Centre for Marine Biodiversity Technical Committee

CMB executives meeting - 2006-12-06

The CMBTC met twice in 2006 and made much progress towards its stated objectives (e.g. encouraging data publishing, overseeing the operation and technical direction for the CMB website and CMB/BIO DiGIR server). Highlights from 2006 and an outllook for 2007 are given here, meeting reports are at http://nautilus.mathstat.dal.ca/cmb.

R Branton, Chairman CMBTC

1. Data Publishing . . . . . Tana Worcester

A technical sysmposium was hosted at BIO to give providers and users of marine data an opportunity to improve their understanding of how metadata standards and associated systems might be used to enhance the quality of their work. Over 100 researchers, data managers and contractors from government, universities and the private sector attended this symposium. A workshop of DFO's National Science Data Management Committee was also held to discuss and agree on what DFO Science needs to do to create, manage and publish metadata about its data holdings and publications. A proceeding document for both meetings was prepared and accepted into the DFO CSAS document series. For details go to http://www.marinebiodiversity.ca/metadata

2. CMB web server . . . . . Dan Ricard

CMB and Dalhousie University (Ransom Myers' lab) collaborated on installation of a web server computer in the Dalhousie Department of Mathematics and Statistics computer room. The purschased cost was shared between CMB and Dal, with initiatial configuration being handled by Dan R. and MS staff. CMB contracted the subsequent installation of web services software and content migration to a commercial contract firm. On going maintenance will be funded by Dal. The system became operational on Dec 1, 2006. Commercial contracts were also dropped.

3. CMB/BIO DiGIR server . . . . . Lenore Bajona

Scomber, BIO's Distributed Generic Information Retrieval (DiGIR) server was connected through the DFO firewall to intranet based database servers, thus automating the flow of data between DFO and the Internet. Structured Query language procedures were developed whereby Integrated Taxonomic Information System (ITIS) and Food and Agriculture (FAO) data bases could be used to standardize and enrich species lists currently being used by a variety of fisheries research databases at BIO and St Andrews. The system automatically gives the current internationaly accepted scientific names for locally used scientific names whatever tha taxon level as well as provides the taxonmic hierarchy, english and french common names, the offocial 3 character FAO abbreviation and links to ITIS and FAO fact sheets.

4. Data Visualization . . . . . Jerry Black

ACON, the Population Ecology Division's web based mapping program was installed on the OBIS portal at Rutgers University thus allowing dynamic multi-species mapping on a global scale. ACON mapping procedures were also extended to provide improved handling of a) absence data from multi-species surveys b) tracking tagged fish through an acoustic detection array. The latter item was extremely well received by Pacific Ocean Shelf Tracking (POST) and Ocean Tracking Network (OTN) projects. Both features will appear on the OBIS portal in the near future.

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Outlook for 2007

1. **Increased DFO data publishing through OBIS Canada portal.**
2. **Data Mgt support for Bras d'Or Lake initiative.**
3. **Data Mgt support for Ocean Tracking Network (OTN) initiative**
4. **Hosting of Ocean Biodiversity Informatics (OBI) 2007.**
5. **Migration of CMB web site to Plone content management system.**