

Census of Marine Life Education and Outreach Network

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Big Fish Eat Little Fish



Big Fish Eat Little Fish, 1557
Drawing, Pieter Bruegel the Elder, Engraving Pieter van der Heyden

DNA Barcoding researchers have extracted DNA samples from the gut contents of mosquito larvae and have used the results to analyze the larvae's feeding ecology. Described in an article published in the journal *Molecular Ecology Resources* (Vol 8, Issue 3, pp 512-518), this methodology has promise in application to investigating marine food webs, especially the trophic interactions of tiny sea life such as zooplankton. Growing reference libraries of DNA barcodes can provide easy identification of extracted samples and help researchers to understand the intricacies of otherwise unobservable food webs. More information is available on the Rockefeller University [Barcoding Blog](#) and in the article entitled "Gut content identification of larvae of the *Anopheles gambiae* complex in western Kenya using a barcoding approach," which is available online through [Blackwell Synergy](#).

EuroCoML Releases its Spring 2008 Newsletter

The European Census of Marine Life has released the Spring 2008 edition of its quarterly newsletter. This publication is intended to inform the scientific community of Census and Census-affiliated activity and events that are happening in the European theater. This quarter's edition features articles on Angelika Brandt, the



Encyclopedia of Life, basking shark research, and biodiversity along the Calabrian coast. Also featured are the EuroDEEP program, which draws together deep-sea researchers from across Europe, the results of the International Workshop on Ribosomal RNA Technology, and highlights from EuroCoML's education and outreach activity, including a link to the Luminous Deep, a three minute animation of deep sea life. To download this newsletter please visit the [EuroCoML](#) website.

2nd Symposium on The Ocean in a High-CO2 World



From the 6-9 October of this year, the Monaco Oceanographic Museum will host the Second Symposium on the Ocean in a High-CO2 World. The symposium will cover many important topics including: ocean acidification, the ocean carbon system, physiological effects on sealife, impacts to fisheries and ecosystems, CO2 disposal, and economic consequences. Also featured is a substantial list of invited speakers presenting on topics from paleo-geochemistry, to physiology, and from corals and economics, to policy and predictions. The Census community is strongly encouraged to attend or participate. For more information and registration, please visit the [Symposium](#) website.

Latest Gulf of Mexico Newsletter Released



The Hart Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies, the home of the Gulf of Mexico Biodiversity Program (a Census affiliated project), has released its Spring 2008 Newsletter. This edition features an article on the Institute's new executive director, Dr. Larry McKinney, who comes to Hart from his position of Director of Coastal Fisheries and Senior Director of Aquatic Resources at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Also featured is the Hart Institute's Laguna Outreach Program which teams ninth grade students and teachers with university professors to help collect samples and research data. Other articles include news on staff and students, and updates on field projects. To read more visit: [HRI Newsletter](#).

ArcOD Research Featured on Exploratorium

ArcOD scientist Rolf



Gradinger was interviewed by *Exploratorium* (a San Francisco-based hands-on museum of science, art, and human perception) about his research into Arctic sea ice communities. During the interview, Gradinger



discusses the Census in general and ArcOD's work specifically, including the process of drilling ice cores to search for flora and fauna in the forbiddingly cold and hypersaline Arctic environment. Rolf's interview has been posted on Exploratorium's website as a webcast and is available to view online. The webcast, entitled "Searching for Life in the Ice", as well as many other videos on science and discovery can be viewed at [Exploratorium](#).

Brittle Star City News Release a Hit

On Sunday May 18, the E & O Team at URI lifted the embargo on a news release announcing the discovery of a "Brittlestar City" by scientists aboard a CenSeam expedition to the Macquarie Ridge. Scientists



found tens of millions of brittlestars living arm tip to arm tip, owing their successful colonization to the seamount's shape and to the swirling circumpolar current flowing over and around it at roughly four kilometers per hour.

The story was reported in six languages (English, French, Spanish, German, Italian, and Chinese) in 26 countries, and distributed by ten different wire services, ensuring a global reach. All the stories were excellent in content and long among wire syndicate spot news articles. The release was also available in Chinese, which boosted coverage, including a story in the influential Hong-Kong based newspaper *Ming Pao*. To read more, visit the [CoML Portal](#).

2010 Designated at International Year of Biodiversity



As many may know, the United Nations has passed a resolution designating 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity. This coincides nicely with the release of the first Census of Marine Life,

scheduled for October 2010. The designation offers a unique opportunity for the Census Community to showcase our work within the context of Global Biodiversity and to take advantage of any synergies that may exist with other Biodiversity Year events or activity. We encourage Census participants to begin thinking about how we, as the Census community, can capitalize on the attention that will be drawn to the subject of biodiversity during 2010 and to seek out possible avenues where our work will dovetail with other events worldwide. We ask that ideas and information be brought to the attention of Census leadership, by sending your ideas to [Kristin Yarincik](#), so that Census work can be thoughtfully integrated into International Year of Biodiversity celebrations and events. While a website for the Year of Biodiversity does not yet exist, more information can be found in UN Resolution 61/203 available by searching [UNBISNET](#) for International Year of Biodiversity. More information on events and activity will be shared as preparations unfold.

The Census of Marine Life is a global network of researchers in more than 80 nations engaged in a 10-year scientific initiative to assess and explain the diversity, distribution, and abundance of life in the oceans. The world's first comprehensive Census of Marine Life-past, present, and future-will be released in 2010. www.coml.org

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