

Census of Marine Life

General background:

The 10-year global research programme Census of Marine Life (CoML) is ending in 2010 with a major event in London in early October (see www.coml.org).

Of relevance to NEAFC is the study of North Atlantic Ocean biodiversity by all the deepwater projects conducted under the umbrella of CoML, during which extensive new information was gathered. Dissemination efforts to the general public were extensive and raised the awareness to a wide audience. However, few such initiatives directly targeted the intergovernmental management organizations that have legal authority to regulate human activities which have, or may have, significant impacts on natural communities, habitats and ecosystems. Therefore, the CoML deepwater projects will present a series of talks and a short movie directly to a very relevant audience in a side-event at the NEAFC Annual Meeting at 5.00pm on Tuesday 9 November.

Content and organization:

Scientists from the CoML deepwater projects will present new findings in targeted well-illustrated talks in a popular manner. There will be an opportunity to ask questions.

The titles of the talks have not yet been assembled, but the series will include contributions of a maximum of 10 minutes each on the target habitats of the main deepwater projects:

- a) the mid-Atlantic Ridge,
- b) seamounts,
- c) ocean margins, and
- d) chemosynthetic environments (e.g. hydrothermal vents).

The CoML projects represented will be MAR-ECO, CenSEAM, CoMARGE, ChESS, and EuroCOML (please see www.coml.org for information on each.).

MAR-ECO will contribute a new 5 minute movie from the June-July 2010 ECOMAR cruise to the Charlie-Gibbs Fracture zone, i.e. from within one of the subareas recently closed by NEAFC to bottom fishing.

The event will be organised and led by PI of MAR-ECO (www.mar-eco.no) Odd Aksel Bergstad.