



**Eurocean 2010**  
(Ostend 12 October 2010)

United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

Organisation  
des Nations Unies  
pour l'éducation  
la science et la culture

Organización  
de las Naciones Unidas  
para la Educación  
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация  
Объединенных Наций по  
вопросам образования  
науки и культуры

• Intergovernmental  
Oceanographic  
Commission

• Commission  
océanographique  
intergouvernementale

• Comisión  
Oceanográfica  
Intergubernamental

• Межправительственная  
океанографическая  
комиссия

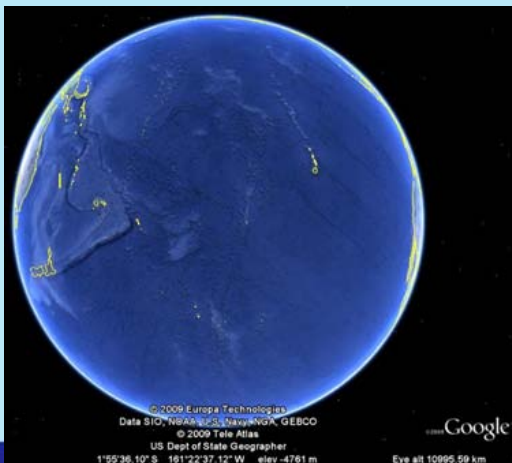
# Celebrating 50 Years of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission

Dr. Wendy Watson-Wright

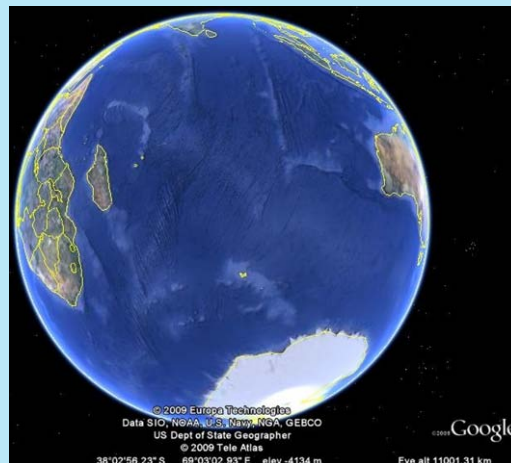
Executive Secretary, Intergovernmental  
Oceanographic Commission,  
Assistant Director-General, UNESCO

# Our Planet: Mostly Oceans

- 71 % of Earth's surface
- Two thirds of the value of all the natural services provided by the planet



Pacific



Indian



Arctic & Atlantic

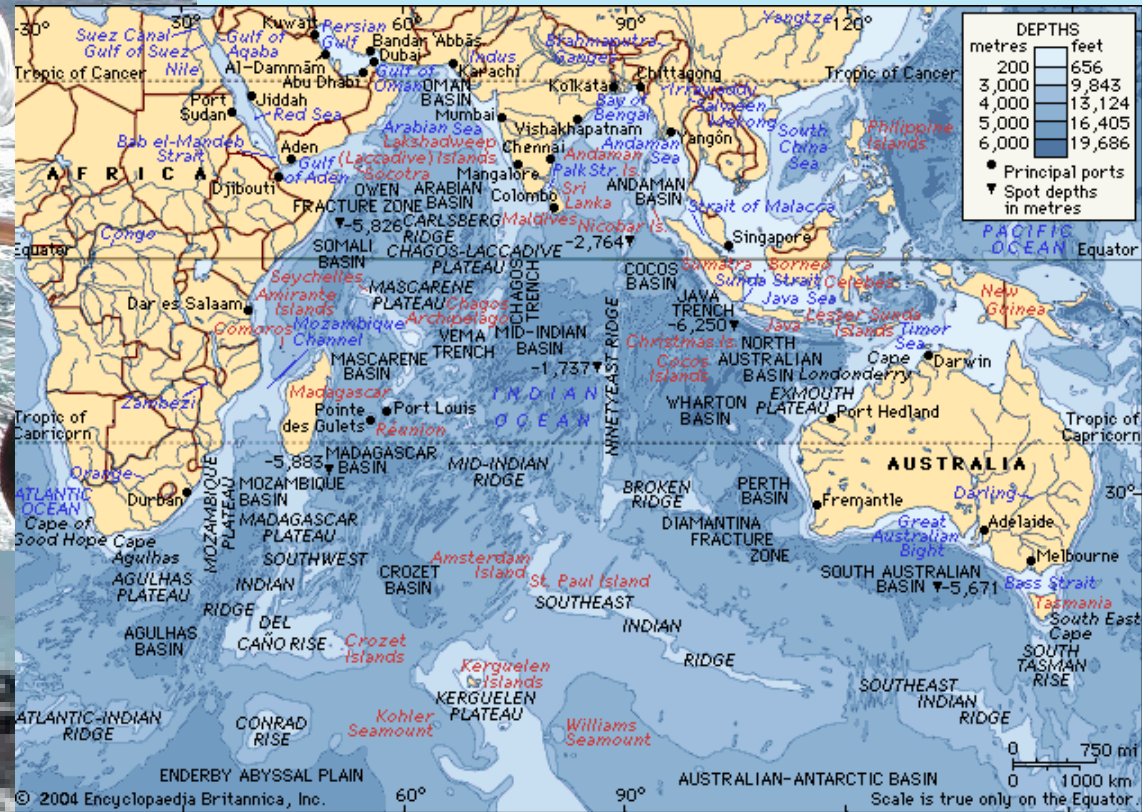
# Special Committee on Oceanic Research

1957





# Indian Ocean - The Beginning



# One Planet, One Ocean

## *Origins of the IOC*



Founding father Roger Revelle (1960):

- *“The oceans exert a profound influence upon mankind and indeed upon all forms of life on earth”*
- *“There are some research problems that require international co-operation”*

# IOC is Born

- Intergovernmental Conference on Oceanic Research July 11-16 1960 recommended establishment of IOC
- Adopted by Resolution 2.31 at UNESCO General Conference



**Warren Wooster**  
**IOCs 1st Executive Secretary**

# IOC - UNESCO

- *Promote international cooperation and coordinate programmes*
- *Apply that knowledge for improvement*

## Research



## Services

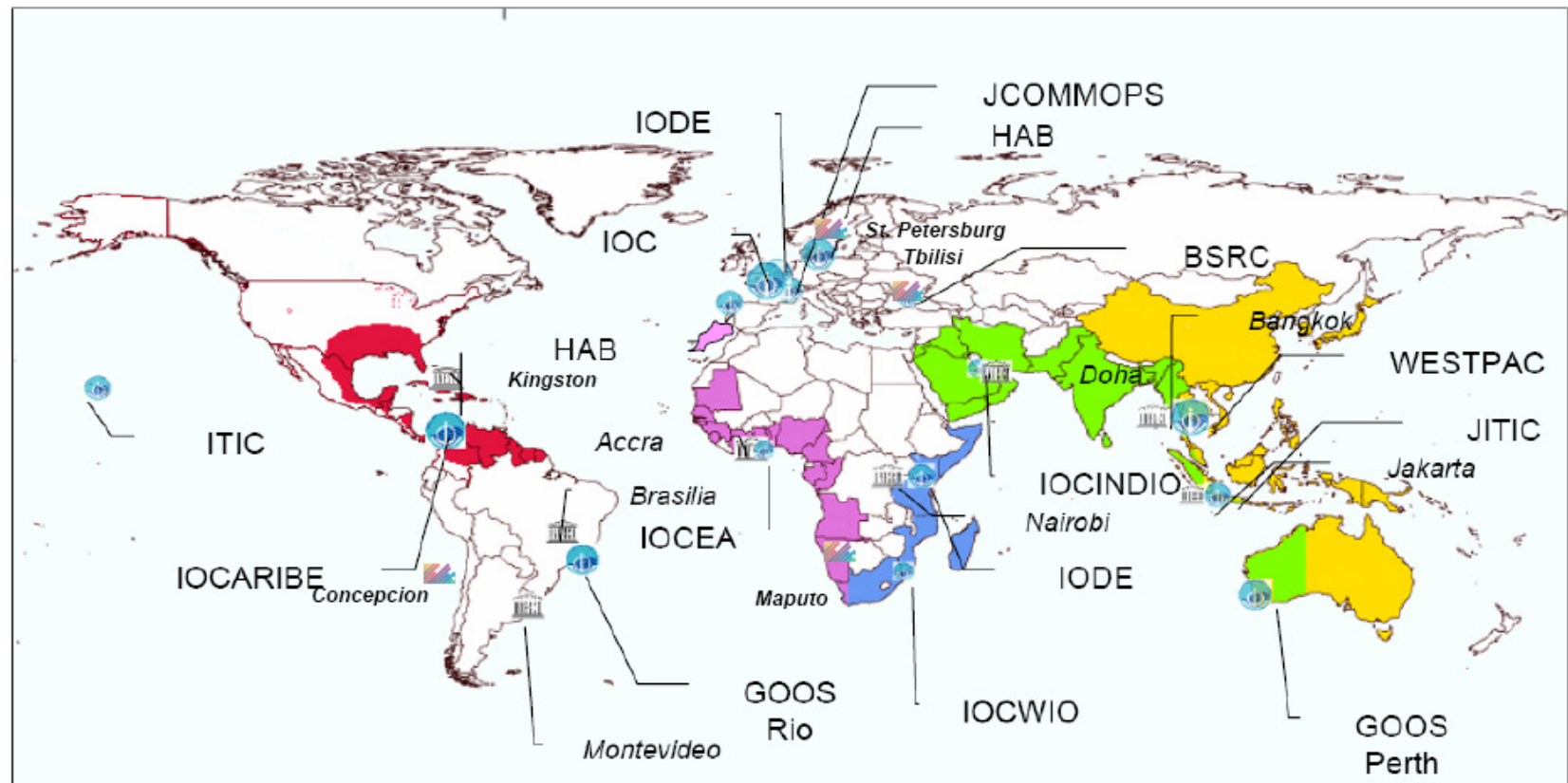


## Capacity Development





# IOC Regional Bodies

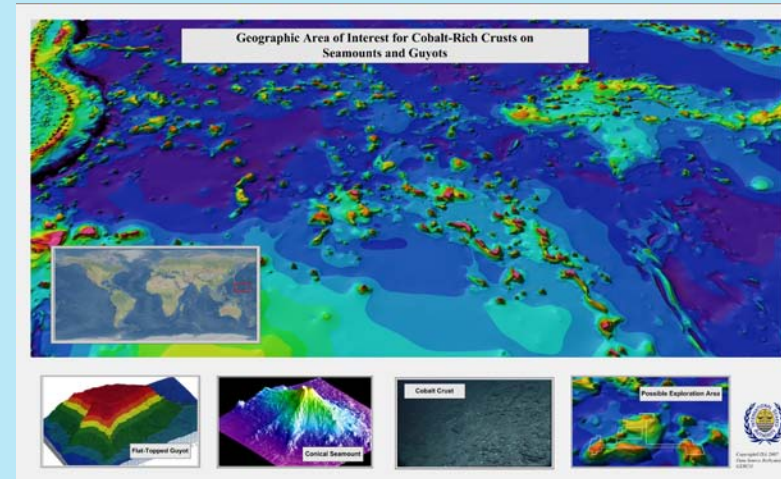


■ IOCARIBE ■ WESTPAC ■ IOCEA ■ IOCWIO ■ IOCINDIO



# IOC Within UN

- Focal point in UN for ocean observations, ocean science, ocean services and data exchange
- Competent international organization for marine science (UNCLOS)



# Four High Level Objectives

- Natural hazards
- Climate change and variability
- Health of ocean ecosystems
- Sustainability of coastal and ocean resources

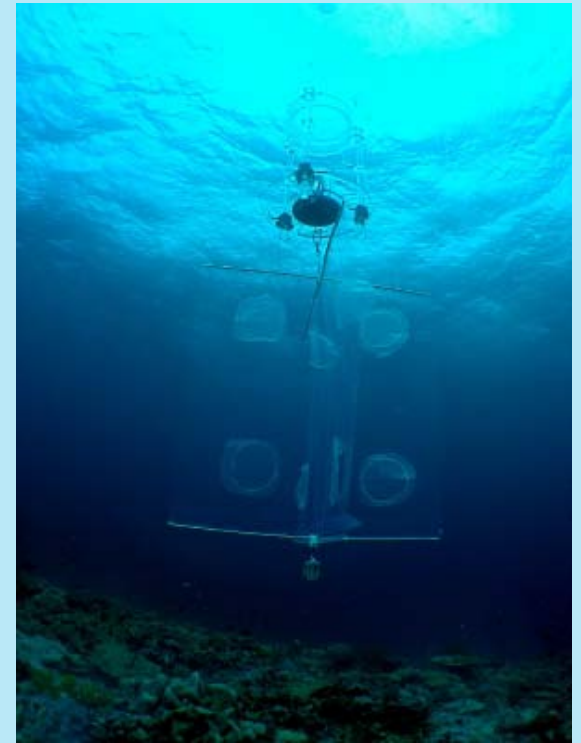




# Research

Responds to:

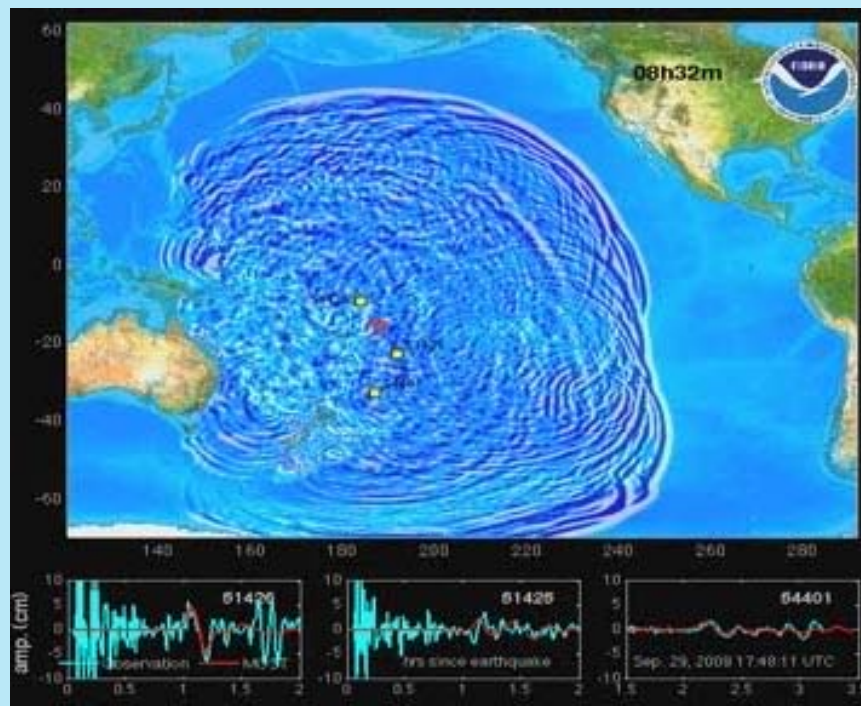
- Needs of member states
- UN agreements
  - E.g. UNFCCC, UNCED, CBD, WSSD...
- Decisions of UN Assembly



# Services



- Observations
- Data access
- Marine Hazards





# Services - Observations

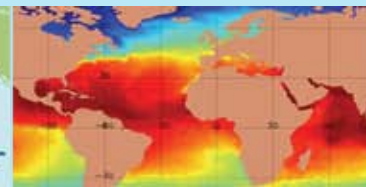
- Coordination of sustained ocean observations through Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS)



- Joint sponsorship with partners



- Implemented through  
in conjunction with



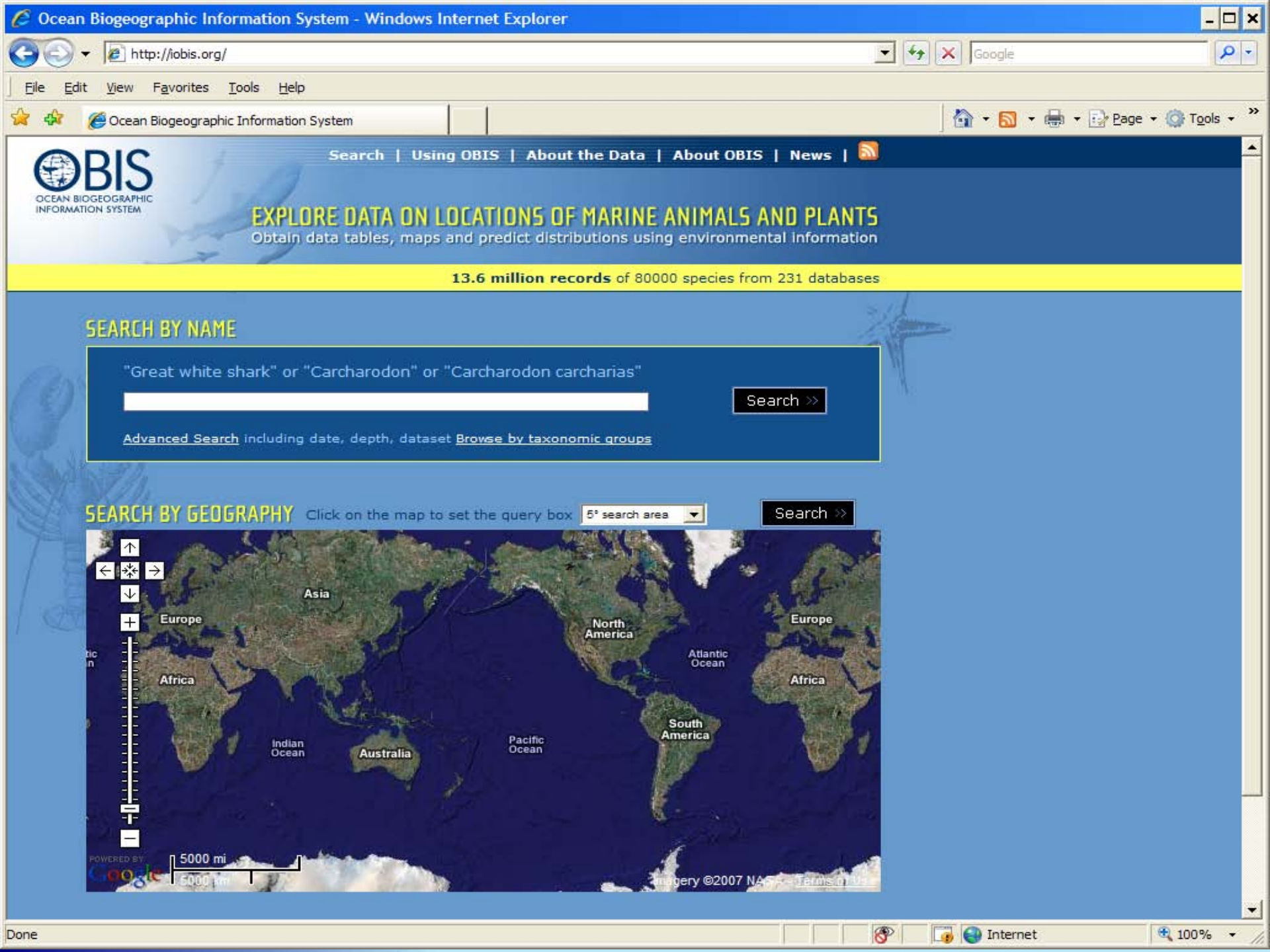
# Services - Data Access



- Network
- Data policy - open access
- Data standards/exchange formats
- Databases & products



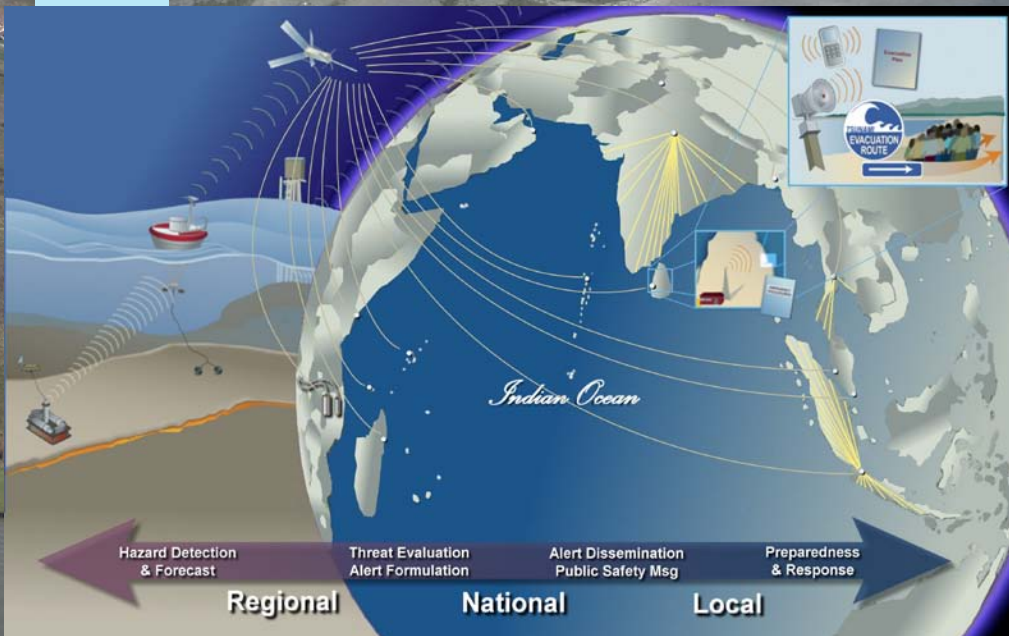
2010





# Services - Marine Hazard Mitigation

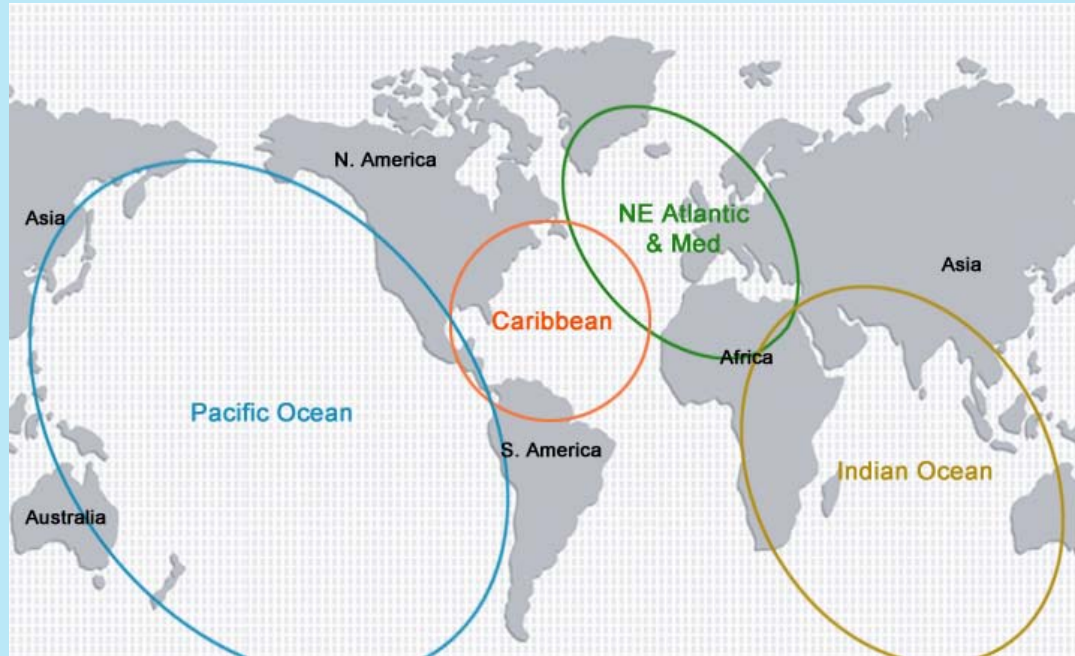
- Tsunamis
- Storm surges
- Floods
- Sea level rise





# Tsunami Warning Systems

- Triggered by 2004 tsunami in Indian Ocean
- IOC mandated to establish three more TWS through Intergovernmental Co-ordination Groups (ICG)

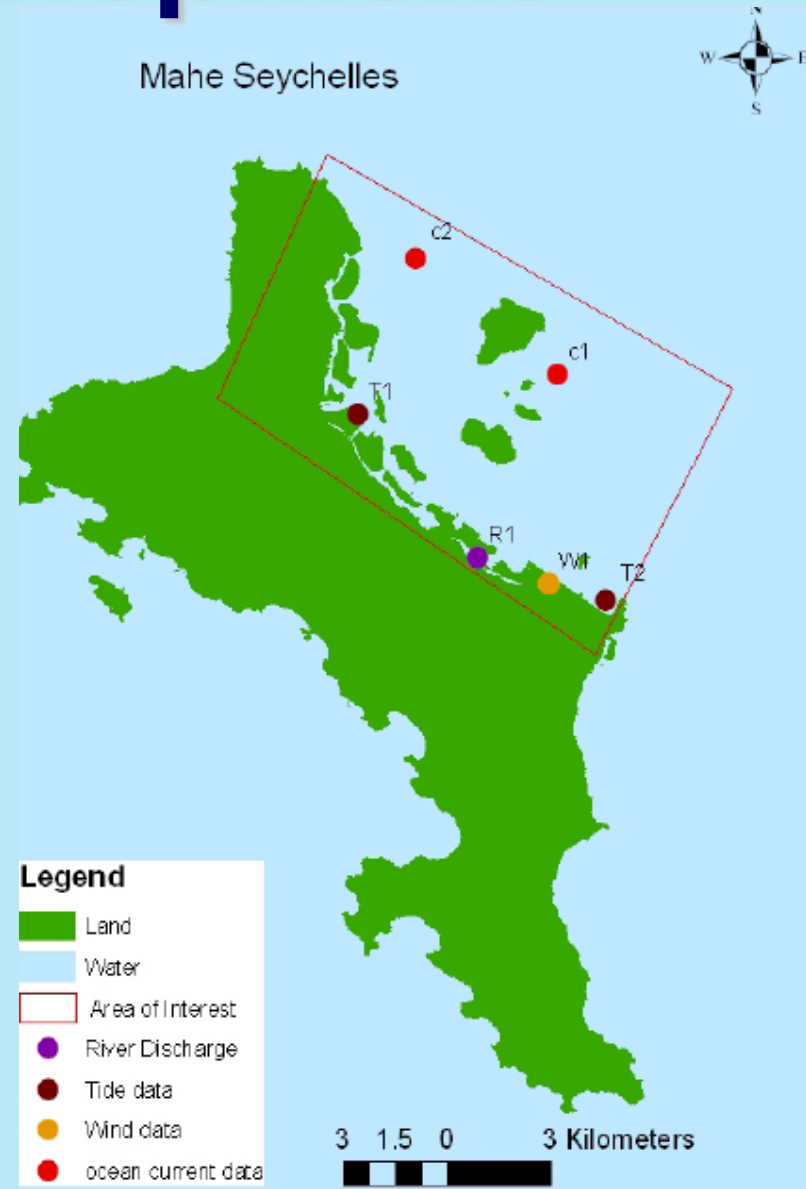


- **ICG IOTWS**
- **ICG CARIBE EWS and**
- **ICG NEAMTWS**

# Capacity Development

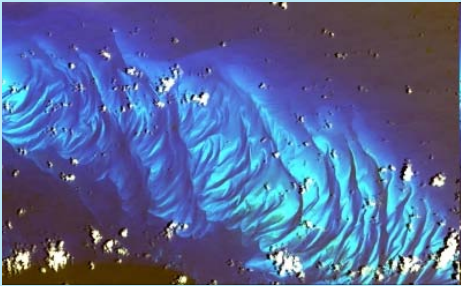


- Training
- Education
- Provision of equipment





# IOC - EC Cooperation



Assessment of the marine environment and MSFD

Marine observations and data infrastructures

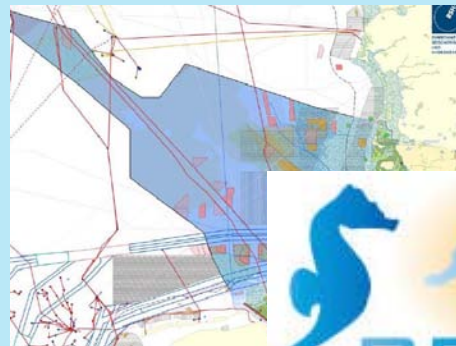


Tsunami early warning systems

# IOC - EC cooperation

## Ocean sciences and management

Integrated coastal  
area management and  
marine spatial  
planning



Micro-plastics in the  
ocean





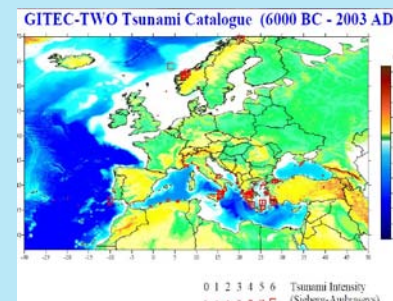
# IOC - EC cooperation

Ocean observations and services  
Early warning systems

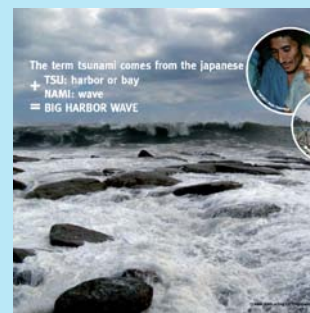
IOC/IODE partner in  
SeaDataNet



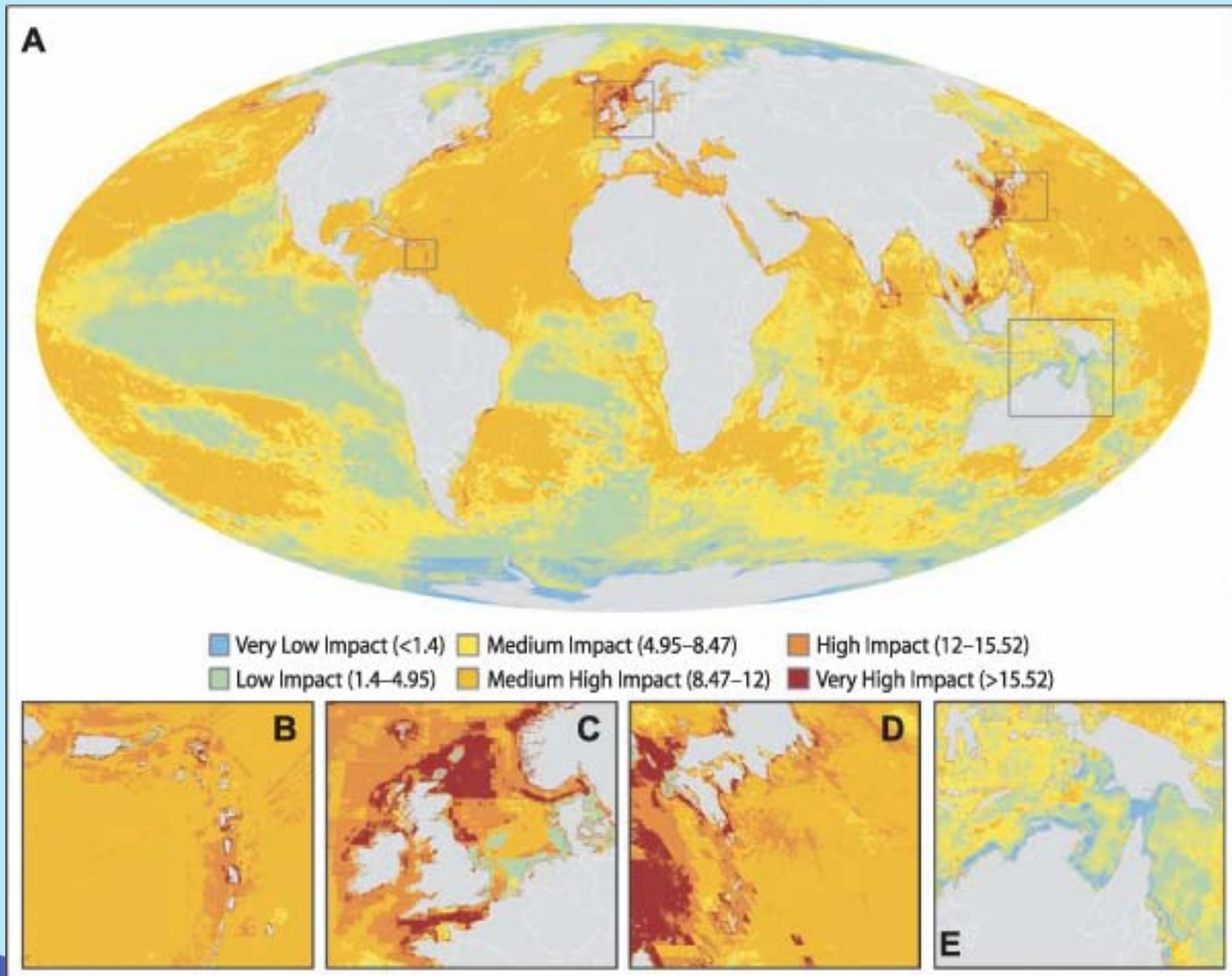
CASPINFO/BSScene/EMODNET



Tsunami community  
preparedness and  
education in South America



# What About Tomorrow?



Halpern et al, Science, 319: 948-52, 2008

# What About Tomorrow?



- Focus



- Cooperation



- Visibility



# *Protecting our Oceans... together*





An underwater scene featuring a large school of fish swimming towards the bottom left. In the center, there is a large green cylindrical object, possibly a buoy or a piece of scientific equipment, with smaller similar objects floating nearby. The background shows a rocky coastline and a small boat on the surface. The text "Thank you! Merci! Dank u!" is overlaid in a large, white, stylized font.

*Thank you!*  
*Merci!*  
*Dank u!*

*[www.ioc-unesco.org](http://www.ioc-unesco.org)*



1960-2010