

What's New with CoML?
December 2002

- **SSC.** The SSC is pleased to welcome Dr. Victor Ariel Gallardo of Chile as its newest member. Victor was the lead organizer of the successful South American Biodiversity Workshop, which was held in Concepcion in October. His scientific expertise is in benthos.

The SSC will have a big agenda for the 20-21 January meeting in Hobart (immediately preceding a 22-24 POGO meeting also hosted by CSIRO). SSC member Ian Poiner is exploring scheduling visits with Australian government officials after, and Dennis Gordon has offered to host some members to discuss CoML and OBIS with representatives from the New Zealand Ministries in Wellington. So please be sure to inform the Secretariat as soon as possible whether you will be able to attend any (and which) of these events after the meeting. Please also provide us with your travel schedule, so that we may arrange your accommodation accordingly.

The SSC will meet 21-22 June in Southampton (UK) and 24-25 October in Washington DC (*immediately following the public launch on 23 October*).

- **Public Launch.** The CoML Public Launch will take place 23 October 2003 in Washington DC. Suggestions for keynote speaker and panel discussion topics and participants are still welcome. For the success of the launch, it is important to have as many members of our international community present in Washington, so we ask that the various groups and project committees organize your own meetings in conjunction with the launch. We also welcome any opportunity to link to scientists in the field, so if any of you will be in the field during that time, let us know!
- **OBIS.** The OBIS IC met 25-27 November, in Brussels, in conjunction with a symposium on the Colour of Ocean Data. A report from that meeting will be available soon. In response to a request from the U.S. National Oceanographic Partnership Program, a draft 5-Year plan for development of OBIS within the U.S. has been prepared and is being circulated for comment.

At the Canadian National Workshop on Marine Biodiversity for the CoML held in Nova Scotia in March 2002, molecular biologist Paul Hebert debuted a dramatic concept for creating a short DNA "Barcode" for every animal species. The concept is fast gaining momentum, as indicated by an excellent story in the [3 January Economist](#) magazine. The DNA Barcodes could become a key genetic dimension of OBIS. An international conference to vet the idea will take place 9-12 March at the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in New York; several CoML researchers will attend.

- **HMAP.** The HMAP program has been awarded core funding to continue to Phase III. Plans include increased public education and outreach efforts, the

establishment of new field studies and the conclusion of existing studies.
Congratulations to the HMAP teams for their continued success.

Field Projects

- **MAR-ECO.** A report from this past summer's expedition to Bear Seamount is available at the MAR-ECO website. The cruise objectives were to explore and collect samples of the biodiversity around the seamount and to collect information on the distributional relationship between cetaceans, particularly beaked whales and sperm whales, oceanographic features, and potential prey. Read the report at <http://www.mar-eco.no/>. MAR-ECO continues to explore enhancing Russian participation in the project. Negotiations are underway for possible dives to the Mid-Atlantic Ridge by the Russian Mir submersibles from the research vessel Acad. Keldysh in June of 2003.
- **ChEss.** The ChEss website (www.soc.soton.ac.uk/chess/index.html) is now available in 4 languages (French, Spanish, Portuguese and English)! The ChEss steering committee will meet at Scripps in California on 16-17 January 2003. A "virtual cruise" online is planned to accompany the March ROV sea-trials in the Bahamas. By the August ROV science-trials, this will be fully active and accessible by the public and school groups. The ChEss team will co-host a workshop with Ridge2000, Ocean Exploration and InterRidge on the Biogeography and Biodiversity of Chemosynthetic Ecosystems. This workshop will be held 16-18 June 2003 at Southampton Oceanography Centre, prior to the SSC meeting. Click [here](#) for more information.
- **Gulf of Maine.** The Gulf of Maine team has won funding for several of its core activities for the next 3 years. The GoM plan includes field study proposals, development of an electronic dynamic atlas, and assistance for the HMAP studies in the Gulf of Maine. Lew Incze will present the Gulf of Maine project at the SCOR-IGBP OCEANS meeting in January in Paris.
- **TOPP.** The very cool new TOPP website is up and running. Check it out at <http://www.toppcensus.org/>. An article on TOPP and CoML is featured in the January issue of [Smithsonian magazine](#).
- **NaGISA.** 2002 was a very successful year for NaGISA. In addition to beginning field work in several of the Japan and southeast Asian sites, additional funding established the Alaska center at the University of Fairbanks, led by Brenda Konar and Katrin Iken. The Alaska center has also begun preliminary field work and will lead the latitudinal gradients. Yoshihisa Shirayama will continue to lead longitudinal gradients at the Japan center at Seto Marine Biological Laboratory. The program has expanded greatly, and in the coming year hopes to include the West Coast of Canada and the U.S. and both coasts of South America.
- **New Field Projects.** The New Year hopes to see the commencement of several new global field projects. As many field projects have been, these will be kick-

started with large workshops focused on the Known, Unknown and Unknowable. Proposals currently under development include Seamounts and Canyons (led by Karen Stocks of UCSD) and Abyssal Plains (led by David Billet of SOC), probably involving a joint meeting in Oregon on 22-23 August; and on the Bering Sea and Arctic Ocean (Katrin Iken and Brenda Konar) involving an April meeting in either Vladivostok or Alaska.

Integrative and Cross-Cutting Activities

- **Future of Marine Animal Populations (FMAP).** The FMAP team led by Ransom Myers (Dalhousie), Gunnar Stefansson (U. of Iceland), and Hiroyuki Matsuda (U. of Tokyo) made a major revision of their proposal for the initial 2-year program of FMAP in response to many comments received on their autumn 2002 draft. The revised proposal is now circulating for comment, and it is expected that a final version will be agreed upon following discussions at the Hobart SSC meeting. Anyone wishing to comment on the present draft should contact the CoML secretariat.
- **Outreach and Education.** The URI Office of Marine Programs will hold the first outreach and education planning meeting on 13-14 January 2003. The URI team will meet with representatives from the Secretariat and the CoML components and projects to discuss activities over the next year, including the public launch.
- **Integrative activities: The Known, Unknown, Unknowable (KUU).** On 7-9 December, Nancy Knowlton, Enric Sala and Jeremy Jackson of Scripps Institute of Oceanography in La Jolla, CA held the first of three annual international workshops on what is Known, Unknown and Unknowable about Marine Biodiversity. This workshop covered the Present. A report of this conference will be available soon.

National and Regional Activities

- **USA.** The members of the U.S. National Committee for CoML have been announced. They include:
Daphne Fautin (*Chair*), University of Kansas, KS
Sylvia Earle, Conservation International, DC
Daniel Finamore, Peabody-Essex Museum, MA
Tom Fry, National Ocean Industries Association, DC
Terry Garcia, National Geographic Society, DC
Nancy Knowlton, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, CA
Clarence Pautzke, North Pacific Research Board, AK
Shirley Pomponi, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution, FL
Michael Roman, University of Maryland, MD
Paul Sandifer, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, SC
Jerry Schubel, Aquarium of the Pacific, CA
Bill Shedd, President, American Fishing Tackle Company, CA

More members may be added as necessary. They held their first meeting 10-11 December at Scripps Institute of Oceanography, at which they agreed to several initial priorities, including OBIS, biological components to integrated ocean observing system, and outreach to the funding and scientific communities, and discussed ideas for future components. They plan to hold a major workshop mid-Summer 2003.

- **Canada.** The Canadian Center for Marine Biodiversity located at Bedford Institute held an advisory committee meeting 17 December to review progress and comment on the science plan *The Diversity of Life in Canada's Three Oceans*. Jesse Ausubel attended. Canadian progress during the past year has been especially impressive in the domain of mapping of marine biodiversity, including GIS capabilities for OBIS.
- **Indian Ocean.** Shubha Sathyendranath of the Partnership for Observation of the Global Oceans (POGO) has been facilitating the development of a biodiversity workshop proposal for the Indian Ocean. POGO was a co-sponsor for the very successful South American biodiversity workshop.
- **Caribbean.** Eduardo Klein (Universidad Simon Bolivar, and one of the participants in the CoML October 2002 South America meeting in Concepcion) attended the December 2002 meeting of CARICOMP (Caribbean Coastal Marine Productivity Program) in Grand Cayman. Following the Chile experience, members of the CARICOMP network expect to propose a workshop, as soon as June-July 2003, to review the status of marine life in the Caribbean Region (the know, the unknown and the unknowable), with the publication of papers in a regional journal (international peer reviewed), and in the same workshop develop draft proposals for the CoML and for a regional committee.
- **Russia.** The next SCOR Executive Committee meeting will be held 15-19 September 2003 in Moscow. There will be a CoML session on the 19th. More details to come.

Requests for Proposals

- **NSF – All Species – Sloan.** The ALL Species Foundation, the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, and the National Science Foundation propose to fund 2-4 all-biota inventories of major taxa, to demonstrate the feasibility of accomplishing global surveys within reasonable time frames. The deadline for proposals is January 10, 2003.
- **Ocean Exploration.** The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of Exploration has issued an Announcement of Opportunity. Pre-proposals were due 16 December 2002. Full Proposal Deadline: 29 January 2003. The full Announcement can be found at the Office of Exploration website.

- **North Pacific Research Board.** The North Pacific Research Board (NPRB) has announced a \$14M request for proposals focusing on research related to fisheries or marine ecosystems in the North Pacific Ocean (Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands, Gulf of Alaska and adjacent waters). Proposals may include retrospective studies, field studies, observational systems or modeling efforts and are due 5:00 PM Alaska Time on 10 January 2003.