

A Truly Global Endeavor

The Census of Marine Life is a growing global network of researchers in more than 70 nations engaged in a 10-year initiative to assess and explain the diversity, distribution, and abundance of marine life in the oceans—past, present, and future.

The Census gratefully acknowledges the financial support of numerous governments and organizations from around the world. Our work would not be possible without these contributions. Moreover, many of the highlights noted in this report were only realized through the generous collaborative spirit and unprecedented cooperation of Census researchers and their international colleagues.

While space does not allow us to list all of the individuals and organizations who have contributed to these collective scientific accomplishments, we invite you to visit www.coml.org for a list of Census sponsors, funding partners, collaborating institutions, and participating individuals.

Census of Marine Life Projects

Information System: **OBIS**

Nearshore: **NaGISA**

Coral Reefs: **CReefs**

Regional Ecosystems: **GoMA**

Continental Shelves: **POST**

Continental Margins: **COMARGE**

Abyssal Plains: **CeDAMar**

Mid-Ocean Ridges: **MAR-ECO**

Seamounts: **CenSeam**

Vents and Seeps: **ChEss**

Arctic Ocean: **ArcOD**

Antarctic Ocean: **CAML**

Top Predators: **TOPP**

Zooplankton: **CMarZ**

Microbes: **ICoMM**

Oceans Past: **HMAP**

Oceans Future: **FMAP**

National and Regional Implementation Committees

Australia

Canada

Caribbean

China

Europe

Indian Ocean

South America

Sub-Saharan African

United States of America

Angels in a dark sea, *Ciona limacina*. These angelic-looking swimming snails, or pteropods, were collected in the Canada Basin. Pteropod means "wing-footed," which refers to the modification of the snail's foot that allows it to swim through the water. Relatively little is known about pteropods other than their distribution. They are thought to be primarily surface water species and to have one generation per year in the Arctic.

Images, left to right: 1. R. Hopcroft, University of Alaska Fairbanks, NOAA © 2006; 2–4. K. Raskoff, Monterey Peninsula College © 2006.



CENSUS OF MARINE LIFE MAKING OCEAN LIFE COUNT

