

## A Decade of Discovery!



The Census of Marine Life released the results of ten years of research at the Decade of Discovery events in London, UK 4-6 October 2010. The 3-day program included many opportunities for the public and Census community alike to hear results from the ten years of research. A press conference held at the Royal Institution of Great Britain officially announced the release of the Census and presented highlights of the research to the global media. The Census release produced news stories across all types of media, including radio, television, newspaper, magazine, and the web. Most notably, the Census covered the front pages of the *Wall Street Journal* and the *Daily Telegraph*, and was featured in

the *New York Times*, *Popular Science*, and *Al Jazeera*. Census Scientists Patricia Miloslavich and Paul Snelgrove gave in-person interviews with reporters at the BBC in London.

With a flurry of media attention, the excitement continued into the J. Frederick Grassle Science Symposium held at the Royal Society in London. The symposium gave each of the Census projects and NRICs an opportunity to present to their peers the most outstanding results of their research throughout their time with the Census. The symposium also included outstanding presentations by several artists from around the world who specialize in sculpting, painting, film, music, and even cartoons! The

events closed on the final evening with a moment to reflect and celebrate the previous decade during an event at the Natural History Museum. The night included many congratulations and thankful toasts to those who made the Census a success and premiered the CoML-inspired song, "Look to the Sea."

On the 7 of October, two half day sessions were held with the SSC and Project and NRIC leaders to discuss the future of the Census and priorities for future research.

For more information on the events, including videos and copies of presentations from the events, visit the [CoML portal](#).

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Top News! 1-2

Interactive 2

OBIS 3

Census &  
Policy 3

Census  
Projects 4

Beyond  
2010 4-5

Calendar 5

## Census Named a Top Idea of 2010 by The New York Times

The Census of Marine Life was named one of the top ideas from 2010 by the *New York Times Magazine*. According to Ron O'Dor who was interviewed for the piece, "There may be nothing new under the sun, but there's a lot of weird stuff in the water. Way more than we thought." The article, published in December, highlighted the Census' multi-disciplinary approach to research, including the use of

"everything from fancy submersibles to old seafood restaurant menus." The article also highlighted the recent discovery of the spiny lobster, *Palinurus barbara*, that was discovered off the coast of Madagascar and described by Census scientists in South Africa. The article even included a cheeky photo of the spiny lobster being boiled in a pot (shown right). The article is available in full text [by clicking here](#).



Photo Illustration by Mauricio Alejo. Prop Stylist: Kristy Greene



*Click here to  
view the  
CoML Music  
Video for  
"Look to the  
Sea"*



Niceville High Student Caitlin Elsesser gives an interview for the NaGISA video.

## Census in Discover and Science Magazines

The Census of Marine Life was named one of the 100 Top Stories of 2010 by *Discover* Magazine. [The article highlighted](#) the work of the Census on 540 international expeditions to coral reefs, hydrothermal vents, seamounts, and the open ocean. Microbes were highlighted as well as the discovery of potentially over 6,000 new non-microbial species. The article displayed some of the fantastic photography of Census scientists, such as the photo at right of an polychaete worm found on a whale carcass near Japan.

The release of the Census of Marine Life was also featured in [an article](#) in *Science* Magazine as one of the "Breakthroughs of the Year" for the month of October 2010.



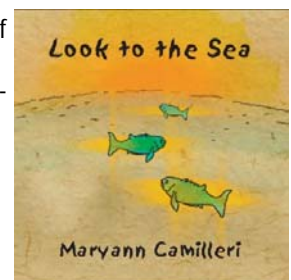
Photo Credit: Yoshihiro Fujiwara (JAMSTEC)

## Census Short Films

Randy Kochevar of the TOPP project has produced a series of short films on the Census of Marine Life. The first film, "A Journey Through Habitats" gives the viewer a peak into the various ocean realms explored by Census scientists. A second film, "Forces of Change" explores the impact on the oceans of various external factors, especially the growing use and interaction of humans. The Census could not have been completed without the use and development of novel technologies, and the film "Tools and Technologies" explains the various technologies and their uses in the Census. The films are a great way to share with others the work of the Census, and are available in multiple languages on the [Census Portal here](#).

## Census of Marine Life Song & Music Video

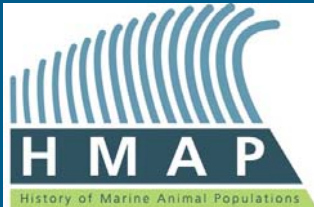
Song writer Mary-Ann Camilleri has written a song inspired by the Census of Marine Life titled "Look to the Sea." The song was recorded by two well known artists, Jerry Harrison, formerly of the Talking Heads, and David Denison, who worked closely with Jerry Garcia. The artists also worked closely with the National Geographic Television/Digital Studio team to produce a music video to accompany the song. To view the video and learn more about the song, click the link in the sidebar at left!



## Niceville Students Featured in Short Videos

The students from Niceville High School in Florida, USA have created a series of videos that showcases their involvement with the NaGISA project. The videos feature interviews from the Niceville High teacher Rick Hernandez and several of his students who are participating in sampling activities that contribute to NaGISA. The students were involved with a sampling effort that occurred shortly before the Deep Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, providing great data to measure the effects of the spill on near-shore marine life. To view the videos, [click here](#).

OBIS now has  
30 Million  
Records!



## Ocean Biogeographic Information System

OBIS has been updated in November with 16 new datasets—bringing the total number of records to almost 30 million! This new update included new datasets from NOAA's Biogeography Branch that spatially characterized corals and sponges in the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico, as well as datasets from SCARMARBIN that provide insight into dispersal characteristics and gene flow between Antarctic invertebrate species. In total, OBIS now contains records from 887 datasets, including 118,00 species and 31,000 genera! For more information on OBIS and its updates, [visit the website here](#).

## HMAP Hold Oceans Past III Conference, Featured in Wired Magazine

The History of Marine Animal Populations project was featured in November issue of *WIRED* magazine, a monthly publication that covers current and future trends in technology and how they are shaping business, entertainment, communications, science, and politics. The article featured the work of HMAP scientists to explore the change in fish community populations in the Adriatic Sea between 1818 and 2000 from a recently published article in PLoS-ONE. HMAP scientists used books and catch records recovered in the libraries and museums of six major European cities to fill in the gaps in knowledge of the fish populations for the previous two centuries. [Click here to read the article in WIRED](#) or [here to view the paper in PLoS-ONE](#).

The HMAP program also held the Oceans Past III Conference at Trinity College in Dublin College in November. The Oceans Past III Conference gave HMAP scientists an opportunity to present their major scientific achievements, as well as look ahead to the future of marine environmental history and ecology and consider how the knowledge assembled to date can be applied to marine resource management and conservation. To find more information and view video from the meeting, [visit the website here](#).

## INDEEP Holds First Meeting

The International Network for the Scientific Investigation of Deep-Sea Ecosystems (INDEEP) held its first meeting in New Orleans, USA in December. INDEEP organizers announced at the beginning of the meeting that Foundation Total has committed to fund the project for a period of 3 years. 41 participants from 16 different countries attended the kick-off meeting and discussed the future of the program, specifically the research priorities in the deep-sea that are currently most important to scientists. A full report on the meeting is available on the [new INDEEP website here!](#)

## Census Participates in COP10

The Census of Marine Life sponsored a side event October 22 at the UN Convention on Biological Diversity Conference (CBD) of the Parties 10 (COP10) in Nagoya, Japan. The event summarized the research results of the 2000-2010 Census of Marine Life, and discussed its relationship and potential importance to the CBD. Yoshihisa Shirayama, a member of the Scientific Steering Committee, convened the event, and participants gave presentations on the overall findings of the Census, the applications of the Census for the CBD, and the utility of the Ocean Biogeographic Information System. Discussion after the presentations was lively, and included questions on how to fund future work, remaining gaps in data under the Census, and how the Census can be used to inform on human impacts on marine biodiversity. Click to see the [full report](#) and [video](#) from the meeting.



## Census NRICs Hold Symposia

**India:** The Indian National Committee held a symposium to highlight and explore the findings of the Census of Marine Life and the contribution of Indian colleagues to this research. The symposium was held in conjunction with the Symposium on Indian Ocean Marine Living Resources in Kochi, India on 2-3 December. SSC members Ian Poiner, Patricia Miloslavich, and D. Chandromohan also held a special afternoon of discussions regarding the future of marine biodiversity in India. For more information on the symposium, [visit the IndMLR website here](#).

**Canada:** The Canadian NRIC held a workshop in Ottawa on 10-11 January 2011. The workshop brought together Canadian participants and leaders of Census projects and representatives from Canadian federal agencies to share results on the first Census of Marine Life, updates on ongoing Canadian marine biodiversity programs (e.g., CHONE, OTN, VENUS, and NEPTUNE), and information on agency activities related to marine biodiversity. Following the briefings, the group discussed priorities for "what's next" for marine biodiversity research in Canada. A report will be available soon. The meeting generated some Canadian press, for example, [this article in CBC news online](#).

**Chile:** A symposium to convey and promote the Census of Marine Life to the Chilean science community was held on 29-30 November in Santiago, Chile. The symposium was organized by Victor Ariel Gallardo of the Scientific Steering Committee and the South American NRIC. During the symposium, Census participants from Chile presented results and highlights of their research. International Census participants from many of the field projects also attended the meeting and presented highlights of their research. The symposium also presented an opportunity for the participants to discuss the need for observing systems and ongoing work in the Antarctic, both of which have proven to be of high priority and interest to Chile. For more information on the symposium, [visit the website here](#).

Stay tuned for more information on upcoming symposia in Indonesia, Australia, Venezuela, and other countries!

## Synthesis Update



The Census of Marine Life continues to publish science in a variety of publications. CMarZ has published a new special issue in *Deep Sea Research II* titled "[Species Diversity of Marine Zooplankton](#)." Census papers are also being continually added to many of the 8 collections in the online publication *PLoS-ONE*. To visit the papers included in the Census collections, [click here!](#)

Following in the footsteps of PLoS-ONE, Nature Publishing Group has announced the launch of Scientific Reports—a new online, open-access journal that will publish research covering the natural sciences (biology, chemistry, earth sciences, and physics). The journal is currently accepting submissions and plans to publish the first articles in June 2011. For more information, visit the *Scientific Reports* website.

Don't forget the Census also has a bibliographic database in which you can search for any paper ever published by a Census scientist! [Click here to visit the database](#).

## Evaluation of the Census of Marine Life

The Census of Marine Life will be evaluated as a program by both the Scientific Steering Committee and David Penman, an external consultant specializing in the governance and strategic development of environmental research. The SSC will hold a meeting in Washington, DC on January 25-26, 2011 to evaluate many of the aspects of the Census, from the governance of the program to the importance of the Education and Outreach efforts. The SSC hopes to produce a publication from the meeting discussing the evaluation and will also develop a final report that will be submitted to the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. David Penman is simultaneously working on an external evaluation of the program for the Sloan Foundation and has already begun interviewing many of the Project leaders, NRIC leaders, members of the SSC, and Secretariat staff.

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