

What's New with CoML?
May 2002

- **Aberdeen SSC Meeting.** The SSC will meet 4-5 June 2002 in Aberdeen. Jerry Schubel will present issues and strategy options for public education and outreach. Dale Kiefer will provide a demonstration of the EASy software for OBIS. Russell Putt, Senior Environmental Scientist at BP, will join us for an in-depth discussion on Oil & Gas industry participation. The SSC meeting will be followed by visits to the new ocean laboratory of the University of Aberdeen and to the Scottish Association for Marine Sciences in Oban.
- **FMAP.** The CoML will hold a three-day workshop on 20-23 June on Future of Marine Animal Populations (FMAP): Data, Models and Prediction. Representatives from all field projects, HMAP and OBIS 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.
- **HMAP.** The HMAP publication through the International Journal of Marine History has been released and is currently being distributed by the Secretariat.
- **GoM.** The team of Evan Richert as director and Lewis Incze as chief scientist will join the new secretariat for the Gulf of Maine initiative of the Census of Marine Life. Evan has been director of the Maine State Planning Office since 1995 and is the founding president of the Gulf of Maine Ocean Observing System. Lew has been research scientist at Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences since 1987 and served as Director from 1991-1995. His primary research interest is the biology and physics of the oceans as they affect the abundance and distribution of organisms and interactions between them. Ken Foote, who launched the Gulf of Maine pilot, will continue as an active scientist in the initiative.
- **TOPP.** TOPP will hold several workshops in June. Working Groups which will meet include sea birds (4-5 June), education and outreach (19-20 June), data management (20-22 June), and sea turtles (28-29 June). Barbara Block has just returned from Mexico City where a meeting of a new potential project incorporating the TOPP model was held for the Galapagos-Cocos Island Seascape project. This project aims to describe the biodiversity of top pelagic predators in the oceanic regions around the Galapagos and Cocos Island. Partners in this project included participants from Costa Rica, Ecuador, Panama and Mexico. Conservation International is a major mover behind the program and a planning grant is being written to the United Nations Environmental Program.

- **ChEss.** Eva Ramirez Llodra is now at Southampton Oceanography Centre in her post-doctoral position with the ChEss project. As one of her first duties in this capacity, she will present a poster on ChEss at the second MOMAR (Monitoring the Mid-Atlantic Ridge) workshop 15-17 June in the Azores, Portugal. She will then attend the FMAP workshop in Halifax, and begin developing the ChEss project web site. Eva can be contacted at ezr@soc.soton.ac.uk.
- **MAR-ECO.** Dr. Tone Falkenhaus has joined the MAR-ECO team as part-time project secretary. Tone, a zooplankton ecologist with a PhD from the University of Tromsø in Norway, has previously been involved in international programmes such as the Trans-Atlantic Study of Calanus (TASC). She will perform the zooplankton work for MAR-ECO as well as assist the project steering group. The MAR-ECO team will submit an Expression of Interest to propose MAR-ECO as an integrated project to the 6th Framework Programme of the EU this month.
- **NaGISA.** In May, Professor Kawai began sampling for NaGISA in Japan. Sampling took place in Takeno, on the Japan Sea side of Japan. Additional sampling in Japan will take place 18-19 June (Hataka Jima Seto Marine Biological Laboratory) and 18-20 July (Akkeshi Marine Biological Laboratory). Sampling also began in the Philippines under Dr. Miguel Fortes. Professor Vladimir Kasyanov, Director of the Institute of Marine Biology of the Far East of the Russian Academy of Science has joined the NaGISA project. Dr. Andrey Adrianov will act as chief scientist for NaGISA activities in Russia.
- **ICES.** The ICES Centenary Annual Meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark on 1-5 October 2002 will feature a theme session on the Census of Marine Life: Turning Concept into Reality. A call for papers was issued earlier this year, which resulted in 38 abstracts, including 7 posters. We have been allotted nine hours of talks. Ron O'Dor and Odd Aksel Bergstad are two of the co-conveners of this session. The CoML is very pleased with this turnout, which indicates a major expression of interest in the program.
- **U.S.** On 10 May, Jesse Ausubel and Fred Grassle met with the Interagency Working Group of the U.S. National Oceanographic Partnership Program (NOPP). NOPP has supported OBIS in the U.S., facilitating all ten current OBIS database projects. A co-hosted CoML/NOPP workshop this summer on the future of OBIS was discussed, and Fred is organizing a writing team for a NOPP requested five-year plan for OBIS. The U.S. National Science Foundation's biotic inventories program, under the Biological Sciences Directorate, is interested in enlarging its marine component – potential new opportunity for CoML.
- **Europe.** CORE's grant from the Stavros S. Niarchos Foundation to support the Census of Marine Life (CoML) Secretariat's efforts to expand activities in Europe has been renewed through 2004, reflecting the success of these efforts to date. The deadline for "Expressions of Interest" for the 6th Framework Programme of the European Union is 7 June.