

Census of Marine Life

Workshop on the

Ocean Biogeographical Information System (OBIS)

3-4 November 1999

Reports from the Working Groups

CONCLUDING REMARKS FROM THE WORKSHOP

Fourteen of the participants expressed interest in publication of their contributions in a dedicated journal volume. The CORE Secretariat will explore possibilities. Summaries of the meeting will be provided to scientific journals (including Science and Nature).

Several existing databases are ready for use in working out interoperability: CephBase, FISHNET, FishBase, ITIS, anemone database, etc. A focused, international pilot project would be valuable.

Do not get hung up on metadata standards since the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) is working on it.

There is a need to devote considerable effort to working with museums and large fisheries organizations.

Developing countries need to be included even if they do not have data to contribute. It is important to work with international organizations, e.g., Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), Species 2000, Expert Center for Taxonomic Identification (ETI), Biodiversity Conservation Information Systems (BCIS) and regional or national groups such as the European Register of Marine Species (ERMS), the Integrated Taxonomic Information System (ITIS), the Mexican Biodiversity Commission (CONABIO), the Marine Laboratories Information Network (MarLIN), the Marine Life Information Network (U.K.) (MarLIN), Environment Australia (ERIN), etc.

A listserver should be set up for OBIS.