# The Census of Antarctic Marine Life

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(Formerly: Chief Scientist, Australian Antarctic Division)

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Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research



### Alfred P Sloan Foundation New York



IPY





## The idea catches on

- Concept of CAML in the Census of Marine Life
- Support from the Alfred P Sloan Foundation (New York)
- 18 major voyages (Rolls Royce, Toyota, 2CV) CEAMARC – 3 nations collaborating on one project
- 200 scientists participated
- Data rescued from old notebooks
- SCAR Marine Biodiversity Information Network (www.scarmarbin.be)

#### CAML Voyage tracks 2006/07-08



#### Number of sites sampled - Approx 350

Sampling equipment deployed drifters, fish traps, CTD, trawls, epibenthic sledges, grabs, various nets, ROV, various corers

Continuous plankton recorder deployment - 24,000 nm

Number of sample lots returned - Approx 15,000

Number of barcode samples taken - 900

Proposed number of scientific paper (includes actual) - 200+ (plus reports to funding agencies, NAPS)

Number of graduate students participating - 40



SCAR Marine Biological Information Network

Register of Antarctic Marine Species Taxa 14,265; RAMS Species 8,646 Geo-referenced data points ~1x10<sup>6</sup> Databases currently on line ~100

### Taxonomic data : Register of Antarctic Marine Species (RAMS)



- •No evidence for east/west split
- •No evidence for South Georgia district
- •No relationship with Tristan da Cunha
- •South American Islands are distinct from those of New Zealand





#### **CEAMARC** - Collaborative East Antarctic Marine Census



Aurora Australis Australia Fish, benthic communities, oceanography Dec. 16 – Jan. 27 20 sampling days



*L'Astrolabe* France Plankton & oceanography Dec. 29 – Jan. 27 10 sampling days

Umitaka Maru Japan Plankton, pelagic fish, oceanography Jan. 23 – Feb. 17 15 sampling days



### 3 mois en Antarctique,

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#### Le travail des scientifiques en mer

Le Gennus of Antalizie Marine cine (CAML) est un sentitious projet international de recommemple localise nur la disersité des organismes marine antarctiques et Célude des conditions environnementales durs lesquellins ds voient. Dans le protongement d'une longue tradition de recherchespitalensitans les domaines tournest terrestres, les scientifiques du Musique toutional d'Histoire entimelle participent à ce projet.

A birrit des navires scalanographiques, les scientifiques utilisant divers moyenn de prélèvements un vue de l'ahalyse des caractéristiques physico-chimiques de l'eau de mar et de divers engins de piche pour échantifianner la faune marine. Les vents parlois volents, la prévence de glace de mor et d'acébergs rendent les conditions de travait souvent difficiles, voir impossibles. Près du continent antarctique, la savigetion n'est possible qu'avec des navires brite glace, pendant la période estivale, après dislocation de la banquise.

La campagne CAML-CEAMARC, specifiquement organisée pour l'année polaire internationale a, parmi ses objectifs le rocensament de la biodiversité dans une zone encare peu touchée par la changement climatique, l'intude des liens de parente entre espèces et les interactions intre habitats et organistes. Pour la premiere hills, les fonds cous marine interactions de parente entre espèces et les interactions ont systematiquement dié filmés avant de procéder à l'échantillamage, revelant des paysages tout accontraste. L'éplateau continentai sous-marine antarctique est un des plus profonds du monde II s'étend juiqu'à 1000 m de profondeur. Juisqu'à 560 m de profondeur, le raclage des icebergs, plus interne sur certaines cores, détruit les assemblages d'organismes fisés sur le fond. La recolonisation ve fait très progressivement. Plus en profondeur la faune fisée est distribuée en fonction de ses affinités pour des substrats rocheux, califiqueux ou vaseux et des caractanistiques de l'essu de mer fiséprature, satisité, courantéel.

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Acidification of the ocean is destroying its biological diversity. CAML has measured the depth at which organisms requiring Cat for their shells and skeletons are able to live.



#### CAML has examined the sea floor under ice shelves

#### Biodiversity-Change due to climate-induced ice shelf disintegration









### Sea spiders

Sea spiders Over 250 species Many endemic Possible dispersion via Antarctic Circumpolar Current

Other groups – octopus and isopods





Soler-Membrives and Munilla in press Arango 2008

#### CAML has examined fish larvae Dr Catherine Ouzouf MNHN





### .... and rare fish



Macroptychaster sp NIWA NZ

#### ... and giants of the deeps

*Neolithodes yaldwyni* Seamount 855m NIWA NZ

### Molecular biology of dispersal Google Earth visualisation



#### Bipolar Hymenaster pellucidus





#### Octopus colonisation



Griffiths 2008 using data from SCAR-MarBIN, OBIS and Strugnell et al. 2008



### Societal impacts of CAML's work

Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Living Marine Resources CCAMLR 2008

Declaration of 'Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems'

Two areas for special protection were identified from samples and seafloor photos taken on the 2008 CAML CEAMARC voyage

CCAMLR Resolution 26 in 2007 ...Encourages all Contracting Parties to support and where possible contribute to the International Polar Year, including through the Census of Antarctic Marine Life





SC-CAMLR-XXVII Agenda Item No(s): 4 (vi) Title Notification of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems in Statistical Area 58.4.1

## The Future – beyond IPY?

 Bioregionalisation and Marine Protected Areas (CCAMLR/CEP) United Nations General Assembly Resolution 51 on ocean sustainability •SCAR to coordinate a repeat CAML in 2018? •GEOBON?

### What is **GEOBON**?

 GEOBON (Group on Earth Observation Biodiversity Observation Network) is a new global partnership to help collect, manage, analyse, report and share data relating to the status of the world's biodiversity



# CAML in GEOBON?

Scholes et al., **Science 22 Aug 08**, Towards a Global Biodiversity Observing System

#### Je vous remercie de votre attention!

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Molgula spp CEAMARC joint Australian/French/Japanese study 2008