Ron Report – OBIS Australia, November 2010
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Data holdings and growth in last year
- number of records: 632,000 (was 531,000 last year)
- number of distinct points: not available
- number of distinct species: ~6,300
- number of distinct data providers 43 (was 41 last year)

Usage statistics
- web site different from iobis.org web site
  - number of hits: OBIS AU Search Page: ~100/month; C-squares mapper requests: ~27,000/month (c. 50% for IOBIS Portal)
  - number of pages downloaded: not available
  - number of visits: not available
- publications
  - based on RON data: 1 published (Butler et al., Australia report for PLoS one CoML synthesis volume: http://www.ploscollections.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0011831; sessionid=725DB0260420749A1D2E763046E91A32.ambra02)
  - mentioning RON: none
- presentations in national, regional and international meetings: N. Bax presentation at CoML Science Symposium, London, October 2010

Funding situation/sustainability
- core funding and source (monetary; in kind; FTE): In-kind support by CSIRO Division of Marine and Atmospheric Research, Australia: Approx. 0.3-0.5 FTE (combined) (est. USD $50k/year value), plus in-kind IT infrastructure (est. USD $10k/year value). Possible in-kind contribution (software or hardware) from Atlas of Living Australia (ALA) infrastructure, currently under discussion.
- proposals submitted and those approved; for each of the proposals
  - abstract: n/a
  - funding organisation(s): n/a
  - resources requested/received: n/a
- prospect of financing
  - participation in RON meetings: No
  - participate in proposal development to maintain the OBIS network (can we, as a network, develop proposals that stand a better chance of being funded than as separate RONs?): not known

Problems encountered/issues operating the Node:
- Financial: Resource constrained (personnel and travel/operating costs) at present, due to budget constraints of host agency
- Technical: None other than occasional power/network outages
- political (are people willing to publish data through OBIS? Do the authorities stimulate uptake of OBIS and similar systems by requiring results of publicly-funded research be made public?): No problems encountered. There is increasing pressure across Australia to make publicly funded data publicly available.

Technical
- Back-up and archiving procedures: Satisfactory (via CSIRO)
- Quality control/assessment
Take-up of WoRMS, IRMNG and CoL: WoRMS/IRMNG planned to be used for quality control over next 12 months

Need for Gazetteer: No

Description of the general quality control procedures: Checks on bounding boxes, time periods within expected bounds. Scientific names will be checked commencing next year, also marine/nonmarine checks.

Collaboration with National Oceanographic Data Centre:

- The Australian National Data Centre is a virtual facility, the Australian Ocean Data Centre Joint Facility (AODC-JF). This involves six Federal Government agencies with interests in marine data. CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric Research is one of the 6 partners in AODC-JF and also hosts the Australian Regional OBIS Node so collaboration is well established.

- The AODC-JF and the Australian Ocean Data Network Development Office (AODN DO) are very interested in visualising OBIS species distribution data in the AODN portal using OGC web services. These web services could come from OBIS International or the Australian OBIS node. A project to develop these services at OBIS Australia has been approved and is on hold, awaiting discussions of the possibility of using IOBIS as a source, as well as resource availability.

Other

- Australia has contributed funds towards the running of OBIS International for the next 3 years at this stage.

- Version 2.5 of IRMNG almost complete (normalised higher taxa, additional QA, some new names), will be passed to OBIS in due course

- XML-based web service for IRMNG data under consideration – possibly with ALA funds

- Several additional significant datasets in progress for connection to OBIS

- C-squares mapper maintained as primary mapper for IOBIS until superseded in Sept 2010

- May be able to assist IOBIS with data cleaning of “no match” scientific names using semi-automated routines.