

Annual Report of the International Association for Biological Oceanography (IABO)

IABO General Assembly

The IABO General Assembly was held in conjunction with the 3rd World Conference in Marine Biodiversity in Qingdao, China on 13-16 October 2014 <http://wcmb2014.csp.escience.cn/dct/page/1>. The IABO Executive Committee met on 15th October 2014 at the World Conference of Marine Biodiversity.

IABO thanks SCOR for grants for delegates from Developing Countries to its GA (WCMB III). These grants, and some others, have now been offered to applicants.



Ten delegates from developing countries received travel grants from SCOR to the IABO General Assembly, i.e.:

1. Sanna Durgappa (India)
2. Girish Beedessee (Mauritius)
3. Mhairi Alexander (South Africa)
4. Fernando A. Zapata (Colombia)
5. Joel Kareithi Gatagwu (Kenya)
6. Olesia S. Vishchuk (Russia)
7. Hoang Dinh Chieu (Vietnam)
8. Junior Vitor (Peru)
9. Nadeem Nazurally (Mauritius)
10. Tammy (Tamara) Robinson (South Africa)

The 4th WCMB will be held in Montreal in May 2018 (Table 1).

Table 1. Statistics on the WCMB.

	Location	Dates	Delegates	Talks	Posters
1 st	Valencia, Spain	11-15 November 2008	600	200	160
2 nd	Aberdeen, Scotland	26-30 September 2011	800	500	400
3 rd	Qingdao, China	12-16 October 2014	480	154	89
4 th	Montreal, Canada	May 2018			

Keynote talks at the IABO GA and 3rd WCMB

A recurring theme in many of the keynote presentations was the value and insights from collaborative international research:

- Angelika Brandt described exciting discoveries of deep-sea diversity and productivity in the Kurile Kamchatka Trench by joint German and Russian cruises.
- Suchana Apple Chavanich reviewed the state of marine biodiversity in the Western Pacific (SE Asia) following disturbances ranging from over-fishing to tsunamis, and how new international scientific programmes are leading research in the region.
- Sun Song described the factors influencing how jellyfish blooms near Qingdao which may provide a template for how such blooms occur elsewhere in the world.
- Graham Edgar summarised some of the analyses from a replicated global survey of over 2,400 sites through collaboration with citizen scientists in the Reef Life Survey programme
- Emmett Duffy introduced approaches to develop methods for monitoring ecological interactions that can be replicated globally.

- Mark Costello illustrated insights from using global species databases to see trends in taxonomic discovery and biogeographic patterns in species richness, including latitudinal gradients, involving over 65,000 species.
- John Gunn presented recent efforts to define “essential ocean variables” that could be a basis for monitoring trends in the oceans at global scales, and the need for a top-down approach to their definition.

The first keynote speaker and President of IUBS, Nils Stenseth, was unable to attend due to illness.

A call for **new committee members** resulted in 6 new members. Thus the present committee (with country and affiliations) of

- David Paterson (Scotland, convenor WCMB II)
- Patricia Miloslavich (Venezuela)
- Annelies Pierrot (Past-President, Netherlands);
- Michael Thorndyke (Sweden)
- Sun Song (China, convenor WCMB III, SCOR Vice-chair)
- Mark Costello (President, New Zealand, WoRMS, GEO BON)

is joined by

- Eulogio Soto (Chile)
- Tina Molodtsova (Russia)
- Isabel Sousa Pinto (Portugal) (IPBES, GEO BON)
- Suchana Apple Chavanich (Thailand, IOC/WESTPAC)
- Prof Siew Phang Moi (Malaysia)
- Philippe Archambault (Canada, 4th WCMB convenor)

Other activities

The committee and the President of IUBS published a joint paper calling for greater coordination within the marine biodiversity community:

Costello, M. J., Archambault, P., Chavanich, S., Miloslavich, P., Paterson, D. M., Phang, S. M., Sousa Pinto I., Pierrot-Bults A., Song S., Soto E.H., Stenseth N.C., Molodtsova T.N., Thorndyke, M. 2015. Organizing, supporting and linking the world marine biodiversity research community. *Journal of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom*, 95(3), 431–433.

ICSU

IABO’s nomination, Dr Annelies Pierrot, was selected to the ICSU ad hoc panel for the review of SCAR and SCOR.

IABO Email list

IABO has an email list with ca. 1,000 subscribers. It welcomes SCOR Working Groups and associated organisations to subscribe and send out news of new positions available, meetings, publications and questions to subscribers.

- MARINE-B, the MARine Research Information NETWORK on Biodiversity
 - official email network of the International Association for Biological Oceanography www.iabo.org
 - for communication related to marine biodiversity research
 - Archived at <https://listserv.heanet.ie/marine-b.html>
 - to join send message "SUBSCRIBE MARINE-B firstname surname" to listserv@listserv.heanet.ie
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