

UPCOMING EVENTS

Synthesis Group
Meeting
August 19-20
Newfoundland,
Canada

Decade of
Discovery Events
October 4-6, 2010
London, UK

COP 10—CBD
Meeting
October 18-29, 2010
Nagoya, Japan

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What Lives in the Sea?



Photo Credit: Yoshihiro FUJII-
WARA/JAMSTEC

The Census of Marine Life has released a special cluster in the open-access journal *PLoS-ONE* that details species distribution and diversity in key global ocean areas. The collection is home to 12 pa-

pers authored by members of the Census National and Regional Committees (NRICs) and combines information collected over centuries with data obtained during the Census to create a roll call of species in 25 biologically representative regions -- from the Antarctic through temperate and tropical seas to the Arctic. The collection of papers and overview synthesis will help guide future decisions on exploration of still poorly-explored waters, especially the abyssal depths, and provides a baseline for still thinly-studied forms, especially small animals. Highlights from the papers include the realization that on average, about one-fifth of all species were crustaceans which, with mollusks and fish, make

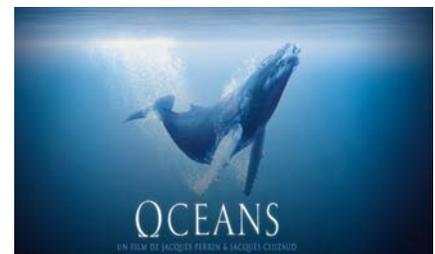
up half of all known species on average across the regions. The accompanying press-release, "[What Lives in the Sea?](#)" has received great media coverage including: [US News and World Report](#), [Nature Magazine](#), [The Philadelphia Inquirer](#), [The Guardian](#), [The Victoria Times Colonist](#), and [the Smithsonian's Ocean Portal](#). To read the collection, visit [the PLoS-ONE website here](#).

Mark Your
Calendars!
The Decade
of Discovery
events are
October 4-6!
2010

OCEANS Film Premieres Globally

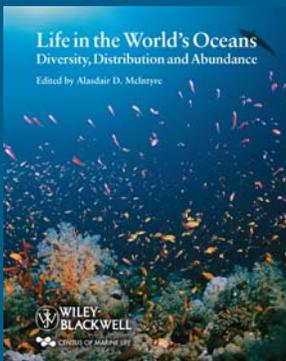
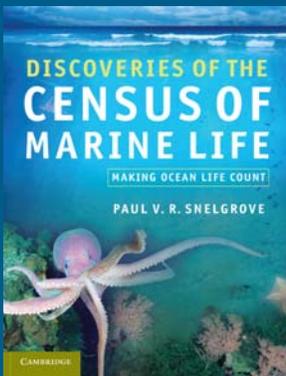
The Galatée film *Oceans* has been released through the world with great success! The avant premier of the film was held on 25 January in conjunction with the UNESCO International Year of Biodiversity Science-Policy Conference in Paris, France. The screening of the film was followed by a discussion titled "Communicating Biodiversity" in which Jesse Ausubel,

Myriam Sibuet and Patricia Miloslavich were panelists. Scientific events have also been held with premiers of the film in Japan, Germany, Spain, South Korea, Argentina, and Brazil--with all receiving great press coverage. To view a full color brochure displaying the species in the film in multiple languages, [click here](#).



Oceans Film Movie Poster—Courtesy of
Galatée Films

The
Countdown is
on!
The Decade
of Discovery
events are in
45 days!



CoML in Oprah Magazine

The Census of Marine Life was named as the number 31 item on Oprah Magazine's "100 Things That Are Getting Better" list in February. The list, which included a myriad of things from contact lenses to community colleges, noted this about CoML: "For the past decade, scientists from 80 nations have been working overtime to plumb the mysteries of the sea. In 2010 they'll publish the results of their Census of Marine Life, an inventory of what swims, slithers, and lurks down there. Included are a six-foot octopod that propels itself with ear-shaped fins, a transparent sea cucumber, 5,300 potential new species, and a small fish named Nemo, who appeared to be lost."

SSC Meets in NYC

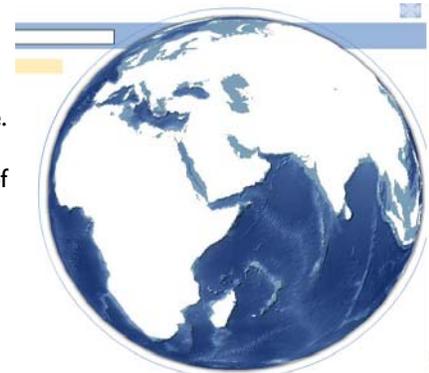
The Census of Marine Life held its latest Scientific Steering Committee meeting in New York City on 2-4 June 2010. The committee focused on review of the soon to be published suite of products that will present the findings of the Census of Marine Life to the world. Additionally, partner organizations Encyclopedia of Life (EOL) and The Scientific Council on Ocean Research (SCOR) updated the committee on their activities and explored ways in which the Census could continue collaboration. The Committee also presented a preview of major results from the Census and personal thoughts on their experiences in the program to the staff of the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. The meeting was very productive and further built excitement for the final *Decade of Discovery* events in London, 4-6 October 2010.

Synthesis Group Update

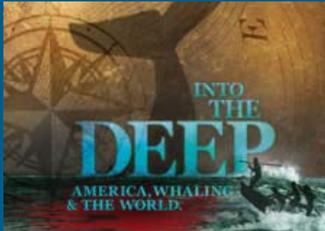
The Synthesis Group met on 2 June 2010 in New York City, USA to discuss the continued progress of the suite of synthesis products from the Census. The group discussed highlights from the soon to be published chapter book, *Life in the World's Oceans: Diversity, Distribution and Abundance*, edited by Alasdair McIntyre and *Discoveries of the Census of Marine Life: Making Ocean Life Count* by Paul Snelgrove. The group also developed plans for the final report of the Census, titled the *Highlights of a Decade of Discoveries*, which will be released along with the *Decade of Discovery* events in October. A subset of the Synthesis Group will meet again in August in Newfoundland, Canada to finalize outstanding issues on the Census suite of products to be published in October and beyond.

Mapping and Visualization

The Mapping & Visualization team has created a great new feature to display information about the Census of Marine Life. The web-based globe displays information and stories about the Census of Marine Life geographically—from the location of the project headquarters, the location of new species, stories accompanying the previous two news releases, and much more. To visit the interactive globe, [click here](#).



**OBIS now has
27.7 Million
Records!**



HMAP Special "Into the Deep"

Photo Credit: PBS



**Students from the
NaGISA workshop
Sampling. Photo Credit:
NAGISA**

Ocean Biogeographic Information System

OBIS has been updated in August with 34 new datasets—bringing the total number of records to 27.7 million! This new update included 23 new datasets from OBIS SEA-MAP; 8 new MARMAP datasets from OBIS USA; 2 new datasets from TOPP, which include fish and telemetry data; as well as a new dataset from Venezuela and an NODC species list of fish in the Hawaiian EEZ dating back to the 1750's. OBIS also announced the ability to now download search results in KML format, making species with distribution data viewable in Google Earth! For an example, [see the map of *Centropages typicus* here!](#) (Note: Google Earth required)

History of Marine Animal Populations (HMAP)

HMAP scientists contributed to the PBS Documentary "Into the Deep: America, Whaling & the World" which premiered on May 10, 2010. The film examines the history of the American whaling industry from its 17th-century origins in drift and shore whaling off the coast of New England and Cape Cod, through the golden age of deep ocean whaling, and on to its demise in the decades following the American Civil War. To view the full documentary online, [click here](#). Also, read HMAP scientist Tim Smith's interview on whaling [here](#).

HMAP has developed a dynamic, online historical atlas of marine ecosystems. Using Google Earth and Open Layers, HMAP collected information from historians, ecologists, archaeologists and fishermen to map how marine life and ecosystems in the oceans have changed over time. The atlas identifies areas of historical human-environment interactions and describes the cumulative, long-term impact of humans and climate change upon these areas or marine ecosystems. The HMAP Atlas is freely available on the web. Click [here](#) to explore.

Future of Marine Animal Populations (FMAP)

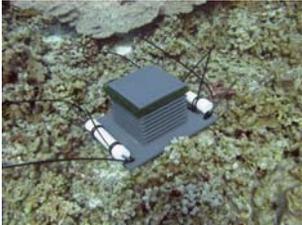
FMAP scientists recently published "Global patterns and predictors of marine biodiversity across taxa" in *Nature*. The team mapped and analyzed global biodiversity patterns for over 11,000 marine species ranging from tiny zooplankton to sharks and whales and found striking similarities among the distribution patterns, with temperature strongly linked to biodiversity for all thirteen groups studied. Lead author Derek Tittensor said "it was striking how consistently temperature was linked with marine diversity. This relationship suggests that ocean warming, such as that due to climate change, may rearrange the distribution of oceanic life." To read the full text paper, [visit the *Nature* web site](#).

Natural Geography in Shore Areas (NaGISA)

NaGISA held the first ever Venezuela School workshop in Sucre, Venezuela in June at the Ecological Research Centre of Guayacán. The workshop, held to increase the involvement of various coastal communities with their environment and marine-coastal resources, was held for 3rd and 4th grade students at the Creación Chacopata High School. During the two day workshop, 16 participants were trained on the sampling techniques required to measure live cover and density of organisms in coastal communities (especially rocky intertidal and seagrass bed zones). To keep the students involved in marine research, NaGISA donated many sampling tools to the school to continue their activities!

The students from the Niceville High School NaGISA project are one of the eight recipients of the 2010 Sea World Environmental Excellence Award of \$10,000 USD. The student's faculty advisor, Rick Hernandez, was in attendance at the awards ceremony in Tampa, Florida from 21-23 April. Hernandez and the students gave a presentation on their project with NaGISA and accepted the award which they will use to purchase a new microscope, to support their NaGISA diving operations in Florida, and for their upcoming 2011 trip to Turkey to establish a NaGISA sampling site on the Black Sea. [Click here](#) for more information on the award. Congratulations to the students from Niceville!

Census of Coral Reefs (CReefs)



An ARMS unit attached to the reef awaiting occupants Photo Credit: Russell Moffitt and Molly Timmers

Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, an area in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands that covers 140,000 square miles and protects 7,000 marine and terrestrial species, was recently added to the UNESCO World Heritage List by the World Heritage Committee. The decision was made with extensive information provided by CReefs on the highly biodiverse area. Papahānaumokuākea is the United State's first site designated for its outstanding value as both a natural and cultural heritage site and the first to be added to the list in over 15 years. To read more information on the designation, [click here](#).

Early in 2010, CReefs scientists Megan Moews and Molly Timmers prepared for the retrieval and processing of over 75 ARMS and deployment of 90 ARMS for the NOAA Reef Assessment and Monitoring Program (RAMP) cruise to American Samoa, Rose Atoll, and the Line and Phoenix Islands. The cruise departed aboard the NOAA research vessel *Hii'ialakai* on 21 January and returned on 25 April. A full blog of the cruise's activities is available [here](#).

Gulf of Maine Program (GoMA)

GoMA scientists published two new papers in the beginning of 2010. Peter Auster and Les Watling published "Beaked whale foraging areas inferred by gouges in the seafloor" in *Marine Mammal Science*. The paper presents new evidence of beaked whale interactions with sea-floor squid and markings made on the sea floor and discusses how these elements may predict patterns of behavior by the species. Lew Incze *et al.* published "Connectivity of lobster (*Homarus americanus*) populations in the coastal Gulf of Maine: Part II. Coupled biophysical dynamics" in *Fisheries Oceanography*. In the paper, larval transport and connectivity patterns of the Maine lobster are analyzed using a coupled biophysical model.

Pacific Ocean Shelf Tracking (POST)

POST unveiled a new exhibit at the Vancouver Aquarium in British Columbia. The exhibit is distributed throughout the museum and explains POST technology and its utilization. Within the Strait of George habitat, the exhibit displays POST-tracked species and acoustic equipment and an LCD screen explains the technology and gives a brief introduction to POST. The main display of the exhibit is a touch screen where visitors can learn how scientists are using POST and what they're discovering through interactive maps and on-demand video. Also on display is the actual tagging and detection equipment used to track species thousands of kilometers along the West Coast. For more information on the exhibit, [click here](#).



POST Exhibit at the Vancouver Aquarium Photo Credit: POST

Continental Margin Ecosystems (COMARGE)

In March, COMARGE published a special issue titled: "The roles of habitat heterogeneity in generating and maintaining biodiversity on continental margins" in collaboration with SYNDEEP in *Marine Ecology*. The special issue features articles reviewing the heterogeneity of deep-sea habitats and exploring in depth methane seeps, oxygen minimum zones, and canyons. The issue also explores the hydrographic and bathymetric influences on the deep-sea. To view the full collection, visit the [Marine Ecology web site here](#).



The science party of INSPIRE: Chile Margin 2010. Image courtesy of INSPIRE: Chile Margin 2010

COMARGE scientists set sail on 24 February aboard the RV *Melville* for a month long expedition to the Chilean triple junction—the area where the South Chile rise, a ridge crest, is being forced under the methane-rich South American continent. Scientists explored for tectonically controlled hydrothermal vents, for seep sites of massive methane release, and for novel “hybrid” systems that may yield hot seeps or cool vents. Scientists brought aboard the autonomous underwater vehicle, ABE, which was unfortunately lost at sea during the expedition. For a daily blog on the cruise, visit the NOAA Ocean Exploration [web site here](#).

Census of the Diversity of Abyssal Marine Life (CeDAMar)

CeDAMar scientists recently published “Submarine canyons: hotspots of benthic biomass and productivity in the deep sea” in *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*. The paper focuses on the Kaikoura deep-sea canyons on the eastern New Zealand margin ridge and found that the area can support enormous biomasses of infaunal megabenthic invertebrates. The biomass values found in the area are 100-fold higher than those previously reported for the deep-sea (non-chemosynthetic) habitats below 500 m in the ocean. The paper was also featured in a *Nature News* article, [available here](#).



Kaikoura Canyon teems with creatures such as sea cucumbers and sea urchins. Credit: NIWA\NOAA

A new video about the small creatures of the abyss gives a peak into the lives of CeDAMar scientists in their activities from sampling the deep-sea to discovering new species. Hear first hand accounts of discovering new species and view the process that it requires— including sampling, lab-work, description, and even choosing a name for the species! The video also features some graffiti artwork by CeDAMar scientist Bridgette Ebbe! To view the video, [click here](#).

Mid-Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem Project (MAR-ECO)



Enteropneust worm (Acorn worm) from the North Atlantic Ocean. Southern Purple variety.

Credit: David Shale

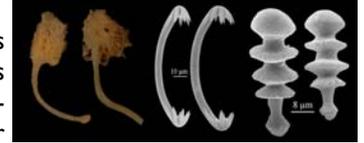
Scientists from MAR-ECO recently returned from an expedition focused on the cold waters north of the Gulf Stream and the warmer waters to the south. During more than 300 hours of diving, using the remotely operated vehicle (ROV) *Isis*, researchers surveyed flat plains, cliff faces, and slopes of the giant mountain range that divides the Atlantic Ocean into two halves - east and west. The ROV was equipped with an HD camera, allowing for the survey of over 50,000 meters of ocean floor in HD video. Scientists believe the cruise will yield at least 10 new species currently undescribed and will lead to better understanding of the evolutionary processes that have shaped the deep-sea. To view photos of species from the expedition, and read the full press release, visit the [MAR-ECO web site](#).

MAR-ECO's *Deeper than Light* exhibit was displayed at the Smithsonian's Natural History Museum in Washington, DC from 20 February to 23 May in the Sant Ocean Hall. The exhibit invites visitors to experience the unknown world and discoveries from the deep sea by presenting deep sea animals, art, images, films, models and interactive displays. In connection with the exhibition there was also a roundtable discussion held on 18 February at the Norwegian Embassy for invited guests titled *Collaboration in Ocean Sciences – Importance of US-Norway and International Networks*. For more information, [click here](#).

Census of Marine Life on Seamounts (CenSeam)

CenSeam is set to release a special issue of *Marine Ecology* providing a balanced view on past and current seamount paradigms, including challenges to existing premises. The special issue, which will represent the key scientific outputs of CenSeam, currently has several papers available for early view by [clicking here](#).

A new species discovered by Cen Seam, *Chondrocladia (Meliiderma) turbiformis*, was named as one of the top ten new species by Arizona State University's International Institute for Species Exploration! The "killer sponge" was discovered by CenSeam scientists near the Pyre Seamount on the Chatham Rise off the coast of New Zealand. To view the full list of species for 2010, visit the [ASU web site here](#).



(Carnivorous sponge *Chondrocladia (Meliiderma) turbiformis*, holotype, a paratype, isochelae and trochirhabd spicules) Image courtesy of Jean Vacelet

CenSeam scientists and their work were featured extensively in *Oceanography's* March 2010 *Special Issue on Mountains in the Sea*. Many of the papers report directly the results of CenSeam's cruises and field work. The issue gives an extensive explanation of all facets of seamounts and their characteristics while spotlighting several individual seamounts located within the world's oceans. The current knowledge and technologies used to study these regions is discussed as well as human effects and the policy discussions on seamounts. To view the issue online, [click here](#).

Biogeography of Deep-Water Chemosynthetic Ecosystems (ChEss)



ChEss Workshop Participants
– Photo courtesy of ChEss.

ChEss scientists are aboard the latest expedition of the RSS *James Cook* to the Cayman Trough, a three-mile deep rift in the seafloor of the Caribbean. The expedition set sail on 24 March from Port-of-Spain, Trinidad in search of the world's deepest volcanic vents and new species of deep-sea creatures. The team of scientists will map the sea-floor and collect biological samples using several new technologies on board. The cruise will use a new instrument, the Auto-sub6000, which is an unmanned, autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) that explores the deep using a pre-installed program, allowing the ship and scientists to carry out other scientific studies while at sea. For more information on the cruise and its technologies, visit [the cruise blog](#).

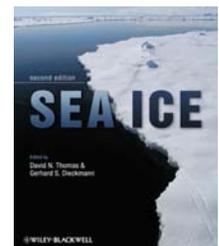
ChEss brought together thirty-one experts in ocean governance, industry, and marine scientific (natural sciences and social sciences) research from 14 countries for four days in June at the *Centre de Recherche et d'Enseignement sur les Systèmes Côtiers (CRESCO)* in Dinard, France, with goals of formulating general guidelines for the design of networks of areas for conservation of chemosynthetic ecosystems and outlining research needs to allow better application of spatially based ecosystem management of vent and seep ecosystems. A workshop report is expected to be published soon and will be available on the [ChEss web site](#).

Check out the [cruise blog](#) from the latest ChEss expedition, BIG, to the Guyamas Basin to explore vents and seeps. The blog is available in French and Spanish and includes a children's page and drawing contest!

Arctic Ocean Diversity (ArcOD)

ArcOD scientists spearheaded a biodiversity session at the Arctic Frontiers meeting in Tromso, Norway in early January. The session, on the theme "Arctic Biodiversity Under Change," included 47 talks from invited experts and a poster session display by scientists from ArcOD and other research programs. The session gave many ArcOD scientists the opportunity to present up-to-date analysis on studies of marine microbes, zooplankton, benthic species, fish, birds, mammals, and other various aspects of Arctic marine life. For more information on the conference, [click here](#).

ArcOD scientists Bodil Bluhm and Rolf Grandinger contributed a chapter to a new textbook, *Sea Ice*, published by Wiley-Blackwell. The chapter focuses on the meio- and macrofauna that inhabit sea-ice. To learn more about the book including purchasing information, [click here](#).



Sea Ice – Photo Credit Wiley-Blackwell



ArcOD, in collaboration with CMarZ, has published 13 papers in a special issue of *Deep Sea Research II* titled "Observations and Exploration of the Arctic's Canada Basin and the Chukchi Sea: the Hidden Ocean and Russian-American Long-term Census of the Arctic (RUSALCA) Expeditions." The special issue features articles that explore the substantial gaps of knowledge of biological diversity, ecosystem functioning, and temporal variability of the shelf and deep-sea systems of the Chukchi Sea and the southern Canada basin. To visit the special issue online, [click here](#).

Census of Antarctic Marine Life (CAML)

From 21-25 March 2010, a workshop on "Southern Ocean biodiversity and biogeography: What are the key spatial patterns in macro-and megabenthos and what drives them?" was held at the German Centre for Biodiversity Research (DZMB) in Wilhelmshaven (Germany). Forty-five scientists from 13 different countries across Europe, North and South America, Asia and Oceania had the opportunity to cross many thousands of kilometres to discuss and review current progress in knowledge of Southern Ocean benthic biodiversity patterns across regions, taxa and researchers. Twenty-six talks and 15 posters presented various aspects of variety of life on Antarctica's sea bed from shelf to deep sea, from taxonomy to phylogeography and across spatial scales and Antarctic regions. The discussion resulted in the initiation and preparation of two multi-author manuscripts on Southern Ocean benthic biodiversity patterns, which will soon be published. This meeting was kindly funded by the *Census of Antarctic Marine Life* (CAML), the *German Science Foundation* (DFG) and the *Census of the Diversity of Abyssal Marine* (CeDAMar).

Tagging of Pacific Predators (TOPP)



Weddell Seal with Tag
Photo Credit: Dan Costa

Scientists from TOPP tagged 22 Weddell seals in the Antarctica during the month of March! The scientists flew via helicopter from McMurdo station to the various tagging sites where they fought temperatures of -32°C to tag the seals. Working much like an assembly line, they placed the tags on the seals heads and took blood and blubber samples to determine the animal's blood volume and body composition—all in a matter of two hours per animal! The scientists will return to Antarctic in October to reclaim the tags which contain additional valuable data. To read the full blog on the experience, visit the [TOPP web site here](#).

Census of Marine Zooplankton (CMarZ)

CMarZ held its latest Steering Group meeting in Qingdao, China in May. The meeting was hosted by Sun Song at the Institute of Oceanology at the Chinese Academy of Sciences and featured a two day symposium that presented recent CMarZ research results and an overview on zooplankton research. The Steering Group met later in the week to discuss CMarZ synthesis activities and finalize plans for CMarZ involvement in the London events in October.

CMarZ has produced a wall paper application for the new Apple iPad. To download the app, which includes 15 high resolution photos of species found during CMarZ expeditions, [click here!](#)



Photo from the CMarZ iPad application.

International Census of Marine Microbes (ICoMM)

ICoMM was featured in a recent article in *NatureNews*. The article discusses the importance of microbes in the changing ocean. Mitch Sogin said "the overwhelming majority of the novel diversity comes from microbes that are rare and present in low abundance." To read the full article, [click here](#).



Next Page : News from the National and Regional Committees!

Australia

Ian Poiner, chairman of the CoML Scientific Steering Committee and Australia NRIC member, was the key note speaker at the Marine Biodiversity Symposium: 2010 International Year of Biodiversity, held at the Australian Marine Science Association Annual Conference, in Wollongong, Australia on 6 July 2010. The symposium covered the spectrum of biodiversity research, including historical biogeography and evolution, the development of new methods to characterize and described different aspects of biodiversity, biodiversity in different environments, and applications of biodiversity research to planning and management.

The Census of Marine Life and the CReefs project were featured in the *Australian Innovation System Report 2010*. The report, sponsored by the Australian government, gives an update on the status of innovation in Australia for the previous year. CReefs and Census were presented as a case-study under the category of Publicly Funded Research Organizations. To read the full case study, [click here](#) and turn to page 75.

China

The Institute of Oceanology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (IOCAS), which hosts the Chinese Census of Marine Life program, celebrates its 60th Anniversary this year. As part of the celebration, IOCAS has invited renowned scientists from various disciplines to give a series of academic seminars to its researchers and students, hoping to further promote interdisciplinary academic collaboration and exchange and to create a good academic atmosphere.

Europe

The Institute of Sciences of the Sea (CSIC) held an event, "Oceans, A World by Discovering," in conjunction with a showing of the Galatée film *Oceans* in Barcelona, Spain on 21 April. The event brought together members of the Galatée team, as well as CoML scientists from Spain to discuss the making of the film, the species shown within, and the current status of marine biodiversity globally. The event was moderated by Xavier Durán, a popular environmental journalist and host of the TV show "The medi ambient." The event was also featured in a special program on the Catalan television channel with interviews by Census scientists Jose Templado and Enrique Macpherson.

Dr. Marta Coll, of the European NRIC, attended the 39th Mediterranean Science Commission (CIESM) Congress held 10-14 May in Venice, Italy. About 1000 researchers attended the congress where over 900 papers were presented, covering a wide range of marine disciplines. The results from the Mediterranean EuroCoML mid-term report Synthesis paper were presented at the Congress, and the abstract will be published in the proceedings of the Congress. For more information, visit the [CIESM Congress web site](#).

The event "Biology in the Oceans Today" was held by the Senckenberg Research Institute and the German Natural History Museum in Frankfurt, Germany on 18 February along with a viewing of the Galatée *Oceans* film. Pedro Martinez-Arbidzu of the Ce-DAMar project gave an introduction to the Census of Marine Life and German scientists from the Census participated as panelists during the program to discuss current work in marine biodiversity as well as the collaboration with Galatée Films to make the movie. Hosted by German journalists and marine biologist Dr. Onno Groß, the event was a great success! To read more, visit the [event's web page](#).

Indian Ocean

The Indian NRIC hosted the Scientific Steering Committee for their latest meeting in Goa, India in February. Mohideen Wafar, chair of the committee, and D. Chandramohan, an SSC member, gave updates on the region's activities during the meeting, discussing progress to secure post-2010 funding for marine biodiversity research in the area and their continued interest in marine barcoding initiatives. A small delegation of NRIC and SSC members attended meetings with Indian government officials in New Delhi to discuss the future of biodiversity research in India.

The Indian Census of Marine Life will hold a Symposium in conjunction with the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) Symposium on the Indian Ocean Marine Living Resources. The symposium, to be held on the 1 December 2010 in Kochi, India, will discuss the findings of the Census of Marine Life and the contribution that the Indian Ocean NRIC has made to CoML and marine biodiversity. For more information on the two events, visit the [MoES web site here](#).

Indonesia



Image courtesy of NOAA Okeanos Explorer Program, INDEX-SATAL 2010.

On 10 May, Census scientists from Indonesia will participate in the first cruise of the ATSEA: Arafura and Timor Seas Ecosystems Action program. ATSEA will develop a Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis to assess the current state of the environment and resources in the Arafura and Timor Seas, including pressures, threats and impacts from over-exploitation and global climate change. This will lay the basis for the development and agreement on a multi-lateral Strategic Action Program that will lead to enhanced regional cooperation between Australia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Timor Leste, for the sustainable management of their shared seas. Visit the [web site here](#) for more information!

Scientists from the Indonesian NRIC have returned from a cruise aboard the US NOAA ship *Okeanos Explorer* and the Indonesian vessel *Baruna Jaya IV* from June to August 2010. The collaborative expedition, named Indonesia-USA Deep-Sea Exploration of the Sangihe Talaud Region (INDEX 2010), explored the depths of Indonesian waters surrounding the Sangihe and Talaud island chains northeast of North Sulawesi. To read the cruise blog on the new biological and geological discoveries from the expedition, [click here](#). The ship's complementary capabilities will provide the first look at the areas surrounding the

Sangihe and Talaud island chains northeast of North Sulawesi, where there are sure to be many geological and biological discoveries.

Japan

The Japan NRIC held a CoML symposium in conjunction with a preview of the Galatée film *Oceans* on 17 January. The symposium was attended by 300 marine biologists, students, NRIC members, and members of the mass media. Three presentations were given during the symposium, including an overview presentation about the Census of Marine Life and its activities, both in Japan and globally. The other talks focused on marine biodiversity in relation to the Conference of Parties 10 meeting and an update on marine biodiversity activities by the Japanese Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC). The event was also attended by a famous Japanese anchorperson, Cristel Takigawa, who also spoke about marine biodiversity.

USA

The U.S. National Committee met in Washington, D.C. on 19-20 April. The meeting focused on production of three essays on how Census has influenced marine biodiversity research, data management, and researchers' technological/scientific responsibility over the past 10 years from the viewpoint of the U.S. The committee also discussed their role in the October 2010 'Decade of Discovery' events in London, as well as thoughts for the possible follow up events in the US after London. After the meeting, the USNC was treated to a special tour of the Smithsonian Ocean Hall and MAR-ECO's *Deeper Than Light* exhibit thanks to CReefs' project leader Nancy Knowlton.

South America

Patricia Miloslavich gave a talk at the American Geophysical Union's 2010 Meeting of the Americas in Foz do Iguassa, Brazil on 9 October. Her talk opened the Biogeosciences section of the meeting and focused on the contribution of the Caribbean and South American regions to the Census of Marine Life. The talk also reviewed the recently published Caribbean and South American papers in the *PLoS-ONE* NRIC collection.

SSC member Victor Gallardo will host a symposium on 29-30 November 2010 to present the Census of Marine Life to the Chilean public. The symposium, to be held in the capital of Santiago, will feature presentations by both international and local CoML scientists on their contributions to the Census. The audience will include individuals from government, NGOs, universities, as well as students and the media. Stay tuned for more information on the symposium!



Did you know CoML has a Facebook page and Twitter account? Click above to visit the pages!

CoML Partners' News

Marine Barcode of Life (MarBOL)



The Marine Barcode of Life, a joint project between the Census and the Consortium for the Barcode of Life, has released a special collection in the online publication *PLoS-ONE*. The collection explores the use of DNA barcoding for the detection of invasive species, for forensics, and to quantify seafood safety. Researchers also use barcodes to delimit species boundaries, reveal cryptic species, and discover new species. To read all the articles in the special collection, [click here](#).

World Register of Marine Species (WoRMS)

The World Register of Marine Species (WoRMS) received funding from the Census of Marine Life Synthesis group at Memorial University to help complete draft species lists for gaps in taxon coverage in WoRMS. Under the direction of Geoff Boxshall and Philippe Bouchet, the goal of having all described marine species in the WoRMS database is well within reach. For more information on WoRMS, [click here](#).



WoRMS has released a new tool that can cross-check species lists against the WoRMS database. To use the tool, visit the [Match Taxa link](#) and upload a list of species. The system will return the file matched with the species names in WoRMS!

Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR)



The 2010 SCOR General Meeting will be held in Toulouse, France on 13-17 September. The French-SCOR Committee will put on a one-day symposium to showcase French ocean science activities on 15 September. The meeting is open and all interested individuals are invited to see the meeting [web site](#) for additional information about the meeting.

Public Library of Science (PLoS)

The online publication *PLoS-ONE* has received an impact factor of 4.351 in 2009! The journal also won the Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers award for Publishing Innovation in 2009. The journal was praised for taking "the traditional values of the journal with innovative online features to create an inclusive and efficient publication." For more information and updates on *PLoS*, visit their 2009 progress report, [available here](#).

Throughout the next few months, several of the Census of Marine Life projects and partners will release *PLoS* collections! Be on the lookout for collections by TOPP, MarBOL, ChEss, HMAP, NaGISA, POST, ICoMM, CenSeam, and GoMA!



Stay tuned to Coml.org for the latest Census news!