



OCEAN BIOGEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM

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The Ocean Biogeographic Information System provides a searchable online framework for scientists to publish their data, producing a worldwide atlas of marine life

OBIS Quality Control and Assurance

Where does OBIS get its data?

OBIS publishes data on behalf of scientists from government agencies, museums, universities, commercial companies, and non-governmental organizations. OBIS is always seeking new contributors. Please contact us in case you want to publish your data through the OBIS portal. Check the OBIS web site to learn more on how to use OBIS data.

What quality control system is in place for data?

Data published through OBIS must come from credible, authoritative sources. The scientists and institutions responsible for collecting and managing the data are clearly named. Before publication, the data must pass through a series of technical controls, and these are repeated every time the data may be crawled again from its source. Any errors, such as species name misspellings, names not recognized in OBIS, and possible mapping errors, are reported to the data provider to review, and if necessary, correct. Thus the next time the data are published they are more correct, and the source database quality is also improved.

Why an online atlas of marine life?

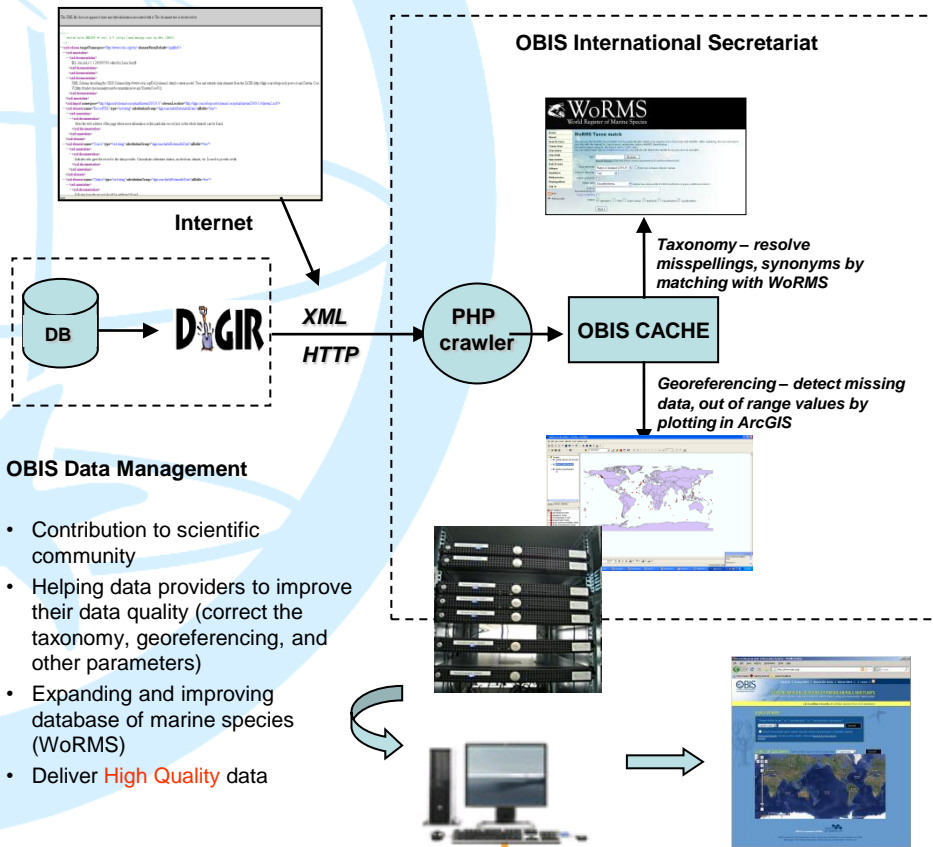
- Access a worldwide network of biogeographic data instantly and combine large datasets
- Explore the diversity and distribution of life in the ocean
- Uncover previously unobserved ecological and evolutionary relationships
- Incorporate species distribution in environmental management
- Publish your data and increase the visibility of your research, department, and organization

Benefits

- OBIS provides access to over 18 million records of 104,000 species from 633 datasets (figures of April 2009)
- All data are from credible scientists and science organizations, and are checked regularly for errors and inconsistencies

What can OBIS do?

- Plot species locations on a range of flat and spherical views of the world
- Compare with background maps of temperature salinity and depth
- Explore relationships between species and environmental data
- Browse lists of all species recorded for various geographical areas
- Connect to species genetic data, published literature, and images
- Download data for any species, including local occurrence data. The International Oceanographic Data and Information Centre (IODC) is housed by the Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences. The Sloan Foundation Generously supports CoML, including OBIS



OBIS Data Management

- Contribution to scientific community
- Helping data providers to improve their data quality (correct the taxonomy, georeferencing, and other parameters)
- Expanding and improving database of marine species (WoRMS)
- Deliver **High Quality** data

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