



## Census of Marine Life Education and Outreach Network

**Dec 9, 2008**

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### World Biodiversity Conference in Valencia, Spain a Huge Success



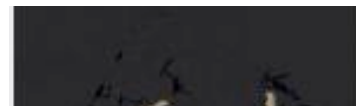
At the November 11-15, 2008, [World Conference on Marine Biodiversity](#) in Valencia, Spain, a large number of Census of Marine Life projects and scientists presented their

latest research results in a five-day meeting that clearly demonstrated the enormous progress in the field over the last few years. The Census was one of more than two dozen supporting organizations for the Conference which was organized by the European Union Network of Excellence, MarBEF. Nearly 600 scientists from 42 countries were present at the Conference organized at a most impressive venue, the City of Arts and Sciences. Besides giving 200 oral presentations and nearly as many posters, the participants discussed and agreed upon a [Valencia Declaration for the Protection of Marine Biodiversity](#). The Scientific Steering Committee of the Census of Marine Life is pleased to support this declaration.

*\*\*Photo of the City of Arts and Sciences (Valencia, Spain) courtesy of World Ocean Biodiversity Conference Co-Chair Carlos M. Duarte, IMEDEA (CSIC- University of the Balearic Islands), Mallorca, Spain*

### Census Videos by Rick Morris Available Online

Census-themed videos by videographer Rick Morris have been posted on the website



[DivePhotoGuide.com](http://DivePhotoGuide.com). Rick, who has shot and produced video for National Geographic, The Nature Conservancy, and the Public Broadcasting Service, among others, has already released two short videos highlighting Census work:



*Counting Creatures* and *Sampling Heron*, both of which are available in the [Video Gallery](#) on the new Census Portal. As the new video editor of DivePhotoGuide.com, Rick as recently posted some Census videos on that site. These include the Heron Island CReefs video along with two clips highlighting NaGISA work. To view these videos please visit the [Articles](#) page on DivePhotoGuide.com and stay tuned for future installments.

### Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems in Antarctica

CAML Scientists have contributed support and evidence that led to the the designation of two areas of the Southern Ocean as Vulnerable Marine



Ecosystems by the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR). Data collected last January during the Collaborative East Antarctic Marine Census Expedition has proven instrumental in persuading CCAMLR to protect two 400 sq km areas of the Southern Ocean that support particularly lush communities of bryozoan, coral, and sponges. In the short term, these vulnerable marine ecosystems, the first to be declared in the Antarctic region, will be protected from fishing. A permanent management system, which is currently in the works, will then provide long term protection of these habitats. A full news story can be viewed on the Australian Antarctic Division's website: [Southern Ocean Ecosystems](#).

### Squat Lobster Catalog is Zootaxa's Most Accessed Paper



A squat lobster catalog with distribution and bibliographic data, which is the result of a 2007 meeting sponsored by COMARGE, was published in the *Journal Zootaxa* in October of

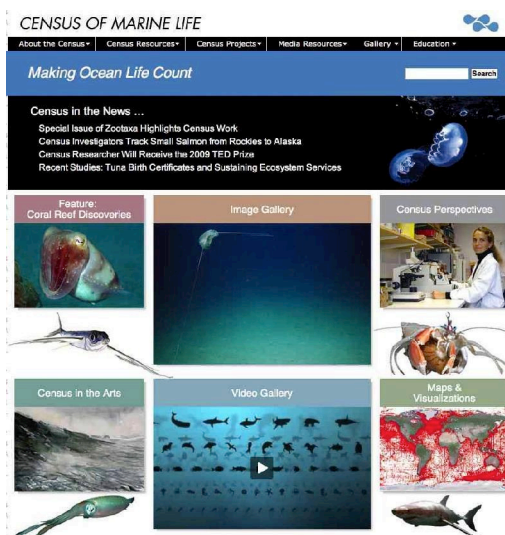


this year. Also available on the journal's website, this article has been accessed more than 3000 times in the first five weeks after its release, making it Zootaxa's most accessed paper ever. It is also very likely the most comprehensive freely accessible set of taxonomy information on a marine taxon. The catalog lists 870 known species from many diverse ocean realms. More details are

available online on the [COMARGE](#) website or [Zootaxa](#) website.

### Census of Marine Life Portal is Highlighted as Voice of America's Website of the Week

Voice of America News showcased the newly updated Census Portal as its website of the week on November 14. The radio broadcast features a description of the Census and its work which is accompanied by an overview of the website, as well as an interview with Sara Hickox, Census E & O Team Leader. The downloadable radio broadcast is available online: [Website of the Week - Census of Marine Life](#).



### Antarctic Study Reveals Surprising Biodiversity



A recent article in the *Journal of Biogeography* (online early view, link below) releases the results of the first comprehensive inventory of life in the Antarctic, a 2006 British

Antarctic Survey expedition associated with the Census of Antarctic Marine Life. Quite notably, the article describes the South Orkney Islands as having more species than than the Galapagos and many other tropical and temperate systems. These findings are in opposition to the prevailing point of view that polar environments support relatively low biodiversity. A Dec 4 Editorial from the New York Times ([Antarctic Archipelago](#)) also discusses this research from the perspective of ecological change; the South Orkney Islands appear to be relatively unchanged over the past century, allowing this inventory to serve as a good baseline against which future change may be measured. For more information, the article, entitled *Marine, intertidal, freshwater, and terrestrial biodiversity in an isolated polar archipelago*, is available online through [Wiley Interscience](#).

### Biodiversity in a Rapidly Changing World Conference

Being held this week in Washinton, D.C. at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, the [9th National Conference on Science, Policy, and the Environment](#)



features a breakout session on the application of marine biodiversity data to improved ecosystem management in the future. Organized by the the CoML U.S. Committee, the session aims to explore themes, goals, and focus for marine biodiversity research as well as how this research can best support policy and management efforts in the U.S. Featured speakers include Census Co-Senior Scientist Patricia Miloslavich and CoML U.S. Committe member Paul Sandifer.

### New Co-Chairs Appointed to Lead EuroCoML



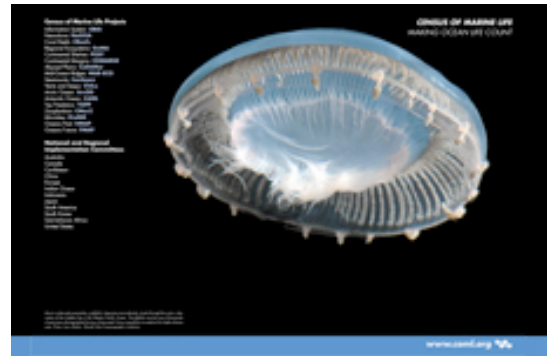
Last month Professor Graham Shimmield, having relocated to the USA, has officially stepped down as chair of EuroCoML Executive and Steering

Committees. A unanimous decision has appointed Professor Henn Ojaveer of Estonia and Professor Isabel Sousa-Pinto of Portugal as the new co-chairs. EuroCoML expresses their gratitude for Graham's work as chairman and look forward to his continued involvement. Bhavani Narayanaswamy remains as the E & O Liaison and Project Coordinator for EuroCoML. Please contact her for more

information: [Bhavani](#).

### Highlights 2007-08 Distribution

This is a gentle reminder to please distribute the highlights reports that you have received from the E&O team as soon as possible, if you have not already done so. The reports provide a useful and attractive



summary of Census progress. Each project and NRIC should have received the number of reports requested to send to your colleagues, key stakeholders and funders. The E&O team has distributed reports to members of the news media and other interest groups. The Secretariat is distributing reports to major partners and contributors that support the Census as a whole.

Also, we'd like to draw your attention to the revised portal at [www.coml.org](http://www.coml.org). There you can see the tremendous press coverage generated by the release announcing the 2007-2008 highlights report.

Should you have any questions or need more reports for mailing, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Thanks for your cooperation and all our best.

*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](http://www.coml.org)*

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