

Where did we take those samples from? Georeferencing your research with marineregions.org

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MarineRegions is a open access database of georeferenced names of marine places. Surely, you can say your sampling points were located at the Bay of Plenty, Point Dissapointment or Dummy Bay (yes, these are real places you can find in MarineRegions.org!). But how do you make sure your concept for 'Strait of Gibraltar' is the same as your peer's? Thanks to the Marine Regions gazetteer you can pinpoint the exact place, so you and your colleagues won't need to share your phone location to find each other anymore. Furthermore, we digitize the legal maritime boundaries of the world countries so you can visualize them in any Geographic Information System software. And for those true geeks out there, we provide access the boundaries and the gazetteer with the R package mregions and the web services. In 2020 we had plenty of time to sit at home and improve MarineRegions. One of the issues always hanging around our heads was the exploitation of the seabed resources. The oceans provide us with wonderful materials, but we believe they must be harvested following international treaties. To facilitate the research and policy making in this domain, we have started developing a Continental Shelves product. This is a brand new product that will show the official continental shelf claims that countries have submitted to the United Nations. MarineRegions is the geographical backbone of the LifeWatch Species Information backbone and it is used by many partners such as the World Register of Marine Species (WoRMS), the Ocean Biodiversity Information System (OBIS), Sea Around Us, Global Fishing Watch or EMODnet. Join us at the VLIZ Marine Science Day if you want to dive deeper into the places of the sea from the comfort of your couch.

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