

What's New with CoML?
March 2002

- **Special Thanks.** The CoML and CORE express their deepest appreciation and gratitude to Cynthia Decker for her critical role in the success of the program over the past three years. We wish her luck in her new position as the Chief of the Liaison Branch of the Oceanographer of the U.S. Navy. Cynthia will continue to act as co-editor, with Ron O'Dor, of the CoML issue of *Oceanologica Acta* due out in fall.
- **CoML Program Management.** After careful consideration of the overall management of the CoML and benefiting from many suggestions by SSC members, project PIs, and external reviewers, we are pleased to report that CORE has been awarded funding to carry on as host of the international Secretariat, and continue to move the CoML forward. Among the important suggestions on which we are acting is improving the news flow about the CoML, as by this newsletter. The proposal process also evoked a helpful set of measurable program goals for the next two years, which we look forward to discussing and advancing in Aberdeen.
- **Future of Marine Animal Populations (FMAP).** The CoML is sponsoring an FMAP workshop on data, models and the prediction of marine biodiversity, which will be held 20-23 June at Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia, Canada. Representatives of HMAP, OBIS and the field projects will meet with modeling experts from around the world with two goals in mind: (1) to discuss the synthesis and prediction capacity of the data through ecosystem models and ensure that CoML projects collect the required data for these models; and (2) to organize a steering committee that will develop a proposal for a modeling and prediction project under the auspices of the CoML. Ransom A. (RAM) Myers of Dalhousie University is the organizer.
- **Aberdeen SSC Meeting.** The next SSC meeting is scheduled for 4-5 June 2002 in Aberdeen. For those who are able to stay after the meeting, visits are being planned to the new ocean laboratory of the University of Aberdeen (6 June) and to Oban (7 June). Please let the Secretariat know as soon as possible if you will be able to extend your visit past 5 June so that the arrangements can be solidified. Specific travel details will be sent soon. We also welcome suggestions for agenda items. We do expect John Addy to join us for an in-depth discussion on Oil & Gas industry participation. We are also in contact with John Woods about his possible attendance or a follow-up meeting in London.
- **HMAP.** An upcoming issue of the *International Journal of Marine History* will feature the History of Marine Animal Populations CoML project. We are working on distribution plans for the issue, and welcome names of key people who should receive complimentary copies. The 2002 HMAP Summer School in Durham, New Hampshire, USA has been announced. Deadline for applications is 15 April.

The annual HMAP workshop will follow the Summer School session beginning on 12 August.

- **OBIS.** The GBIF Governing Board met 20-23 March in Canberra. Rainer Froese attended on behalf of OBIS to present the status of OBIS, including a schematic of the OBIS system, and discuss OBIS contributions to and expected returns from GBIF. He reported that the information was well received and OBIS was commended for its clear strategy at this early stage. Additionally, two new projects are funded under OBIS through the U.S. National Oceanographic Partnership Program. Andrew Read of Duke Marine Laboratory and partners have initiated a new database project for marine mammals, sea birds and turtles, and Barbara Block's team will be completing the design and testing of TOPP sensor data collection for analysis in OBIS. A press release has been issued.
- **NaGISA.** The NaGISA project is about to embark on its planning phase and the establishment of two administrative centers in Japan and Alaska. With new funding, the NaGISA project is expanding both latitudinally and longitudinally on the original DIWPA sites. We welcome Brenda Konar of the University of Alaska to the NaGISA team.
- **ChEss.** The ChEss project is moving forward again under the leadership of Paul Tyler of the Southampton Oceanography Centre. The ChEss team is beginning planning for their biogeographical field survey of vent and seep communities around the world. Thanks to Paul, Chris German and Cindy van Dover for being ChEss champions.
- **TOPP.** TOPP has two workshops coming up this spring: TOPP Requirements for Physical Oceanographic Data (22-23 April in Monterey, CA) and TOPP Education and Outreach (tentatively scheduled for 17-18 June). As mentioned earlier, the TOPP PIs have received a NOPP-OBIS grant for their work on archival tags.
- **POST.** The CoML is sponsoring a symposium on the description and fisheries applications of the Pacific Ocean Tracking & Evaluation Network (POTENT) at the annual meeting of the American Fisheries Society. POST PIs David Welch and George Boehlert are organizing the symposium. The AFS meeting will take place 18-22 August 2002 in Baltimore, Maryland. David and the Secretariat are also working on deepening knowledge and support of POST/POTENT in the U.S. government.
- **Gulf of Maine.** A meeting will be held April 3rd at the New England Aquarium to complete the science implementation plan for the Gulf of Maine project. Raymond O'Connor of the University of Maine is leading the writing team.
- **MAR-ECO.** MAR-ECO was featured on the March cover of *Fishing News International*.

- **Scripps' Integrative Project.** Scripps Institute of Oceanography will be hosting a series of workshops for the CoML on the present, past and future of marine biodiversity, using the framework of the known, the unknown, and the unknowable. As discussed in Leiden, we aim for this to provide an integrative framework and shared vocabulary for reporting in the CoML as a whole. The first workshop, which will focus on the *present*, is expected to take place this fall. We welcome Nancy Knowlton and her Scripps colleagues to CoML.
- **Angola Basin.** Wolfgang Waegle of the Ruhr University Bochum (Germany) has approached the CoML with a study of the abyssal benthos of the Angola Basin (DIVA / IBOY), which his team would like to expand throughout the Southern and Atlantic Oceans. CoML is currently discussing with Dr. Waegle options for CoML endorsement of this project.
- **POGO.** The excellent report of the POGO/CoML sponsored workshop on Biological Observations of the Global Ocean that took place in June 2001 has been released. It can be found online at ocean-partners.org. We will also actively distribute about 100 hard copies, and welcome names (and complete addresses) of people who should receive it.
- **South America.** In preparation for the Biodiversity Workshop taking place Fall 2002, Victor Gallardo has been visiting the scientific communities of the various South American countries on behalf of the CoML. In March, he visited Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, and Venezuela. In the coming weeks, his travels will take him to Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina.
- **Japan.** A CoML Symposium, held in conjunction with the Japanese Oceanographic Society meeting at the Tokyo University of Fisheries on 31 March, took the first steps toward forming a steering committee for the CoML in Japan. Speakers included: Ron O'Dor (CoML), Yoshihisa Shirayama (NaGISA), Katsumi Tsukamoto (Dynamics of the Ocean Biosystem, DOBIS), Makoto Terazaki (Japan Society for the Promotion of Science), Junko Shimura (Global Taxonomic Initiative), and Hiroshi Ueda (Center for the Northern Biosphere). Discussions focused on integration of the CoML with existing programs in Japan and its value as a tool for international cooperation. Shira and Ron also held encouraging discussions with potential Japanese funders of the CoML.
- **Ocean.US.** The U.S. oceanographic community met at a workshop 10-15 March to discuss a plan for an integrated and sustained ocean observing system. A positive outcome of this meeting for the CoML was a decision to follow advice from OBIS concerning biological data. A National Academy of Sciences Workshop is being planned for this summer.
- **Nature.** Rex Dalton of *Nature* magazine is writing a story on CoML based largely on the symposium at the AAAS annual meeting in Boston on 17 February. The issue featuring this article will be released in 2-3 weeks. Watch the "News" column at <http://www.coml.org/> for the announcement.

- **Fisheries Statistics Meeting.** Jesse Ausubel attended the FAO meeting in Rome 26-28 March, co-sponsored by CoML, on strategies for improving fisheries statistics. The FAO fisheries leadership, including Deputy Director General Ichiro Nomura and Serge Garcia, are now much more current on the Census and supportive. Serge would like to be considered an ex officio or liaison member of the SSC, receiving agendas and meeting announcements. He and his staff members (Marc Taconnet and Richard Grainger) who work on the Fisheries Geographic Information System (FIGIS) are eager to mesh FIGIS and OBIS. The meeting also offered the chance to discuss the Census with several African experts, and the leadership of Nigeria's marine research center showed keen interest and offered to host workshops or take other actions to help advance African participation.