

## **Marine biodiversity data: regional and national efforts in Belgium**

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To develop a marine biodiversity research strategy and analyses of the marine biodiversity research in Belgium are the objectives of the Belgian Biodiversity Platform (Federal Office for Scientific, Technical and Cultural Affairs). One of the research fields getting specific attention is the development of biodiversity databases. In the field of marine biodiversity genetic, taxonomic and biogeographical databases are developed by a multitude of Belgian research units.

This presentation gives an overview of the Marine databases developed in Belgium. Special attention is given to tools and formats used to share data on the regional, national and international level. Different examples of successful integration of biodiversity data on different levels will be presented.

The analyses by the Belgian Biodiversity Platform show the leading position of Belgian database teams in the field of biodiversity in general, and in the field of marine biodiversity in particular.

The Belgian Biodiversity Platform is also responsible for the use of scientific data in the decision making process. This presentation gives an overview of the problems and specific solutions used in the Belgian context.