

What's New with CoML?
August 2002

- **POST.** On 20 August, David Welch and George Boehlert of the POST project held a symposium on Pacific Ocean Animal Tracking at the 2002 American Fisheries Conference in Baltimore, Maryland. They reported on the effectiveness of the Pacific Ocean Tracking & Evaluation Network (POTENT) and the successful preliminary results of the CoML proof-of-concept field project. Following the symposium, an article, "Is that Salmon I hear?," appeared in [ScienceNow](#).
- **TOPP.** The Office of Naval Research issued a Public Release about the TOPP project (see http://www.eurekaalert.org/pub_releases/2002-09/oonr-ttg090302.php). An article about TOPP entitled 'Census of Marine Migration Launched to Gauge Fish Stocks' appeared in the 22 August issue of Nature (page 807) by Rex Dalton. Those with online subscriptions may view it at <http://www.nature.com/>. Another article by Jeff Wheelright is expected to appear in the October issue of Smithsonian.
- **ChEss.** Eva Ramirez-Llodra is developing a new ChEss project website at <http://www.soc.soton.ac.uk/chess/>. Visit this site for the latest information.
- **Gulf of Maine.** There have been a number of recent advances in this field project. For more information, see the updated website at <http://www.whoi.edu/gomcensus>.
- **HMAP.** The 2002 international HMAP summer school ran from 5-12 August and was attended by 33 students from 10 countries. Following the summer school on 13-15 August, students and project leaders presented the current findings of the seven ongoing HMAP projects around the world. All projects reported interesting results and are gearing up for Phase III of the program. Three new projects were also proposed in the Wadden Sea, Southeast Asia and the Mediterranean.
- **OBIS.** OBIS will be holding two meetings in Washington DC during the first week of September. On 3-5 September, the CoML-NOPP-funded database project leaders and NSF-funded Partnerships for Enhancing Expertise in Taxonomy (PEET) post-docs will meet to discuss future funding and a 5-year plan to move OBIS forward in the U.S. Following this workshop, the International Committee will hold its 3rd meeting on 5-6 September. The OBIS portal has a new, improved look and navigability! Many of the pages are still under construction, but check it out at <http://www.iobis.org/>.
- **SSC.** The SSC meeting in Qingdao will be held 19-20 October in conjunction with the GLOBEC and PICES meetings. The three organizations will host a joint reception on the evening of 19 October. The SSC meeting will be held at the Hai Tian Hotel; members should be sure to inform the Secretariat of the dates they plan to be in Qingdao and which meetings they will attend. Ian Poiner will host

the winter 2003 SSC meeting, currently scheduled for 24-25 January, in Hobart, Tasmania in conjunction with POGO IV (22-24 January).

- **Europe.** On 20 September, SSC member Carlo Heip will host a workshop at the Royal Academy of Arts and Sciences in Amsterdam to discuss the further implementation of CoML in Europe and the establishment of a European regional committee.
- **Ocean Exploration.** The NOAA Office of Exploration has funded four Census of Marine Life 'Explorations'. Two went underway this summer: Biodiversity of Bear Seamount and Vicinity, surveying life at the New England Seamounts; and Marine Nekton as Ocean Explorers, which uses electronic tags to examine migratory activity of humpback whales. Two more will be launched in late winter to spring 2003. More information on these projects should be posted soon at <http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/>.
- **ICES.** CoML will host a Theme Session at the ICES centenary and annual science conference on 1-2 October. Due to the overwhelming interest in this symposium, we have been given eight hours for presentations! The sessions will begin on the evening of Tuesday, 1 October with talks on OBIS and HMAP. On Wednesday, 2 October, presentations will cover MAR-ECO and other CoML related Fieldwork (morning), Fisheries Impact on Biodiversity (afternoon), and CoML Future, Synthesis and Prediction (evening) Those of you attending the conference should also be sure to visit the CoML display in the exhibit area.