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## News from the Census

May/June 2009

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### July Synthesis Calendar

Don't forget to check your July Synthesis Calendar.

Here are some important dates:

**Jul-Aug** Internal review of Regional Synthesis Collection papers.

**July 3-6** Oceanographic Basis of Marine Predator Movements Workshop, Monterey, CA, USA.

**July 5-9** Australian Marine Sciences Association Conference, Adelaide, Australia.

**July 26-31** Xth SCAR International Biology Symposium, Sapporo, Japan



**JULY 2009**

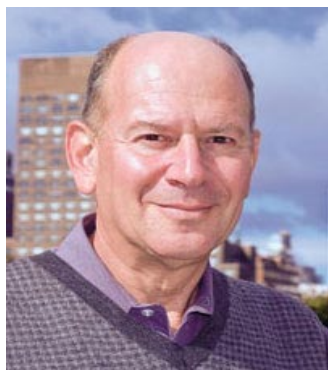
Calendar	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

**Events:**

- July 3-6:** Oceanographic Basis of Marine Predator Movements Workshop, Monterey, CA, USA.
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To view the Synthesis Calendar click [here](#).

### Census Program Director Receives Honorary Degree



Census of Marine Life Program Director, Jesse Ausubel, has been awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Dalhousie University. One of the original champions bringing attention to global climate change, Jesse was instrumental in the creation of the Census as well as the Encyclopedia of Life. His work as both Director of the Human

Environment Program at Rockefeller University and Program Director at the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation continue to promote the cause of the global ocean and increase awareness of global climate change. Please join us in extending congratulations to Jesse for this honor. For more information, please visit: [Honorary Degree Recipients](#).

### CReefs Featured in Brisbane Courier Mail Newspaper

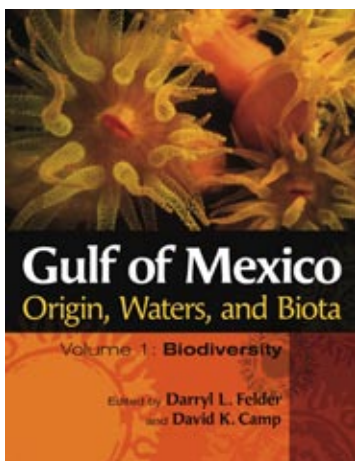
CReefs was featured front and center in the May 9-10, 2009 edition of the Brisbane *Courier Mail's* weekend color magazine, *QWeekend*. Sporting a full color cover image of a coral reef octopus and a photo-rich feature article inside, *QWeekend* details Census work on Australian coral reefs and the discoveries that are being made. The article addresses the fact that despite how well known the Great Barrier reef may be, new species are popping up with every new field expedition. The feature provide a nice overview of the Census as a whole, detailed information on CReefs work, including quotes from numerous members of the research team, illustrated by a host of stunning images. The article can be viewed online: [QWeekend CReefs Feature](#).



## Recent Census Publications

A recently released special issue of *Zootaxa*, entitled *Deep-sea taxonomy - a contribution to our knowledge of biodiversity*, focuses on the deep-sea taxonomic work of CeDAMar. The issue features articles on new species and other discoveries from the Southern Ocean, the Southeast Atlantic, Brazil, the Northeast Atlantic, the Mediterranean, the Indian Ocean and the Eastern Pacific. The full issue is available online at [Zootaxa](#).

A special issue of *Deep Sea Research II* released online in late April 2009 is based on CO-MARGE research. This volume, entitled *Deep-sea environment and biodiversity of the West African equatorial margin* and edited by SSC member Myriam Sibuet, highlights the work of the Biozaire multidisciplinary deep-sea environment program from 2000-2005. It is available online from [Science Direct](#) in *Articles in Press*.



Another publication, just released in mid-June 2009, is a book on the biodiversity of the Gulf of Mexico, written and edited by Census affiliates from the Harte Research Institute. Details on some 15,419 species from 40 phyla inhabiting the Gulf of Mexico are provided. The manuscript was written by 140 authors

from 80 institutions and organizations in 15 countries. More information is available in a [press release](#) and on the [Harte Research Institute](#) website.

ArcOD has facilitated the translation, from Russian to English, of the first in a planned series of identification keys of Arctic invertebrates. Recently released, this volume is part of a series of ArcOD synthesis products. The series editor is ArcOD member Boris Sirenko, assisted by two volume editors, Stella Vassilenko and Viktor Petryashov. This volume is available from [Alaska Sea Grant](#).



## MAR-ECO Website: New Interactive Video Feature

MAR-ECO has added a new, interactive feature to its website. A collection of videos and animations allows the user to explore the deep-sea environment with its spectacular array of organisms, adaptations, and habitats. Exploring such themes as camouflage, vertical migration, and bioluminescence and showcasing a wide range of organisms, this series of videos is sure to appeal to and inform a broad audience. Videos in this collection focus on subjects such as orange roughy, marine snow, cephalopods, jellies, and new species, and include a description of the MAR-ECO project, its participants, and its technologies. To experience this interactive video series please visit the MAR-ECO website: [Virtual Deep-Sea Explorer](#).



## CoML and POGO Animations Available in Spanish



Census colleague Patricia Miloslavich has translated the *Census of Marine Life Overview* and *Observing a Water Planet*. Both of these animations, which were unveiled at the 2007 all program meeting in Auckland, provide a

concise description of CoML and POGO via entertaining and colorful animations and Census imagery. The CoML animation is available for viewing in both English and Spanish on the Census of Marine Life portal: [Video Gallery](#).

## Census Scientist Honored by Canadian Geographic

Census co-senior scientist, Ron O'Dor was honored by Canadian Geographic in June when he was recognized as the Environmental Scientist of the Year. This annual award seeks to honor those individuals who work to preserve natural environments, improve humankind's interaction with them, and inspire activism or change. Please join us in congratulating Ron on this award.



To read more, visit: [Canadian Geographic](#).



## Recent Census Project Newsletters

A number of CoML projects have recently issued newsletters communicating recent activity or announcements to the CoML community. Below are some highlights and links to those communities.



### POST E-Blast Inaugural issue

- > Beginning of the field research season
- > POST sponsorship of the 2009 State of the Salmon conference
- > New collaboration with the Seymour Salmonid Society

### POST E-Blast second issue

- > 6 million tracking pings since POST started
- > POST funding available for cross-cutting projects
- > Expansion of POST's Puget Sound tracking array

### CenSeam E News

- > Training Awards for New Investigators
- > ICES Final Agenda

### HMAP

- > Oceans Past Symposium
- > Video reports from the Baltic and Asian HMAP Projects
- > New HMAP Brochure
- > World Congress of Environmental History

## Polar Synthesis Macroscopic Meeting in France



The *Polar Synthesis Macroscopic* group met May 13-16, 2009 at the Villefranche Laboratory near Nice, France. A total of 11 participants from CAML, ArcOD, and the Mapping & Visualization group, used the latest methods to explore biodiversity data of the ice oceans. Census research voyages during the International Polar Year have provided a comprehensive inventory of polar marine species: more than 6,000 verified species of animals at each pole and 251 species that occur at both poles. At the molecular level, DNA sequences are showing differences among species that were previously thought to be the same. The analyses showed a close connection between the species and their physical environment at various spatial scales.

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## CAML Octopus Research: For Medicinal Purposes?



Census work in the Antarctic may have an unexpected outlet. While Antarctic octopus research conducted by the CAML has produced a number of new species, it has also contributed to cephalopod venom investigations, which may have implications in the search for future biomedicines. Australian researcher Bryan Fry of the University of Melbourne's Department of Biochemistry, has found that all octopuses, cuttlefish, and some squid are venomous and share a common ancient ancestor. His research has uncovered a wide range of venom compounds that have not yet been encountered, which may prove to be a treasure trove for research pursuing future biomedicines. Fry's work was published in the *Journal of Molecular Evolution* and has been highlighted by [ABC Science](#).

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## CAML/ArcOD Position Announcement

The marine evolution, ecology and biogeography team at the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) was awarded a grant from CAML to host a bipolar species science co-coordinator (part time, 2 days a week) for 5 months. The selected candidate will organize and assist the international effort to ascertain how many of the [recently publicized list](#) of species suspected by Census of Antarctic Marine Life (CAML) and Arctic Ocean Diversity (ArcOD) to be present in both polar areas have valid testable specimens in museums, universities or institutes. The list includes species from all realms including benthic, pelagic and planktonic across a wide range of taxa. The chosen applicant will be based at BAS, Cambridge and will work with Bruno Danis (SCAR-MarBIN) and other marine biologists across the international community. Please contact [Huw Griffiths](#) at the BAS.

*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.*