

Accommodation

In Brussels accommodation is available in all price categories as is clear from the information below. Early booking is highly recommended. All information concerning hotels in Brussels can be consulted via <http://www.timeout.com/brussels/accom/index.html>. Prices shown are indicative (valid in January 2002) (for double rooms a maximum of 25 EUR should be added).

Hotel price category	Single (EUR)
1	100-125
2	125-150
3	150-175
4	175- more

If you prefer to have your hotel booked by the organizers, please tick the appropriate box on the registration form (to be returned by March 31 at the very latest!).

Registration fees

Registration fees include:

- conference documents and proceedings
- welcome reception
- admission to the conference and poster sessions
- coffee/tea served during breaks
- 3 lunches (sandwiches)

Cancellation and refunding

The registration fee will be refunded if cancellation reaches us before August 31, 2002. After that date no refunding will be made.

Further information

The second announcement with detailed information and the provisional programme will be mailed in April 2002 to those persons who have returned the registration form.



Conference organizers

Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ), Federal Office for Scientific, Technical and Cultural Affairs (OSTC), Belgium; Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission/International Oceanographic Data Exchange (IOC/IODE); Ocean Biogeographic Information System/Census of Marine Life (OBIS/CoML)

Conference secretariat and registration of delegates

Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ)
The Colour of Ocean Data
Victorialaan 3, B-8400 Ostend, Belgium
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E-mail: cod@vliz.be
<http://www.vliz.be/cod>

Venue

The Palais des Congrès
Coudenberg 3, B-1000 Brussels
Fax +32-(0)2-515 13 10
<http://www.palcobru.be>

Scientific Committee

Efstathios Balopoulos (HNODC; IOC/IODE), Murray Brown (Phoenix Training Consultants), Mark Costello (OBIS/CoML), Carlo Heip (NIOO/CEMO), Syd Levitus (NODC Washington; WDC-A), Jan Mees (VLIZ), Nick Mikhaelov (RIHMI-WDC), Savi Narayanan (MEDS), Peter Pissierssens (IOC/IODE), Peter Schalk (ETI), Ben Searle (AODC; IOC/IODE), Edward Vanden Berghe (VLIZ), Magda Vincx (University Ghent), Ron Wilson (University of Delaware)

Organizing Committee

Chairman: Edward Vanden Berghe (VLIZ, Belgium)
Members: Mark Costello (OBIS/CoML), Rudy Herman (AWI, Belgium), Jan Mees (VLIZ, Belgium), Frank Monteny (OSTC, Belgium), Peter Pissierssens (IOC/IODE, France), Greg Reed (IOC/IODE, France), Serge Scory (MUMM, Belgium), Jan Seys (VLIZ, Belgium)

More information

VLIZ Secretariat (address see above)
<http://www.vliz.be/cod>



1st announcement and call for papers



THE COLOUR OF OCEAN DATA

International symposium on oceanographic data and information management with special attention to biological data

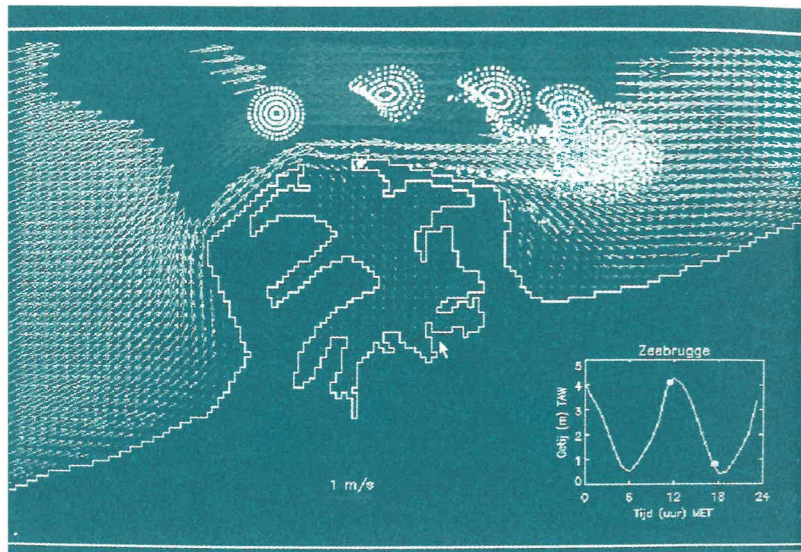
The Palais des Congrès, Brussels, Belgium
November 25-27, 2002

Organized by:

Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ)
Federal Office for Scientific, Technical and Cultural Affairs (OSTC), Belgium
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission / International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IOC/IODE)
Ocean Biogeographic Information System / Census of Marine Life (OBIS/CoML)

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Scope and objectives

More and more, ocean data management has to play a crucial role in global as well as local matters. Vast amounts of physical, chemical and biological oceanographic data are collected in all seas and oceans of the world. International networks are created to standardize data formats and facilitate data exchange. So far major emphasis has been on the standardization and exchange of physical oceanographic data in open ocean conditions.

But the colour of the ocean data is changing. The 'blue' ocean sciences get increasingly interested in including geological, chemical and biological data (e.g. the newly created IODE Group of Experts on Biological and Chemical Data Management and Exchange Practices - GE-BCDMEP). Moreover the shallow sea areas get more and more attention as highly productive biological areas that need to be seen in close association with the deep seas. How to fill in the gap of widely accepted standards for data structures that can serve the deep 'blue' and the shallow 'green' biological data management is a major issue that has to be addressed.

And there is more: data has to be turned into information. In the context of ocean data management, scientists, data managers and decision makers are all very much dependent on each other. Decision makers will stimulate research topics with policy priority and hence guide researchers. Scientists need to provide data managers with reliable and

first quality controlled data in such a way that the latter can translate and make them available for the decision makers. But do they speak the same 'language'? Are they happy with the access they have to the data? And if not, can they learn from each other's expectations and experience?

With this symposium we want to harmonize ocean colours and languages, and create a forum for data managers, scientists and decision makers with a major interest in ocean data management.

Conference format

The conference programme runs over three days and consists of invited papers, technical sessions, selected oral and poster presentations, and a final panel discussion.

Technical sessions

All sessions will be consecutive and will consist of one or two invited contributions, followed by submitted oral presentations.

Session 1:

Marine capacity building in global programmes

Much is made of 'capacity building' elements of global programmes, but little light has been shed on the actual scopes and accomplishments of these activities. Who is responsible, and what have they done? Are current capacity building initiatives designed primarily to develop patron-client relationships between global programmes and developing states, or is there an honest effort to develop and sustain long-term local capacity that is broad in scope? What initiatives are on the horizon, how robustly are they supported, and how do they mesh with the IOC International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange Programme's mission?

Session 2:

Biodiversity data

Biodiversity has received much attention after the Rio Conference now nearly 10 years ago. Where do we stand? Which databases have been developed for taxonomy and biogeography, and which are specific for marine organisms? What tools do we have for the analysis of biodiversity data? Which tools and formats for sharing data? Is it possible, at this point, to develop standard species lists and gazetteers to facilitate information exchange? How is biodiversity data being used in decision making? Do we have the necessary institutional capacity to deal with these data types?

Session 3:

Ecological and community data

Marine ecosystems are increasingly under pressure of commercial exploitation. Do we have the necessary data to assess the impact of this exploitation? What monitoring programmes exist, and how are any

resulting data shared between scientists and decision makers? Which tools and/or models exist to analyse ecological communities, and predict their resilience against disturbance? What, if any, are the data structures used to store information on ecological processes, community structure and population densities? How are ecological data exchanged? And, as for the biodiversity data, which institutions can tackle the challenge of storing, managing and exchanging ecological data?

Session 4:

New internet developments

eXtensible Markup Language, or XML, is a powerful new tool, not only to structure web page content, but also as a tool in data exchange. Efforts are also under way in the oceanographic data community to develop a marine XML application, e.g. by the Marine XML Consortium. What progress has the XML Consortium made? How does Marine XML fit in with other relevant XML standards? Is this an opportunity for biodiversity and ecological data to be included in the mainstream of oceanographic data exchange? New internet developments obviously do not stop with XML, and topics like portal sites, distributed databases and others also deserve our attention.

Session 5:

Case studies

This session offers an opportunity to demonstrate new developments in data management, preferably with clear relevance to decision making. Some of the topics that might be covered are the role of data centers in monitoring obligations in the framework of international conventions like OSPAR, setting fishing quotas...

Panel discussion

Eight panel members, representing user communities, scientists and data managers, will have an opportunity to discuss expectations from decision makers and scientists towards data managers, and expectations from data managers towards scientists. The public will be invited to comment. The panel discussion is organized in two parts:

- Part 1: invited talks (one from a scientist, one from a data manager, one from a decision maker)
- Part 2: open debate, between panel members and the public; the panel consists of the three invited speakers from part 1, and others. The others will have five minutes each to clarify their views, and to react to the first three speakers, before the panel discussion itself starts.

Posters / Demonstrations

The posters will be grouped according to the topics of the five sessions. The authors are encouraged to present their findings paying attention to the relevance of their work for the end user. Several sessions with authors present will be programmed. Computer demonstrations will be possible.

Submission of titles

Potential contributors to the conference are hereby invited to submit an abstract of 400-600 words (no figures, no tables), prior to March 31, 2002, for the oral or poster contribution they would like to present (preferably by e-mail to cod@vliz.be - as an attachment, MS Word format) (cf. instructions for preparing abstracts <http://www.vliz.be/cod/>). The guidelines for preparing poster and Powerpoint presentations will be communicated in the 2nd announcement (April, 2002).

Language

The official language of the conference is English.

Proceedings

Proceedings will be published. More details will follow in the second announcement.

