

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

Indonesia

Japan

South America

South Korea

Sub-Saharan Africa

United States



CENSUS OF MARINE LIFE MAKING OCEAN LIFE COUNT

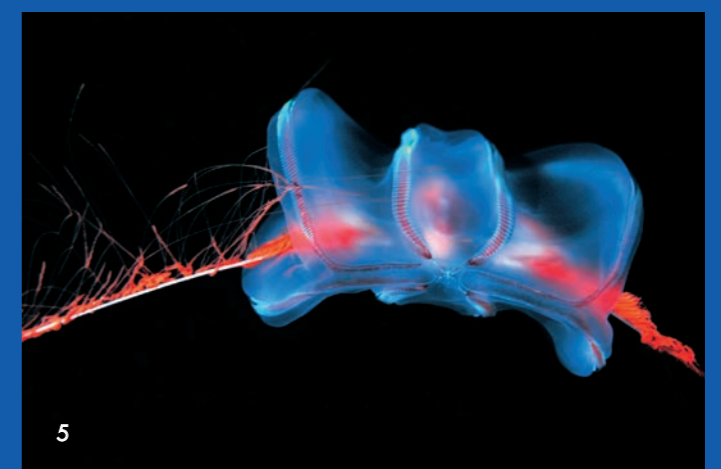
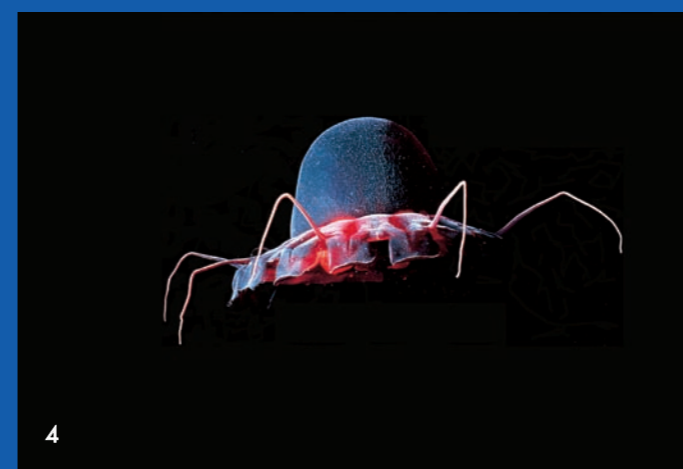
Like an underwater spaceship, a jellyfish, *Aequorea macrodactyla*, travels through the warm, clear waters of the Celebes Sea in the Western Pacific Ocean. The jellyfish was but one of thousands of specimens photographed during a three-week Census expedition to explore this highly diverse area. Photo: Larry Madin, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

A Truly Global Endeavor

The Census of Marine Life is a global network of researchers in more than 80 nations engaged in a ten-year scientific initiative to assess and explain the diversity, distribution, and abundance of marine life in the oceans. The world's first comprehensive Census of Marine Life—past, present, and future—will be released in 2010.

The Census gratefully acknowledges the financial support of numerous governments and organizations from around the world. Moreover, many of the highlights in this report were only realized through the generous collaborative spirit and unprecedented cooperation of Census researchers and their international colleagues. A complete list of Census sponsors, funding partners, collaborating institutions, and participating individuals is available at www.coml.org.

Film director Claire Nouvian has worked alongside Census scientists studying the continental margins to capture some amazing photographs for her exhibition *The Deep*. The exhibit succeeds in relaying a great amount of information about life in the ocean depths, while capturing audiences' imaginations with its powerful and striking imagery.



1. Unidentified deep-sea ctenophore. Photo by Steven Haddock.
2. *Stauroteuthis syrtensis*, the glowing sucker octopus. Photo by Claire Nouvian and David Shale.
3. The Fanfin Seadevil, *Caulophryne jordani*. Photo by David Shale.
4. *Nausithoe rubra*, a deepwater scyphomedusa jelly. Photo by George Matsumoto.
5. The deep-sea ctenophore, *Mertensia ovum*. Photo by Bjorn Gulliksen.