

Past, present and future: successes and challenges in managing marine data – A celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the British Oceanographic Data Centre (BODC)



**British Oceanographic
Data Centre**

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

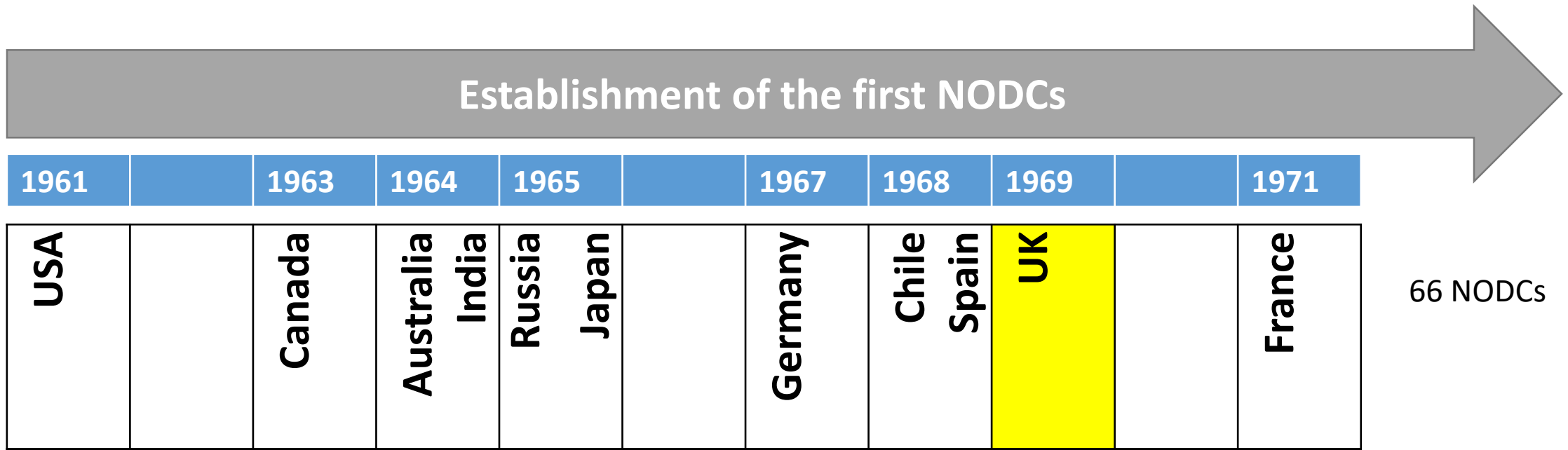


**Delivered by Ward Appeltans (IOC/IODE)
8th May 2019, The Bluecoat, Liverpool City Centre**

66 NODCs

30 Associate Data Units

(continued renaming of OBIS nodes to ADUs)



! BODC was a Designated National Agency (DNA) before 1969



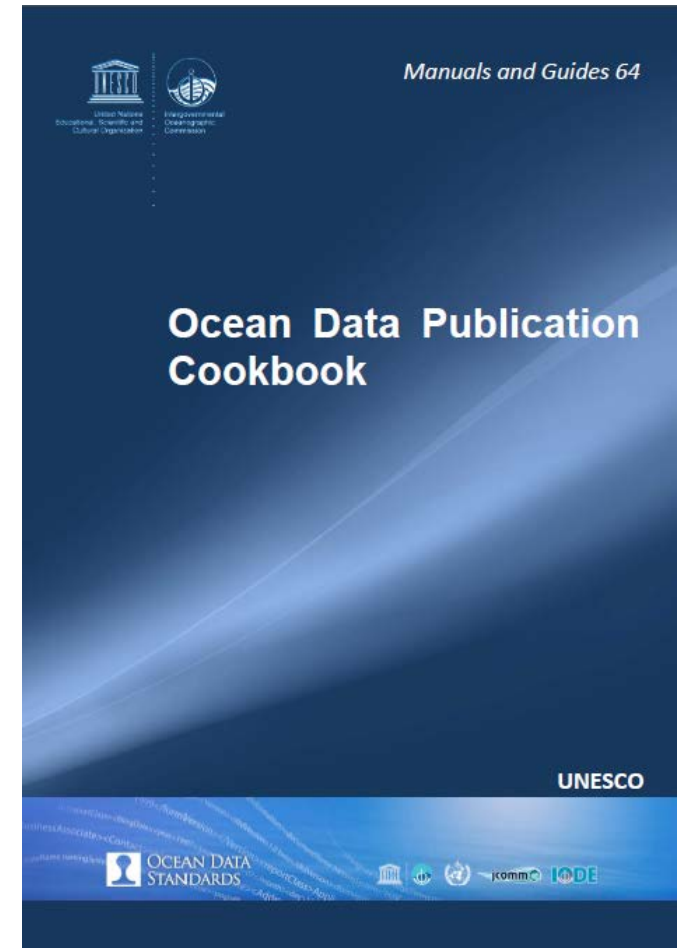
Between 1980-1996 Iouri Oliounine was the head of the IOC Ocean Services Unit in charge of IGOSS, IODE, and Tsunami programmes



In 1980s and 1990s, BODC was known as the main contributor to the formulation of data policy, data exchange formats, data management tools

BODC in IODE

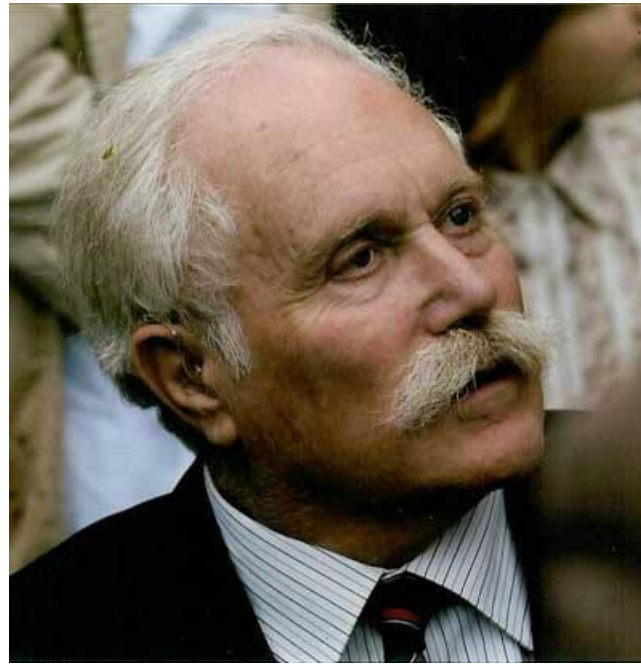
- Three IODE Chairs:
 - John B. Tait (1964-1968)
 - Nick Flemming (1990-1996)
 - Lesley Rickards (2005-2009)
- Several BODC staff actively engaged in IODE Projects:
 - Roy Lowry: Marine Environmental Data and Information Referral System (MEDI), and marine-XML, now under JCOMM/IODE ETDMP
 - Gwen Moncoiffe: OBIS-ENV-DATA, GE-BICH (The Group of Experts on Biological and Chemical Data Management and Exchange Practices)
 - Adam Leadbetter: OTGA-RDM training, ICAN, Data Publication/data citation project (SCOR, MBLWHOI, IODE)
- BODC involved in 52 IODE documents



IOC 50th Anniversary Commemorative Medal



Dr. Meirion Jones from UK is a Founding Director of the British Oceanographic data Centre. From 1979 to 1996 he was actively involved in developing the IODE system including the design of the IOC General Exchange Format. From 1985 to 2003 he was Chairman of the IOC Group of Experts on the Technical Aspects of Data Exchange and of the IOC/IHO GEBCO Subcommittee on Digital Bathymetry from 1983 to 2003. He coordinated the digitization of the GEBCO paper charts and led the publication of the Centenary Edition of the GEBCO Digital Atlas.



Dr. Nicholas Flemming from UK was Director of the British national oceanographic data centre from 1980 till 1987 to take later the position of the chairman of the IODE Committee of the IOC which he occupied till 1992. He was Director of EuroGOOS Office and Member of the GOOS Steering Group until 2001. Now he is a research fellow at the national oceanography centre in Southampton.



Dr. Lesley Rickards from UK, Deputy Director of the British Oceanographic Data Centre has over 25 years experience in managing marine data. She was Chair of the IOC International Oceanographic Data and Information exchange Committee from 2003-2007 and represented IODE on the JCOMM Management Committee. She is currently a member of the International Council for Science World Data System Scientific committee and the governing body of the World Data System. In 2007 she was appointed Director of the Permanent Service for Mean sea Level which has close links with the Global Sea Level Observing System – GLOSS. For over 20 years she has been a member of the IOC/JCOMM Group of Experts on GLOSS.

IODE Achievement Awards

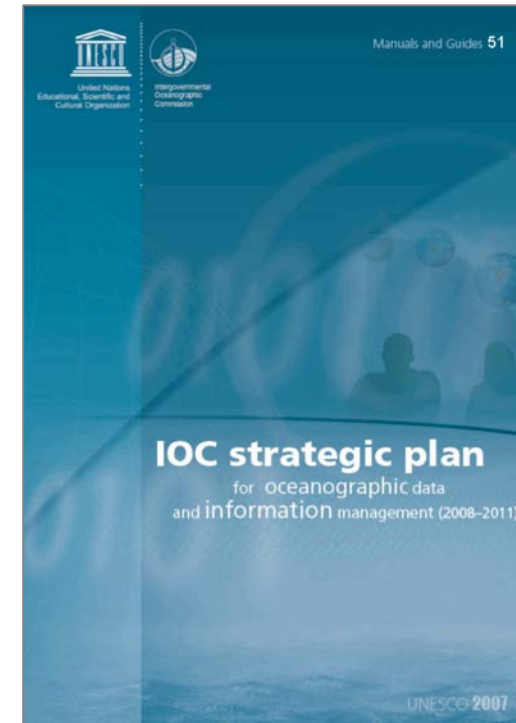
2013 Roy Lowry

- General Format 3 (GF3)
- Joint Global Ocean Flux Study (JGOFS) Data Management Task Team
- MarineXML, SeaVox
- data publication and citation



2009 Lesley Rickards

- IOC Strategic Plan for Oceanographic Data and Information Management



Quality Management Framework: *ensuring quality data flow in the network*

NODCs to establish organizational quality management systems for the delivery of oceanographic and related data, products and services.



IODDE-XXV
Tokyo, Japan, 20-22 February 2019
(BODC was accredited by IODE Officers, 23/8/2017)

So far 9 NODCs have been accredited, and 1 ADU

Belgium (x2), China, France, Iran, Ireland, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), **United Kingdom** and Malaysia (adu)



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Intergovernmental
Oceanographic
Commission



2021
2030 United Nations Decade
of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development

One Planet, One Ocean



**IOC Working
Committee
on IODE;
11th session;
New York;
1984**




United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization


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Oceanographic
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2021
2030 United Nations Decade
of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development

One Planet, One Ocean

Group photo MDM
1987



One Planet, One Ocean

**IODE-XIV Paris, France, 1-9
December 1992**

One Planet, One Ocean



IODE-XIV Paris, France, 1-9 December 1992



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Intergovernmental
Oceanographic
Commission



2021
2030 United Nations Decade
of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development

One Planet, One Ocean



MDM 1994



One Planet, One Ocean

MDM Dublin Ireland
1997



One Planet, One Ocean

**MDM 1999,
Canada**



One Planet, One Ocean

MDM 2000



One Planet, One Ocean

MDM 2001



One Planet, One Ocean

First female chair of IODE

IODE-XVIII
2005

One Planet, One Ocean



IODE Group of Experts
on the Technical Aspects
of Data
Exchange (GETADE)
Former JCOMM-ETDMP

Group photo GETADE



One Planet, One Ocean

**IODE-XIX,
Trieste**

2007



One Planet, One Ocean



**IOCE-XX; Beijing
2009**

Exchange of Biological Data

The Working Group considered that a minimum requirement should be to submit along with physical and chemical data, details of what biological sampling was done. This information should include if possible: position, date, time zone, local time of sunrise and sunset, sounding, and the type of sampling (that is phytoplankton, zooplankton or benthos sampling, midwater trawling, long lining or other forms of fishing, underwater photography, acoustic studies, surface collections, etc.) or measurements (primary production, optical measurements, etc.). Details of the sampling should also be included, incorporating information about the type of gear used, the times of commencement and completion of sampling and the upper and lower depth of sampling, etc. It should also be stated where further information concerning the samples or measurements can be obtained.

Biological results, on the other hand, can be divided into a number of categories which lend themselves in varying degrees to handling by data centres. Many come under the heading of "information retrieval", including systematic or taxonomic information, descriptions of organisms, publications, etc. and these present particularly difficult problems. Other data are insufficiently uniform with regard to method or take the form of continuous records which are difficult to handle. Some biomass statistics are already included in specialized data centres.

The Working Group feel, therefore, that the categories of biological results which can usefully be handled by data centres at the present time are the following:-

1. Primary production measurements
2. Chlorophylls
3. Phytoplankton biomass
4. Zooplankton biomass
5. Benthos biomass

The submission of such data in any form is acceptable providing they are accompanied by precise details of the methods used. It is hoped that after consideration by specialized working groups of SCOR, ACMRR, etc. and as a result of the standardization and intercalibration work being conducted by SCOR and other bodies it may eventually be possible to reach agreement on standardized reporting. As methods improve in the future it will become desirable to include other biological observations, in particular those which may be of importance in fishery oceanography.

R.I. Currie
Rapporteur

In 1964 – under chairmanship of John Tait:

IODE WG Report on the exchange of biological data:

- Eventually standardisation and intercalibration may make standard reporting possible
- Data on PP, Chl a, phytoplankton, zooplankton and benthos biomass are acceptable
- Submit metadata of biological sampling along with physical and chemical data.
- As methods improve, we may include other biological observations important in fishery oceanography

OBIS-ENV-DATA

Expanding OBIS beyond species occurrence data,
with an extension for environmental data

This 2-year pilot project developed procedures and guidelines for managing and sharing mixed datasets, making sure that supporting measurements are curated and distributed alongside the species occurrence data.



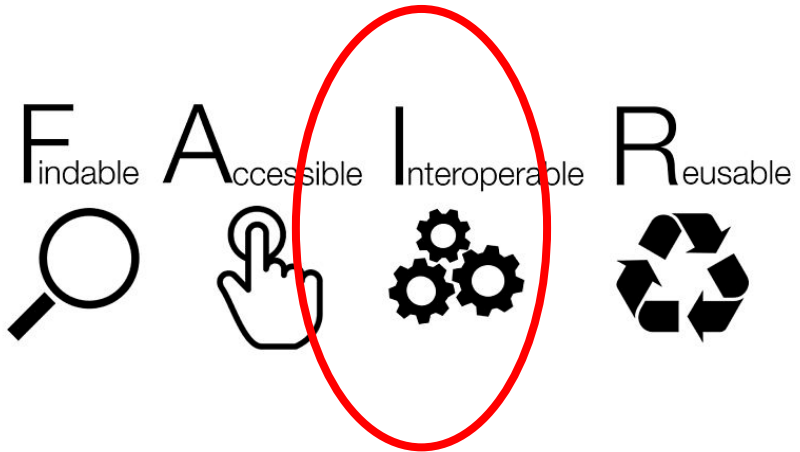
OBIS-ENV-DATA involved 11 institutions from
10 countries in North-America, South-America,
Europe, Africa and Australia.



In collaboration with **EMODnet**

Improve interoperability

New terms in the
ExtendedMeasurementOrFact
extension:



- **occurrenceID**
- **measurementType**
- **measurementTypeID**
- **measurementValue**
- **measurementValueID**
- **measurementUnit**
- **measurementUnitID**



Past: a dump of measurements and facts

NOW: Structured in MeasurementorFact Extension and standardized



dwc:dynamicProperties

```
SampleSize=Trap deployed for 2 days;  
Bottom temperature=4.13C; Wind  
direction=0; Wind speed=1-3 knots  
  
Sample size = 1.81 n.miles * 41.0 ft;  
Weight(Kg)= .11; Temperature(C)= 6.46  
  
ObservedWeight=0.000153901;  
  
weightInKilograms=0.0404,  
lengthInMeters=0.163, lengthType=FORK  
  
SampleSize=million cells/m3;  
ObservedWeight=192.02;  
  
Samplesize=Number per cubic metre;  
NetMeshSize=236; VerbatimName=Calanus  
hyperboreus; Sounding=3300  
  
SubSampleWeightInGrams=0.365999997;  
SubSampleNumbers=2;  
CalculatedWeightInGrams=0.365999997;  
CalculatedNumbers=2; SampledAll=Y;  
AverageWeightInGrams=0.182999998;  
NonSubSubWeightInGrams=;  
NonSubSubNumber=  
  
{ "sampleSize": "Filtered water volume:  
506 m3" }  
  
{ "attributes": "range of standard  
length: 4.8mm - 21.2mm" }
```

	eventID	occurrenceID	measurementType	measurementTypeID	measurementValue
1	station_1		bottom water temperature	http://vocab.nerc.ac.uk/collection/P01/current/TEMP...	12
2	core_1		device type	http://vocab.nerc.ac.uk/collection/Q01/current/Q01...	reineck box core
3	core_1		penetration depth	http://vocab.nerc.ac.uk/collection/P01/current/MAX...	34
4	core_1		surface area	http://vocab.nerc.ac.uk/collection/Q01/current/Q01...	0.028
5	core_1		median grain size	http://vocab.nerc.ac.uk/collection/P01/current/MDG...	150
6	core_1		organic carbon content	http://vocab.nerc.ac.uk/collection/P01/current/OCC...	10
7	slice_1		median grain size	http://vocab.nerc.ac.uk/collection/P01/current/MDG...	85
8	slice_1		porewater nitrate concentration	http://vocab.nerc.ac.uk/collection/P01/current/ISMJ...	4.1
9	slice_2		median grain size	http://vocab.nerc.ac.uk/collection/P01/current/ISMJ...	92
10	slice_2		porewater nitrate concentration	http://vocab.nerc.ac.uk/collection/P01/current/ISMJ...	3.2
11	core_1	urn:catalog:EEA:NSBS:85	body size	http://vocab.nerc.ac.uk/collection/P01/current/OBSI...	12
12	core_1	urn:catalog:EEA:NSBS:85	wet weight biomass	http://vocab.nerc.ac.uk/collection/P01/current/OWE...	45
13	core_1	urn:catalog:EEA:NSBS:85	abundance	http://vocab.nerc.ac.uk/collection/P01/current/OCO...	52
14	core_1	urn:catalog:EEA:NSBS:86	body size	http://vocab.nerc.ac.uk/collection/P01/current/OBSI...	28
15	core_1	urn:catalog:EEA:NSBS:86	wet weight biomass	http://vocab.nerc.ac.uk/collection/P01/current/OWE...	17
16	core_1	urn:catalog:EEA:NSBS:86	abundance	http://vocab.nerc.ac.uk/collection/P01/current/OCO...	9

7th Session of the IODE Steering Group for OBIS, Nov 2018

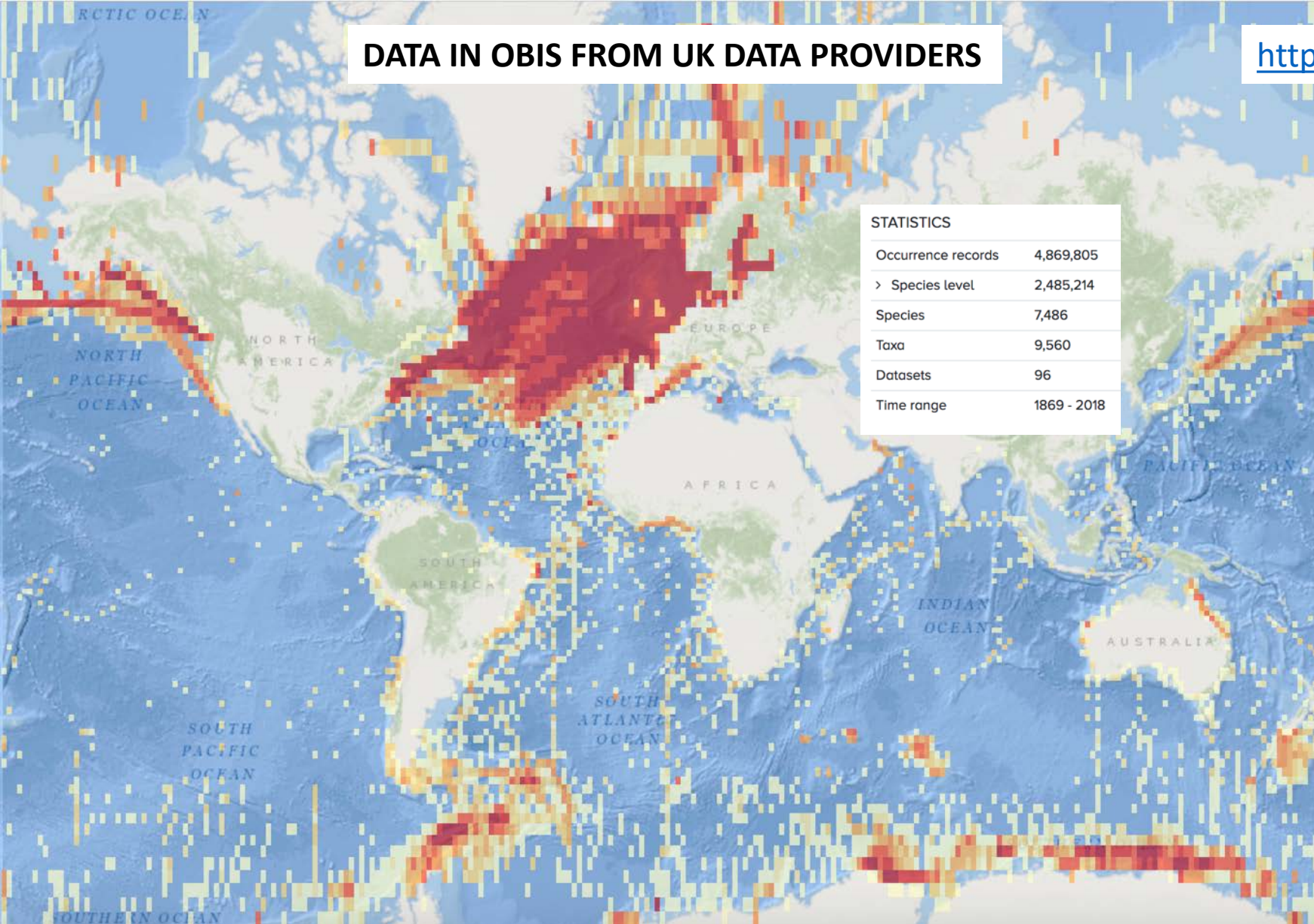
36 participants from 24 countries representing 24 OBIS nodes



SG-OBIS-7 established a Vocabulary Infrastructure project team to establish a basic framework for organizing and curating vocabularies used in OBIS

DATA IN OBIS FROM UK DATA PROVIDERS

<https://mapper.obis.org/?countryid=222>



STATISTICS	
Occurrence records	4,869,805
> Species level	2,485,214
Species	7,486
Taxa	9,560
Datasets	96
Time range	1869 - 2018

Name	Records
Sir Alister Hardy Foundation for Ocean Science	3,475,349
The Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom	455,393
National Biodiversity Network Trust	376,196
Natural Resources Wales	254,001
British Antarctic Survey	159,852
British Oceanographic Data Centre	121,517
European Seabirds at Sea	83,224
Plymouth Marine Laboratory	79,905
The Natural History Museum	31,911
Center for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science, Lowestoft Laboratory	27,664
Marine Ecological Solutions Ltd.	24,238
Institute of Zoology, Zoological Society of London	23,499
Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences, Burnham Laboratory	7,064
Ecological Consultancy Services Ltd.	5,970
University of Plymouth	4,126
University of Glasgow	3,754
Porcupine Marine Natural History Society	3,468
UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre	3,149
The Marine Environment Monitoring and Assessment National database	2,494
Yorkshire Naturalists Union - Marine and Coastal Section	2,424
Biosphere Expeditions	1,054
Hartpury College and University Centre	789
Hartpury College — Department of Animal and Land Science	220
ARTOO Marine Biology Consultants	134
Thomson Ecology	53
Seasearch	34
Dorset Environmental Record Centre	32

Approx 10% of all records in OBIS

DATA IN OBIS FROM BODC

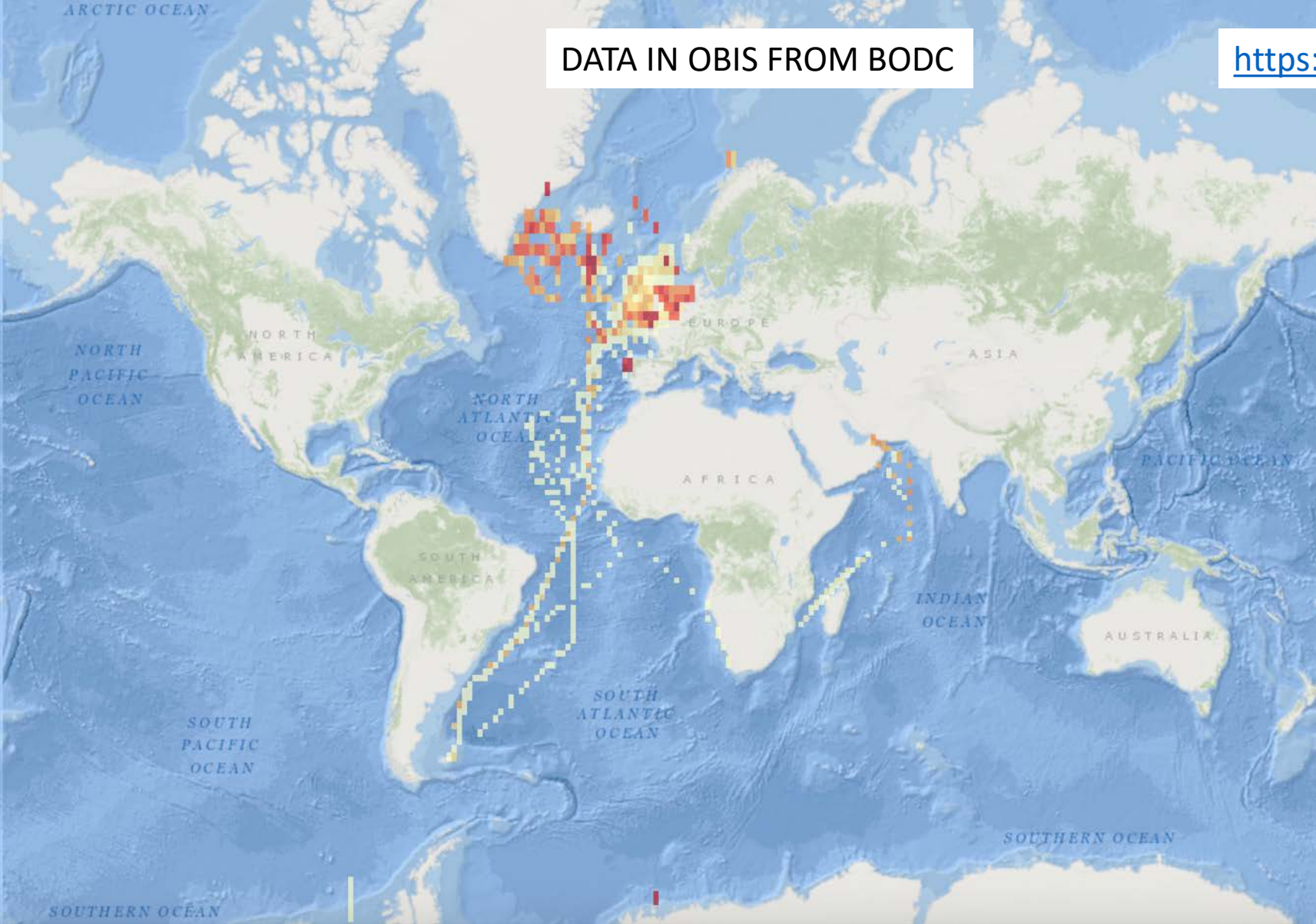
<https://mapper.obis.org/?instituteid=5168#>

STATISTICS


Occurrence records	124,011
> Species level	68,879
Species	997
Taxa	1,374
Datasets	2
Time range	1908 - 2011

TWO PILOT
DATASETS.


FUTURE DATA
FLOW VIA UK OBIS
(MBA)




ABOUT RECOMMENDED CITATION FAQ CONTACT US OCEANKNOWLEDGE TAGGER SUBMIT A NEW BEST PRACTICE ▾



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Intergovernmental
Oceanographic
Commission



ocean best
practices

All Fields ▾ Search OceanBestPractices Advanced ▾ 🔍 ✕

Search

[Search Tips](#)

Search 590 documents tagged with 121029 terms from 6 [terminologies](#)



IOC Ocean Data and Information System

<https://catalogue.odis.org/>



The ODIS "**Catalogue of Sources**" aims to be an online browsable and searchable catalogue of existing ocean related **web-based sources/systems of data and information as well as products and services**. It will also provide information on products and visualize the landscape (entities and their connections) of ocean data and information sources.

The screenshot shows the ODIS Catalogue website. The header includes the ODIS Catalogue logo, navigation links for 'search' and 'help', and a 'Log in' button. The main content area features the title 'IOC Ocean Data and Information System' and a subtitle '"Catalogue of Sources"'. Below this is a descriptive paragraph: 'The ODIS "Catalogue of Sources" aims to be an online browsable and searchable catalogue of existing ocean related web-based sources/systems of data and information as well as products and services. It will also provide information on products and visualize the landscape (entities and their connections) of ocean data and information sources.' A sub-heading reads: 'Click on one of the source types below or go to the [search page](#) to search in all types.' The page displays a grid of 16 teal-colored buttons, each representing a different source type: Bibliographic infobases (catalogues and repositories), Code lists and vocabularies, Data catalogues, Data products (model output, forecasting, climatologies,...), Data systems/portals (allowing downloading of datasets), Education and training materials, Information on platforms (buoys, sensors, floats, gliders, satellites,...), Information on experts and organizations, Information on projects, Information on vessels, Journals (open source and commercial), Manuals, guidelines, standards and best practices, Maps and atlases (geospatial products), Multimedia content, Real-time observing systems, and Software (ocean related). The footer contains the IODE logo, copyright information for 2018, UNESCO/IOC Project office for IODE Oostende, Belgium, social media icons, a Creative Commons license (CC BY-NC-SA), and a 'Disclaimer' link.

IODE's CD tool: OTGA



Belgium
China
Colombia

India
Iran
Kenya

Malaysia
Mozambique
Senegal

9 Regional Training Centres

www.oceanteacher.org



> 2600 people trained in total from 134 Member States



> 4 800 registered users

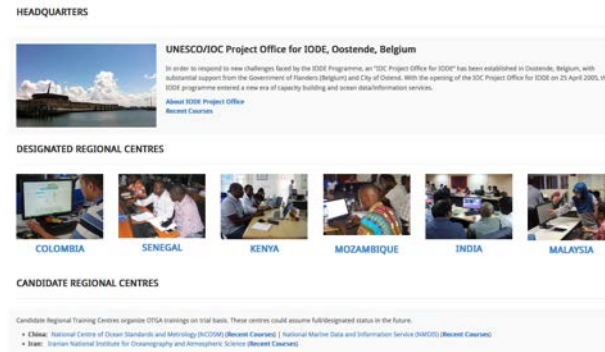
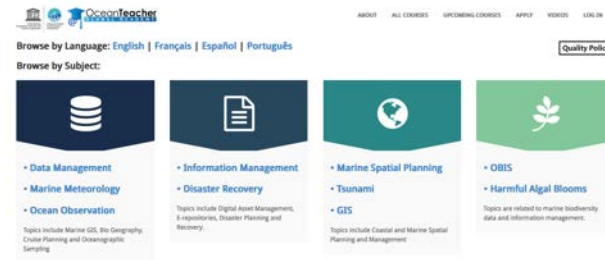


> 200 training courses (English, Spanish, French, Portuguese)



Learning Services Provider

ISO 29990: 2010



Continue collaboration with BODC

- IODE-OBIS vocab team
- IWG IODE-ODIS to develop the implementation plan and cost-benefit analysis for ODIS
- IODE-GOOS Ocean Best Practices System
- IWG-IODE-SODIS, to propose a strategy on ocean data and information stewardship for the UN Ocean Decade
- Capacity Development via OceanTeacher Global Academy

