



August 19, 2022

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

### Activities summary for 2021 - 2022

The International Association for Biological Oceanography (IABO) continues to advance the Association's goals with the support of the current and past Presidents, Secretary, and Executive Committee, and Task Group Members.

During this performance cycle, IABO activities focused on five key areas: 1) plans for the upcoming 6<sup>th</sup> WCMB meeting planned for 2023; 2) reviewing of SCOR Working Group proposals; 3) progress toward implementing the *PeerJ-IABO Hub*; 4) formalizing IABO's membership; and 5) selection of Carlo Heip awardee. Details about each of these activities are provided below.

#### 1. 6<sup>th</sup> WCMB meeting planned for 2023 and collection of selected papers from the 5<sup>th</sup> WCMB

IABO is currently supporting the organization of the upcoming 6<sup>th</sup> WCMB conference in 2023 in collaboration with the Centre for Marine & Coastal Studies (CEMACS) of Universiti Sains Malaysian (USM). The 6<sup>th</sup> WCMB is planned to be held in Penang, Malaysia. The conference bid proposal is available on IABO's [website](#).

In collaboration with PeerJ Publishing Group, a collection of selected papers from the 5<sup>th</sup> WCMB was launched. This collection contains four articles on the discovery of extensive fields of



Malaysia's Bid to Host

World Conference On Marine Biodiversity  
2023, Penang

Presented by:



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cyanobacteria-like mats that threaten coral health off Rapa Nui (Easter Island), a study of the distribution of 71,108 amphipods from 355 species across the Icelandic seabed, a model to predict distribution of sponge and coral species in unexplored seamounts off South America, and an study about dispersal and connectivity of coral reef-dwelling species in the South China Sea. Additional articles are still under consideration at *PeerJ Life & Environment* and will be added to this collection upon acceptance. More information about the collection is available on the [web](#).

## 2. Review of SCOR Working Group Proposals

IABO's Executive Committee and the Science Task Group completed the evaluation of the following

Working Group proposals submitted to SCOR in 2021:

- Coupling of ocean-ice-atmosphere processes: from sea-Ice biogeochemistry to aerosols and Clouds (CIce2Clouds)
- Harnessing global pELagic FISH biochemical data to address Sustainability challenges under climate change scenarios (ELFISH)
- Advancing standardisation of COastal and Nearshore demersal fish visual CENSUS techniques (CoNCENSUS)
- Mixotrophy in the Oceans – Novel Experimental designs and Tools for a new trophic paradigm (MixONET)
- From the Ocean to the Lab to the Ocean: best practices for ecologically sound inferences in fluctuating habitats (OLO)

## 3. Progress toward implementing the *PeerJ-IABO Hub*

IABO continues to advance a partnership with *PeerJ* to enable access to their portfolio and online platform and infrastructure to lower publishing costs in their open-access journals (including discounts and full fee waivers for selected countries). This collaboration will lead to the development of the *PeerJ-IABO Hub*, an online platform for IABO members to submit their contributions to *PeerJ* open access journals. This online interface will drive membership growth of IABO, highlight social media feeds for the current and prospective members of the Association, promote IABO announcements (e.g. Carlo Heip Excellence Award notifications, WCMB conferences, community workshops), and collect funding in the form of tokens that can be used toward publishing fees of submissions from registered IABO members from developing and least developed nations. More information about the *PeerJ-IABO* partnership can be found on the [web](#).

IABO's Executive Committee has formally approved this partnership, and the President and Secretary have signed a Memorandum of Understanding and Partnership Agreement with *PeerJ*. The MoU is available below.

The launch of the *PeerJ-IABO Hub* is planned for September of 2022.

#### 4. Formalizing IABO's membership

To fulfill its mission of promoting and advancing knowledge of the biology of the sea, IABO is now collecting membership information to better serve its community. A 'Join IABO' [tab](#) has been added to website for people interested in joining the Association to input their affiliation information and request to become active members of IABO. The list generated by this [Google Form](#) will be used to verify membership for benefits of travel grants, notification information about fellowships, job opportunities, international collaborations, and publishing benefits of the *PeerJ-IABO Hub*.

#### 5. Selection of Carlo Heip awardee 2021

In this cycle, IABO received four nominations to the Carlo Heip Award. The [Recognition Task Group](#) was responsible for coordinating the selection process. The selected candidate for the 2021 Carlo Heip Award is Prof. Pablo Penchaszadeh. The award ceremony is planned to be at the 6<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Marine Biodiversity in Penang, Malaysia, during the IABO's General Assembly.

Pablo Penchaszadeh is a Senior Research Scientist at the Argentinian Museum of Natural History (MACN) leading the Marine Ecology Division and the Coastal, Shelf and Deep-Sea Laboratory, and a retired professor from the Department of Environmental Studies at Simon Bolivar University in Caracas, Venezuela.

Pablo is an exceptionally productive scientist, professor, mentor, and inspiring artist who for more than 55 years of continuous work has applied modern methods and tools to problems in the physiology, functional morphology, and natural history of marine invertebrates of Molluscs, Echinoderms, Coelenterates and Dicyemids which resulted in more than 260 publications. Pablo pioneered the study of invertebrate diversity in South Atlantic and South Caribbean environments, as well as in the abyssal fauna off the Argentinean coast. He mentored the most productive research group in marine biodiversity and conservation in Argentina and Venezuela, which over the years



launched his many students into productive and distinguished careers resulting in a quantum leap in in a region where knowledge was very limited.

Pablo has received several international highly prestigious awards, the most notable being the Chevalier de l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques of France in 2006 for pioneering research and writing books on French naturalists Alcides d'Orbigny and Aimé Bonpland, as well as Alexander von Humboldt in South America. He also received the Honor Diploma in 2003 by the Internationaler Wettbewerb of Leipzig for his contributions to the book Biodiversity of Venezuela. In 2015 he also received the Consecration Award by the Argentinian Academy of Exact, Physics and Natural Sciences for his prolific production in the study of marine biodiversity.

Pablo has strongly fostered collaboration between various institutions in the Americas and the Caribbean. He created ALICMAR, the organization hosting the Latin American Marine Sciences conferences (COLACMAR); he chaired *Unitas Malacologica*; he helped establish the Caribbean Commission of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOCARIBE), and he helped to build the Caribbean Coastal Marine Productivity (CARICOMP) network aimed at monitoring the diversity, distribution, and abundance of coral reefs, seagrass beds and mangrove forests in the Caribbean.

In addition to his scientific work, Pablo has promoted the communication of scientific knowledge in ecology and conservation to the public. He was in the Editorial Committee of the popular journal *Ciencia Hoy* for 22 years and its director for 9 years; and authored the wonderful books *Underwater Patagonia*, *Alexander von Humboldt and Aimé Bonpland in South America*, and *Invaders*.

Finally, as a notably talented artist with a unique blending of science and arts in his career, Pablo's paintings have been exhibited in many places, including the Grand Palais in Paris where he participated in the Centenaire du Salon des Indépendants.

## **PeerJ-IABO Hub MoU**