



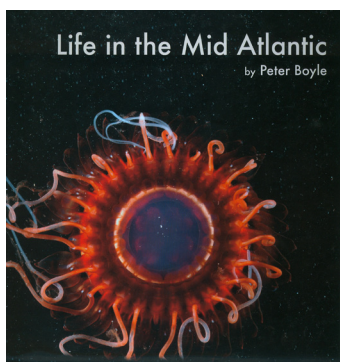
The Census of Marine Life is a global network of researchers in more than eighty nations engaged in a ten-year scientific initiative to assess and explain the diversity, distribution, and abundance of life in the oceans. The world's first comprehensive Census of Marine Life—past, present, and future—will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

January 2010

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MAR-ECO Publishes Life in the Mid-Atlantic



Life in the Mid-Atlantic, a book by the late Peter Boyle, a cephalopod specialist and professor of marine biology at the University of Aberdeen and MAR-ECO scientist, is now available for purchase through Amazon.co.uk. This well-illustrated text, published by Bergen Museum Press, provides a thorough report of the Census of Marine Life project MAR-ECO

(2001–2010), including its goals, plans, technologies, and results to date. By adopting novel technology and utilizing some of the best research vessels available, the international team significantly enhanced the knowledge of biodiversity of the mid-ocean ridge system. The book is attractively illustrated with photographs produced by project partners, including those of renowned wildlife photographer David Shale, historical illustrations of deepwater organisms by Thorolv Rasmussen from Bergen, Norway, and artwork by the contemporary Norwegian painter Ørnulf Opdahl.

ArcOD Teams Survey the Chukchi Sea for RUSALCA

From August 22–September 30, ArcOD had international zooplankton, benthos, and fish teams out in the Arctic Chukchi Sea, surveying biological communities under the Russian-American Long-Term Census of the Arctic (RUSALCA) program.



The Chukchi Sea and Bering Strait are thought to be particularly sensitive to global climate change. Establishing a benchmark for the distribution patterns of the fauna in these seas is critical in preparation for a climate-monitoring network in this region.

The survey work was made possible through NOAA and the Russian Academy of Sciences, the funding bodies of the study, which had signed a Memorandum of Understanding for World Ocean and Polar Regions Studies in 2003, facilitating access to Russian waters for the non-Russian scientists onboard. The science teams consist of collaborating Russian and American-based scientists.

The 2009 expedition builds on an earlier cruise in 2004 for which scientific articles are now available [online](#). Read more about [RUSALCA](#)

Census Project and NRIC Newsletters

Harte Research Institute: www.harteresearchinstitute.org

US Program Office: www.coml.us/Dev2Go.web?id=310462&rnd=11538

OBIS Seeking Newsworthy Postings



To provide visitors to the OBIS website with the most up-to-date information about recent dataset submissions to OBIS and other OBIS activities involving Census projects, Dr. Edward Vanden Berghe is seeking submissions of news items for the [OBIS news pages](#). Content may be submitted to him via [email](#).

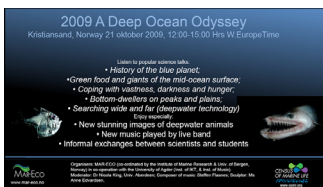
TOPP on TODAY



The [interview](#), which aired on a U.S. morning talk show, The Today Show, on November 23, was for a story focusing on white sharks, and TOPP's ongoing collaboration with the Monterey Bay Aquarium on white shark research.

On Friday, November 20, Hopkins Marine Station's Tuna Research and Conservation Center was turned into a TV studio as NBC's chief environmental affairs correspondent, Anne Thompson, interviewed TOPP's Dr. Barbara Block.

Kristiansand Slide Show Available



Copies of the slide show and original music from MAR-ECO's public event, Deep Ocean Odyssey, are available for use in Census and marine education presentations. The student workshop, held on October 21, 2009, in Kristiansand, Norway as part of MAR-ECO's final workshop, was a huge success that attracted some 600 high school students and many online viewers. If you missed it live, an archived [recording](#) of the Deep Ocean Odyssey event is available online. To request copies of the music and slideshow, please contact MAR-ECO Project Leader [Odd Aksel Bergstad](#) directly.

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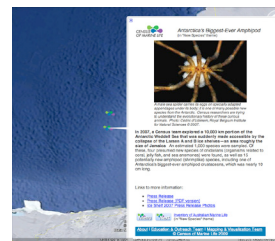
Ice Ridge Cruise



In mid-October, [ArcOD's](#) sea ice team embarked on a cruise in the Beaufort Sea to tackle the unknowns of Arctic sea ice pressure ridges, structures made from compressed and piled up sea ice floes. Ice pressure ridges may constitute as much as 50 percent of the Arctic sea ice volume and researchers suspect ridges may have an important role to play as refuges.

New Outreach Opportunity: Census in Google Earth

Another venue to present Census findings to the public is to publish them on Google Earth. There are currently more than 130 Census stories (called "placemarks") in [Google Earth 5](#) pulled together by the E&O and Mapping and Visualization (M&V) teams. Each placemark consists of a short description of Census research, a photo with appropriate caption and credits, and sometimes a short video.



To view Census placemarks in Google Earth 5, click on the Census of Marine Life layer (in the lower left hand side under "ocean"). Then click on any Census logo displayed on the globe and a Census story will pop up.

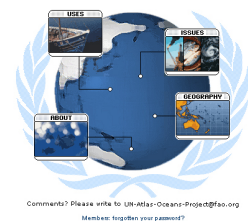
There's room for many more and all projects are encouraged to submit their own placemarks. The M&V team at Duke University is now maintaining a simple, online interface for story submissions and updates. Submitted and approved stories are incorporated into Google Earth weekly. This same interface may be used to make corrections or additions to existing stories.

You can find information regarding how to submit a placemark, format and other details at:

http://comlmaps.org/ge_layers

UN Atlas of the Oceans

In December, The [UN Atlas of the Oceans](#), an Internet portal providing information relevant to the sustainable development of the oceans (OceanAtlas.org), introduced a new topic: International Year of Biodiversity 2010. This page features the Census book [World Ocean Census](#) and the latest Census news release about deep-sea findings: [Deep Sea World Beyond Sunlight](#).



Census Images Featured in 2010 WHOI Calendar



The 2010 edition of the annual [Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution](#) (WHOI) calendar, features several full color images of zooplankton taken by Census scientists. For 30 years, WHOI biologists Larry Madin and Richard Harbison – with associates Ron Gilmer and Erich Horgan—have been leaders in studying these fragile animals, focusing on their ecology, behavior, and roles in the ocean. Copies of the calendar can be ordered online through the [WHOI shop](#).

CenSeam Cruise Featured on BBC Earth News

CenSeam researchers investigating seamounts in international waters of the Indian Ocean aboard the RV Dr Fridtjof Nansen, were featured prominently in [BBC Earth News](#) last month. The team set sail from Reunion Island on November 12 to study five seamounts located between 32°00' S and 41°00' S. More information is available in the expedition's [blog](#).



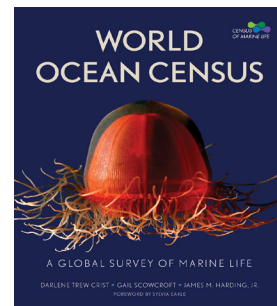
Vancouver Aquarium Arctic Exhibit

The [Vancouver Aquarium](#) recently opened a new interactive exhibit, Canada's Arctic—In the Grip of Change, created with the assistance of ArcOD scientists. The new exhibit employs cutting-edge design featuring fully interactive multimedia displays that show how climate change is impacting Canada's Arctic region. By establishing active connections between visitors and this fascinating region, it is hoped that the exhibit will foster awareness, understanding, and stimulate dialogue and understanding of this little known area that is vital to our entire ecosystem.



World Ocean Census Reviewed in Nature

The November 19, 2009 issue of [Nature](#) (462, 287) included Mark Schroppe's review of [World Ocean Census: A Global Survey of Marine Life](#). Published by Firefly Books and written by Census Education and Outreach Team members Darlene Crist, Gail Scowcroft, and James Harding, with a foreword by National Geographic's Explorer-in-residence and U.S. National Committee member, Sylvia Earle, the book highlights the stories behind the Census through lively text and more than 250 images, the majority graciously provided by Census scientists.



HMAP/CoML Wins Best Danish Research Project 2009



Readers of the Danish science website [Videnskab.dk](#) have voted Bo Poulsen and the HMAP team "Best Danish Research Project 2009." The site's editor, Peter Hyldgard, said that HMAP won the readers' favor because the project's website and educational initiatives reach beyond the scientific community and show broader audiences how humans have influenced the environment.

Ron O'Dor in The Economist

The Census was featured in The Economist's November 13 special forecast issue: [The World in 2010](#). Co-Senior Scientist, Dr. Ron O'Dor, was interviewed for an article, Introducing the Transparent Ocean, which highlights the work of several projects and the future applications of Census research.



BMC Biodiversity Informatics Supplement

A special issue of the [BMC Bioinformatics](#) journal, with a focus on Biodiversity Informatics, has been published. The [special issue](#) provides an interesting mix of open access papers. The volume was partly sponsored by [Encyclopedia of Life](#).

