

ICoMM Call for Participation

Unveiling the Ocean's Hidden Majority through 454 Tag Sequencing

The International Census of Marine Microbes (ICoMM) (icomm.mbl.edu) initiative has adopted a massively-parallel, 454-based tag sequencing strategy that allows extensive sampling of marine microbial populations (PNAS 103: 32 p. 12115-12120). Our strategy based on sequencing of hypervariable regions of the SSU rRNA gene allows us to measure both relative abundance and diversity of both dominant and rare members of the microbial community thereby allowing efficient comparison of the structure of microbial populations in marine systems. With funding from the W.M. Keck Foundation, ICoMM has established a facility for generating V-6 tag rRNA gene sequences from Bacteria and Archaea at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, MA, USA. Sequencing of microbial eukaryotes will be forthcoming upon the upgrade of our 454 pyrosequencing machine slated for Spring 2007.

ICoMM is now inviting proposals from the microbial oceanographic community for tag sequencing of samples from diverse marine habitats and biogeographic provinces of the world's oceans. Proposals should not exceed 5-page descriptions (including any figures) that include the following:

- Statement of question to be addressed by the approach
- Sampling rationale and priority
- Reference to or supplied detailed DNA extraction procedure
- Information on pre-existing diversity and physico-chemical data for a sampling location, or details on how these will be collected
- Proposed Experimental Plan (including Sampling Coordinates)
- Number of samples (not to exceed 16)
- Timeline

An example proposal can be viewed at the [icomm](http://icomm.mbl.edu) website. Participants should send proposals to the ICoMM Secretariat at: amaral@mbi.edu. The ICoMM Scientific Organizing Committee and Advisory Council will review proposals and notify participants on the status of their request by November of this year.

Important Dates

Deadline for proposal submission: July 1, 2007

Notification of Participants: November 1, 2007