

The Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS) - Demo of its new portal

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Playing a central role in fostering data sharing of marine species observation data since 1999, the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS) has built the world's most comprehensive database on the diversity, distribution, and abundance of life in the ocean. The OBIS Network is made up of thousands of scientists and data managers employed by hundreds of institutions around the world, who ensure that scientifically researched, collated and published data adhere to FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) principles. With the release of the second generation of OBIS (OBIS 2.0), we now have a more solid foundation to build improved data processing/integration workflows, new data synthesis routines that add value to OBIS data, and new types of products and applications for scientific and decision-making. OBIS is now extending beyond species occurrence data, embracing ecosystem Essential Ocean Variables in support of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) and the Marine Biodiversity Observation Network (MBON) in their efforts to build a sustained, globally coordinated observing system on the status and trends of marine biodiversity and habitats. The success of bringing millions of marine species observations into the public domain is a major achievement. Through FAIR access to data, OBIS provides equitable access and benefits to research, biodiversity conservation management and policy making, and also enhances international collaboration, for which OBIS is recognized by many global organizations including the United Nations General Assembly. OBIS continues to support several international processes such as those under the UN Regular Process (World Ocean Assessment), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Intergovernmental science-policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

During this demonstration, we will show the new data portal and a number of services and products which are development with financial support from the Flanders Government, among others. This should also be an opportunity for the OBIS secretariat to get in touch with local scientists and other stakeholders in understanding their needs, as well as seek opportunities for future collaboration.

Keywords: Biogeography; Data; Biodiversity; Infrastructure; Ecosystem; Open access