



## Census of Marine Life Education and Outreach Network

**March 20, 2009**

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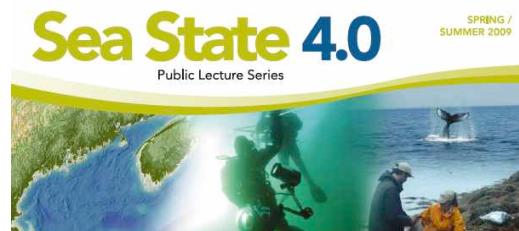
### CeDAMar contributes to Tiefsee deep sea exhibit

CeDAMar research has been featured in a deep sea exhibit which recently opened at the Senckenberg Museum in Frankfurt, Germany. The exhibit showcases deep sea life from around the world and deep sea research technologies in



interactive displays. One novel display features a 35 foot long submersible which museum patrons can enter to experience virtual dives. Finally, visual materials, books (*Deeper than Light*) and children's coloring books are all available for purchase to extend the experience for museum-goers. A website (in German) highlights the exhibit and displays some of the incredible images that it includes. For more information please visit: [Tiefsee Exhibit](#).

### GoMA Life in the Gulf of Maine lecture series

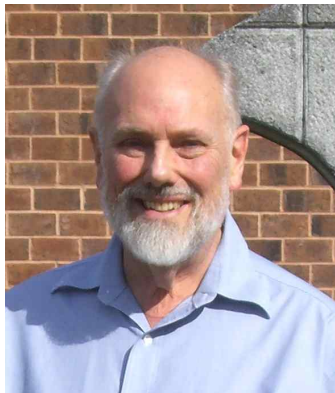


February 12, 2009 marked the 200th Anniversary of the birth of Sir Charles Darwin, whose legacy has been arguably one of the most influential to modern

biological science. His book *On the Origin of Species* revolutionized the way biologists look at species changes over time. It is appropriate, then, that the Gulf of Maine Area field project should choose Darwin's birthday to kick off their public lecture series titled "Life in the Gulf: Past, Present, and Future." The first lecture, entitled "Still Life: Historical Pictures of a Changing Ecosystem," took place on

February 12, with the four remaining lectures of the series covering marine archaeology, ecosystem change, human influence, and diversity of the Gulf of Maine. For more information and lecture dates please visit: [Sea State 4.0](#).

### Fred Grassle awarded Franklin Institute Award



Census Founder and SSC Chair Emeritus Fred Grassle has been awarded the 2009 Benjamin Franklin Medal in Earth and Environmental Science. The Medal places Grassle within the ranks of such notable prior recipients as Thomas Edison, Max Planck, Albert Einstein, and Stephen Hawking. Fred's specific award citation reads: *The 2009 Benjamin Franklin Medal in Earth and Environmental*

*Science is presented to J. Frederick Grassle for pioneering research leading to our understanding of the unique ecosystems near volcanic vents at the sea floor, the first ever found fueled by chemical energy from the Earth's interior instead of sunlight.* Please join us in congratulating Fred on this honor. For more information on the Franklin Medal and for Fred's bio please visit: [2009 Franklin Medal](#).

### Recent paper highlights loss of large trophy fish

HMAP researcher Loren McClenachan has published a paper in *Conservation Biology* discussing the decline of large trophy fish in the Florida Keys. The paper, titled "Documenting Loss of Large Trophy Fish from the Florida Keys with Historical Photographs"



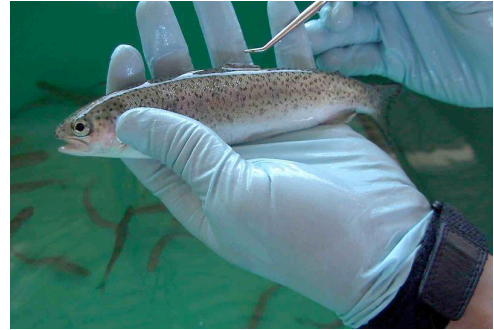
details the use of historical photographs of trophy fish from the waters around Key West, Florida, USA to determine changes in mean individual size and species composition over time. The results of the article suggest that since 1957 large predatory fish such as grouper are less prevalent and that average shark sizes have declined by 50%. The full article is available online from Wiley Interscience: [Early View](#).

### POST/TOPP publish in March issue of *Oceanography*

A new paper published



by POST and TOPP researchers in the March 2009 issue of the journal *Oceanography* discusses the emerging field of conservation oceanography from the point of view of tagging and tracking and their application to fisheries



management. Using the examples of bluefin tuna tagging in the Atlantic and Salmon tagging in the Pacific, researchers suggest that the stage is set for change in fisheries management science and that new technologies in tagging and tracking can help drive that change. They conclude, however, that additional support and collaboration between managing agencies and scientists is necessary so that the data collected by tagging programs can be transformed into data products that adequately convey their ecological significance. For more information visit: [Oceanography](#).

#### Census researchers release two books on molluscs



COMARGE researcher Philippe Bouchet has published a book celebrating shells and the molluscs that make them. This book, titled simply "Shells" and available from [Abbeville Press](#), details the beauty of shells and discusses them in the context of biodiversity, new discovery, anthropogenic pressure, and natural history. Another publication from COMARGE, "The Terebridae of Vanuatu," by Yves Terry and Mande Holford, is the product of the

Census of Marine Life Santo 2006 Expedition in which researchers conducted a full scale census of the island of Santo in Vanuatu. This book features a foreword by Philippe Bouchet that discusses the role of the Census and Marine Barcoding in ushering in a new era of marine molluscan taxonomy. It is available from [Conchology](#).

#### Ocean Tracking Network Workshop

The [Ocean Tracking Network \(OTN\)](#) headquarter's team at Dalhousie University in



Halifax, Nova Scotia has released its first public metadata record called the [Global Ocean](#)

## OCEAN TRACKING NETWORK

[Tracking Network Metadata and Data Atlas](#). OTN researchers worldwide are pressing for standards and protocols to allow universal storage and sharing of a broad spectrum of biological and physical oceanographic information. Where animals go, what conditions they experience, how they interact and how individual behaviours change on timescales relevant to climate change is information that scientists and managers need in order to protect and restore ocean productivity. OTN intends to deliver these as part of the permanent monitoring functions of the Global Ocean Observing System. OTN, a pilot project of the [Global Ocean Observing System \(GOOS\)](#), is an affiliated project of the Census of Marine Life, and is itself organized into 14 ocean regions.

### POGO/SCOR Visiting Fellows



The [Partnership for Observation of the Global Oceans \(POGO\)](#) and its partner, the [Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research \(SCOR\)](#), have

announced the POGO-SCOR Fellowship Program for 2009. This program is designed to promote training and capacity building leading towards a global observation system for the oceans. Visiting fellows receive the opportunity to receive professional training at oceanographic research centers for periods of up to 3 months. Other related fellowship opportunities would place a successful candidate on an Atlantic Meridional Transect Cruise and support short visits by distinguished scientists as visiting professors in developing countries. The application deadlines for all the above fellowships is April 12, 2009. More information and application forms are available online: [POGO Training and Education](#).

### Into the Abyss on National Geographic

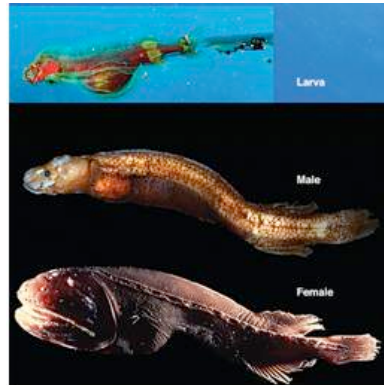


A recent National Geographic television special, *Into the Abyss*, has featured footage from two Census of Marine Life research expeditions. Highlighting the biodiversity of the Celebes Sea in Southeast Asia's



"Coral Triangle," this documentary utilizes video footage from that was captured by remotely operated vehicle during both the CMarZ / NOAA Celebes Sea expedition (2007) and the ArcOD / NOAA Hidden Ocean Arctic Expedition (2005). The show aired on Saturday March 14 in the United States on the National Geographic Channel. For more information visit: [Into the Abyss](#)

### Three families of fish are really only one species



Tracey Sutton of the Virginia Institute of Marine science and a CMarZ Steering Group member has found a missing link: the only specimen known so far of a larva changing into the adult female whalefish. This discovery has corrected a long-standing error in fish taxonomy. Previously, the females, males and larvae were all placed in different

families due to the fact that they exhibit vastly different morphology. Tracey's discovery, which is highlighted in an article on [Science News](#), has clarified this piece of the taxonomic tree. A full journal article detailing this work was published online at [Biology Letters](#) and appears in print in the April 23, 2009 issue.

### Encyclopedia of Life e-Biosphere 09 conference

From 1-3 June 2009, the Encyclopedia of Life and the Natural History Museum of London will be sponsoring e-



Biosphere 2009, an international conference on biodiversity informatics. The goal of the conference is to discuss the ever-changing world of biodiversity informatics and the role of online taxonomic databases in aggregating, integrating, and disseminating biodiversity related data. The conference is designed to bring together researchers in the fields of ecology, taxonomy, and genetics, computer scientists and software engineers, and end-users such as policy makers, environmental managers, conservation groups, and the like. Sessions include: Impact and Integration of Biodiversity Informatics, Biodiversity Informatics at Work, discussions of challenges and current initiatives, and a look towards the future. For more information please visit: [e-Biosphere 09](#).

## Recent partner newsletters



### GoMex:

The Winter 2009 issue of the Harte Research Institute newsletter has been released. It features details of HRI's surveys and assessment of Hurricane Ike's impact

on the Gulf, a discussion of HRI's role in Ocean in Google Earth, The National Ocean Sciences Bowl, as well as staff and student news. To read more please visit: [HRI Newsletter](#).

### CoML USA:

This month's CoML US Newsletter features information on the CoML Synthesis, Ocean in Google Earth, Sylvia Earle, Robert Ballard's interview on the Colbert Report, and the Arctic/Antarctic Press Release, among other stories. To view: [CoML US Newsletter](#)

### HMAP:

The March issue of HMAP's newsletter highlights HMAP work in the Black Sea, New Zealand's historical right whale population, HMAP's Atlas of Historical Fishing Grounds, Asia Synthesis Workshop, among other stories. To view the newsletter please visit: [HMAP News](#).



## Niceville High Schoolers represent NaGISA in Crete



Next week, the Niceville High School NaGISA group from Florida, USA will touch down in Crete to collaborate with Greek high school students in setting up their own NaGISA program. They will

be presenting on the NaGISA project and protocol before officials from the Hellenic Center for Marine Research as well as local and national level politicians and local media. Their trip and their NaGISA work will be used to promote

student participation in science to the Greek government. Please join us in wishing them good luck on their trip.

### HMAP Conference and Summer School

HMAP's Oceans Past II conference, scheduled for May 26-28, 2009 in Vancouver, Canada, is open for registration. The aim of the conference is to discuss the dynamics of long-term marine environmental change. To view the program and register please visit: [Oceans Past II](#)



The HMAP International Summer School in Trieste, Italy (August 31-September 4, 2009) is also open for registration. The summer school is designed to address the framework of marine environmental and ecological history studies in the Mediterranean and Black Sea area and to help facilitate relationship building, especially among young scientists. For more information and application forms visit: [International Summer School 2009](#).

### April Synthesis Calendar

Don't forget to check your April Synthesis Calendar.

Here are some important dates:

**April 1** - Preliminary drafts due for Census Digest Book

**April 21-23** - Roles of the Rare Synthesis Meeting in Woods Hole, MA

**April 27-30** - ICES Deep-Sea Symposium in Azores

APRIL 2009						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 CCR →	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 Second synthesis meeting, Woods Hole, MA	22	23	24	25 Nisavilla U.S. Dept of Interior Census of Ocean Biota (COB) Workshop, D.C.
26	27 ICES Deep-Sea Symposium, Azores	28	29	30		
			Day of History (Spain)	Queen's Birthday (Australia)		
						

To view the Synthesis Calendar click [here](#).

*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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