

What's New with CoML?
January 2002

- Meeting with the Dutch scientific community. The CoML will host an evening reception at the Leiden Museum on Tuesday, 19 February 2002. More details will be available soon.
- Leiden SSC Meeting. Documents for the Leiden SSC meeting will be posted beginning 1 February 2002. Keep checking for updated material.
- Vents & Seeps project. Paul Tyler of the Southampton Oceanography Centre (UK) has agreed to lead the ChEss planning phase proposal development. The plan will be ready for discussion in Leiden.
- Near-shore project. The NAGISA (formerly known as DIWPA) project now has a detailed plan for its initial phase, to be discussed in Leiden. The Gulf Ecosystem Monitoring program in Alaska has expressed interest in developing NAGISA sites, and extending the project along a longitudinal as well as latitudinal gradient.
- MAR-ECO. An article on the MAR-ECO project appeared in the December 2001 issue of the International Council for Exploration of the Sea (ICES) newsletter. See it online at <http://www.ices.dk/newslet/ices38.pdf> (Pages 12-13).
- Gulf of Maine. A meeting took place 9 January in Boston focused on “how to make it happen.” Participants included former NOAA administrator James Baker. The group agreed we still have a long way to go from the good component research projects to an integrated, viable plan.
- Media coverage. The Census of Marine Life and related projects appeared in news articles in late December and early January in several major North American newspapers, including those in Vancouver, San Francisco, and New York. Rex Dalton of Nature magazine is working on story on POST & TOPP. Jeff Wheelwright is working on an article for Smithsonian magazine. See the CoML web site for links to some of the articles.
- Education and outreach. Following the October guidance of the SSC, Sloan declined the New England Aquarium proposal for a “Center” on education and outreach. However, Jerry Schubel, director of the NEAq, became emeritus on 1 January, and he himself is now working closely with the CoML to develop a sound education and outreach strategy. Jerry is visiting the leaders of the field programs, to stimulate them, develop common themes, and identify shared needs.
- European participation. The Secretariat submitted a renewal proposal to the Niarchos Foundation to extend its support for building European participation in the CoML.

- World Summit on Sustainable Development (Rio + 10). Jesse and Cynthia have been working to gain interest in the US State Department for the CoML for the September 2002 conference. They welcome and encourage similar efforts elsewhere.
- Food and Agriculture Organization. As anticipated, the CoML has become one of the sponsors of the FAO consultation in Rome 25-28 March to improve the FAO's annual report on The State of Fisheries and Aquaculture. Jesse will attend 27-28 March. If others are interested, let us know.

South American Marine Biodiversity workshop. The revised proposal submitted by POGO and the U. of Concepcion (Chile) was accepted. Victor Gallardo, Shubha Sathyendranath (POGO), and Ron O'Dor are taking the lead on the program, which will occur in late 2002.

Offshore Oil and Gas Industry. Fred Grassle attended a meeting in London in early January, further developing relations with the industry and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre.

Conservation International. Fred has joined an advisory board for CI, a key player in "hot spot" research and advocacy.

OBIS. The OBIS International Portal is nearly ready to go public. See <http://www.iobis.org>. The US National Research Council is nearing a proposal to help define US goals and users interests for OBIS; we hope to review this proposal in Leiden, and see it has a model for other "regional" OBIS meetings.

National/regional committees. The Canadian national meeting will take place in Nova Scotia 26-28 February. The first Japanese meeting will take place 31 March. CORE is soliciting names for the US National Committee.

Secretariat. As promised in Mar del Plata, the CORE Secretariat in DC is working hard on tools (for scheduling, to monitor commitments, etc.) to improve management of the CoML. These will be debuted in Leiden. The Secretariat is also preparing a memo outlining some key management alternatives.

CoML Web Site. Don't forget to keep checking <http://www.coml.org/> for News and Upcoming Meetings. If you have any items to post, please send them to Kristen Yarincik at kyarincik@COREocean.org.