

Talk

Movement and redistribution of species

15 years of the European Ocean Biogeographic Information System (EurOBIS)

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Knowledge on species occurrences in space and time is of the utmost importance in biological research. Although species occurrence information is highly relevant and often requested by scientists, this data can be hard to find and sometimes even harder to access...

The European Ocean Biogeographic Information System – EurOBIS – was established in 2004 and helps filling this gap in our scientific knowledge, by making the largely scattered and diverse biogeographic data on marine species freely available and easily accessible online. EurOBIS brings together biogeographic data collected within European marine waters or by European researchers and institutes outside Europe, with a focus on taxonomy and distribution records in space and time and offers a number of online tools to easily query and visualize the data.

Since 2009, EurOBIS is the backbone of The European Marine Observation and Data Network Biology. EMODnet Biology makes the EurOBIS data available through its portal and offers specific tools to filter the data. Since 2014, EurOBIS is also part of the central Taxonomic Backbone of LifeWatch, which aims at standardizing species data and integrating the distributed biodiversity data repositories and operating facilities.

Over the years, the EurOBIS database structure has evolved, making it possible to not only capture presence or abundance of species but also to offer e.g. biomass data and length-measurements in a standardized and structured way. In addition, tools have been developed to help scientists to prepare their data for submission to EurOBIS.

EurOBIS currently (March 2019) holds 889 datasets, representing 24 million distribution records.

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