

Second Meeting of the U.S. National Committee for the Census of Marine Life
The Mayflower Hotel, Washington, DC
21-22 April 2003

MINUTES

Attendees

Members:

Dr. Daphne Fautin, University of Kansas
Dr. Daniel Finamore, Peabody Essex Museum
Mr. Tom Fry, National Ocean Industries Association
Mr. Terry Garcia, National Geographic Society
Dr. Clarence Pautzke, North Pacific Research Board
Dr. Shirley Pomponi, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution
Dr. Michael Roman, University of Maryland
Dr. Jerry Schubel, Aquarium of the Pacific
Dr. Paul Sandifer, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Mr. Bill Shedd, AFTCO Manufacturing Company

Others:

Mr. Jesse Ausubel, Alfred P. Sloan Foundation
Dr. Don Boesch, University of Maryland
Dr. Stephen Brown, National Marine Fisheries Service
Dr. Larry Clark, National Science Foundation
Ms. Penny Dalton, CORE/ Program Office
Ms. Giselle Firme, CORE/Program Office
Dr. William Fox, National Marine Fisheries Service
Dr. Fred Grassle, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Ms. Catherine Marzin, National Marine Sanctuaries
Mr. Tom Michaels, National Ocean Industries Association
Dr. Scott Miller, National Museum of Natural History
Dr. Ron O'Dor, CORE/ Program Office
Dr. David Pawson, National Museum of Natural History
Ms. Gina Perovich, Environmental Protection Agency
Mr. Scott Rayder, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Mr. Randy Showstack, American Geophysical Union
RADM Richard West, CORE/ Program Office
Ms. Kristen Yarincik, CORE/ Program Office

I. Welcome & Committee Business

Dr. Fautin opened the meeting by welcoming the Committee members. The minutes of the December 2002 meeting were approved without changes. The Committee charter was approved pending clarification of the terms of membership and the addition of language describing the role of the chair and the assignment of designees.

The Committee engaged in a detailed discussion about membership. It was agreed that Jack Dangermond of ESRI should be invited to the Committee. The Committee discussed appropriate economists and representatives from commercial fishing, but agreed to postpone inviting new members from those fields at this time.

II. Update on Recent Activities

The Committee members signed up for sub-committees to help carry out future tasks. These subcommittees are:

Policy/Legislation: Tom Fry (Tom Michaels), Terry Garcia, Clarence Pautzke, Paul Sandifer, Jerry Schubel, Bill Shedd

Science/Research: Nancy Knowlton, Clarence Pautzke, Shirley Pomponi, Mike Roman, Paul Sandifer

Technology: Shirley Pomponi, Mike Roman

Education and Outreach: Daniel Finamore, Tom Fry (Tom Michaels), Terry Garcia, Jerry Schubel, Bill Shedd

Collections/Specimens: Daphne Fautin, Shirley Pomponi

III. Presentations by U.S. Committee Members & CORE

The Chair and Program Office felt it would be appropriate over the next few meetings for Committee members to give presentations on their own work. This would help acquaint the members with one another and to identify potential areas of crossover. At this meeting, presentations were given by Clarence Pautzke (North Pacific Research Board), Tom Fry (National Ocean Industries Association) and Shirley Pomponi (Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution). Electronic copies of these presentations are available from the Program Office.

RADM Richard West, CORE President, gave a presentation on GIS and ocean observations. He stressed the importance of accurate, universal geo-referencing and recommended all CoML projects use the same system (UTC or WGS 84).

IV. October Outreach Event

The Program Office provided an update on the planning for the international outreach event scheduled for 23 October 2003 in Washington DC. The Committee brainstormed ideas to enhance the current program (e.g., catchy titles, keynote speakers) and for the U.S. contribution to the event. A major contribution will be the release of the U.S. strategy document. They also discussed potential “hooks” for the event and suggested including a premier of the IMAX film

on hydrothermal vents, involving the people behind *Shifting Baselines* and *Defying Ocean's End*, and inviting National Ocean Science Bowl students to perform a debate with CoML scientists.

V. Presentation by International Scientific Steering Committee

Fred Grassle, chair of the international Scientific Steering Committee, provided an overview of the CoML international program. This was to refresh the U.S. Committee on the current science program as well as update them on recent activities and initiatives.

VI. Agency Presentations and Discussion

A. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Scott Rayder, NOAA Chief of Staff, provided an overview of the NOAA perspective on CoML. The major mission goals that relate to the CoML are ecosystem-based management and climate change and response. The four crosscutting programs in NOAA are: climate, homeland security, corals, ocean exploration, and habitat. He provided details on specific NOAA programs and funding levels. NOAA's current annual support of the U.S. program is \$900K. Emerging areas of interest within NOAA include: deep sea corals and vent communities, technology development (e.g., for counting organisms), taxonomic research, and marine protected areas. A copy of this presentation is available from the Program Office.

B. National Science Foundation (NSF)

Larry Clark, Head, Geosciences Ocean Section (OCE), provided an overview on NSF OCE programs and funding, including the Biocomplexity initiative. The major themes of Biocomplexity are: coupled natural and human systems; coupled biogeochemical cycles; genome-enabled science and engineering; instrumentation development for environmental activities; and materials use. Dr. Clark also provided an update on the Environmental Research Frontiers report, which can be viewed as a template for how NSF will change research over the next decade. It focuses on: coupled human and natural systems; coupled biological and physical systems; people and technology; and integrating research and education. The areas identified for initial implementation are: water as a complex environmental system; environmental cyber infrastructure; sensors; environmental observing systems; and environmental education. Dr. Clark feels the U.S. Committee can participate in the next steps of this program by: performing an inventory of water research activities and identifying gaps that should be addressed; exploring options for enhancing observation systems and cyber infrastructure for biology; and developing a research prospectus. A copy of this presentation is available from the Program Office.

C. National Museum of Natural History (NMNH)

Scott Miller, Chair, Systematic Biology, gave a presentation on Smithsonian Institution activities related to the CoML. SERC studies invasive biology. The marine station in Florida performs species inventories of the Indian River lagoon. Other relevant programs

include the Caribbean Coral Reef Ecosystem (Belize) and the Tropical Research Institute (Panama). A copy of this presentation is available from the Program Office.

D. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Gina Perovich of the National Center for Environmental Research gave a presentation on the Science To Achieve Results (STAR) grant program. STAR provides approximately 300 new grants per year. STAR runs two programs with marine focus: ECOHAB (ecology and oceanography of harmful algal blooms) and EaGLES. Ms. Perovich also indicated that the EPA programs most relevant to CoML are the NHEERL and EMAP, but was unable to speak in detail on these.

VII. Developing the U.S. Vision and Strategy

The Committee agreed that the U.S. strategy should be drafted by integrating the existing documents: the application for SCOR affiliation, the recent *Oceanologica Acta* article, the USNC issues brief to the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, the report from the 1998 Monterey workshop, and the NRC report *Understanding Marine Biodiversity*. It should be clear in the document that the primary goal of the program is to enhance our base of knowledge to benefit applicable practices such as sustainable development, ecosystem-based management, etc. It is important to show in the document that CoML is at the cutting edge of science.

VIII. July Workshop

The Committee discussed plans for the workshop to be held at the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, MA during the week of 21-25 July 2003. It was agreed that the major goals of the workshop would be to obtain scientific community input on the design of the U.S. program, including a prioritized list of research objectives, to engage the scientific community in the program, and to refine the draft strategy document. Jerry Schubel agreed to moderate the workshop and to help the Program Office develop the agenda.

The Committee developed a list of potential workshop participants from academia and the federal agencies. It agreed that it is important to have balance not only in sectors, but also geographically and in age (important to get buy in from young scientists). Each Committee member will submit his/her personally prioritized list to the Program Office, who will invite the top 25 potential participants based on the outcomes of the prioritization.

Action Items

Committee:

- Prioritize list of potential workshop invitees

Secretariat:

- Send copies of the agency presentations to the Committee
- Draft research strategy document and send to Committee for review
- Send list of potential workshop invitees to Committee for review