Ocean Biogeographical Information System (OBIS)
Short history of OBIS

- 2000 - 2010: Created as data repository and information dissemination system for the Census of Marine Life
- 2009: Adopted by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, under the IODE programme
- Secretariat moved from Rutgers University to Ostend, Belgium
In numbers

1,800 datasets
46,500,000 records
In numbers

125,000 species
In numbers

125,000 species

Article

The Magnitude of Global Marine Species Diversity


Results

There are ~226,000 eukaryotic marine species described. More species were described in the past decade (~20,000) than in any previous one. The number of authors describing new species has been increasing at a faster rate than the number of new species described in the past six decades. We report that there are ~170,000 synonyms, that 58,000–72,000 species are collected but not yet described, and that 482,000–741,000 more species have yet to be sampled. Molecular methods may add tens of thousands of cryptic species. Thus, there may be 0.7–1.0 million marine species. Past rates of description of new species indicate there may be 0.5 ± 0.2 million marine species. On average 37% (median 31%) of species in over 100 recent field studies around the world might be new to science.
Structure and data access

- iOBIS
  - OGC services
  - API
  - mapper
  - thematic portal HAB, deep sea, MPA, EBSA
  - regional portal
  - European portal
  - third party app LifeWatch

- QC

- regional node
  - OBIS SEAMAP
  - HAB
  - OBIS USA
  - Antarctic OBIS
  - EuroBIS
  - MedOBIS

- data provider IPT
OBIS strives to document the ocean’s diversity, distribution and abundance of life. Created by the Census of Marine Life, OBIS is now part of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO, under its International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (ODI) programme.
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