

SCOR Meeting on Coordination of International Marine Research Projects

Request for Background Information

Census of Marine Life:

Data Management Discussion—Has your SSC discussed and considered the recommendations of the data management meeting? If so, will the recommendations be implemented? What additional actions could/should SCOR or other organizations take to help with this topic?

1. All of the Census of Marine Life (CoML) projects make their data readily available through OBIS and it will serve as CoML's legacy. OBIS enables interoperability of many heterogeneous sources of data including those of taxonomic authorities as well as academic and government data centers. OBIS is growing rapidly and provides open access to over 5 million records either through species names (common or scientific) or geographic designation. OBIS is an Associate Member of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility and adheres to its data policies.
2. A Member of the OBIS International Committee (Geoff Boxshall, The Natural History Museum, London) represented OBIS at the SCOR/IGBP Meeting on Data management in Liverpool 8- 10 November 2003 and provided an OBIS summary. OBIS is also referred to in the Data Management and Communications Plan for Research and Operational Integrated Ocean Observing Systems (http://dmac.ocean.us/dacsc/imp_plan.jsp). Special issues associated with species-referenced data are discussed in Appendix 7 of that Report.
3. OBIS would like to encourage all international programs to contribute their species-referenced, georeferenced data to OBIS. The best way to do this is through an on-going partnership and web-based interoperability with the data provider.

GOOS Discussion--Please provide any information from your project documents that specifies project plans to interact with GOOS and describe any interaction your SSC or IPO has had with GOOS activities. Have SSC members attended GOOS Steering Committee, OOPC, or COOP meetings? If so, what was their role at the meeting? Has your SSC discussed what is, or will be, available from GOOS and other observing systems? Has your SSC identified any specific observations to which your scientists would like access? Have you ever had a presentation about GOOS at an SSC meeting? What research observation systems would your project like to see become operational?

1. James Baker is a member of the CoML SSC and provides an ongoing link to GOOS.
2. CoML co-sponsored with POGO a workshop, Biological Observations of the Global Ocean: Requirements and how to meet them, at Dartington, UK, 28-30 June 2001.

3. Jesse Ausubel gave a powerpoint presentation on the potential contributions CoML can make to GOOS at the Seventh Session of the Global Ocean Observing System Steering Committee (GSC-VII) Brest, France, 26 – 29 April 2004. The focus was on sensor systems and protocols that could provide operational or near-operational biological data that are being tested in CoML. (Available on Request)

4. Ron O'Dor working with Shubha Sathyendranath at POGO provided text for the current draft of the Biodiversity 'Social Benefit Topic' for the GEOSS 10-Year Implementation Plan and a table of biodiversity relevant observations (Available on Request) .

Southern Ocean Research--What activities has your project undertaken or planned for the Southern Ocean? Have you coordinated your Southern Ocean research with other projects? Do you have any special plans for the 3rd International Polar Year in 2007?

1. The CoML biohistory, History of Marine Populations (HMAP), element is conducting case studies on historical records from the Benguela region, New Zealand, SE Australia and Global Whaling.

2. Four Ocean Realm Field Projects are operational in the Southern Ocean (SO):

A. The Nearshore, NaGISA, project has plans to run biodiversity dive transects from shore to 10m depth in Australia, New Zealand, Antarctica and likely South America and South Africa.

B. Coastal Tracking, POST, project has an Australian collaboration concentrated in Tasmania, but a recently formed consortium extends it across the entire south coast.

C. The Chemosynthetic Ecosystems, ChEss, and Abyssal, CeDAMar, projects have affiliated cruises scheduled (Available on Request). The soon to be launched Plankton, CMarZ, also has several cruises committed in the SO.

3. The CoML also has a National Implementation Committee in Australia and Regional Implementation Committees in South America, Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean. These committees organized after 'Known, Unknown, Unknowable' Workshops that documented what was known about marine biodiversity in their regions in preparation for consolidating their data in regional OBIS Nodes.

4. An Australian Antarctic Division proposal for a Circum-Antarctic CoML project for IPY was recently approved by SCAR as part of its Evolution and Biodiversity of Antarctic Organisms program. Negotiations continue, but several countries have made ship-time commitments. There are also strong links between the Oceanic Tracking, TOPP, project and southern ocean animal trackers. CoML and OBIS-SEAMAP are supporting John Croxall's project to assemble all the SO albatross tracking data, and we hope that the Antarctic project will form the basis for assembling and focusing the entire SO animal tracking enterprise on the data sharing, multi-species approach used so

successfully by TOPP in the North Pacific. SCAR has also begun development of Marine Biodiversity Information Network that would be compatible with OBIS.

Time-Series Stations—Will implementation of your project require observations from time-series stations? In what locations? How will such stations be supported?

1. BATS – A funded OBIS contributor.
2. HOTS – A focal site for the soon to be launched Microbes, ICOMM, project.
3. CPR (Continuous Plankton Recorder) international surveys (Sir Alister Hardy Foundation for Ocean Science) – These data are served by OBIS and SAHFOS.
4. POST - The acoustic modem and cabled hydrophone curtains going from the shore to the continental margin can also collect and transmit shelf-bottom physical and chemical data in the coastal zone not served by Argo floats. POST has funding to create curtains, but the business plan assumes that many users will pay for data and support the costs of data collection.

Environmental Assessments—Has your project been asked by any of the global assessment organizations for data, model results, and/or expert advice?

CoML recognized the need for and feasibility of a global accounting of ocean life in 1997 and began working actively towards such a census with the formation of its independent international Scientific Steering Committee in 2000. Since that time it has worked to make its census an element of global ocean assessment. During the Thirty-third Session of the Executive Council, Paris, 20-30 June 2000 (IOC/EC-XXXIII/3), "the Executive Council expressed support for the Census, and instructed the IOC Secretariat to develop an appropriate mechanism for IOC involvement in the Census." It further "recognized the potential implications of the information arising from the Census for the conservation and management of fish stocks within national EEZs, and the particular need therefore to coordinate Census activities on a national basis." CoML participated in the First Meeting for a Feasibility Study for Establishing a Regular Process for the Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, Reykjavik, 12-14 September 2001 (Proceedings, UNEP GC Decision 21/13), as well as the Technical Consultation on Improving Information on the Status and Trends of Capture Fisheries, Rome, 25-28 March 2002 (FAO Fisheries Report No. 680, FIDI/R 680-Tri). CoML is the Biology Editor for the UN Atlas of the Oceans and was discussed in *One Planet, One Ocean – Sustainable Development of Oceans and Coasts: a Commitment of 129 States at Johannesburg 2002* (IOC Information documents series No. 1172, UNESCO 2002). In response to a UN invitation to be a modality "for a regular process for the global reporting and assessment of the marine environment", RADM West, President of the Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education organized a CoML side-event for the General Assembly at UN Headquarters in New York for UNICPOLOS on 4 June 2003. CoML considers that its program and OBIS are a crucial baseline for future Global Marine Assessments and continues to work to ensure that biodiversity is a recognized component.