

Other Zooplankton groups collected during the International Indian Ocean Expedition (IIOE) from 17 ships and 64 cruises in the Indian Ocean from 1962-1965 (IIOE project)

Website: <https://www.bco-dmo.org/dataset/2482>

Version: final

Version Date: 2015-04-20

Project

» [International Indian Ocean Expedition](#) (IIOE)

Program

» [Census of Marine Life](#) (CoML)

| Contributors | Affiliation | Role |
|--|--|------------------------|
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Table of Contents

- [Dataset Description](#)
 - [Methods & Sampling](#)
 - [Data Processing Description](#)
- [Data Files](#)
- [Parameters](#)
- [Instruments](#)
- [Deployments](#)
- [Project Information](#)
- [Program Information](#)

Dataset Description

Zooplankton samples collected during International Indian Ocean Expedition (IIOE) 1960-65 are by far the largest and the most important collections from the Indian Ocean in the world today. Though several experts spent decades to study various groups of zooplankton, these valuable data have not been computerized to make permanent records. Hence a database for IIOE zooplankton is initiated as a cooperative project of CMarZ and a part of the IIOE data have been digitized.

During IIOE 1548 standard zooplankton samples were collected covering the entire Indian Ocean. The database is prepared based on published information on these zooplankton samples. Three sets of Tables are made (1) Basic data on zooplankton volume, total population and all the 54 taxa found in the collections. (2) Data emerged from subsorting of copepods, decapods and fish larvae (3) Species level data for chaetognaths for entire Indian Ocean and ostracods for northern Indian Ocean.' (from summary of CMarZ Cooperative Project final report)

Related data objects:

[iioe_zoo](#) V. Nair [Zooplankton major groups collected during the IIOE, 1960-1965](#)
[iioe_chaetognaths](#) V. Nair [Chaetognath species recorded from the entire Indian Ocean](#)
[iioe_copepods](#) V. Nair [Copepods sub-sorted from zooplankton collected during IIOE, 1960-1965](#)
[iioe_decapods](#) V. Nair [Decapods sub-sorted from zooplankton collected during IIOE, 1960-1965](#)
[iioe_mysids](#) V. Nair [Mysidacea species recorded during the IIOE, 1962-1965](#)
[iioe_ostracods](#) V. Nair [Ostracod species from N. Indian Ocean, N. of 10° S.](#)
[iioe_pleuronects](#) V. Nair [Pleuronectiforms larvae from IIOE, 1960-1965](#)

Although technically retired, **Vijaya Nair** remains the contact for anyone seeking information about these data.

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Methods & Sampling

"It was recommended that each research vessel, every night between 2200 and 0200 hours local time, take one vertical haul from 200m to the surface, hauling in the net at a speed of 1 m/sec. The samples were then to be preserved in 10% formalin neutralized with hexamethylenetetramine. The displacement volume of the catch [was], if possible, measured at the earliest opportunity by an accepted method. The samples were then sent to the Sorting Centre for further processing. Many vessels took duplicate hauls, one for the Centre and one for the use of individual scientists in their respective countries." (Hansen, 1966).

Inventory is based on materials collected during IIOE and later collections made by NIO and other Institutions along the coastal and oceanic realms of the Indian Ocean.

References: Hansen, Vagn Kr., 1966. The Indian Ocean Biological Centre: The centre for sorting plankton samples of the International Indian Ocean Expedition. Deep-Sea Res., **13**, pp.229-234.

Data Processing Description

Total number of **mysid** species digitized are 101. These come under 3 families, 5 subfamilies and 36 genera. 7 species are cosmopolitan in distribution, 34 confined to Indo-Pacific and the remaining are restricted to Indian Ocean. Among the Indian Ocean species 18 are endemic to Arabian Sea and 4 are endemic to Andaman Sea.

Thirty one species of **Pleuronectiformes** belonging to the family Parulichthylidae, Bothidae, Soleidae and Cynoglossidae are found in the Indian Ocean. 23 species of bothid larvae coming under the genera Parabothus, Crossorhombus, Engyprosopon, Bothus, Asterorhombus, Psettina, Arnoglossus, Laeops and Chascanopsetta have been digitized. 16 species of bothid larvae are new records for the Indian Ocean. The larvae of Engyprosopon is the dominant genus and the species *E. grandisquamis* predominated. *Arnoglossus tapeinosoma* showed a wider distributional range being found both in the coastal and oceanic waters as well as in the southern and northern latitudes but conspicuously absent along the west coast of India. Bay of Bengal appears to be favourable for the growth and distribution of flat fish larvae especially bothids. *Arnoglossus imperialis*, an Atlantic species is reported for the first time from the Indian Ocean.

[[table of contents](#) | [back to top](#)]

Data Files

| File |
|---|
| ioe_other_new.csv (Comma Separated Values (.csv), 4.86 MB) MD5:b96ebe66954f62d1a66a05f85d42952c |
| Primary data file for dataset ID 2482 |

[[table of contents](#) | [back to top](#)]

Parameters

| Parameter | Description | Units |
|-----------------|---|--------------------------|
| reference | master reference number of sample | |
| taxon | common name of group | |
| count | number of individuals counted | number per standard haul |
| vessel | ship designation | |
| year | year of collection | |
| cruise | cruise number of the particular vessel | |
| station | Station number gives approximate location | |
| lat | latitude of tow, North = positive | decimal degrees |
| lon | longitude tow, East = positive | decimal degrees |
| date_local | day/month/year | |
| time_local | Self explanatory | |
| day_night_flag | D = Day; N = night | |
| zooplankton_vol | displacement volume of sample | milliliters |
| depth_w | Depth of water at this station. | meters |

[[table of contents](#) | [back to top](#)]

Instruments

| | |
|---|--|
| Dataset-specific Instrument Name | Indian Ocean Standard Net |
| Generic Instrument Name | Indian Ocean Standard Net |
| Generic Instrument Description | The Indian Ocean Standard Net was designed specifically for the International Indian Ocean Exploration project. The net has a mouth area of one square meter and a total length of 5 meters. The net is made of nylon gauze with a mesh size of .333 mm (330um). |

[[table of contents](#) | [back to top](#)]

Deployments

AB_63_A

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57849 |
| Platform | R/V Anton Bruun |
| Start Date | 1963-02-24 |
| End Date | 1963-03-04 |

AB_63_1

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57850 |
| Platform | R/V Anton Bruun |
| Report | http://hdl.handle.net/1912/3878 |
| Start Date | 1963-03-12 |
| End Date | 1963-05-10 |
| Description | Cruise Itinerary (from cruise report): Depart Bombay, India on 3/12/63 and arrive at Phuket, Thailand on 3/22/63. Depart Phuket on 3/23/63 and arrive at Chittagong, E. Pakistan on 4/3/63. Depart Chittagong on 4/4/63 and arrive at Vizagapatnam, India on 4/11/63. Depart Vizagapatnam on 4/14/63 and arrive at Vizagapatnam on 4/25/63. Depart Vizagapatnam on 4/28/63 and arrive at Madras, India on 5/3/63. Depart Madras on 5/4/63 and arrive at Bombay on 5/10/63 (no sampling during this leg). |

AB_63_2

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57851 |
| Platform | R/V Anton Bruun |
| Report | http://hdl.handle.net/1912/3879 |
| Start Date | 1963-05-22 |
| End Date | 1963-07-23 |
| Description | Itinerary, Cruise 2, R/V ANTON BRUUN (from cruise report): May 22, 1963: Departed Bombay, India. May 22 - June 11: Completed series of stations from 17° N to 20° S latitude along 70° E longitude. June 14: Arrived Port Louis, Mauritius (fuel and provisions). June 18: Departed Port Louis. June 22: Returned Port Louis (emergency call, appendicitis case on board). June 22: Departed Port Louis. June 25 - July 2: Completed series of stations from 22° S to 37° S latitude along 70° E longitude. July 5 - July 17: Completed series of stations from 30° S to 4° N latitude along 80° E longitude. July 18: Arrived Colombo, Ceylon (fuel and provisions). July 19: Departed Colombo. July 23: Arrived Bombay - end of Cruise 2. |

AB_63_3

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57860 |
| Platform | R/V Anton Bruun |
| Report | http://hdl.handle.net/1912/3880 |
| Start Date | 1963-08-08 |
| End Date | 1963-09-20 |
| Description | Cruise Itinerary (from cruise report): August 8, 1963: Departed Bombay, India. August 13-25: Completed series of stations from 12° N to 12° S latitude along 60° E longitude. August 29: Arrived Port Louis, Mauritius. September 3: Departed Port Louis. September 4-13: Completed series of stations from 23° S to 44° S latitude along 60° E longitude. September 20: Arrived Port Louis - end of Cruise 3. |

AB_63_4A

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57861 |
| Platform | R/V Anton Bruun |
| Report | http://hdl.handle.net/1912/3881 |
| Start Date | 1963-09-25 |
| End Date | 1963-11-08 |
| Description | Cruise 4A Itinerary (from cruise report): September 25, 1963: Departed Port Louis, Mauritius September 25 - October 1: Occupied Stations I66-I65 October 1: Arrived Port Victoria, Seychelles October 4: Departed Port Victoria October 4-10: Occupied Stations I66-I70 October 10: Arrived Aden October 12: Departed Aden October 12-24: Occupied Stations I71-I82 October 24: Arrived Karachi October 28: Departed Karachi October 28 - November 8: Occupied Stations I83-200 November 8: Arrived Bombay, India - End of Cruise 4A |

AB_64_5

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57862 |
| Platform | R/V Anton Bruun |
| Report | http://hdl.handle.net/1912/3882 |
| Start Date | 1964-01-26 |
| End Date | 1964-05-04 |
| Description | Cruise 5 of the R/V ANTON BRUUN originated from Bombay on January 26 and terminated at Bombay on May 4, 1964. In addition to the basic hydrographic and biological programs continued from previous cruises, a special program of longline fishing was conducted in cooperation with the U. S. Bureau of Commercial Fisheries. See cruise report for itinerary and more information. |

AB_64_6

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57863 |
| Platform | R/V Anton Bruun |
| Report | http://hdl.handle.net/1912/3883 |
| Start Date | 1964-05-15 |
| End Date | 1964-07-16 |
| Description | Cruise 6 Itinerary (from cruise report): May 15, 1964: Departed Bombay, India. May 17 - June 8: Occupied Stations 328 to 346 from 18 degrees N to 19 degrees S latitude on 65 degrees E longitude. June 11: Arrived Port Louis, Mauritius. June 21: Departed Port Louis. June 23 - July 4: Occupied Stations 347 to 354 from 22 degrees S to 41 degrees S latitude on 65 degrees E longitude. July 11: Occupied Station 355. July 16: Arrived Durban, South Africa - end of Cruise 6. |

AB 64 7

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57864 |
| Platform | R/V Anton Bruun |
| Report | http://hdl.handle.net/1912/3884 |
| Start Date | 1964-07-29 |
| End Date | 1964-09-10 |
| Description | Cruise 7 Itinerary (from cruise report): 29 July 1964: Departed Durban (SOUTH AFRICA) - Start Cruise 7 7 August: Arrived Tulear (MADAGASCAR) 10 August: Departed Tulear 20 August: Arrived Lourenco Marques (MOZAMBIQUE) 22 August: Departed Lourenco Marques 10 September: Arrived Durban - End Cruise 7 |

AB 64 8

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57865 |
| Platform | R/V Anton Bruun |
| Report | http://hdl.handle.net/1912/3884 |
| Start Date | 1964-09-25 |
| End Date | 1964-11-09 |
| Description | Cruise 8 Itinerary (from cruise report): 25 September: Departed Durban - Start Cruise 8 5 October: Arrived Beira (MOZAMBIQUE) 8 October: Departed Beira 24 October: Arrived Nossi Be (MADAGASCAR) 24 October: Departed Nossi Be 24 October: Arrived Diego Suarez (MADAGASCA) 27 October: Departed Diego Suarez 28 October: Arrived Nossi Be 29 October: Departed Nossi Be 9 November: Arrived Mombasa (KENYA) - End Cruise 8 |

Ar 64 Do

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57867 |
| Platform | R/V Argo |
| Start Date | 1964-08-12 |
| End Date | 1964-09-04 |

Ar 62 Lu

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57866 |
| Platform | R/V Argo |
| Start Date | 1962-07-01 |
| End Date | 1962-09-21 |

Co 63 196

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57868 |
| Platform | R/V Conrad |
| Start Date | 1963-10-17 |
| End Date | 1963-10-18 |

Co 63 198

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57869 |
| Platform | R/V Conrad |
| Start Date | 1963-10-28 |
| End Date | 1963-10-29 |

Dm_62_2

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57872 |
| Platform | R/V Diamantina |
| Start Date | 1962-07-20 |
| End Date | 1962-08-23 |

Dm_62_3

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57873 |
| Platform | R/V Diamantina |
| Start Date | 1962-09-26 |
| End Date | 1962-10-05 |

Dm_62_4

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57874 |
| Platform | R/V Diamantina |
| Start Date | 1962-10-16 |
| End Date | 1962-10-20 |

Dm_63_1

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57875 |
| Platform | R/V Diamantina |
| Start Date | 1963-03-30 |
| End Date | 1963-04-27 |

Dm_63_2

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57876 |
| Platform | R/V Diamantina |
| Start Date | 1963-05-07 |
| End Date | 1963-06-02 |

Dm_63_3

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57877 |
| Platform | R/V Diamantina |
| Start Date | 1963-07-11 |
| End Date | 1963-08-09 |

Dm_63_5

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57878 |
| Platform | R/V Diamantina |
| Start Date | 1963-09-05 |
| End Date | 1963-09-11 |

Dm_64_1

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57879 |
| Platform | R/V Diamantina |
| Start Date | 1964-02-01 |
| End Date | 1964-02-17 |

Dm_64_2

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57880 |
| Platform | R/V Diamantina |
| Start Date | 1964-04-16 |
| End Date | 1964-04-16 |

Dm_64_3

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57881 |
| Platform | R/V Diamantina |
| Start Date | 1964-05-05 |
| End Date | 1964-05-15 |

Dm_64_5

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57882 |
| Platform | R/V Diamantina |
| Start Date | 1964-08-11 |
| End Date | 1964-09-08 |

Dm_65_1

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57883 |
| Platform | R/V Diamantina |
| Start Date | 1965-04-18 |
| End Date | 1965-05-12 |

Di_63_1

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57870 |
| Platform | RRS Discovery |
| Start Date | 1963-06-16 |
| End Date | 1963-08-17 |

Di_64_3

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57871 |
| Platform | RRS Discovery |
| Start Date | 1964-03-08 |
| End Date | 1964-09-03 |

Ga_62_4

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57884 |
| Platform | R/V Gascoyne |
| Start Date | 1962-08-20 |
| End Date | 1962-08-27 |

Ga_63_1

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57885 |
| Platform | R/V Gascoyne |
| Start Date | 1963-01-18 |
| End Date | 1963-02-16 |

Ka_63_3

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57886 |
| Platform | Kagoshima-Marui |
| Start Date | 1963-11-26 |
| End Date | 1964-01-09 |

Ki_63_4

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57891 |
| Platform | Kistna |
| Start Date | 1963-01-19 |
| End Date | 1963-01-21 |

Ki_63_7

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57892 |
| Platform | Kistna |
| Start Date | 1963-03-14 |
| End Date | 1963-03-18 |

Ki_63_10

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57887 |
| Platform | Kistna |
| Start Date | 1963-07-20 |
| End Date | 1963-07-20 |

Ki_63_11

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57888 |
| Platform | Kistna |
| Start Date | 1963-07-25 |
| End Date | 1963-07-25 |

Ki_63_13

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57889 |
| Platform | Kistna |
| Start Date | 1963-08-20 |
| End Date | 1963-08-27 |

Ki_63_14

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57890 |
| Platform | Kistna |
| Start Date | 1963-09-06 |
| End Date | 1963-09-15 |

Ki_64_15

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57893 |
| Platform | Kistna |
| Start Date | 1964-06-08 |
| End Date | 1964-06-20 |

Ki_64_16

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57894 |
| Platform | Kistna |
| Start Date | 1964-06-23 |
| End Date | 1964-07-03 |

Ki_64_17

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57895 |
| Platform | Kistna |
| Start Date | 1964-07-16 |
| End Date | 1964-07-20 |

Ki 64_19

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57896 |
| Platform | Kistna |
| Start Date | 1964-08-22 |
| End Date | 1964-08-25 |

Ki 64_20

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57897 |
| Platform | Kistna |
| Start Date | 1964-09-03 |
| End Date | 1964-09-07 |

Ki 65_21

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57898 |
| Platform | Kistna |
| Start Date | 1965-01-16 |
| End Date | 1965-01-21 |

Ki 65_22

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57899 |
| Platform | Kistna |
| Start Date | 1965-01-28 |
| End Date | 1965-02-05 |

Ki 65_25

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57900 |
| Platform | Kistna |
| Start Date | 1965-03-23 |
| End Date | 1965-03-27 |

Ki 65_26

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57901 |
| Platform | Kistna |
| Start Date | 1965-04-01 |
| End Date | 1965-04-08 |

Ki 65_27

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57902 |
| Platform | Kistna |
| Start Date | 1965-04-15 |
| End Date | 1965-04-19 |

Ko 62_14

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57903 |
| Platform | Koyo-Marui |
| Start Date | 1962-11-23 |
| End Date | 1963-01-15 |

Ko_63_16

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57904 |
| Platform | Koyo-Marui |
| Start Date | 1963-11-23 |
| End Date | 1964-01-25 |

Me_64_1

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57905 |
| Platform | R/V Meteor |
| Start Date | 1964-11-30 |
| End Date | 1965-03-08 |

Na_62_5

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57906 |
| Platform | R/V Natal |
| Start Date | 1962-10-05 |
| End Date | 1962-10-22 |

Na_63_6

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57907 |
| Platform | R/V Natal |
| Start Date | 1963-01-11 |
| End Date | 1963-01-27 |

Os_62_1

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57908 |
| Platform | Oshoro-Marui |
| Start Date | 1962-12-12 |
| End Date | 1963-01-19 |

Os_63_7

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57909 |
| Platform | Oshoro-Marui |
| Start Date | 1963-12-13 |
| End Date | 1963-12-25 |

Os_64_11

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57910 |
| Platform | Oshoro-Marui |
| Start Date | 1964-12-15 |
| End Date | 1965-01-02 |

Pi_64_442

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57911 |
| Platform | R/V Pioneer |
| Start Date | 1964-04-10 |
| End Date | 1964-06-21 |

Um_62_23

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57912 |
| Platform | Umitaka-Maru |
| Start Date | 1962-12-10 |
| End Date | 1963-01-07 |

Um_63_24

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57913 |
| Platform | Umitaka-Maru |
| Start Date | 1963-11-21 |
| End Date | 1964-01-22 |

Va_63_30

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57916 |
| Platform | Varuna |
| Start Date | 1963-05-07 |
| End Date | 1963-05-10 |

Va_63_31

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57917 |
| Platform | Varuna |
| Start Date | 1963-05-13 |
| End Date | 1963-05-15 |

Va_63_104

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57914 |
| Platform | Varuna |
| Start Date | 1963-11-04 |
| End Date | 1963-11-06 |

Va_63_106

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57915 |
| Platform | Varuna |
| Start Date | 1963-12-09 |
| End Date | 1963-12-10 |

Vi_62_35

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57918 |
| Platform | Vityaz |
| Start Date | 1962-08-24 |
| End Date | 1962-10-26 |

Vi_64_36

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57919 |
| Platform | Vityaz |
| Start Date | 1964-10-24 |
| End Date | 1965-02-12 |

Zu_64_Zu

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Website | https://www.bco-dmo.org/deployment/57920 |
| Platform | Zulfiquar |
| Report | http://www.cmarz.org/jg/serv/CMarZ/iioe_zoo.html1%7Bdir=www.cmarz.org/jg/dir/CMarZ/,info=cmarz.who.edu/jg/info/CMarZ/iioe_zoo%7D?vessel_eq_Zulfiquar |
| Start Date | 1964-11-09 |
| End Date | 1964-11-13 |

[[table of contents](#) | [back to top](#)]

Project Information

International Indian Ocean Expedition (IIOE)

Coverage: Indian Ocean

"During IIOE 1548 standard zooplankton samples were collected covering the entire Indian Ocean. The database is prepared based on published information on these zooplankton samples. Three sets of Tables are made (1) Basic data on zooplankton volume, total population and all the 54 taxa found in the collections. (2) Data emerged from subsorting of copepods, decapods and fish larvae (3) Species level data for chaetognaths for entire Indian Ocean and ostracods for northern Indian Ocean." (from summary of CMarZ Cooperative Project final report)

[CMarZ Cooperative Project](#): Database for Zooplankton collected during International Indian Ocean Expedition (IIOE) 1960-65

[[table of contents](#) | [back to top](#)]

Program Information

Census of Marine Life (CoML)

Website: <http://www.coml.org/>

Coverage: global

The Census of Marine Life is a global network of researchers in more than 80 nations engaged in a 10-year scientific initiative to assess and explain the diversity, distribution, and abundance of life in the oceans. The world's first comprehensive Census of Marine Life - past, present, and future - will be released in 2010.

The stated purpose of the Census of Marine Life is to assess and explain the diversity, distribution, and abundance of marine life. Each plays an important role in what is known, unknown, and may never be known about what lives in the global ocean.

First, diversity. The Census aims to make for the first time a comprehensive global list of all forms of life in the sea. No such unified list yet exists. Census scientists estimate that about 230,000 species of marine animals have been described and reside in jars in collections in museums of natural history and other repositories. Since the Census began in 2000, researchers have added more than 5600 species to the lists. They aim to add many thousands more by 2010. The database of the Census already includes records for more than 16 million records, old and new. By 2010, the goal is to have all the old and the new species in an on-line encyclopedia with a webpage for every species. In addition, we will estimate how many species remain unknown, that is, remain to be discovered. The number could be astonishingly large, perhaps a million or more, if all small animals and protists are included. For comparison, biologists have described about 1.5 million terrestrial plants and animals.

Second, distribution. The Census aims to produce maps where the animals have been observed or where they could live, that is, the territory or range of the species. Knowing the range matters a lot for people concerned about, for example, possible consequences of global climate change.

Third, abundance. No Census is complete without measures of abundance. We want to know not only that there is such a thing as a Madagascar crab but how many there are. For marine life, populations are being estimated either in numbers or in total kilos, called biomass.

To complete the context, it is important to understand the top motivations for the Census of Marine Life. Most importantly, much of the ocean is unexplored. Most of the records in its database are for observations near the surface, and down to 1000 meters. No observations have been made in most of the deep ocean, while most of the ocean is deep.

Another important issue is that diversity varies in space. Marine hot spots, like the rain forests of the land, exist off for large fish off the coasts of Brazil and Australia. The goal is to know much more about marine hot spots, to help conserve these large fish. Their abundance and thus their diversity is changing, especially for commercially important species. Between 1952 and 1976, for example, fishermen and their customers emptied many areas of the ocean of tuna.

The Census has evolved a strategy of 14 field projects to touch the major habitats and groups of species in the global ocean. Eleven field projects address habitats, such as seamounts or the Arctic Ocean. Three field projects look globally at animals that either traverse the seas or appear globally distributed: the top predators such as tuna and the plankton and the microbes. The projects employ a mix of technologies. These include acoustics or sound, optics or cameras, tags placed on individual animals that store or report data, and genetics, as well as some actual capture of animals. The technologies complement one another. Sound can survey large areas in the ocean, while light cannot. Light can capture detail and characters that sound cannot. And genetics can make identifications from fragments of specimens or larvae where pictures tell little.

This mix of curiosity, need to know, technology, and scientists willing to investigate the unexplored and undiscovered will result in a Census of Marine Life in 2010 that provides a much clearer picture of what lives below the surface around the globe. Several reasons make such a report timely, indeed urgent. Crises in the sea are reported regularly. One recent study predicted the end of commercial fishery globally by 2050, if current trends

persist. Better information is needed to fashion the management that will sustain fisheries, conserve diversity, reverse losses of habitat, reduce impacts of pollution, and respond to global climate change. Hence, there are biological, economic, philosophical and political reasons to push for greater exploration and understanding of the ocean and its inhabitants. Indeed, the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity requires signatories to collect information on living resources, but, as yet, no nation has a complete baseline of such information. The Census of Marine Life's global network of researchers will help to fill this knowledge gap, providing critical information to help guide decisions on how to manage global marine resources for the future.

[Text copied from the CoML web site, November 5, 2008]

[[table of contents](#) | [back to top](#)]