What’s New with CoML?
AUG/SEPT/OCT 2004

- **All Program Meeting.**
The Second CoML All Program Meeting will be held in conjunction with the 2005 International Senckenberg Conference on marine biodiversity, organized by CeDAMar project manager, Pedro Martinez. The Senckenberg Conference is scheduled for 30 October – 4 November 2005 in Frankfurt, Germany. The All Program Meeting will be held 5-6 November 2005 in Frankfurt. The goals of the All Program Meeting will likely be a mid-term synthesis of the research and identification of needs for the latter half of the program. The meeting will focus on integration of projects and working groups based on the ocean realms (of the Research Plan). More information on the meeting will be available in late December following the SSC meeting.

- **Scientific Steering Committee (SSC).**
The next SSC meeting will take place on 2-3 December 2004 in Paris, France, hosted by Patricio Bernal and the IOC. Representatives from the CoML/NRCs (both formed and under organization) will attend. On 1 December, the Paris natural history museum will host an evening seminar and reception including presentations on CoML 2004 scientific highlights and a new film, *Ocean*, in development by Jacques Perrin/Galatee Films (*Winged Migrations*).

- **Secretariat.**
Two new Research Assistants, Michael Feldman and Colin Reed, have joined the Secretariat team at CORE.

The Secretariat reminds all project leaders that completed annual reports were due to the Secretariat on 15 October.

- **Education and Outreach.**
The Education and Outreach team at URI is currently developing the first CoML Annual Highlights report, which will be distributed in December. It will highlight the exciting scientific discoveries of the CoML projects over the past year.

The Outreach Liaison Network will hold its next meeting in Paris, France on 2-3 December 2004.

- **Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS).**
The OBIS Secretariat is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Richard A. Chinman as OBIS Program Manager. As Director of the Tropical Ocean Global Atmosphere-- Coupled Ocean Atmosphere Response Experiment (TOGA COARE) International Project Office, Dr. Chinman built a federation of data systems involving 20 countries and 300 research scientists. He has also served as Project Manager for Information Infrastructure, Technology and Applications at the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR). He received his Ph.D. in Oceanography from the University of Rhode Island and B.A. from Williams College. He worked in the Office of the Oceanographer of the Navy, Interagency and International Affairs Division (first as a National Sea Grant Fellow and subsequently as a NOAA staff member seconded to the Navy) to increase international cooperation on use of hydrographic and oceanographic data. He has served on the U.S. National Committee for the Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA) and the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS).

The OBIS portal now serves 5,119,308 records. These records are for 46,436 scientific names representing 31,539 species, from 25 data sources. By late 2005 OBIS expects to serve 6 million records. OBIS continues to be in the top three data providers to the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (http://www.gbif.org).

OBIS has received $1.5 million from the Sloan Foundation to establish a global network of Regional OBIS Nodes (RON) and a staffed Secretariat at Rutgers University.
The newly created OBIS Management Committee (MC) is comprised of representatives of each Regional OBIS Nodes (RON), namely Australia, Canada, China, Europe, India, Japan, New Zealand, South America, and Sub-Saharan Africa. These regional nodes will include data from adjacent countries in their region. The OBIS MC met for the first time at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography (BIO), Dartmouth, Canada on 16-18 September 2004 to create a plan to implement a global network of interoperable databases. Currently, the OBIS portal hosted at Rutgers University is the sole entry point to the network and the XML schema it currently uses limits the type of data that can be shared and distributed. The meeting addressed issues pertaining to the development of regional portals that will diversify the entry points into the OBIS network as well as provide regional services such as language translation. The development of regional nodes is also an opportunity for developers to improve and augment the current OBIS XML schema used and to provide access to a wider range of biogeographic data. These issues also relate to the data management of FMAP projects since it would be a logical choice to share a flexible standard between biogeographic data and model inputs and outputs. Mr. Bob Branton (BIO) was appointed Chair.

Dr. Pat Halpin of Duke University and the OBIS-SEAMAP project has been appointed its Chair of the OBIS technical Committee (TC)

The OBIS portal functions have been significantly improved by Dr Phoebe Zhang (Rutgers) and Mr. Tony Rees (CSIRO), through (a) caching available data that enables faster response times and more complete data returns, (b) creating an index to this data to allow improved search capability, and (c) programming and data cleaning to improve technical function. Imminent developments include search maps that allow search by country Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ), and making more data available.

In partnership with the IOC International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange, the International Association for Biological Oceanography (IBAO), and the Flanders Marine Institute, OBIS will hold a major international workshop on Ocean Biodiversity Informatics in Hamburg, Germany, 29 November – 1 December 2004. For more information, visit [http://www.vliz.be/obi/](http://www.vliz.be/obi/). The OBIS International Committee plans to meet in conjunction with this conference on 26-27 November in Hamburg.

- **History of Marine Animal Populations (HMAP).**
  The fifth annual HMAP workshop, *Testing the HMAP Hypotheses: known, unknown and unknowable*, took place on 11-13 August 2004 at the University of Southern Denmark in Esbjerg. Presentations included a final installment of Neil Klaer’s historical work on the SE Australian shelf, which received some good press as a result of his recent paper, “Abundance indices for main commercial fish species caught by trawl from the south-eastern Australian continental shelf from 1918 to 1957” (*Marine and Freshwater Research, 2004, 55: 561-71*). For examples of the press, see [http://www.abc.net.au/rural/tas/today.htm](http://www.abc.net.au/rural/tas/today.htm) (radio interview).

  A workshop funded under the auspices of EuroCoML to develop an HMAP case study in the Mediterranean Sea was held 20-23 September 2004 in Barcelona, Spain, hosted by Dr. Isabel Palomera of the Institut de Ciències del Mar. About 25 marine biologists, archaeologists, anthropologists and historians from Spain, France, Italy, Greece, Israel, Turkey, Canada and the USA, attended. HMAP Mediterranean has developed a website, were you can find more information, including the agenda and abstracts: [http://www.hmapcoml.org/default.asp?ID=13](http://www.hmapcoml.org/default.asp?ID=13). Dr. Ahmet Kideys, a member of the EuroCoML implementation committee, was elected chairman of the steering group for the HMAP Mediterranean study. Also involved are representatives from Italy, Spain, Greece and Israel. For more information, contact Dr. Kideys at mailto:kideys@ims.metu.edu.tr.

  The HMAP Open Science Conference, *Oceans Past - Multidisciplinary Perspectives on the History of Marine Animal Populations*, will take place from 24-27 October 2005 at Hotel Comwell in Kolding, Denmark. Oceans Past is a global conference dedicated to the history of the oceans and marine life. The conference format will be an open science forum where researchers from all relevant disciplines are welcome, both from the natural sciences and the humanities. The conference will present a large number of scientific papers in addition to discussions in open sessions about what we know, do not know, and may never know about past oceans, and how we can improve marine historical research on a global scale. A
call for papers will be issued in late 2004. For more information, visit the conference website at http://www.hmapcoml.org/Default.asp?ID=194.

- **Future of Marine Animal Populations (FMAP).**

  On September 16, the Census of Marine Zooplankton (CMarZ) and the Future of Marine Animal Populations (FMAP) projects hosted a joint workshop on the design of global biodiversity surveys in Wood’s Hole, Massachusetts. The groups decided to combine global distribution data for zooplankton species with information on environmental variables to produce realistic models of zooplankton distribution. Attendees also discussed potential strategies for developing biodiversity models of zooplankton from existing datasets, and the statistical challenges of dealing with field data, existing models, and algorithms. The approach agreed upon by CMarZ and FMAP participants was to begin by mapping large-scale distributions of 8-15 zooplankton species that are representative of their taxon or ecological guild before proceeding towards finer-scale modeling. After deliberating over which dataset would be most useful to their initial analysis, attendees decided to focus on data derived from the Blue Water Plankton project, which consists of a of log sheets recorded during SCUBA dives made between 1971 and 2003 under the supervision of Larry Madin and Richard Harbison of the Woods Hole Oceanography Institute. A Joint CMarZ – FMAP Working Group will be established to identify data required for a statistically based, analytically valid global-scale map of zooplankton species distribution and biodiversity.

  The following day, participants in the FMAP and CenSeam (the Census of Marine Life’s developing Seamount Project) also convened at Woods Hole. Modeling results by FMAP were presented, and alternative sampling designs were introduced and analyzed. A joint modeling approach was agreed upon, and FMAP will help with the design of the CenSeam field project.

  In October, participants in the FMAP and POST (Pacific Ocean Shelf Tracking) projects will be meeting on October 14 in Vancouver, British Columbia, to explore issues related to compiling databases and to discuss how to mount the scientific component of the CoML web page.

  Aswea Porter relocated to the Canadian west coast. Gretchen Fitzgerald has taken over as Coordinator of FMAP. Welcome Gretchen.

  FMAP will hold its next steering group meeting in Japan on November 15-17. The emphasis will be NaGISA, and Interactions with researchers from Japan.

**Ocean Realm Field Projects**

- **Mid-Atlantic Ridge: MAR-ECO.**

  The exciting two-month cruise on the state-of-the-art Norwegian *G.O. Sars* ended in Bergen with an international press release on 5 August. The news made a number of papers worldwide, a selection of which can be found at http://www.coml.org under “Census in the News”. You can still access the daily postings from the *G.O. Sars* journey on MAR-ECO's website: http://www.mar-eco.no/.

  Norwegian painter Oernulf Opdahl’s art exhibition, inspired by his journey with the MAR-ECO crew on the *G.O. Sars*, opens on 22 October in Oslo, Norway.

  The MAR-ECO steering group will next meet 2-3 June 2005 in Lisbon, Portugal.

- **Chemosynthetic Ecosystems: ChEss.**

  The development of the ChEss database (ChEssBase) has been progressing well. A draft of ChEssBase should be online and up on the ChEss web site for trials in October. The team fully expects to have a user-friendly web presence and interoperability through OBIS before the year is out.

  The proposal "Exploration of Chemosynthetic Habitats of the New Zealand Region" (Dr A. Baco, WHOI, USA) will be re-submitted to NOAA in October 2004.

  Eva Ramirez (SOC, UK), Daniel Desburyères (IFREMER, Brest) and Antje Boetius (MPI, Germany) have been invited by IFREMER and Oceanopolis (Brest, France) to participate in the celebration acts of the 20th
anniversary of IFREMER (30 October). Eva Ramirez will give a conference on chemosynthetic ecosystems and the Census of Marine Life for the general public and the press.

ChEss will also be involved in the Organizing Committees for the 3rd Hydrothermal Vent Symposium (Scripps, 2005) and 11th Deep-Sea Symposium (SOC, 2006).

- **Tagging of Pacific Pelagics: TOPP.** These are busy times for TOPP as they enter into Phase II. This summer has been particularly ambitious with tagging efforts occurring on a broad range of species including pinnipeds, sharks, tunas, swordfish and whales. You can follow the satellite tagged animals at the TOPP recent page (http://las.pfeg.noaa.gov/TOPP_recent/). The TOPP data management team has done an incredible job working together developing the process by which this information is updated automatically.

Some recent highlights include:

**Pinnipeds (Elephant Seals).** The elephant seal team, led by Dan Costa at UCSC, was very busy this past summer deploying a total of twenty-five tags. A number of these tags are a new design capable of measuring salinity and temperature on each dive. This information will be essential to defining the key oceanographic features that influence where seals may find food. The seal team also deployed tags on six male seals at San Benitos Island, Mexico. Elephant seals from this island represent the southern most colony for the species so it will be very interesting to see where these seals travel compared to the others that are being tracked.

**Pacific Tunas (Albacore, Bluefin and Yellowfin).** Barbara Block and her team from Stanford University and the Monterey Bay Aquarium, along with Kurt Schaffer of IATTC and John Childers from NMFS spent eleven days on a cruise out of La Jolla, California tagging tuna. A total of eighty-one albacore, eight bluefin and thirty-four yellowfin tuna were tagged with Lotek archival tags. From these and previous deployments, over 100 tags have been recovered on all three tuna species providing more than 30,000 days of data. Data processing will yield important new information for ocean observation in the California Current. Tunas potentially will provide millions of observational data points of temperature and depth in the water column.

**Sharks (Blue, Mako, Salmon, Thresher and White).** TOPP for the first time this summer has all the shark species being investigated in the program tagged simultaneously. Five species are currently carrying tags. Scientists on the shark team led by Dave Holts of NMFS and Barb Block of Stanford are tagging with direct up link tags that provide position form the dorsal fin of sharks and pop up satellite archival tags. TOPP will have 100 sharks tagged in the North Pacific by the end of the year.

**Whales.** During August, Bruce Mate and his team from Oregon State University tagged nineteen Blue whales, one Fin whale and seven Humpback whales with specially designed satellite tags that provide limited information on diving behavior. Most of the whales have remained near the coast between Point Conception and central Oregon.

**Data Management.** TOPP data management team continues to make significant strides forward with the live access server. Website visitors can now view animated species tracks plotted along with 1) the regions corresponding Advanced Very High Resolution Radiometer (AVHRR) derived sea surface temperature, or 2) with Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) derived chlorophyll. This information provides a powerful tool for understanding the environmental features that influence animal movements.

**Education and Outreach.** The E/O group has hired a TOPP web project coordinator and a web content developer, which will advance our education/outreach efforts immensely. These two new hires will work together to get the information TOPP is collecting into the public domain to educate individuals about the marine environment and related conservation issues. They begin their new positions in mid-October at MBA.
• **Salmon/Coastal Tracking: POST.**
David Welch, Chief Scientist reports that the Project team has completed the recovery of all acoustic lines, downloaded the data, and re-deployed each acoustic line again. The results from the first recovery indicate that all of the tagged salmon smolts subsequently detected moved through the river and marine array very quickly, largely leaving the system by mid-June.

Welch also feels that the POST project has shown that the array concept can be used to provide an almost complete census of tagged animals as small as 12-14 cm salmon smolts as they cross a single acoustic listening line stretching more than 20 kms in length. This result is extremely important, because it has never before been possible to achieve this type of technical measurement. The implication is that the development of a permanent marine array will confer an ability to precisely measure movements and survival of salmon (and other fish) all along the west coast of North America.

• **Latitudinal/Longitudinal Gradients in Near-Shore Biodiversity: NaGISA.**
NaGISA has now completed 2004 sampling in the Northern Hemisphere having sampled sites in Alaska USA (Kechneck Bay Kodiak Island, Prince William Sound and the Boulder Patch) and Seto Japan, (Hakajima and Shirahama). The most exiting find was the discovery, in June, of a single bed of Rhodoliths near Knight Island in Prince William Sound by Dr. Brenda Konar and Dr. Katrin Iken (read press release: [http://www.nagisa.coml.org/media](http://www.nagisa.coml.org/media)) who worked with Rafael Rosmena-Rodriguez, of the Marine Botany Program at Autonomous University of Baja California Sur in La Paz, Mexico to help identify the bed. Rhodolith beds have been found throughout the world's oceans, including in the Arctic near Greenland and in waters off British Columbia, Canada, but they have never been documented in Alaska waters.

The Tanabe (Wakayama, Japan) - Niceville (Florida, USA) High School Biodiversity Workshop, held July 26-29 in Seto Marine Biological Laboratory Shirahama, Japan and funded by the Fulbright Memorial Fund, was so successful that there are plans for more exchanges. The schools are now getting ready for their October field practice in the Gulf of Mexico.

NaGISA made formal contact with GloBallast (an IMO program looking at Global transmission of flora and fauna in Ballast waters) at their ground rules workshop in Vietnam. Discussions were based primarily on the possibility of future collaboration and the two groups common interest in Taxonomy. NaGISA also meet with members of the Chinese Academy of Sciences at their annual scientific conference in July. The 2nd Annual JSPS-NaGISA workshop, held at the National Oceanography Institute in Nha Trang Vietnam from September 30 - October 3, focused on Marine Amphipod Taxonomy. NaGISA WPac Members held their annual meeting at the same time.

The NaGISA 2nd Annual Steering Committee Meeting will be held on November 15-16, 2004 at the University of Kyoto in Japan with participation from FMAP Western Pacific and OBIS Japan.

• **Abyssal Sediments: CeDAMar.**
The CeDAMar steering committee welcomes seven new members: M. Rex (USA), R. Etter (USA), Nagender Nath (India), M. Malyutina (Russia), K. Ellingsen (Norway), T. Cronin (USA) and A. Vanreussel (Belgium). As a link to the company PETROBRAS (Brazil), A. P. Falcao will serve as an ex-officio member.

CeDAMar has initiated a fellowship program for deep-sea taxonomists. A total of 10 fellowships will be granted per year. Deadlines for application are 15th March, 15th June, 15th September, and 15th December each year. For more information, including eligibility and application submission, see [http://www.cedamar.org](http://www.cedamar.org).

A proposal for a Mediterranean deep-sea cruise in 2006 using the R/V Meteor (PI: Michael Tuerkay) was approved by the German Research Council.

• **Ice Oceans – Arctic: ArcCoML.**
On August 24, 2004, scientists led by oceanographer Dr. Terry Whitledge, University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF), returned to Nome, Alaska, from a three-week, joint U.S.-Russian oceanographic research
expedition to the Bering and Chukchi Seas. Ten American, two Canadian, two German, a Korean and 20 Russian scientists conducted an array of studies on the region's physical, chemical and biological oceanography.

The expedition was the first in the Russian-American Long Term Census of the Arctic, and was sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS). The team examined a wide range of topics covering water column and benthic surveys, fish distribution, nutrient and current fluxes, Methane distribution, and seafloor processes. Studies relevant to the Arctic Ocean Census of Marine Life focused on planktonic, benthic and fish communities: Dr. Russ Hopcroft (UAF) with Dr. Ksenia Kosobokova (Shirshov Institute of Oceanology, RAS, Moscow) conducted a census of the zooplankton at the sampled stations. Drs. Ken Dunton (Univ. of Texas at Austin), Katrin Iken, and Bodil Bluhm (both UAF) and Drs. Boris Sirenko, Sergej Gagaev (Zoological Institute (ZIN), RAS, St. Petersburg,) with Dr. Jackie Grebmeier (University of Tennessee at Knoxville) investigated the benthic epifauna and infauna, respectively. The team conducting fish studies included Drs. Kitty Mecklenburg (Univ. of California, Santa Barbara), David Stein (Smithsonian Institution), Boris Sheiko (ZIN), Natalia Chernova (ZIN), Brenda Norcross and Brenda Holladay (both UAF). Scientists traveled aboard the 71.6-meter (235-foot) research vessel Professor Khromov, operated by the Far East Hydro-Meteorological Institute in Vladivostok, Russia. Over 50 stations were sampled and will be jointly analyzed by the Russian-American teams, contributing to the Russian-American Long Term Census of the Arctic and the Arctic Ocean Census of Marine Life.

The next Arctic CoML Steering Group Meeting will be held at the CORE facilities in Washington, DC on November 21-22.

- **Microbes: ICOMM.**
  Principal Investigators, Mitch Sogin (Marine Biological Laboratory, USA) and Jan de Leeuw (The Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research) have been awarded funding from the Sloan Foundation to initiate a new CoML Ocean Realm Field Project on global marine microbes, International Census of Marine Microbes (ICOMM). The project will catalogue all known diversity of single-cell organisms inclusive of the Bacteria, Archaea, Protista and associated viruses, explore and discover unknown microbial diversity, and place that knowledge into appropriate ecological and evolutionary contexts. ICOMM will also serve as a crosscutting effort across CoML field projects with existing or potential microbial components.

- **Zooplankton.**
  Principal Investigators, Ann Bucklin (University of New Hampshire/University of Connecticut, USA), Shuhei Nishida (University of Tokyo, Japan) and Sigrid Schiel (Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research, Germany) have been awarded funding from the Sloan Foundation to initiate a new CoML Ocean Realm Field Project on global zooplankton, Census of Marine Zooplankton (CMarZ). CMarZ will make a taxonomically comprehensive assessment of biodiversity of animal plankton throughout the world ocean.

National and Regional Activities

- **Canada.**
  The Census of Marine Life Canada will hold a workshop 29-31 October in Ottawa to create a unified, research agenda to advance knowledge of biodiversity in Canadian waters, the variables that regulate biodiversity pattern, and how to use this knowledge to manage and conserve marine biodiversity. The workshop will focus on processes that regulate biodiversity from populations to ecosystems. A major objective is to determine how interaction with international initiatives can make the most of Canadian resources that are small relative to the country’s extensive ocean borders. Dr. Paul Snelgrove, Memorial University of Newfoundland and Dr. Mike Sinclair, Bedford Institute of Oceanography, will chair the meeting.

- **Caribbean.**
  The formal CoML Caribbean implementation committee has been formed. Members include:
At the workshop held in June in Venezuela, the Caribbean CoML was formally introduced to NaGISA was formally introduced to researchers in the Caribbean and Latin American Region. Dr. Paula Spiniello of Universidad Central de Venezuela was elected Regional PI and is currently looking for interested parties and support for the NaGISA Program in the LAC region.

- **Europe.**
The ESF Executive Board has very recently approved The EuroDEEP proposal for a EUROCORES on deep sea functioning and biodiversity. The proposal was developed in collaboration between the EuroCoML committee and the leaders of the European led deep-sea projects (ChEss, CeDAMar, MAR-ECO). Special congratulations go out to Eva Ramirez-Llodra of ChEss for her lead role in the writing of this proposal. Eva will attend the upcoming EuroCoML to talk about EuroDEEP.

The next meeting of the full EuroCoML Committee will be held 12-13 October 2004 at the Royal Academy in Amsterdam.

- **Indian Ocean.**
Vishwas Chavan of the Indian Ocean Regional OBIS Node has been working with Phoebe Zhang (Portal at Rutgers) to explore a new look to the OBIS website.

- **South America.**
The South American CoML committee will meet on 26-27 October in Lima, Peru.

- **USA.**
The U.S. National Committee is currently preparing for targeted visits to federal agencies to present the components of the U.S. program plan as they support specific recommendations of the final report of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy. The agency visits will take place in September and October.

In early August, Peter Fippinger joined the CORE Census of Marine Life staff as the new U.S. Program Coordinator. Peter comes to CORE from a position as International Affairs Specialist and Biodiversity Coordinator for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

On Monday September 20th, the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy presented its Final Report, An Ocean Blueprint for the 21st Century, to Members of Congress. On Tuesday, Admiral Watkins presented the Commission findings and recommendations before the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee. The Committee also heard from other community leaders on how to implement these recommendations. You can view a record of this hearing on web-site http://www.senate.gov, following directions to the Committee site. An excellent article on the Commission report and its importance to our community is included in the upcoming issue of Oceanography and can be accessed at http://www.tos.org/oceanography/issues/current.html. In addition, the Senate may take action on S. 2647, a bill of interest to the community. Posted on the CORE web site are letters from CORE supporting action on S. 2648, the Ocean Research and Coordination Act and S. 2647, the National Ocean Policy and Leadership Act. Also posted is a joint letter, with the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC) and the Sea Grant Association (SGA), to the President of the United States endorsing the Commission report and urging the President to take prompt action. A public news release from the community also is posted.
The UNSC fall meeting will take place in Washington, DC from November 15 to 17, primarily at the CORE offices. The concept of a three day meeting is intended to allow for a first day of full agenda and implementation strategy; a second day of outreach and education with Hill staff, Federal agencies, industry and other potential fund sources; and a third day to provide feedback on meetings, needed strategic changes, and to discuss intercessional activities.

A CoML session for the 6th International Aquarium Congress will take place on 5-10 December 2004 in Monterey, CA. Jerry Schubel, chair of the USNC education and outreach subcommittee, is organizing this session.

Developing Field Projects

- **Coral Reefs.**
The USNC for the CoML convened a workshop of U.S. coral reef experts in Kaneohe Bay, Oahu, Hawaii August 16-18, 2004, to develop objectives and research priorities for a U.S. component of a CoML project on coral reefs. Participants to the meeting included representatives of academia, U.S. Federal agencies, non-governmental agencies and the CoML Secretariat. Participants of the workshop were tasked with identifying a framework of research priorities that compliments existing activities of other U.S. initiatives, but that could also serve as a model for the global CoML initiative. A publication of the workshop proceedings is under preparation by the program office, with the support of the Living Oceans Foundation. More information can be found at the workshop website: http://www.coreocean.org/Dev2Go.web?id=260543. Participants decided that a project proposal for a U.S. CoML project would be drafted based on the outcomes, to be attached as an appendix to the international CoML project proposal being coordinated by an international CoML coral planning committee. A drafting group for the international project will convene in Washington, DC on October 14-15, 2004, led by Nancy Knowlton.

- **Ice Oceans – Antarctic.**
The nascent circum-Antarctic CoML team met 9-10 October in Bremerhaven hosted by Wolf Arntz of the Alfred Wegener Institute to advance preparation of their project, which they aim to launch in January 2005. Michael Stoddart of the Australian Antarctic Division served as convener.

Cross-cutting and Other Related Activities

- **SCOR Panel on New Technologies.**
The SCOR Panel is developing a new website on technologies for observing marine life. Reminder to CoML project leaders: Please submit your completed questionnaires to Dr. Elgar Desa, Panel Chair. mailto:elgar@csnio.ren.nic.in

- **SCOR Marine Projects Coordination Meeting.**
Representatives of twenty of the largest international marine research projects met under the auspices of the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research in Venice, Italy, 23-24 September, to establish common needs and goals. Focal issues were compatibility of data management plans, the uses of and contribution to the Global Ocean Observation System, Southern Ocean plans, particularly related to the International Polar Year, 2007-9, the need to maintain time-series and contributions to environmental assessments. These themes continued to resonate through the 2004 SCOR General Meeting, 27-30 September. For additional information, see http://www.jhu/edu/scor/ProjCoord.htm or contact Ron O’Dor at mailto:rodor@coreocean.org.

- **DNA Barcoding.**

The Consortium for the Barcode of Life is pleased to announce that Dr. David Schindel began work as full-time Executive Secretary of CBOL in September. For more information about CBOL visit
http://barcoding.si.edu/ and http://phe.rockefeller.edu/BarcodeConference/ Registration is open for The First International Conference for the Barcoding of Life, to be held at The Natural History Museum, London, February 7-9, 2005. http://www.nhm.ac.uk/science/BOL/ Robert Ward (Australia) is one of the marine voices on the organizing committee.

- **Known, Unknown, Unknowable.**
  The Known, Unknown, Unknowable (KUU) conference on *Future* Marine Biodiversity is scheduled for 22-25 April 2005 at Scripps Institute of Oceanography in La Jolla, CA. More information will be available in the coming months.

**General News**

- **National Oceanographic Partnership Program.**
  The U.S. National Oceanographic Partnership Program (NOPP) has released its fiscal year 2005 Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) on July 13, 2004. Up to $11.8M over three years may be available for this solicitation, subject to appropriation and final approval by the National Ocean Research Leadership Council (NORLC). Additionally, non-Federal institutions have expressed to the government that they have similar research interests and goals as expressed under this BAA and may potentially provide up to $3M in separately funded non-Federal projects. NOPP seeks proposals relating to:
  - Fusing multi-sensor regional scale data to monitor and quantify coastal processes;
  - Integration of private and public data sets in the northern Gulf of Mexico;
  - New methods for detection of fish populations or mapping of fish habitat; and
  - Sensors for sustained, autonomous measurement of chemical or biological parameters in the ocean.
  The response date for the NOPP BAA is **25 October 2004** (it has been extended). Team efforts among academia, industry, and government participants are required (at least 2 of the 3). For the full announcement, visit [http://www.onr.navy.mil/02/baa/docs/04_022.pdf](http://www.onr.navy.mil/02/baa/docs/04_022.pdf).

- **NOAA’s National Data Buoy Center.**
  The NDBC is seeking partners who are preparing proposals for the NOPP BAA, Topic 4B, Sensors for Sustained, Autonomous Measurement of Chemical or Biological Parameters in the Ocean. The principal focus of the topic will be “to support the transition of chemical or biological sensors that have demonstrated capability for sustained and accurate, stable, autonomous operation in the ocean toward a commercially viable status.” For details, contact Dr. Don Conlee, NDBC Chief Scientist, at mailto:Don.Conlee@noaa.gov or +1 (228) 688-1753.

- **The Smithsonian Institute.**
  The Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History plans to announce today the largest renovation in its nearly 95-year history, creating Ocean Hall, an unusual hybrid of public display and research. Ocean Hall will cost $60 million and cover 28,000 square feet. It will bring together for the first time all 50 of the museum's marine scientists and government specialists in what's being called the Smithsonian Ocean Science Initiative.

- **NSF.**
  The Cluster for Systematic Biology and Biodiversity Inventories within the Division of Environmental Biology encourages the submission of proposals aimed at synthesizing available and new species-level taxonomic information in the context of providing reversionary treatments and predictive classifications for particular groups of organisms. Proposals can be submitted to either the Biodiversity Surveys & Inventories panel (BS&I) or Systematic Biology panel for the two regular target dates each year (January 9 and July 9). Please see the website for more information. (See the program description, pd047374, on the NSF website at [http://www.nsf.gov/pubsys/ods/getpub.cfm?ods_key=pd047374](http://www.nsf.gov/pubsys/ods/getpub.cfm?ods_key=pd047374)).

- **The Oceanography Society.**
  The Oceanography Society and UNESCO’s Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission will hold their joint International Ocean Research Conference in Paris from 6-10 June 2005. The goals of the meeting are to reflect on how far oceanography has come and to help define the coming decade of international

- **Postdoctoral Researcher in Deep Sea Ecology/Biogeography.**
  An interdisciplinary project to build an information system for marine is seeking a postdoctoral researcher to conduct a case study on the ecology/biogeography of seamounts using an existing database of seamount sampling (SeamountsOnline: http://seamounts.sdsc.edu/). The researcher will be responsible for carrying out an ecological/biogeographical research project, but will be expected to help guide information system development by evaluating prototype tools and features, and advising on desired features. The ideal candidate will have a PhD in biological oceanography, marine ecology, or a similar field (experience with deep-sea biology or biogeography is a plus), and good quantitative/statistical skills. Experience with database systems or website development would be beneficial, but is not required. An inquiring mind and the ability to communicate with an interdisciplinary team is a must. A candidate with a master’s degree and relevant experience may also be considered. This two-year position is located at the University of California San Diego in sunny Southern California. The project is led from the San Diego Supercomputer Center but has strong ties to Scripps Institution of Oceanography, providing a stimulating environment for a marine scientist. Consideration of applications will begin immediately and continue until a suitable candidate is found. The ability to start quickly (within a few months) is important for this 2-year grant. Salary is contingent upon experience. (The position is not part of a Census of Marine Life program). To apply send a cover letter, curriculum vitae, and contact information for three referees to Karen Stocks (mailto:kstocks@sdsc.edu).

- **START Fellowship/Visiting Scientist Program (Round 13).**
  The SysTem for Analysis, Research and Training (START) Program, funded by DGIS, the Netherlands, is designed to increase the number of developing country scientists who serve as active partners in global change research in START regional networks and in the Joint and Core Projects of the Earth System Science Partnership (IGBP, WCRP, IHDP, and DIVERSITAS). START Fellowships are offered at the graduate and post-graduate levels to young scientists from Africa, Asia, and Oceania. START fellows may work under senior mentors in leading laboratories or institutions in any part of the world, where research is conducted on relevant regional aspects of global change. Long-term collaboration between the individuals and institution involved is one important preferred outcome of the programme. The duration of these fellowships is ordinarily one or two semesters (i.e. typically 4-8 months). A parallel activity, the START Visiting Scientist Award, allows more senior scientists from developing countries the opportunity to undertake short-term visits to major international laboratories to become acquainted with recent advances in research and develop long-term programmatic linkages and partnerships. The duration of these awards is usually 1-2 months. For more information and an application, see http://www.start.org/ or contact Ms. Patricia Sipher at mailto:psipher@agu.org. The deadline for the 13th round of awards is December 1, 2004.

**CoML In The News**

- **Dive Training Magazine.**

- **U.S. News and World Report.**
  The August 16 issue of the U.S. News & World Report focused heavily on stories about ocean issues and research. Many stories highlighted work in marine biology from the deep-sea invertebrates to pelagic fish and sharks to the elusive giant squid. Census of Marine Life research was featured prominently in these stories, which included quotes by Karen Stocks (Seamounts, OBIS), Barbara Block (TOPP), Jeremy Jackson (HMAP), Larry Madin (Census of Marine Zooplankton) and Senior Scientist Ron O’Dor. The issue did an excellent job of enlightening the public on the wonders – and critical issues – of the oceans
• MS-NBC. There are some nice photos courtesy of CoML, and MAR-ECO, which were featured on MS-NBC back in August. See the link for actual photos, [http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/5610557/](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/5610557/)

**Calendar of Upcoming Events**

*October*
- 9-10: CoML Antarctic Workshop, Bremerhaven, Germany
- 12-13: EuroCoML Meeting, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 14-15: International CoML Coral meeting, Washington, DC, USA
- 26-27: CoML South American Regional Committee meeting, Lima, Peru
- 29-31: Canadian National Committee Workshop, Ottawa, ON, Canada

*November*
- 15-17: US National Committee meeting, Washington, DC, USA
- 15-16: FMAP Network Workshop, Kyoto, Japan
- 15-16: NaGISA Steering Committee Meeting, Kyoto, Japan
- 21-23: ArcCoML meeting, Washington, DC, USA
- 26-27: Meeting of the OBIS International Committee, Hamburg, Germany
- 29-1 Dec: Ocean Biodiversity Informatics International Conference on Marine Biodiversity Data Management (co-organized by OBIS), Hamburg, Germany

*December*
- 2-3: CoML SSC Meeting, Paris, France – Chairs of National and Regional Committees to attend
- 2-3: CoML Outreach Network Meeting, Paris, France
- 5-10: 6th International Aquarium Congress, Monterey, CA, USA. (USNC organizing a session on CoML)