

What's New with CoML?  
December 2001

- CORE's proposal to the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation to establish the U.S. National Committee for the Census of Marine Life has been approved. Once the funds are in place, CORE will proceed with this task and will serve as the U.S. Program Office.
- Rutgers' proposal to the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation to house the OBIS Secretariat has also been approved.
- In November, Fred Grassle, Ron O'Dor and Cynthia Decker met with John Addy, Senior Environmental Advisory, British Petroleum Upstream Technology Group, to discuss options for oil and gas industry involvement in the CoML. An informal report on this meeting is available upon request – contact Ron O'Dor at [rodor@COREocean.org](mailto:rodor@COREocean.org).
- The Secretariat is currently negotiating with Elsevier to produce an issue of the journal *Oceanologica Acta* that would contain papers from the CoML session at the IABO/IAPSO meeting in Mar del Plata, Argentina, October 2001. Ron O'Dor and Cynthia Decker (possibly with Annelies Pierrot-Bults) will serve as co-editors of this volume.
- The OBIS Technical Working Group (TWG) met 4-6 December in Kansas, USA to discuss the technical details of the OBIS system, including database interoperability. A report from this meeting should be available shortly.
- Dr. Ian Poiner of CSIRO Marine Laboratories Division of Marine Research in Australia has accepted our invitation to join the Scientific Steering Committee. He will attend the Leiden SSC meeting in February.
- The Census of Marine Life ([www.coml.org](http://www.coml.org)) web site has a new look!