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MARINE BIODIVERSITY

VLIZ takes a lead in **marine biodiversity data management** on the **local** and **international** level. The marine species information systems for **taxonomy** and **biogeography** are authoritative and world-class standards.

www.marinespecies.org
www.eurobis.org
bio.emodnet.eu
www.eu-nomen.eu



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■ **Species registers** Species are the most practical and widely applicable unit to measure biodiversity. Using the correct species name is utmost important for biological studies. In collaboration with approx 200 specialists from all over the world, VLIZ developed a taxonomic database that includes a.o. the Belgian, European and World Register of Marine Species. WoRMS (www.marinespecies.org) is the single most complete inventory of all marine species names.

■ **Species observation data** What species do occur in a particular area? To manage the species occurrences in all European seas, VLIZ built the European node of the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (EurOBIS - www.eurobis.org).

■ **Biodiversity e-infrastructure** VLIZ has developed a full suite of inter-linked data systems to archive, document, integrate and disseminate species-related information over the internet. These systems are integrated within European projects like EMODNET, PESI and LifeWatch; and international initiatives like OBIS, EoL, GenBank and GBIF.

■ **Derived products & outreach** To improve and maximize the use of the collected data for research, decision making and the general public, VLIZ creates specific end products on marine biodiversity, such as: a list of alien species in Belgian marine waters, biological valuation maps of the Belgian part of the North Sea, a set of posters illustrating the fauna and flora at the Belgian coast, a photo gallery on marine species,...