-Pacific Heads of Research Councils (ASIAHORCs), a group comprised of ten heads or representatives of research councils and funding institutions in Asia and charged with advancing scientific research in Asia, **held its first joint symposium – “Asia Biodiversity – Characteristics, Conservation, and Sustainable Use.”** The workshop, held in July in Japan, convened 200 participants from the region to present current scientific research on biodiversity in Asia as well as discuss areas for potential development. CoML participation at the event included Yoshihisa Shirayama, of NaGISA, serving on the organizing committee and Dr. Chandromohan of the Indian Ocean NRIC giving a key note presentation. For more information on the event, visit the ASIAHORCs website.

Australia

The Australian NRIC has gone live with their new website, www.coml.org.au. The new site is full of news stories and upcoming events, information about the projects within Australia, and a brilliant photo gallery.



Canada

CoML scientists from the Canadian NRIC recently **participated in the Network Meeting of the Canadian Healthy Oceans Network (CHONE)**, held in Montreal in October. The meeting featured presentations about the research projects within the three research themes of CHONE: marine biodiversity, ecosystem function, and population connectivity. For more information on the CHONE network, visit the CHONE website.



Photo by Don Bowen, Bedford Institute of Oceanography, DFO

The Ocean Tracking Network recently released 15 grey seal “Bioprobes” on Sable Island in the middle of its Atlantic technology proving grounds. These seals carry a satellite tag on its head to record its location and the oceanographic conditions where it dives, as well as an acoustic transmitter/receiver at the other end. The transmitters will be recorded as they pass over the completed sections of the Halifax and Cabot Strait permanent monitoring curtains and the receivers will detect approaches to other tagged animals in the region closer than about 0.5km. If the seals capture tagged prey

there should be many hours of records as the prey are digested. Recent projects have tagged Atlantic salmon, bluefin tuna and cod, all expected to cross curtains and travel where interactions with seals are possible. A 90% recovery rate of tags over 10 years promises good prospects for reintegration of time-stamped acoustic detections with known locations and conditions. This is the first test of the Atlantic Arena concept, which promises to provide powerful new tools for understanding ecosystem interactions in the open ocean, useful for ecosystem based management. For more information see the OTN website.

China

J.Y. Lui, member of the China NRIC and a professor at the Chinese Institute of Oceanology, has **published “Checklist of Marine Biota of China Seas” in English.** The checklist systematically records the scientific names and geographic distributions of 22,629 species from 46 major phyla in the China Seas and world oceans. The checklist, now available in Chinese and English, is a convenient tool for international academic exchange. For more information or to purchase the checklist, [click here](#).

Indian Ocean

The Indian Ocean NRIC and Indian OBIS were recently featured in a full-length article in the Mint, an Indian newspaper reaching over 1.5 million readers per day. The article, published 30 October, celebrates the Indian Ocean NRIC's contribution to CoML as a whole including the 30+ species discovered off the coasts of India. The article highlights OBIS' ability to show species distribution off the coast of India. Mohideen Wafar, Chair of the Indian Ocean NRIC says "As a result of the Census many new technologies are now available to Indian researchers. It's been a great way of synthesizing people." Click here for the full text article as well as a photo gallery of CoML scientists in action and audio commentary with Wafar.

Indonesia

On May 10th, the first cruise of the ATSEA: Arafura and Timor Seas Ecosystems Action program will launch. ATSEA will develop a Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis to assess the current state of the environment and resources in the Arafura and Timor Seas, including pressures, threats and impacts from over-exploitation and global climate change. This will lay the basis for the development and agreement on a multi-lateral Strategic Action Program that will lead to enhanced regional cooperation between Australia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Timor Leste, for the sustainable management of their shared seas. More details will become available as the cruise nears!



Photo Credit – Melissa Brodeur

USA

The U.S. National Committee (USNC) recently held its fall meeting from September 21-23, 2009 in Honolulu, Hawaii. The meeting's main discussions focused on the ongoing international and U.S. synthesis activities, the long term view of CoML and its legacies and the USNC's continued interactions with government and agency activities, including the recent Interim Report of the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force. Members of the CoML Census

of Coral Reef Ecosystems (CReefs) project presented on their research, their use of Autonomous Reef Monitoring Structures (ARMS) and their plans for synthesis products that will contribute to

the CoML celebration events in October 2010. On September 23rd, the USNC members received a tour of the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology on Coconut Island, beginning with an informative stop at the Marine Mammal Research Program Lab where research is conducted on dolphin and whale bioacoustics and their response to anthropogenic noise. The USNC will meet again in April 2010 at the Consortium for Ocean Leadership offices in Washington, D.C.

OBIS-USA, the U.S. regional node of the international Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS) was **featured in the cover story of the Fall 2009 issue of Access**, the quarterly newsletter of the National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII). NBII hosts OBIS-USA, the "one-stop source for biogeographic data collected from U.S. waters and oceanic regions." The article, 'NBII Marine Data and Functionality Increase Dramatically in OBIS-USA' can be read online here.

USNC Member, **Dr. Sylvia Earle made an appearance on the Colbert Report** on October 13, 2009. Dr. Earle stressed the importance on individual actions to protect and restore our ocean. She also discussed her new book *The World is Blue: How Our Fate and the Ocean's Are One*. To see the clip, visit the Colbert website.



© National Geographic

South America

The Census of Marine Life was recently **featured in an article in the Argentina news paper *Perfil***. The article profiled Diego Rodriguez and his work in South America as well as the Census as a whole program. The article discusses the Census' work in discovering new species as well as Census cross project efforts in the Antarctic. Rodriguez says "Thanks to the Census we have identified weak areas in Antarctica and became aware of what areas should be guarded." *Perfil* is available online in Spanish and the full article can be read by clicking [here](#).

Barcode of Life

CoML scientists from ArcOD and MarBOL recently **published a paper in BMC Genomics**—an open access journal dedicated to genome-scale analysis, functional genomics, and proteomics. The paper, titled "Zooplankton diversity analysis through single-gene sequencing of a community Sample" analyzed a sample taken from a depth of 721 meters off the coast of Micronesia. Using the single-gene zooplankton community analysis, the sample was found to contain 1,336 mitochondrial *COI* gene sequences with an estimated 189 species of zooplankton. This study has given hope that single-gene zooplankton community analysis will be a powerful tool for estimating the species richness of zooplankton communities. For the full text article, click [here](#).

The Consortium for the Barcode of Life held the Third International Barcode of Life Conference in November in Mexico City. The conference included three days of pre-conference workshops, including two full-day short courses introducing participants to lab protocols of DNA barcoding as well as the management and analysis of barcode data. The conference then focused on lessons learned from the last 5 years and case studies on the application of barcoding to various technical fields. To see more information about the conference, visit the website [here](#).

Encyclopedia of Life

The Encyclopedia of Life was featured as a category on the October 28 episode of the US television show Jeopardy! The category featured clues on several different species including arctic ground squirrels, protozoa, and lizards! Check out the episode [here](#)!

Encyclopedia of Life now has **barcoding information on the species page of over 5000 species!** The information, provided by a partnership with Barcode of Life Data Systems, can be found under biology and genetics sections of the pages. For an example, see the Bluespot gray mullet (*valamugil seheli*) page on EoL.

SCOR

The Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research **held its latest Executive Committee meeting** in Beijing, China on 20 October 2009. The meeting was held in China in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the China committee joining SCOR. The meeting reviewed the progress of all SCOR activities and approved two proposals for new working groups-- SCOR/World Climate Research Programme/International Association for the Physical Sciences of the Ocean Working Group 136 on Climatic Importance of the Greater Agulhas System and SCOR WG 137 on Patterns of Phytoplankton Dynamics in Coastal Ecosystems: Comparative Analysis of Time Series Observation.



Photo Credit – SCOR

More information on the meeting and other stories are available in the SCOR November newsletter [here](#)

Funding & Employment Announcements

Information regarding Calls for Proposals and other opportunities (jobs, fellowships, post-docs, etc.) can be found at the CoML Secretariat website, under "**Announcements of Opportunity**."

Calendar of Upcoming Events

This is a snapshot of upcoming events relevant for the Census of Marine Life. Please view the full calendar online.

January

- 11 UNESCO Year of Biodiversity Launch – Berlin, Germany
- 15 Japanese Premier of *Oceans* the film
- 27 European Premier of *Oceans* the film, Paris, France

February

- 10 Synthesis Group Meeting – Goa, India
- 11-12 CoML SSC Meeting – Goa, India
- 20 Deeper than Light Exhibition begins at Museum of Nation History, Washington DC
- 22-23 Ocean Sciences Meeting – Portland, Oregon

March

- 18-22 CeDAMar Workshop on Southern Ocean biodiversity and biogeography at the DZMB
Wilhelmshaven
- 18-19 POST Management Board Meeting – Washington, DC