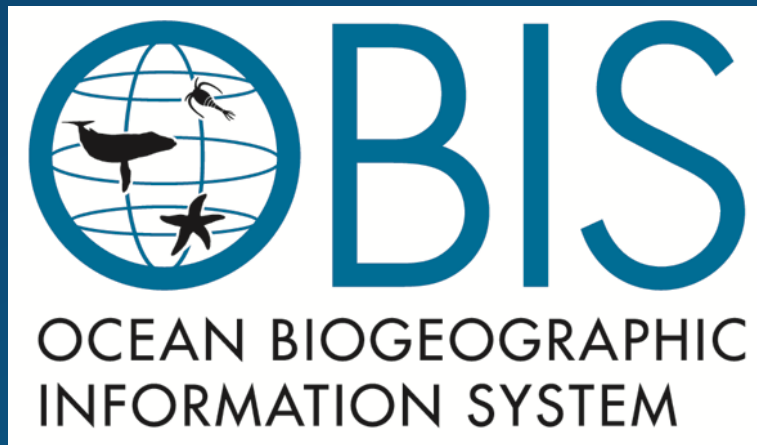
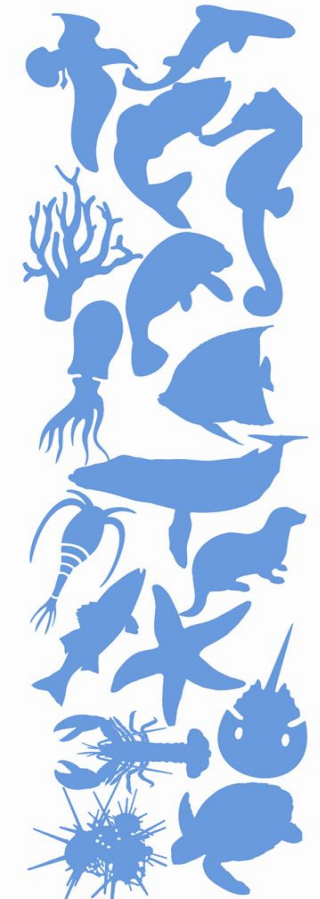


# History of OBIS: Fred Grassle Memorial Lecture

Yoshihisa Shirayama  
JAMSTEC, Japan

(CoML SSC; OBIS International Committee)



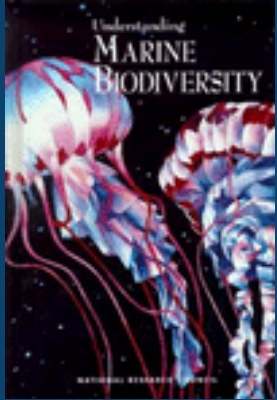
# Contents



- Early history of Census of Marine Life (CoML) and Ocean Biogeographical Information System (OBIS)
  - OBIS as a database of CoML project
- Development of OBIS in CoML
- OBIS as a legacy of CoML

## Origin of the Census:

A visit to Jesse Ausubel at Swift House by Fred Grassle  
on 2 July 1996



### Understanding MARINE BIODIVERSITY A Research Agenda for the Nation

Committee on Biological Diversity in Marine Systems,  
Ocean Studies Board  
National Research Council, *Wash, D.C. 1995*

**CHERYL ANN BUTMAN**, *Co-Chair*, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Massachusetts

**JAMES T. CARLTON**, *Co-Chair*, Williams College - Mystic Seaport, Connecticut

**GEORGE W. BOEHLERT**, National Marine Fisheries Service, Monterey, California

**SUSAN H. BRAWLEY**, University of Maine, Orono

**EDWARD F. DELONG**, University of California, Santa Barbara

**J. FREDERICK GRASSLE**, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey

**JEREMY B.C. JACKSON**, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panama

**SIMON A. LEVIN**, Princeton University, New Jersey

**ARTHUR R. M. NOWELL**, University of Washington, Seattle

**ROBERT T. PAINE**, University of Washington, Seattle

**STEPHEN R. PALUMBI**, University of Hawaii, Honolulu

**GEERAT J. VERMEIJ**, University of California, Davis

**LES WATLING**, University of Maine, Orono



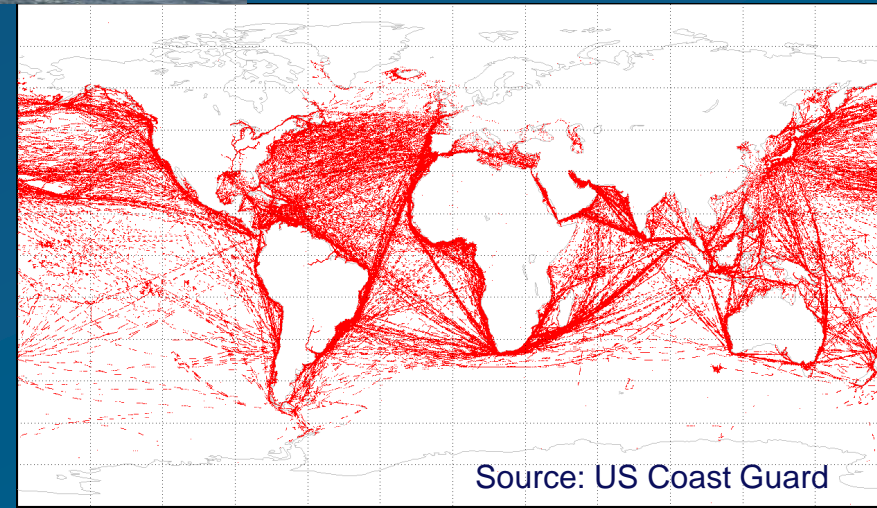
# Three years of feasibility studies '97-'99

Could it be done? Would it be done? Should it be done?

Should it be done?  
A more crowded ocean and yet an unexplored,  
unknown ocean



Slide courtesy of Jesse Ausubel



Source: US Coast Guard

# Would it be done?

- Different cultures of marine science
  - From near shore to mid-ocean
  - From polar to equator
  - Shallow and deep
  - Small and large

Source: CoML CAML



Source: ArcOD



Slide courtesy of Jesse Ausubel

Source: CoML NaGISA



Source: ArcOD



# Could it be done?

By a concerto of technologies

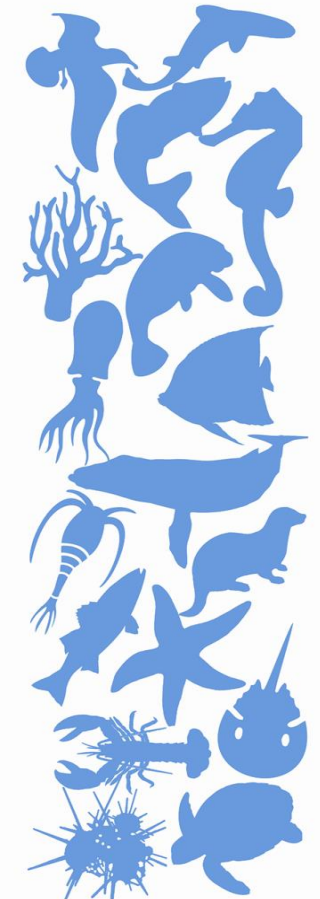


# Census of Marine Life

A decade-long program (2000-2010)  
to assess and explain marine life's  
**diversity, distribution & abundance**  
- past, present & future

**The Known, the Unknown, the Unknowable**

*The Census of Marine Life: Making ocean life count*  
(Following slides were mainly produced in 2004 based on the baseline report 2003)



# *Grand Challenge Questions*

## **Component Programs**

1) *What did live in the oceans?*

History of Marine Animal Populations (HMAP)

2) *What does live in the oceans?*

New Field Projects (technologies)

3) *What will live in the oceans?*

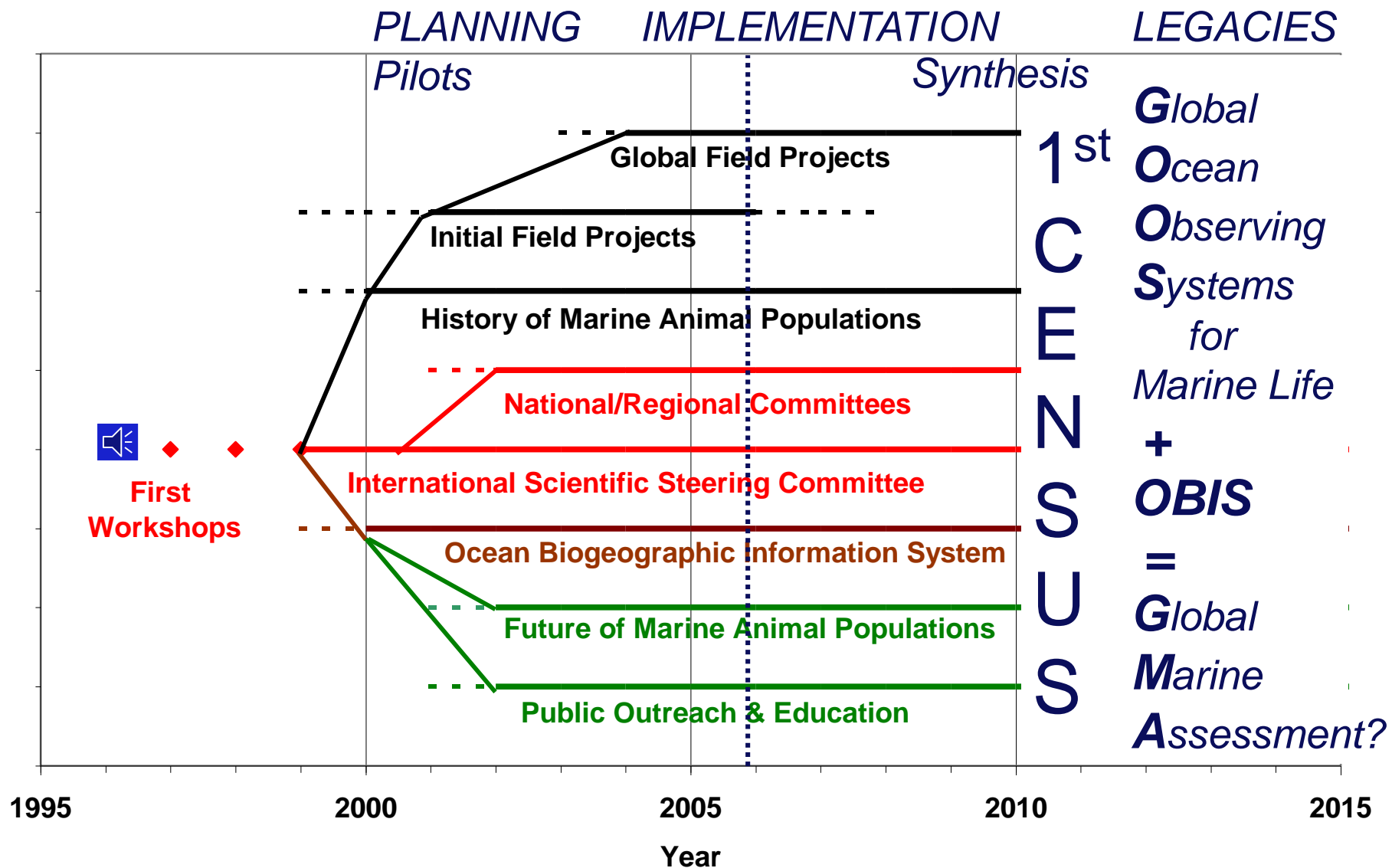
Future of Marine Animal Populations (FMAP)

4) *How to access & visualize data on living  
marine resources?*

Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS)



# Program Development: Schedule, Benchmarks



# International Scientific Steering Committee Original Members (in 2000)

- J. Frederick Grassle, Rutgers University, USA (Chair)
- Vera Alexander, University of Alaska, USA
- Patricio Bernal, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, France
- Donald Boesch, University of Maryland, USA
- David Farmer, Institute for Ocean Science, Canada
- Carlo Heip, Netherlands Institute for Ecology, Netherlands
- Poul Holm, Southern Denmark University, Denmark
- Olav Rune Godø, Inst. of Marine Research, Norway
- Yoshihisa Shirayama, Kyoto University, Japan
- Andrew Solow, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, USA

# CoML International Scientific Steering Committee (2004)

**Fred Grassle (Chair), USA**

**Victor Ariel Gallardo (Vice Chair), Chile**

**Vera Alexander, USA**

**James Baker, USA**

**Patricio Bernal, France/Chile**

**D. Chandramohan, India**

**David Farmer, USA**

**Serge Garcia, Italy**

**Carlo Heip, Netherlands/Belgium**

**Poul Holm, Denmark**

**Ian Poiner, Australia**

**Yoshihisa Shirayama, Japan**

**Myriam Sibuet, France**

**Mike Sinclair, Canada**

**Meryl Williams, Malaysia/Australia**

CoML

[www.coml.org](http://www.coml.org)

CoML International Secretariat  
Consortium for Oceanographic  
Research and Education

[www.coreocean.org](http://www.coreocean.org)

CoML Education and Outreach

University of Rhode Island  
Office of Marine Programs

[omp.gso.uri.edu](http://omp.gso.uri.edu)



The SSC braces itself against the Scottish winds  
(Aberdeen SSC Meeting, June 2002)

# SSC at Punta Arenus with IAPSO/IABO





A small group of SSC members gathers for a picture outside the Centro do Mar in Horta (Azores SSC Meeting, July 2004)



Fred, Olav Rune Godø and Alasdair McIntyre marvel at the capabilities of the G.O. Sars  
(Azores SSC Meeting, July 2004)



Fred watches colleagues ascend in the canopy crane at the Rainforest CRC Field Station in Queensland, Australia

(Cape Tribulation SSC Meeting, August 2005)





The SSC takes a break from a stressful meeting to enjoy the scenery at Cape Tribulation  
(Cape Tribulation SSC Meeting, August 2005)



Fred follows custom at a Japanese temple to wash his hands  
(Nara SSC Meeting, October 2006)



The participants of the Quito SSC Meeting (June 2007)



Fred toasts the 30 years of research on chemosynthetic ecosystems since the discovery of the first hydrothermal vent

(Galapagos Islands, June 2007)



The SSC poses with a colony of chinstrap penguins – or, as Ron O’Dor likes to refer to them, CoML’s Antarctic Committee

(Excursion to King George Island, Antarctica, Punta Arenas SSC Meeting, February 2008)



Fred takes in the spectacular views at King George Island in Antarctica  
(Punta Arenas SSC Meeting, February 2008)



Vera Alexander, Sara Hickox, Fred and Ron O'Dor pose outside the Chilean Antarctic Institute (Excursion to King George Island, Antarctica, Punta Arenas SSC Meeting, February 2008)

# History of OBIS

(Ocean Biogeographical Information System)



- 1997: Initial ideas developed at pre-CoML workshop
- 1998: A web-site to demonstrate the initial concept based on Sloan Funds
- 1999: First OBIS international workshop
- 2000: NOPP funds 8 projects in 15 countries, \$3.7 million to initiate OBIS
- 2000: Second OBIS Workshop
- 2001: International Steering Committee formed
- 2001: NSF funds a global portal for OBIS at Rutgers Univ.
- 2001: GBIF marine associate
- 2002: NOPP funds up to \$6.0 million for international OBIS
- 2002: Portal begins serving data
- 2003 and on: expansion of data content and functionality





## OBIS International Committee

- Mark J. Costello, Chair, Canada
- Neil Ashcroft, United Kingdom
- Geoff Boxshall, United Kingdom
- Daphne G. Fautin, USA
- Kim Finney, Australia
- Rainer Froese, Germany
- Dennis P. Gordon, New Zealand
- **J. Frederick Grassle, USA**
- Yoshihisa Shirayama, Japan
- John Wilkin, USA
- Ex-officio: Phoebe Zhang, Karen Stocks, James Wood



**Technical Working Group:** with representatives from each data contributor

**Secretariat:** Huntsman Marine Science Center (Mark Costello)

**Portal:** Rutgers University (Fred Grassle, Phoebe Zhang)

# OBIS International Committee meeting in 2003



# OBIS workshop in San Diego 2004



# OBIS meeting 2004 at Halifax

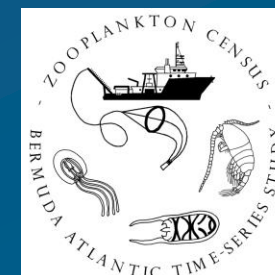


# NOPP-funded OBIS Members

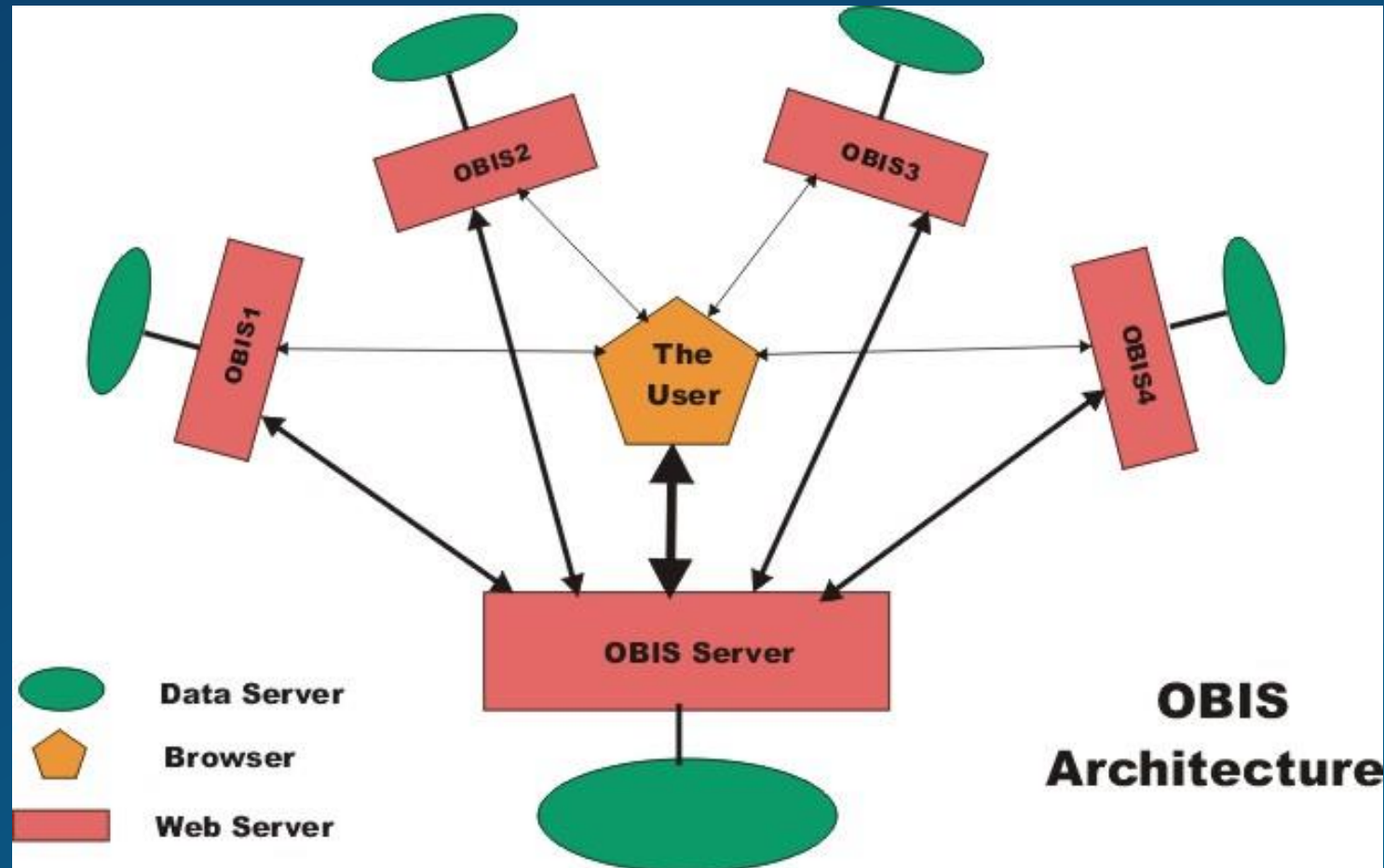


- BATS Zooplankton (Deborah Steinberg)
- Biogeoinformatics of Hexacorals (Daphne Fautin)
- Cephbase (James Wood)
- FishBase (Rainer Froese)
- Fishnet (Ed Wiley)
- Indo-Pacific Mollusk Database (Gary Rosenberg)
- ZooGene (Ann Bucklin)
- Gulf of Maine Biogeographic Information System (Dale Kiefer)

# OBIS



# OBIS Architecture



OBIS Home Page - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by America Online - [Working Offline]

File Edit View Favorites Tools H

www.iobis.org

Address http://www.iobis.org

# OBIS

Part of CENSUS OF MARINE LIFE

Ocean Biogeographic Information System

Search Providers Tools

## WHAT'S NEW

- About OBIS -
- Data Search & Mapping
- OBIS Components -
- Reports & Publications
- OBIS Tools -
- OBIS Partners -
- Education -
- Data Upload -
- Links -
- Home -

Images courtesy of CephBase & FishBase

OBIS is an on-line, open-access, globally-distributed network of systematic, ecological, and environmental information systems. Collectively, these systems operate as a dynamic, global digital atlas to communicate biological information about the ocean and ...More

OBIS is a component of the Census of Marine Life (CoML), a major international research program to assess and explain the diversity, distribution, and abundance of marine organisms throughout the world's oceans.

Quick Links to Our Members -

- ▶ The Academy of Natural Sciences Philadelphia
- ▶ BATS Zooplankton
- ▶ Biogeoinformatics of Hexacorals
- ▶ CSIRO Marine Research
- ▶ CephBase
- ▶ FishBase
- ▶ Fishnet
- ▶ Gulf of Maine Biogeographic Information System
- ▶ National Ocean Data Center (NODC)



## WHAT'S NEW

▶ **OBIS IC Meeting**

**The 3rd OBIS International Committee Meeting**

**September, 2002**  
**in Washindton DC, USA**



## FUNDED BY:









Internet



OBIS Distributed Data Search - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Address  http://iobis.org/OBISPortal 

 Ocean Biogeographic Information System

Search Providers Tools

**Distributed Data Search**

**Step1: Select databases**

- All databases
- BATS Zooplankton
- Biogeoinformatics of Hexacorals
- CephBase
- FishBase
- Fishnet
- NODC Plankton Database
- SeamountsOnline
- ZooGene

**Step2: Enter the species you want to search for**  
If search for all species, skip to Step 3.

Genus (e.g. *Pomachromis*):

Species (e.g. *richardsoni*):

If interested in global distribution, hit the search button below; otherwise, go to Step 3

Not sure about spelling and synonyms? Only know the common name?

**Step3: Select a geographic region**

Northernmost Latitude:  °

Southernmost Latitude:  °

Westernmost Longitude:  °

Easternmost Longitude:  °

Internet

commonname - Microsoft Internet Explorer

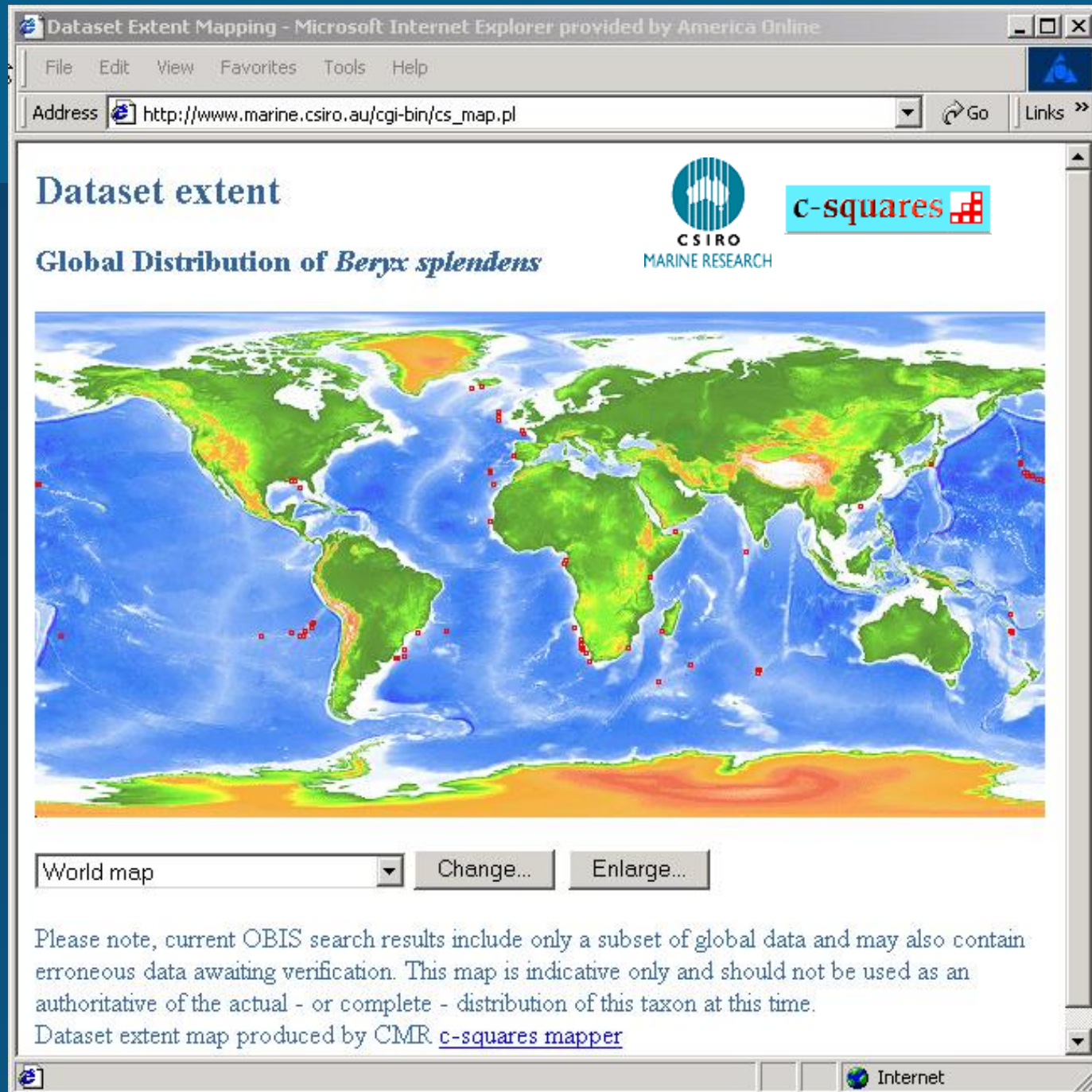
File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

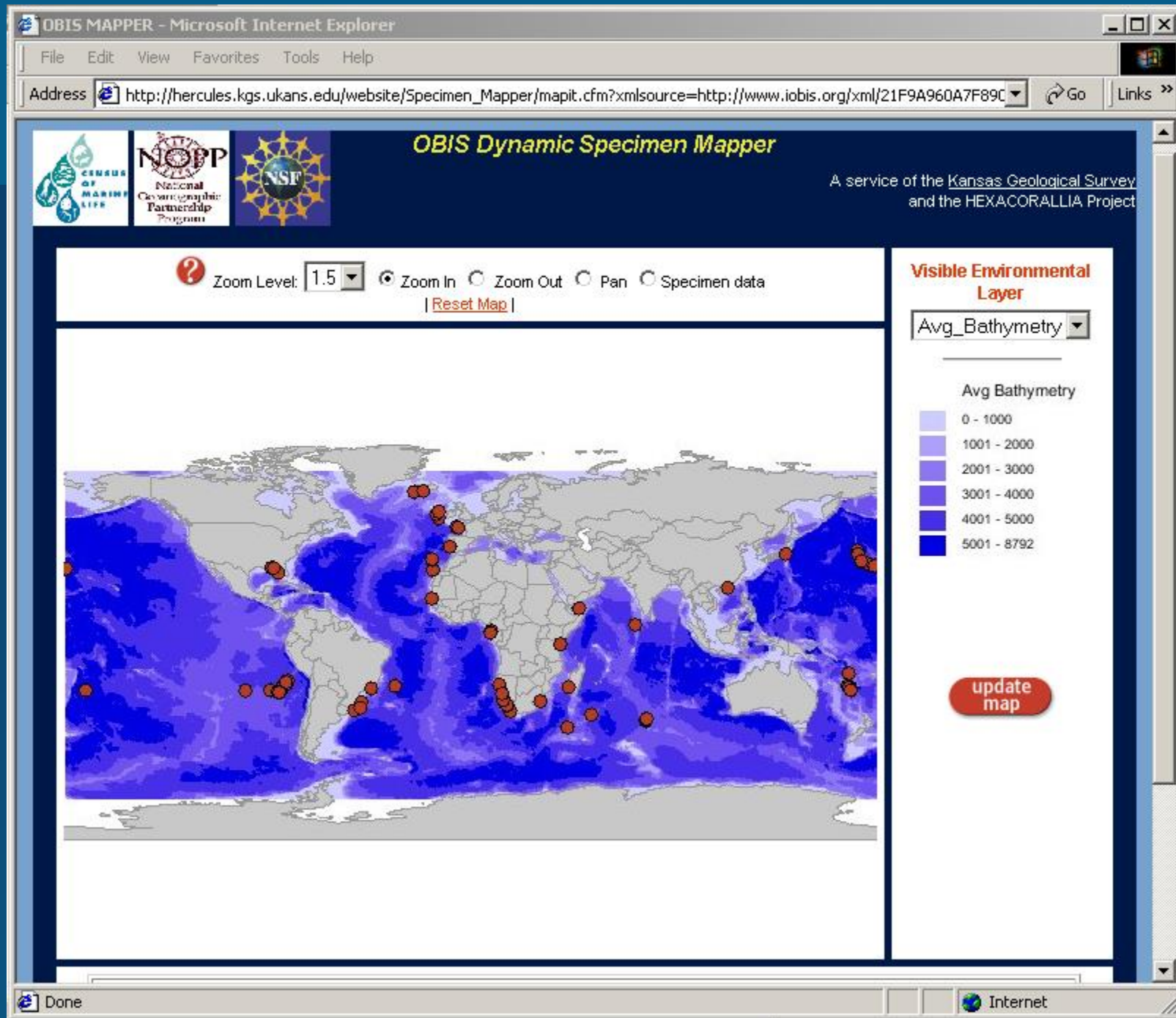
Back Forward Stop Home Search Favorites History Print Copy Paste

### DETAILS OF slender alfonsino

COMMONNAME	GENUS	SPECIES	AUTHOR and YEAR	Search for the Species	Synonyms
Slender alfonsino	Beryx	splendens	Lowe, 1834	<a href="#">Beryx splendens</a>	<a href="#">get synonym</a>

Done Internet





# OBIS Content (May 2003)

Today: 861,876 Records

~57,000 species  
of 200,000-500,000  
estimated known

# Summary of Data Content

	# Species	# Records	# Institutions	Taxonomy	Images
BATS	~200	44,217	4		
Hexacorals	7,702	>20,000	7	✓	✓
Cephbase	786 (all)	3,886	1	✓	✓
FishBase	27,315	1.2mill	22	✓	✓
Fishnet	28,000	30+ mill	29	✓	
Indo-Pacific Mollusc	19,875	16,261	4	✓	
ZooGene	286	~500	4	✓	
(GMBIS)	-	-	4		

# Additional Data Providers

- Division of Fisheries and Oceans Canada:  
60,162 records
- SeamountsOnline – Species from 200+  
seamounts globally.
- NODC World Plankton Database – global  
plankton samples
- History of Marine Animal Populations:  
175,785 records

# OBIS: Next Generation

Better search and retrieval

More tools

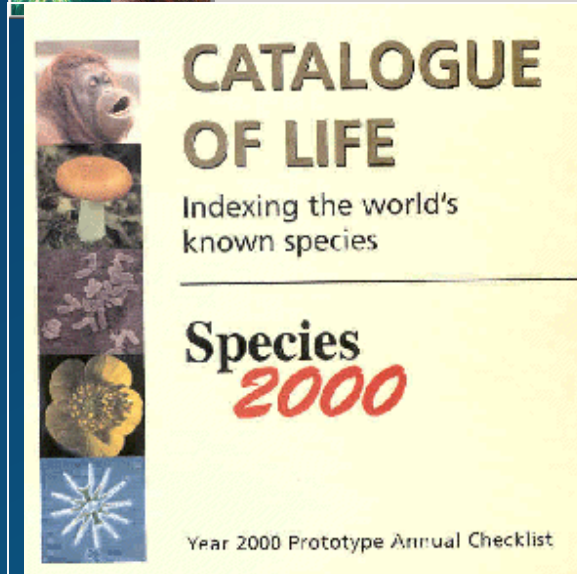
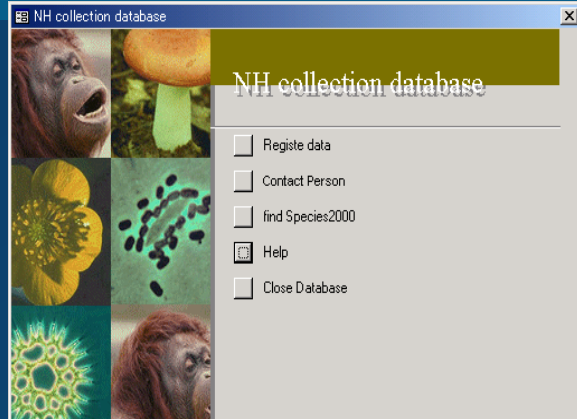
More data types

Technology: metadata for databases, considering web services model (WSDL, UDDI, SOAP and XML).

➤ Integrate with physical/environmental data

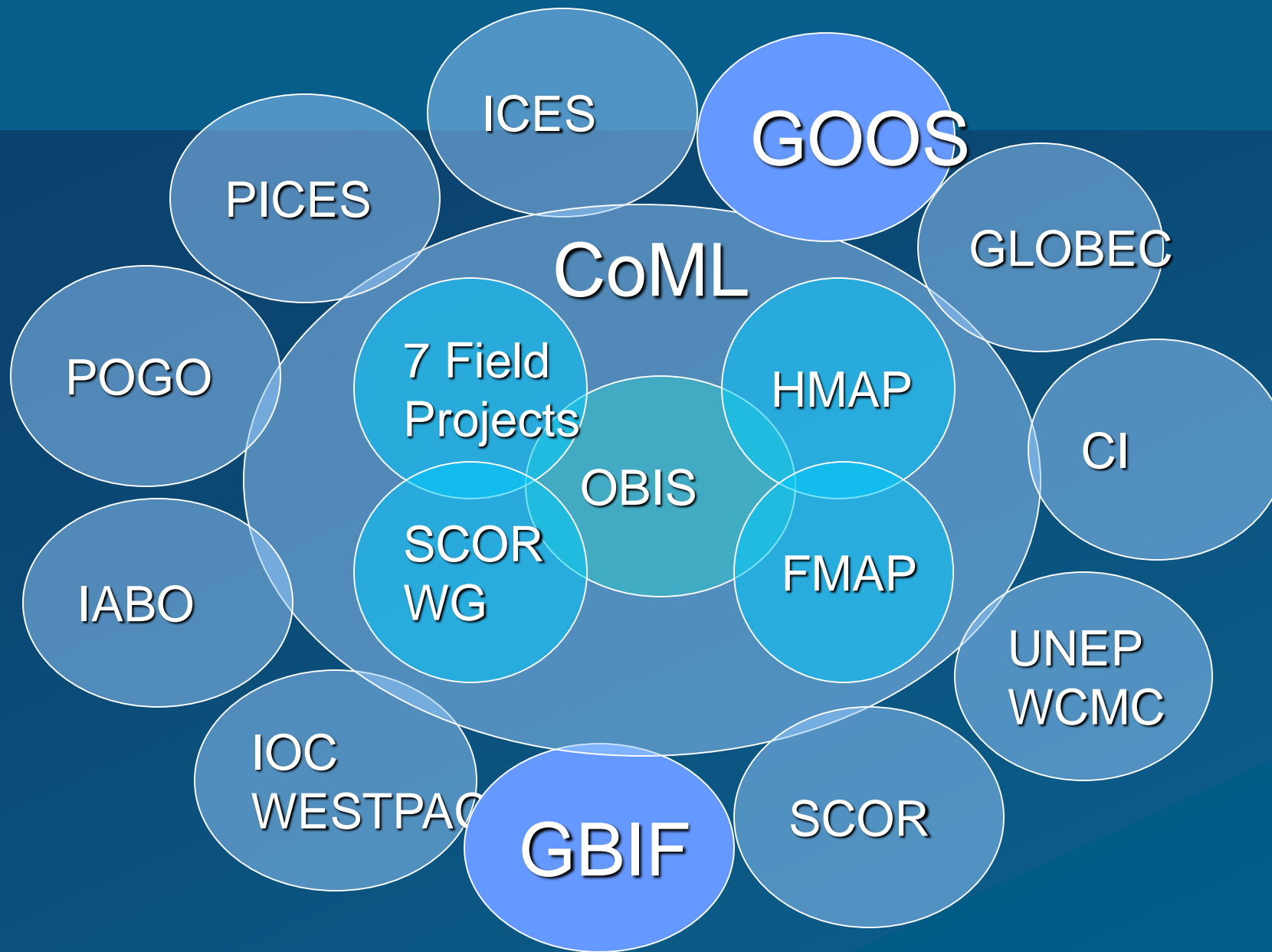


## NHCJ Ver. 2.0 (May 2002)



- Multi lingual data fields
  - Referring Species 2000 Annual Checklist (optional)
- Darwin Core access fields (optional)
- Support JPEG, BMP, GIF images
  - Specimen details
  - Collection site details
  - Name, Kingdome to infra specific level
  - Photos/Illustration
  - Contact details to access the specimen

# CoML LINKS



# Funding Structure

## Current:

- Database development funded by individual grants
- OBIS Secretariat from Sloan Foundation
- Portal development from NSF

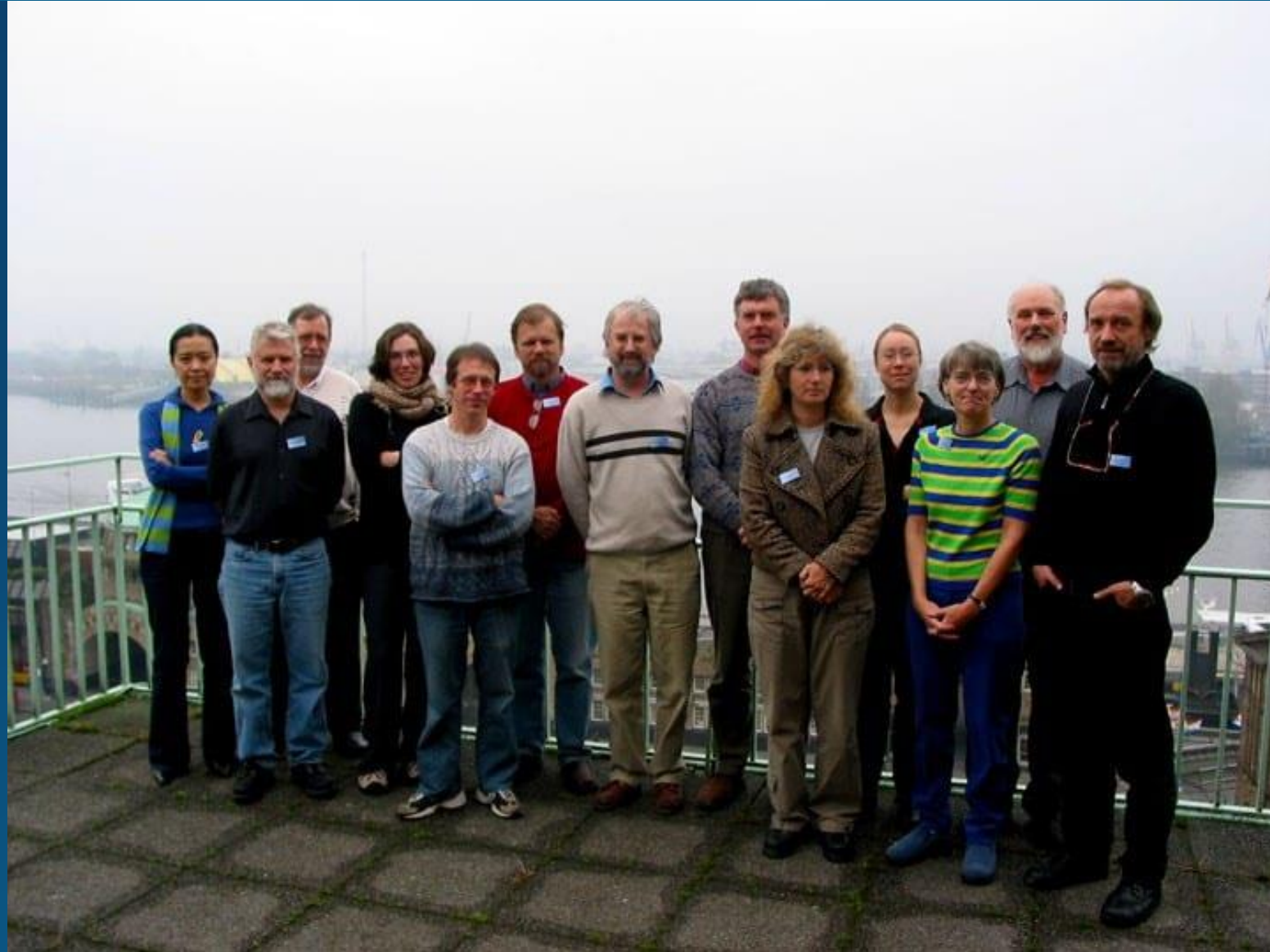
## Challenge: Continued funding for

- Long-term provider maintenance
- Portal Development
- New providers

## Plans: Alliances with

- National data centers
- Public interest user groups
- Industry
- Environmental managers

# OBIS meeting in Germany 2005



# OBIS meeting in Germany 2005



# Woods Hole MPC meeting July '06 that created EOL



# Meeting with EOL

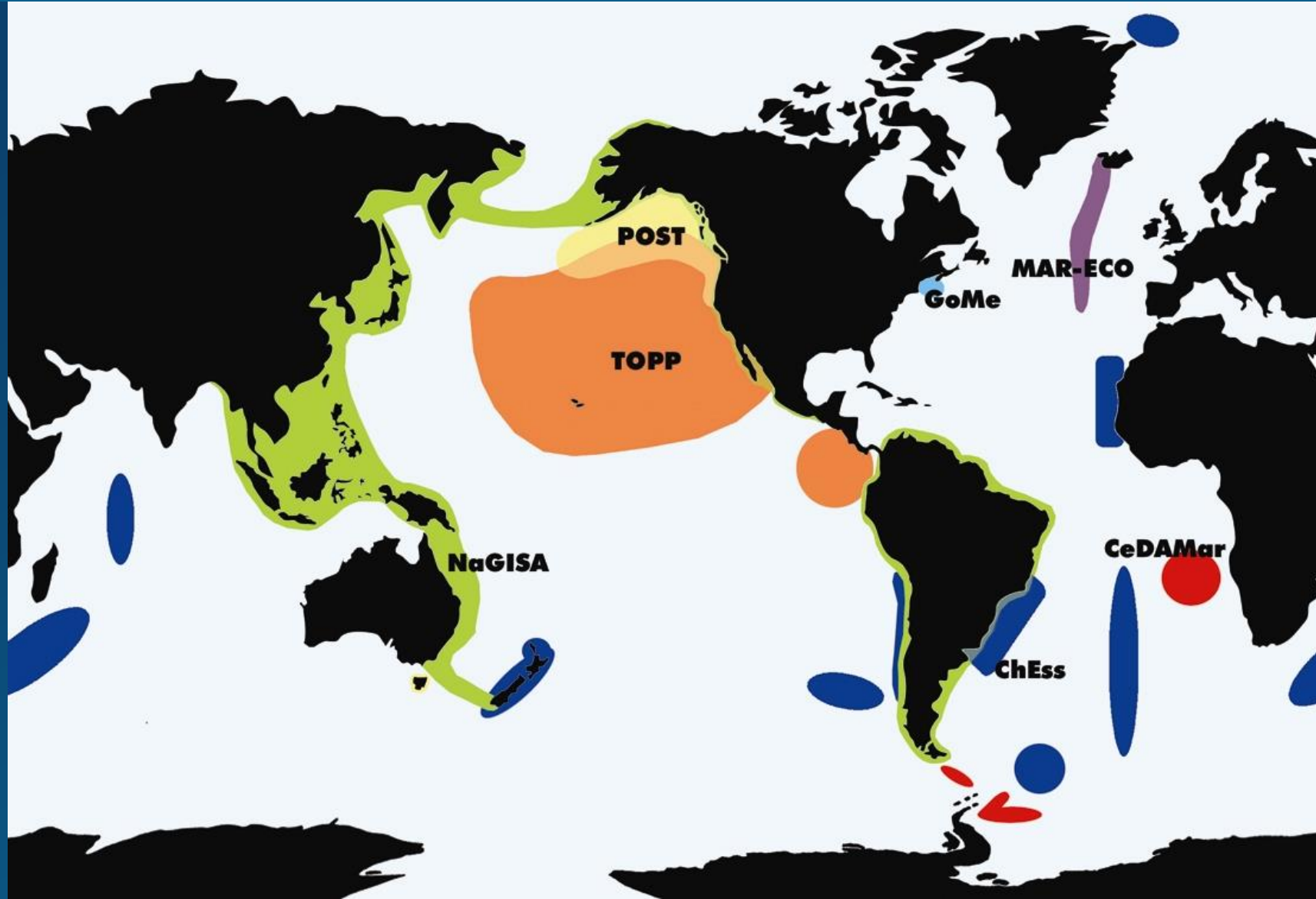


# Meeting with EOL



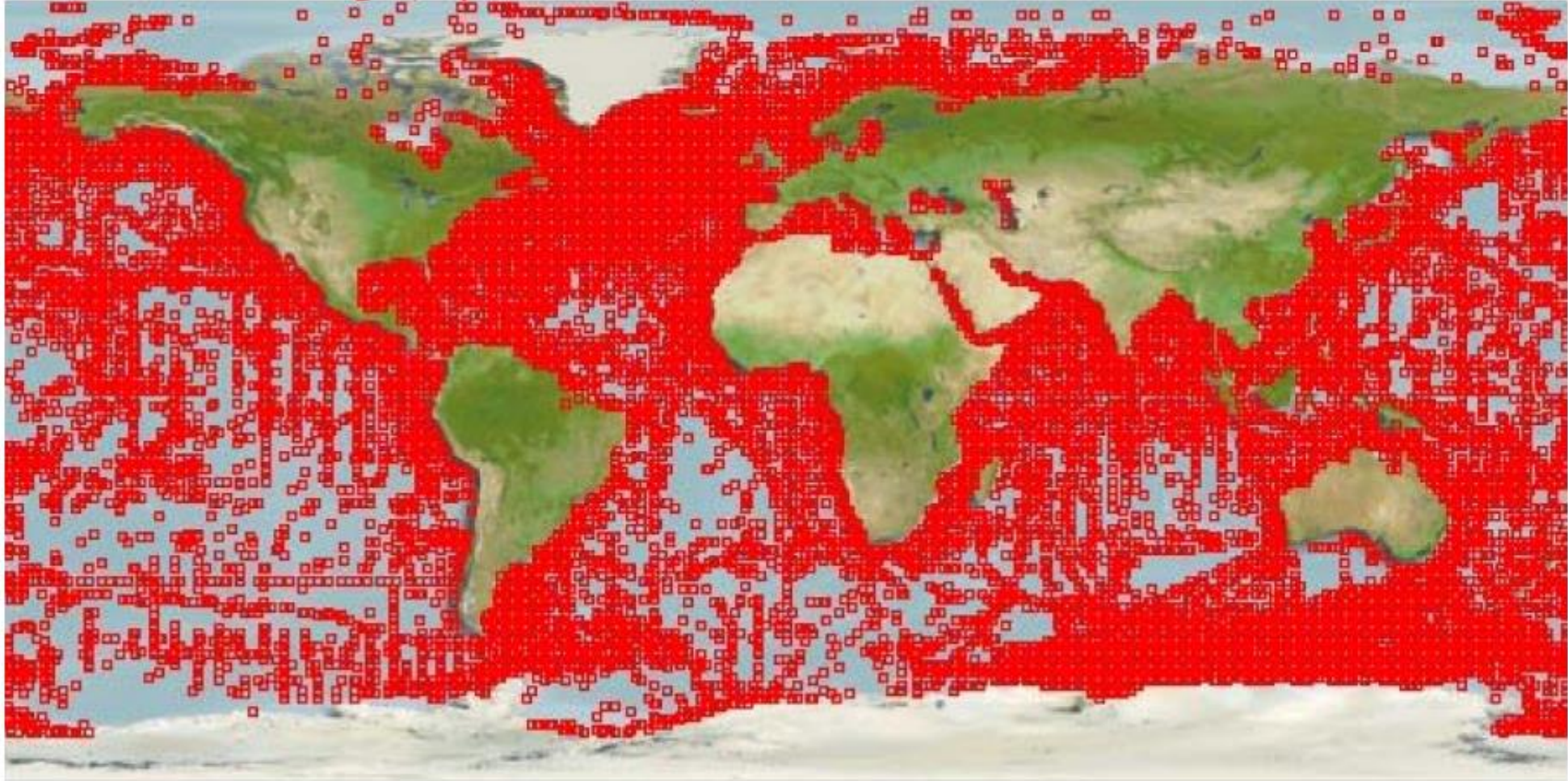


# Initial Project Map



# OBIS Datapoints

OBIS Global Coverage (September 2006)



# OBIS Records in 2006

## OBIS Taxonomic Categories

- details last updated 2006-10-12

Total Records in cache : 10111509

Number of Data Sources : 146

Category	No. of Names Held (chiefly marine species)	No. of Species with OBIS Point Data	Number of Records	Approx. no. of Global Species	
<i>All categories</i>	<b>163808</b> <a href="#">list names</a>	<b>75708</b> <a href="#">list taxa</a>	<b>8116879</b>	<b>3.5 million?</b> <b>[200000+ marine]</b>	<a href="#">clickable map</a>

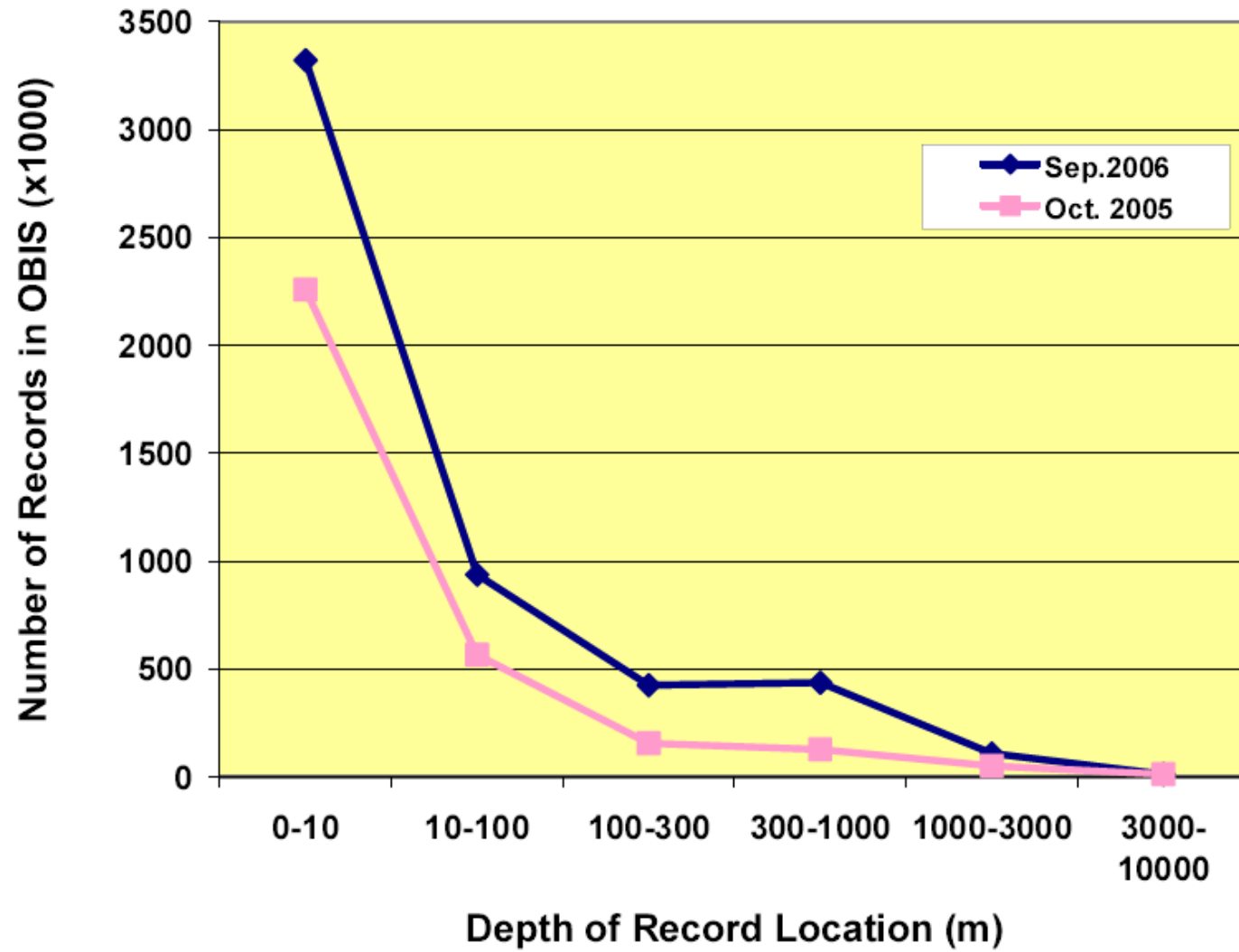
# OBIS meeting at Los Banos 2006



# OBIS meeting at Los Banos 2006



## OBIS Vertical Coverage

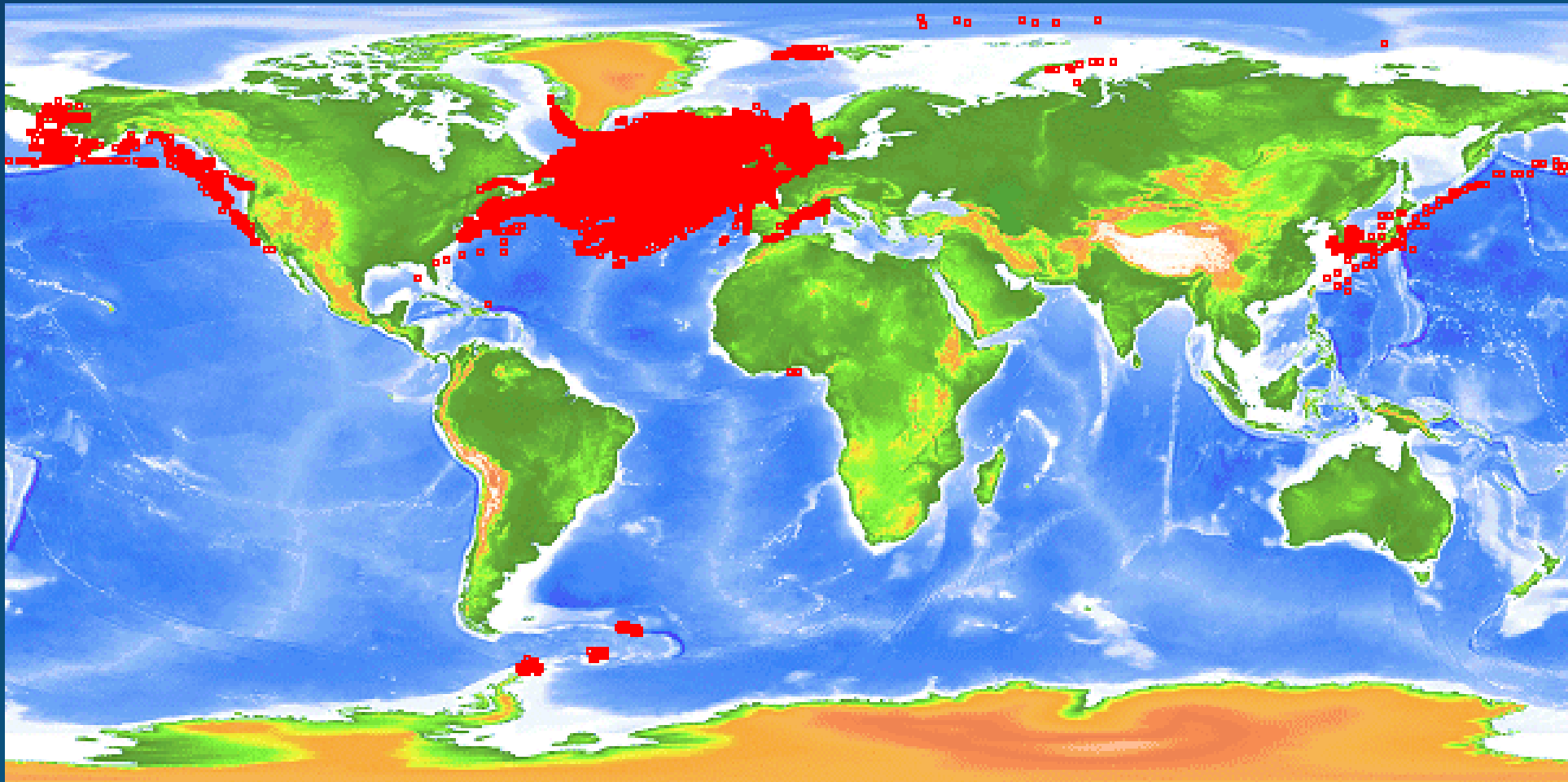


# Numbers of species

	Total OBIS	Total world	% in OBIS	
Vertebrata	13,887	14,272	97%	vertebrates
Nematoda	2,004	4,200	48%	round worms
Cnidaria	3,516	7,598	46%	anemones+corals+
Annelida	2,594	8,080	32%	worms *
Other	629	2,197	29%	other
Tunicata	241	1,286	19%	tunicates
Crustacea	5,584	30,472	18%	crustaceans
Mollusca	5,708	32,813	17%	molluscs
Pycnogonida	141	940	15%	sea spiders *
Echinodermata	802	6,700	12%	echinoderms
Bryozoa	528	5,700	9%	mat animals *
Nemertea	115	1,250	9%	ribbon worms *
Porifera	310	6,000	5%	sponges
Platyhelminthes	0	6,795	0%	flatworms *

For example, the distribution of the copepod *Calanus*  
Although generally correct, it does reflect sampling biases

***Species level detail is problematic and requires QC***





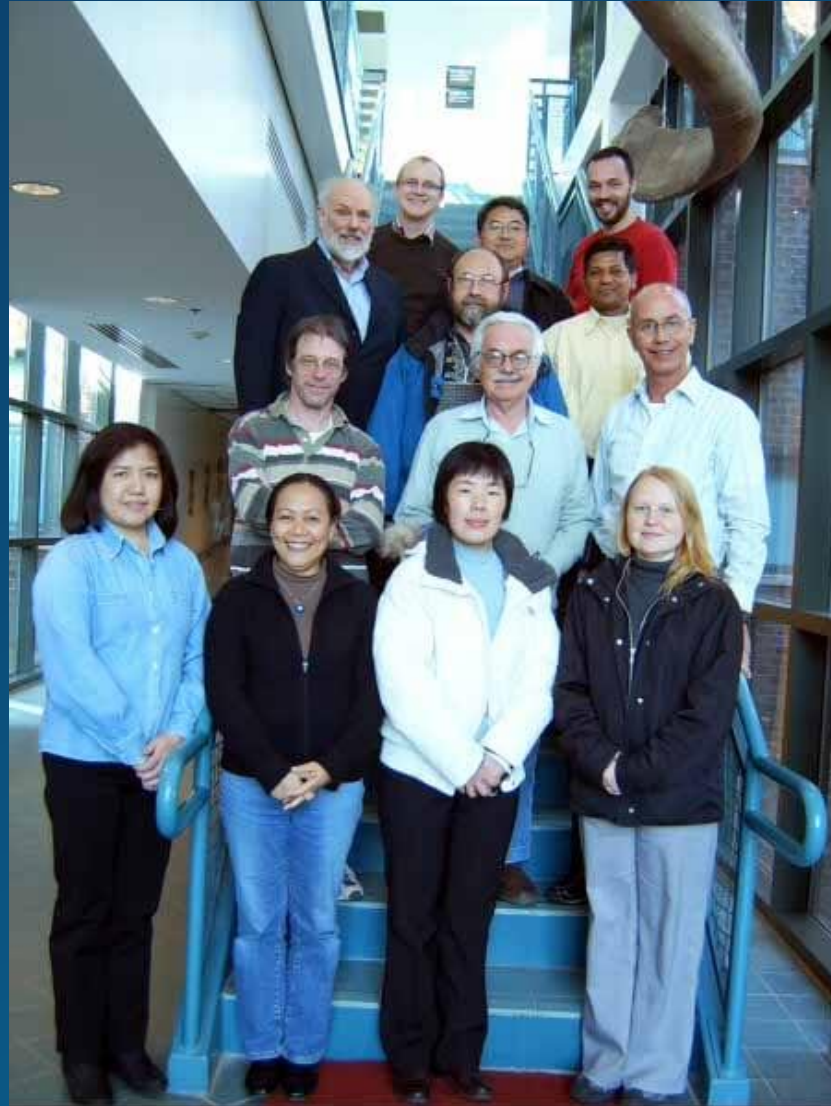
# OBIS meeting in 2007





OBIS Governing Board, inaugural meeting 4/28/08

# OBIS meeting in 2008



# Census Summary 2000-2010

## *It can be done*

>2,700 scientists  
>80 countries  
>540 field expeditions  
~US\$650 million  
>1,200 new species +  
5000 await description  
>100,000 EOL pages for  
marine species  
~35,000 marine species  
with DNA barcodes

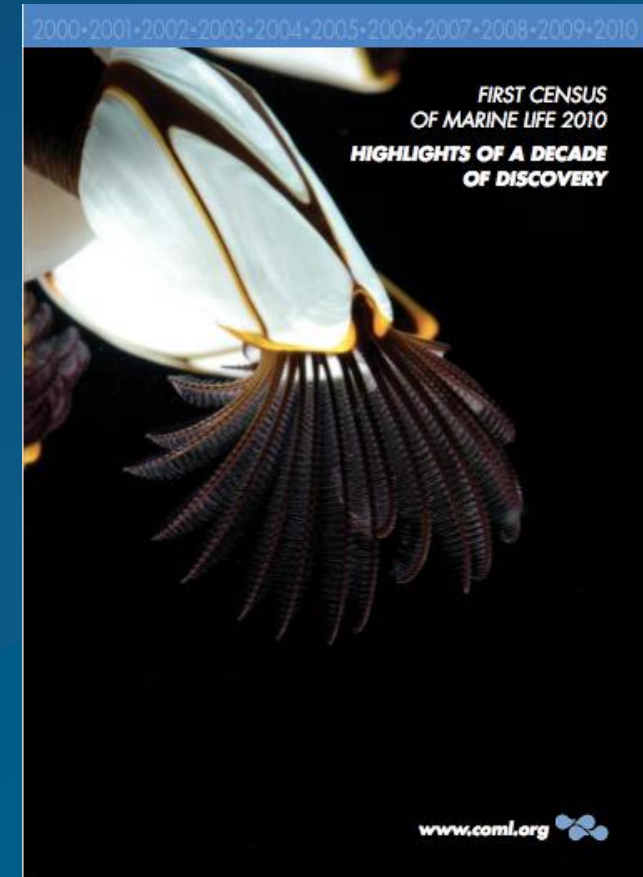
2,600 publications + books,  
maps, videos,  
films, paintings, sculptures,  
songs...

New protected areas...

Marine Life is:

- richer
- more connected
- more altered
- yet unknown,  
unexplored

*Highlights available in 11 languages*



Average  
known  
diversity  
in 25 regions

~10,000  
known species  
in average  
region

Source: Costello,  
Miloslavich, et al.,  
2010, PLoS One.  
8,000 views



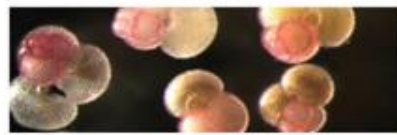
**19% Crustacea**  
(including crabs, lobsters, shrimp, and barnacles)



**17% Mollusca**  
(including squid, octopuses, clams, snails, and slugs)



**12% Pisces**  
(fish, including sharks)



**10% Protists**  
(unicellular microorganisms)



**10% algae and plant-like organisms**



**7% Annelida**  
(segmented worms)



**5% Cnidaria**  
(including sea anemones, corals, and jellyfish)



**3% Platyhelminthes**  
(including flatworms)



**3% Echinodermata**  
(sea stars, sea urchins, sea cucumbers)



**3% Porifera**  
(including sponges)



**2% Bryozoa**  
(mat or "moss animals")

**1% Tunicata**  
(including sea squirts)

Ocean Life  
Past, Present, and Future



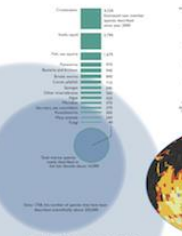
What lived in the ocean? What lives in the ocean today? What will live in the ocean tomorrow? In an ocean of changes of ocean past, we can better understand the ocean for the future.

We can better understand the ocean for the future. We can better understand the ocean for the future. We can better understand the ocean for the future.

The larger component of the Census of Marine Life was to explore a common marine life. From observations to field projects, researchers are working to understand what species exist and how they are changing. These and future observations form a central database, creating an unprecedented catalog of over 300,000 species, some 1,000 of them discovered and described by Census scientists, with another 1,000 waiting to be discovered.

Marine Biodiversity: Known, Unknown, Unknowable

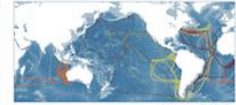
A decade of effort counting the species of marine life has revealed thousands of new species. In 2009, only 20 percent of the total number of species of marine life were known. The rest were unknown. The rest were unknown. The rest were unknown.



**SAVED SPECIES**  
The 2004 tsunami in the Indian Ocean killed over 200,000 people and displaced 10 million. It also killed many marine species. The tsunami killed many marine species. The tsunami killed many marine species.



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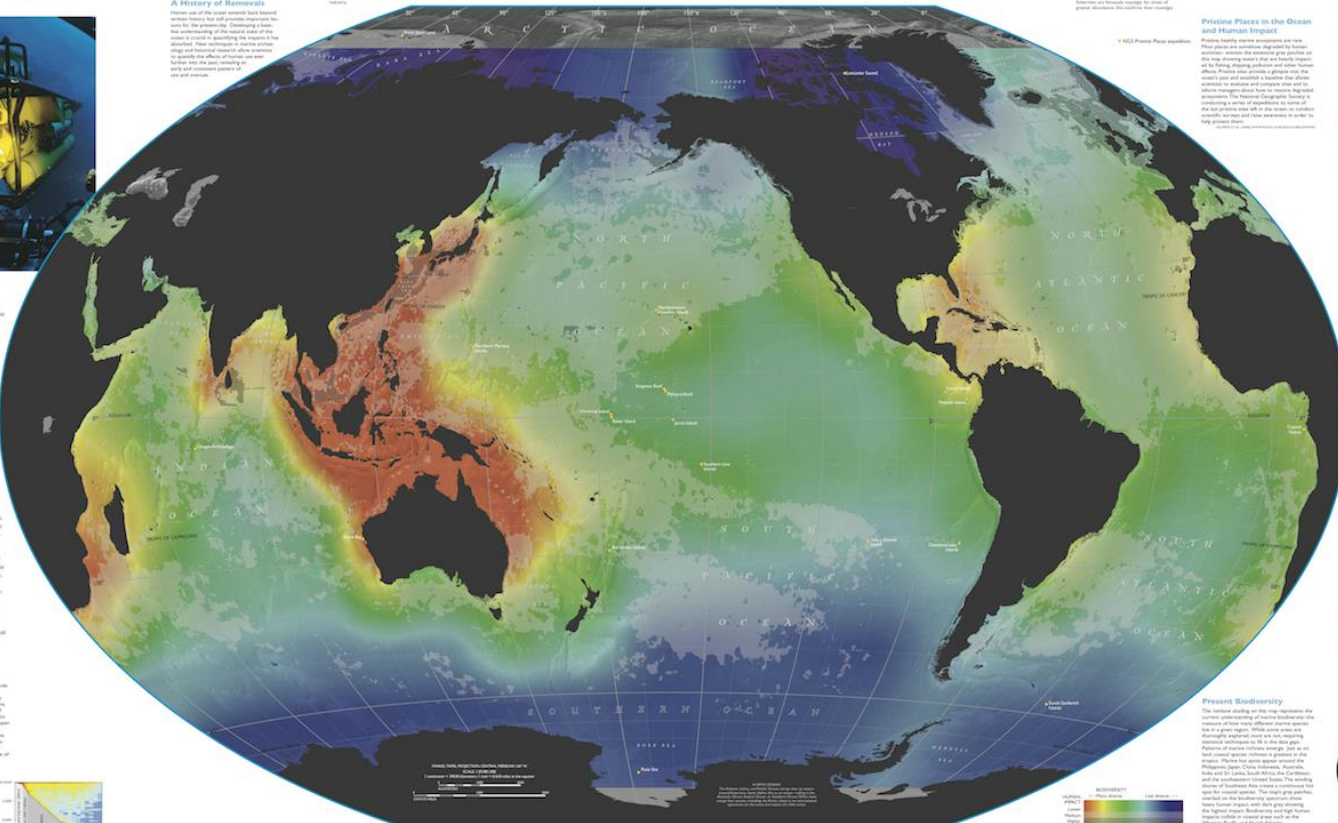
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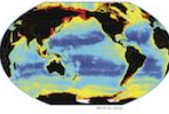
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**Going Further, Catching Life**  
Reigning with high peaks in the southwest Pacific, a region being rapidly explored to reach the five percent of the 2010 census. The census of marine life is a global effort to understand the ocean's biodiversity. The census of marine life is a global effort to understand the ocean's biodiversity.



**Where is life abundant?**  
Biodiversity is the variety of life in a region. Biodiversity is the variety of life in a region. Biodiversity is the variety of life in a region.

**SAVED SPECIES**  
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**Technologies of Discovery**  
The census of marine life is a global effort to understand the ocean's biodiversity. The census of marine life is a global effort to understand the ocean's biodiversity.

The spirit of a ship's crew: a culture of pulling together  
Marine biology can succeed as Big Science



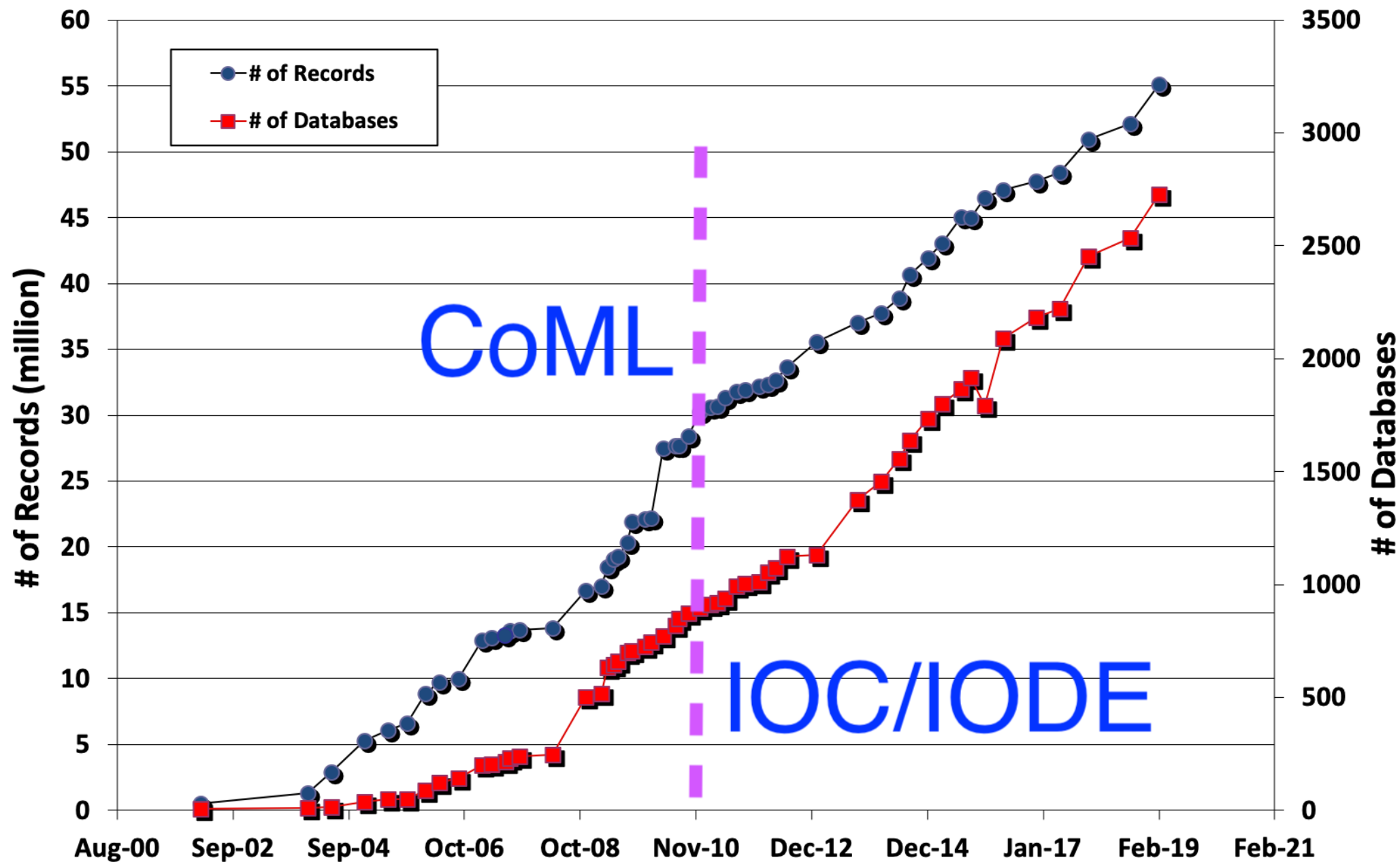


CoML attendees at Prize dinner: Susan Poiner, Jesse Ausubel, Patricia Miloslavich, Victor Gallardo, Myriam Sibuet, Ian Poiner, Yoshihisa Shirayama, Mari Shirayama





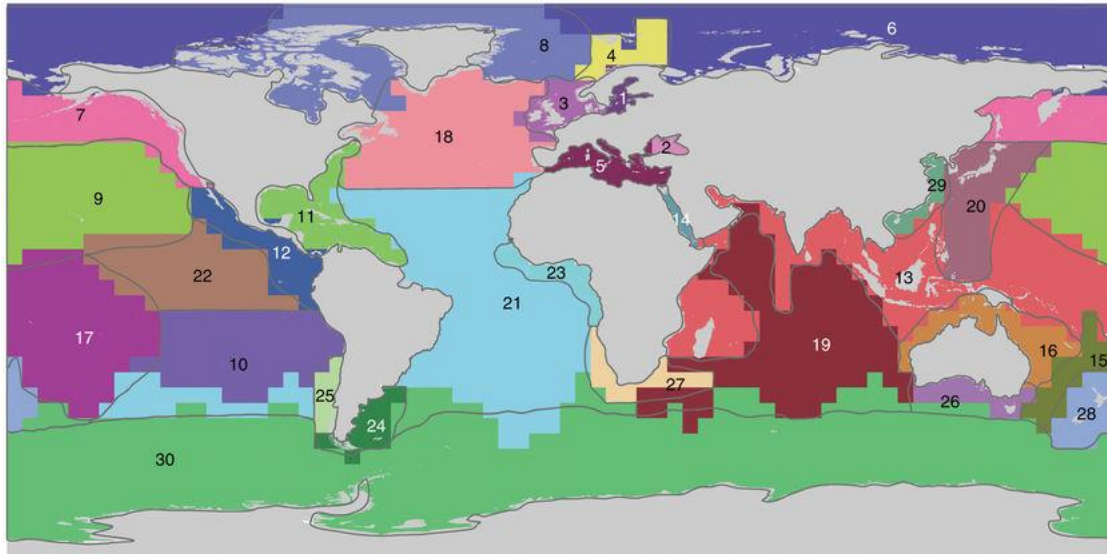
Chairman Ian Poiner



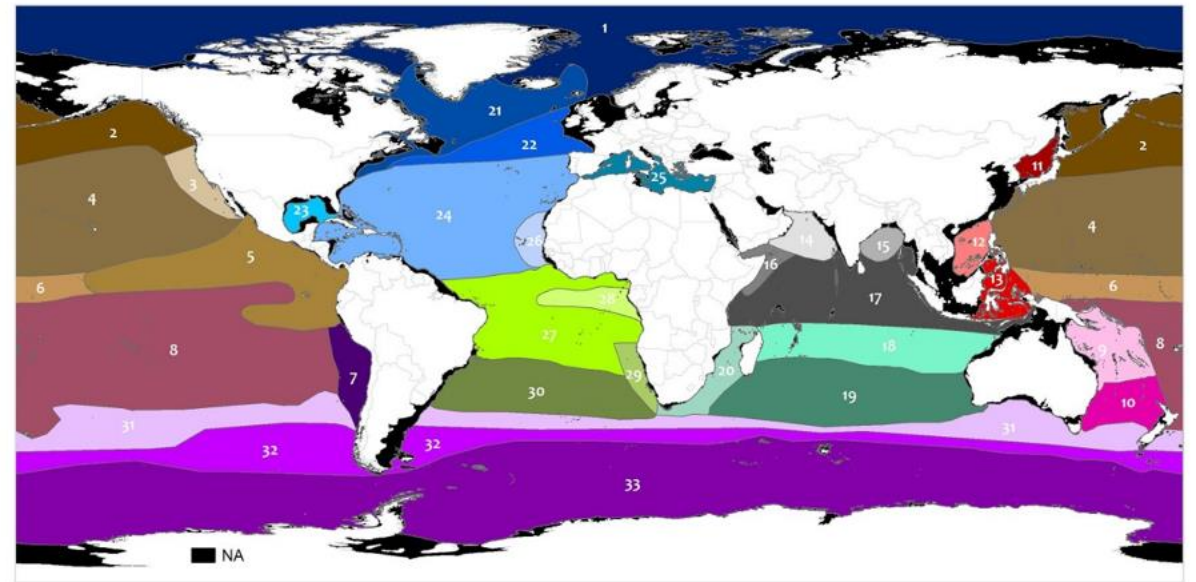
1998

2009

2017

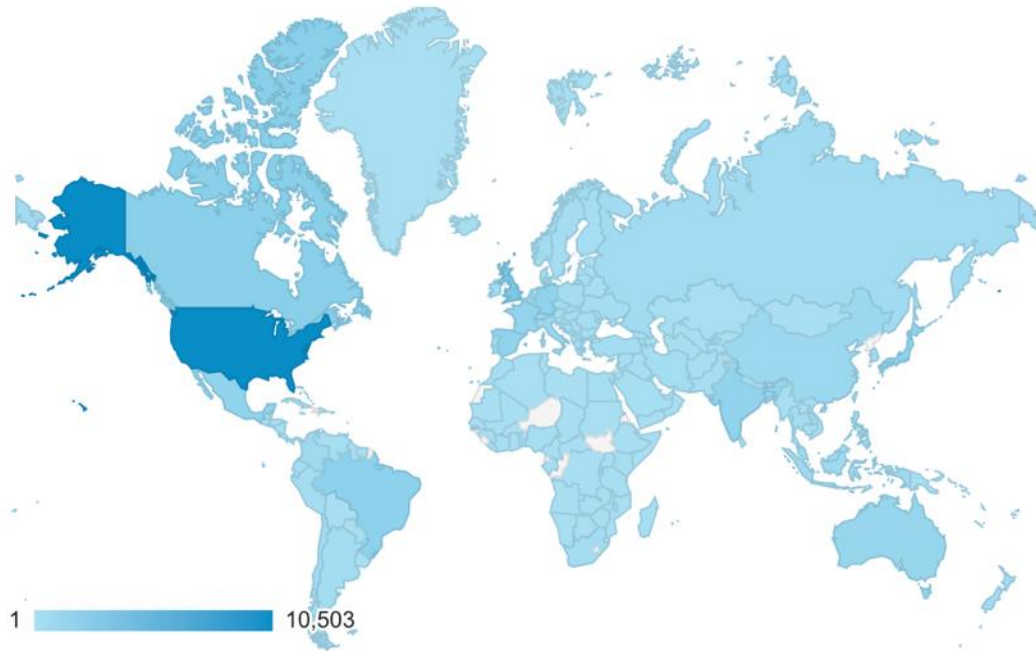



Marine biogeographic realms and species endemism



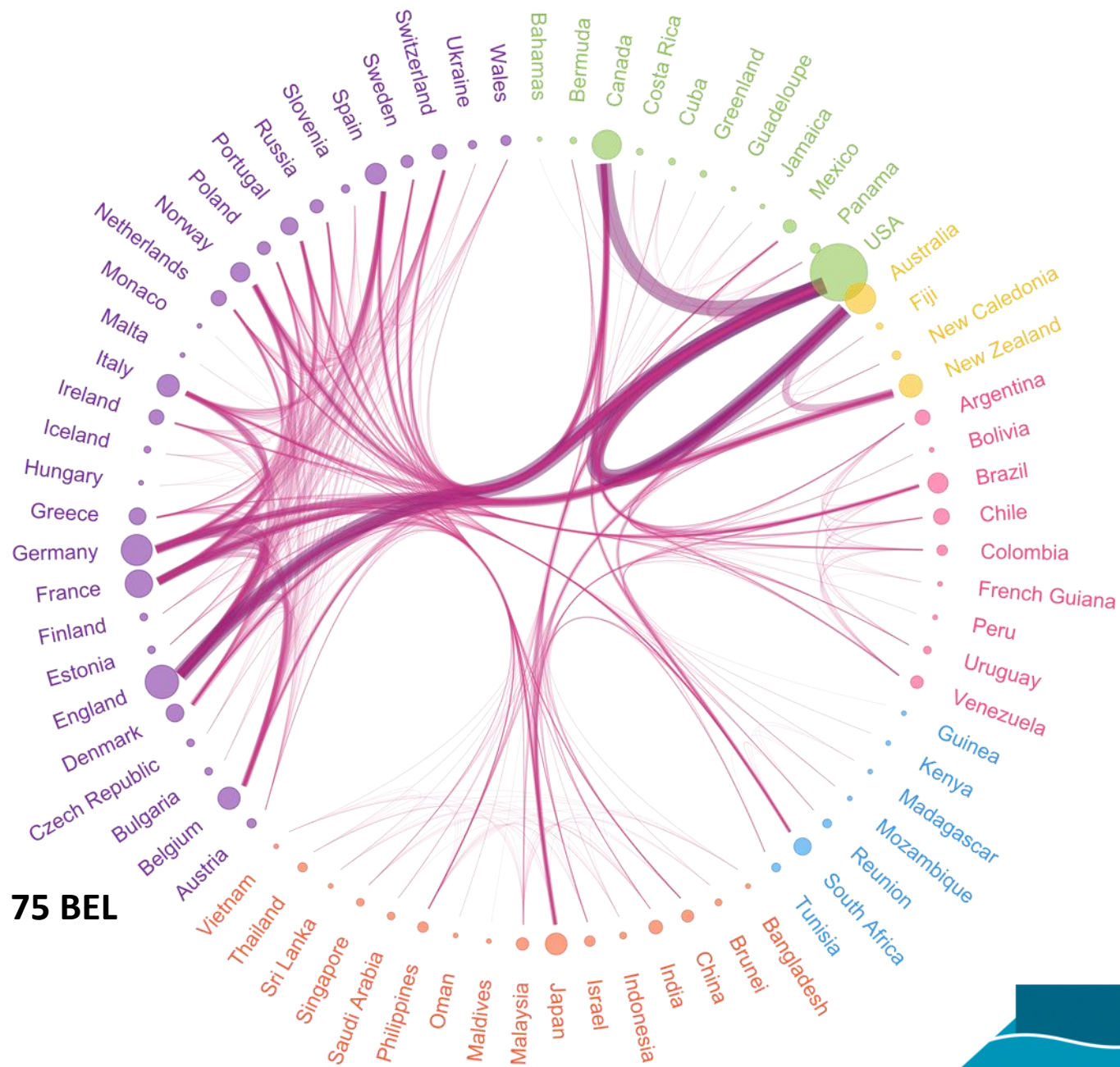
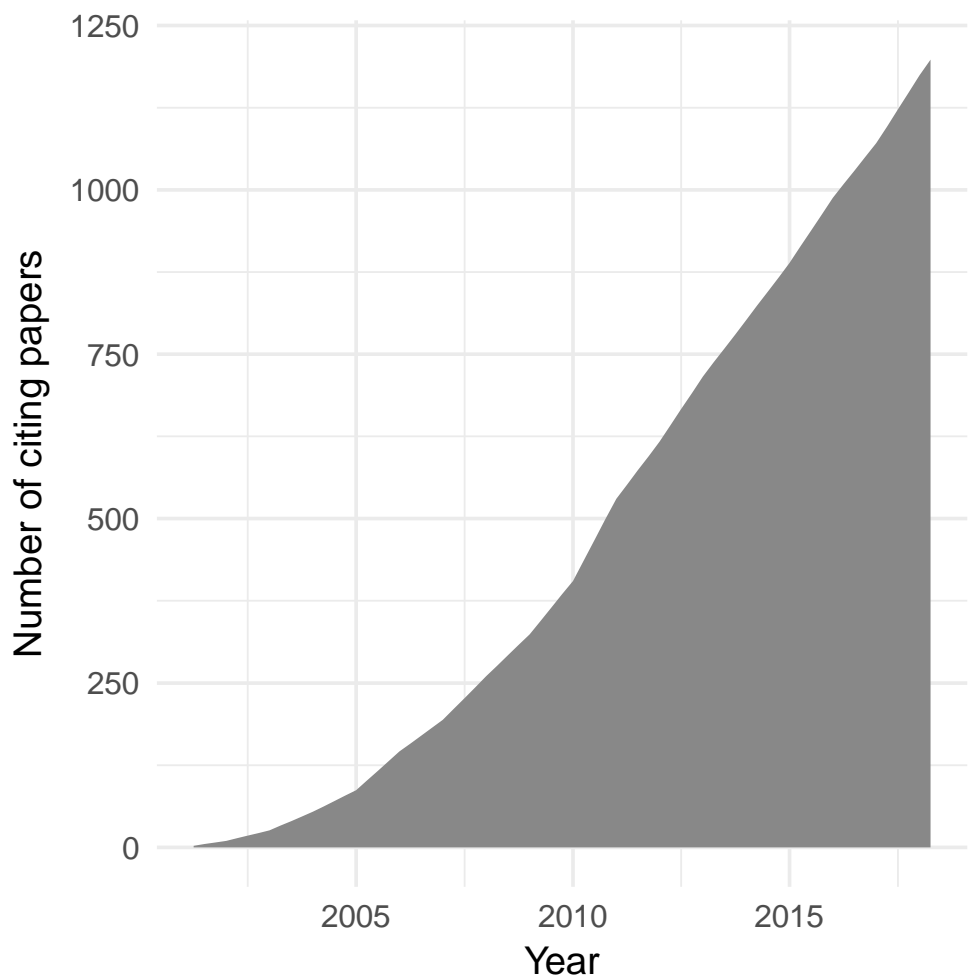
A global biogeographic classification of the mesopelagic zone

# Reaching out to the world



Country	Users
	44,847 % of Total: 100.00% (44,847)
1.  United States	10,503
2.  United Kingdom	2,957
3.  Canada	1,986
4.  Brazil	1,767
5.  Germany	1,621
6.  India	1,551
7.  Japan	1,538
8.  Spain	1,536
9.  Mexico	1,520
10.  France	1,358
11.  Australia	1,166
12.  Italy	952
13.  Belgium	950
14.  China	847
15.  Philippines	724

- 1200 papers
- 2700 authors
- 72 countries



Today (2004): Portal with access to 860 000 data points, mapping, range prediction, name translation.

**Today, OBIS is beyond the original vision!**



Thank you for your attention

