

IABO report to SCOR 2017

IABO Executive Committee

Mark Costello, *President* – University of Auckland (New Zealand)
Annelies Pierrot-Bults, *Past President* – University of Amsterdam (The Netherlands)

Members:

Philippe Archambault – *Chair of the 4th WCMB* - Université Laval (Canada)
Suchana Chavanich - Chulalongkorn University (Thailand)
Adrian Glover – Natural History Museum (UK)
Patricia Miloslavich, *SCOR representative* – University of Tasmania (Australia) and Universidad Simón Bolívar (Venezuela)
Tina Molodtsova – Shirshov Institute of Oceanology (Russia)
David Paterson – University of St. Andrews (UK)
Siew Moi Phang – University of Malaya (Malaysia)
Eulogio Soto – Universidad de Valparaíso (Chile)
Isabel Sousa-Pinto – CIIMAR, University of Porto (Portugal)
Sun Song – Institute of Oceanology, Chinese Academy of Science (China)
Mike Thorndyke – University of Gothenburg (Sweden)

2016-2017 Activities

Organization: the 4th World Conference on Marine Biodiversity (May 13-16 2018)

The *World Conference on Marine Biodiversity* has become the major focal assembly for sharing research outcomes, management and policy issues, and for discussions of the role of biodiversity and biodiversity conservation in sustaining ocean ecosystems. In this context, the 4th World Conference on Marine Biodiversity (<http://www.wcmb2018.org>), and its main partners (Convention on Biological Diversity secretariat, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and Canadian Healthy Ocean Network) are inviting all marine biodiversity stakeholders to Montreal (Canada) in 2018. The theme, *Connecting with the living ocean*, will underline the need to replace our current exploitation relationship with the oceans's living resources, with a sustainable connection based on scientific knowledge.

The 4th WCMB will be the perfect forum to exchange and try to make a difference at all levels, from the discovery to the management of our oceans. Presentations by leading scientists and practitioners from around the world will bring to light the very latest developments, innovations and discoveries in marine biodiversity.

The WCMB is open to partners, exhibitors, and scientists to share scientific results and discuss about the importance of marine biodiversity for our planet. Registration and abstract submission are now open. The next IABO General Assembly will be held in Montreal in May 2018 during the WCMB.



Establishment of the International Award in Marine Biodiversity

IABO has established an international award, similar to what IAPSO has had for several years:

<http://www.wcmb2018.org/carlo-heip-award.html>. Inaugurated in recognition of Carlo Heip's leadership in marine biodiversity research and founding of the World Conference on Marine Biodiversity, the Carlo Heip International Award for outstanding accomplishments in marine biodiversity science will congratulate an individual who has demonstrated exemplary leadership in marine biodiversity science. IABO invites SCOR members to encourage their scientists to nominate people for this new award.

Communications

The IABO email list, MARINE-B, has been expanded to over 1,100 scientists. A Facebook page is also in progress. MARINE-B provides news and relevant information related to biological oceanography, marine biology and biodiversity, including funding, job and studies opportunities, relevant papers and reports, conferences, etc.

Associations

IABO encourages international networking and cooperation in marine biological science. To that end, it endorses the following global scale marine initiatives and encourages its members and members of SCOR to support them:

- Ocean Biogeographic Information System OBIS (www.iobis.org)
- Marine Biodiversity Observation Network MBON (<http://geobon.org/networks/thematic-bons/marine-bon/>)
- World Register of Marine Species WoRMS (www.marinespecies.org)
- Global Ocean Observing System – GOOS Biology and Ecosystem Panel (www.goosocean.org)

IABO also endorses the collaboration agreement signed by GOOS, the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS), and the Marine Biodiversity Observation Network (MBON) of the Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network (GEOBON) (http://www.iobis.org/documents/GOOS-BioEco-OBIS-GEOBON-MBON_collaboration_SIGNED.pdf). Aims of the agreement are to:

- build a unified and globally consistent observing system
- encourage open access and data sharing
- enhance existing observation capacity
- use the best available resources
- implement best practices and international standards
- enhance global capacity
- ensure continuity and sustainability of global marine biological and ecosystem observations