



# Press Release

## The Census of Antarctic Marine Life (CAML) An Initiative for the International Polar Year (IPY) 2007/08.

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Through the Census of Antarctic Marine Life (CAML) Program you can find out:

- *How the distribution and abundance of Antarctica's marine biodiversity might be affected by climate change?*
- *How the nature of ecosystem services provided by the ocean that currently benefit humankind might be altered by climate change?*
- *How the effects of future change might be measured?*

CAML is a five-year International Program which will be undertaken as a major activity during the International Polar Year (IPY) of 2007/08. It will draw together all known data on Antarctic marine biodiversity and ocean change.

Changes in the Antarctic Ocean environment over the past 12 years suggest that it may be the most vulnerable part of the global marine ecosystem. The world's ocean circulation could be disrupted resulting in dramatic impacts of a biological and economic nature.

The Southern Ocean surrounding Antarctica contains a rich and diverse flora and fauna which has evolved during the past 40 million years. Its waters nourish uniquely Antarctic marine life such as krill, whales, seals, penguins and sea-birds such as petrels and albatrosses. It also provides significant benefits to humankind in the form of food, biological products, atmospheric carbon absorption as well as recreational, spiritual and aesthetic resources.

Research undertaken via CAML will produce fascinating images of the Southern Ocean and its rich biodiversity via remote sensing. These images will be transmitted to a wide audience via a vigorous Public Outreach Program. The data collected will be made available through the Scientific Committee for Antarctic Research Marine Biodiversity Information Network (SCAR-MarBIN).

After CAML has finished, the effects of future change will be able to be measured by continued sampling of the sites left as a legacy of the Program.

CAML is supported by the Alfred P Sloan Foundation of New York, USA.

Further information is available at:

- The CAML Website: <http://www.caml.aq/>
- The Census of Marine Life (COML) International Web Portal: <http://www.coml.org/>
- The IPY Website: <http://www.ipy.org/>

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