The Antarctic Marine Biodiversity Information Network

Background
Southern Ocean biodiversity data is abundant, but:
- Widely scattered
- Patchy
- Poorly accessible
- Sometimes vanishing

Context
Rio Convention does not directly apply to the Antarctic.
The «Clearing House Mechanism» (biodiversity information) to be initiated within Antarctic Treaty System.

The Needs and Objectives
- Compile, link, integrate, and disseminate Antarctic Marine Biodiversity Information
- Coordinate SCAR contribution to global biodiversity initiatives (GBIF, OBIS, . . . )
- Give feedback to Antarctic Treaty System requests
- Contribute to assess Southern Ocean’s biodiversity

Project
Establish within SCAR (ICSU) an Antarctic Marine Biodiversity Information Network
System of Interoperable Databases
Access through a single Portal, including facilities and services
Information component of SCAR-CaML (SCAR-Census of Antarctic Marine Life project)
Potential Antarctic Node for OBIS

Content of the Portal
Species Taxonomic and Biogeographic Databases
- Taxonomy
- Identification tools
- Distribution, biogeography
- Ecology (species & community levels)
- GIS: marine gazetteers, stations lists
- Bibliographical references
- Experts directory
- Habitats Databases

Acronyms
GBIF = Global Biodiversity Information Facility
ICSU = International Council for Science
OBIS = Ocean Biogeographic System
SCAR = Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research

Main Partners
SCAR, OBIS, Belgium, UK (British Antarctic Survey Australia (Australian Antarctic Division))

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