

The data management team has also been in contact with other international networks such as Marine Genomics, Fauna Europaea and ENBI. These meetings are helping to further synchronise efforts within Europe.

Of relevance to MARBEF, an International Conference on Marine Biodiversity Data Management: Ocean Biodiversity Informatics (OBI) will be organised by VLIZ, IODE/IOC, ICES, CoML/OBIS and IABO in Hamburg, from 29 November 2004 until 1 December 2004. More information is available on <http://www.vliz.be/obi/>. •

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Glossary

BIOMARE: Implementation and networking of large-scale long-term marine biodiversity research in Europe:-
<http://www.biomareweb.org/>.
CoML: Census of Marine Life:-
<http://www.coml.org/coml.htm>.
ENBI: European Network for Biodiversity Information:- <http://www.enbi.info/>.
ERMS: European Register of Marine Species:- <http://erms.biol.soton.ac.uk/> and searchable version on VLIZ site:- <http://www.vliz.be/vmdcdata/erms/index.php>.
EUROCEAN: European Centre for Information on Marine Science and Technology:- <http://www.eurocean.org/> and Fauna Europaea:- <http://www.faunaeur.org/>.
GBIF: Global Biodiversity Information Facility:- <http://www.gbif.org/>.
IABO: International Association of Biological Oceanography:- <http://www.iabo.org/index.html>.
ICES: International Council for the Exploration of the Sea:- <http://www.ices.dk/>.
IODE/IOC: International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange/ Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO:- <http://iode.org/>.
ITIS: Integrated Taxonomic Information System:- <http://www.itis.usda.gov/index.html>.
Marine Genomics Europe, FP6 EU Network of Excellence:- <http://www.sb-roscoff.fr/marine-genomics-europe/>.
Natura 2000: A European ecological network:- <http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/life/life/natura2000.htm>.
OBIS: Ocean Biogeographic Information System:- <http://www.iobis.org>.
URMO: Unesco-IOC Register of Marine Organisms:- <http://www2.eti.uva.nl/database/urmo/default.html>.



Updating, expanding ERMS, the European Register of Marine Species



By Geoff Boxshall

IN THE DESCRIPTION OF WORK, MARBEF is committed to updating and revising ERMS. The MARBEF data management group at VLIZ have invested manpower in converting it from static pages into a searchable, relational database structure. This is already available on the VLIZ website: <http://www.vliz.be/vmdcdata/erms/>.

ERMS 2.0 is already evolving into a different entity. Particular taxon groupings such as FishBase, AlgaeBase and CLEMAM are going their own way, and hyperlinks seem the way forwards for updating these groups, but there will be a core MARBEF team led by Mark Costello to take forwards the development of ERMS 2.0. This team already includes several



partners (especially EcoServe, VLIZ, MNHN, FishBase) but numerous other MARBEF partners may become involved.

Mark Costello, Edward Vanden Berghe, Chris Emblow and Daphne Cuvelier at VLIZ are in the process of compiling a list of providers who have agreed to revise their contributions. In parallel with this list, a gap analysis is being undertaken which will generate a list of taxa for which new contributors are needed.

The revision will entail checking and updating all scientific names; removing newly-recognised synonyms; adding new species; checking or providing taxonomic hierarchy; adding geographical distribution data. The aim of including phylogenetic/hierarchy data is to facilitate measures of phylogenetic complexity – a key component of ecosystem complexity. This will, for example, enable the ecologists within MARBEF to more easily identify and quantify differences in the degree of phylogenetic relatedness between high and low species-richness sites.

Contact Mark Costello, Chris Emblow or Edward Vanden Berghe regarding updating ERMS. •

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