

What's New with CoML?
September 2002

- **SSC.** The next SSC meeting will be held 19-20 October in Qingdao, China in conjunction with the GLOBEC and PICES meetings. The three organizations will host a joint reception on the evening of 19 October. SSC members are reminded to check the SSC website for posted documents and to inform the Secretariat of the dates they plan to be in Qingdao, if they haven't done so already. Ian Poiner of CSIRO will host the winter 2003 SSC meeting, now scheduled for 20-21 January, in Hobart, Tasmania in conjunction with POGO IV (22-24 January).
- **OBIS.** The biggest OBIS news this month is that the FAO has provided all of its catch data to OBIS. It is available now through FishBase and will soon be directly searchable. In early September in Washington DC, OBIS held a meeting of North American Researchers to review and plan for the development of online marine species information in OBIS. Some news from the meeting included: Karen Stocks of Seamounts Online hopes to organize an informal meeting for the seamount community to discuss the potential for large-group, synthetic collaborations. The OBIS Indo-Pacific Mollusk Database (http://data.acnatsci.org/obis/find_mollusk.html) now searches over 57,900 species. They will be publicly announcing the website soon. PIs from the OBIS Census of Marine Fishes project will attend the Trends and Developments in Biodiversity Informatics Forum in Brazil in late October, which will include GBIF and Species 2000 meetings. Following this meeting, the OBIS IC met, agreed to several new databases to be brought online, worked on a five year financial plan and organized for a similar meeting in Brussels on 23-24 November in conjunction with the Colour of Ocean Data conference there.
- **HMAP.** The HMAP data search portal is now online.
- **MAR-ECO.** The MAR-ECO website at <http://www.mar-eco.no/> has a new user-friendly portal directing the public to an attractive new site with interesting project information, the science, and the participating countries. They are also developing learning and activity zones for students and teachers. Scientists are directed to the scientifically and logistically informative site with which we have all been familiar. In other MAR-ECO news, the steering group will host a meeting aboard the new research vessel G.O. Sars during the ICES meeting in Copenhagen at the beginning of October. This ship has already been offered to the MAR-ECO team for fieldwork in the summer of 2003.
- **Call for Proposals.** 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. View this RFP online at <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2002/nsf02186/nsf02186.htm>.

- **Education.** Dr. James B. Wood from the [CephBase](#) team is very pleased to announce that their NSF NSDL proposal “Ceph School: A Pedagogic Portal for Teaching Biological Principles with Cephalopod Mollusks” has been recommended for funding. The two-year project will build on the OBIS CephBase database, originally funded in 2000 through NOPP, to bring marine science to the classroom as well as the public.
- **Europe.** A workshop was held on 20 September at the Royal Academy of Arts and Sciences in Amsterdam with representation from Scotland to Greece to discuss the further implementation of CoML in Europe and the establishment of a European regional committee. A broadly representative core group was agreed to that will seek nominations to formalize the full committee next year. Key immediate issues for the core group are the CoML’s role in the EC 6th Framework research program and a strategy for funding and involving Russian marine scientists.
- **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). See <http://www.ices.dk/asc/2002/ThemeSess/L.pdf> for a full schedule of presentations. Those of you attending the conference should also be sure to visit the CoML display in the exhibit area.
- **SCOR.** In an effort to strengthen its ties with the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR), the Census of Marine Life is submitting a proposal to become a SCOR affiliated program. The links created by this relationship would be a beneficial step for the entire oceanographic community as we examine the links between marine life and the ocean’s biogeochemical cycles. Annelies Pierrot-Bults, President of the International Association for Biological Oceanography and ex-officio member of the SCOR Executive Committee, is scheduled to present CoML to the SCOR Executive Committee at the upcoming SCOR General Meeting in Sapporo, Japan on 1-5 October. The SCOR Working Group 118 on New Technologies for Observing Marine Life will hold its next meeting in Lima, Peru on 28-30 October.
- **Website.** In preparation for the upcoming meetings in Qingdao, the CoML website now provides a program summary in Chinese. We would like to thank Phoebe Zhang of OBIS and Yan Xing of CORE for their work with the translation.