



# OCEAN BIOGEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



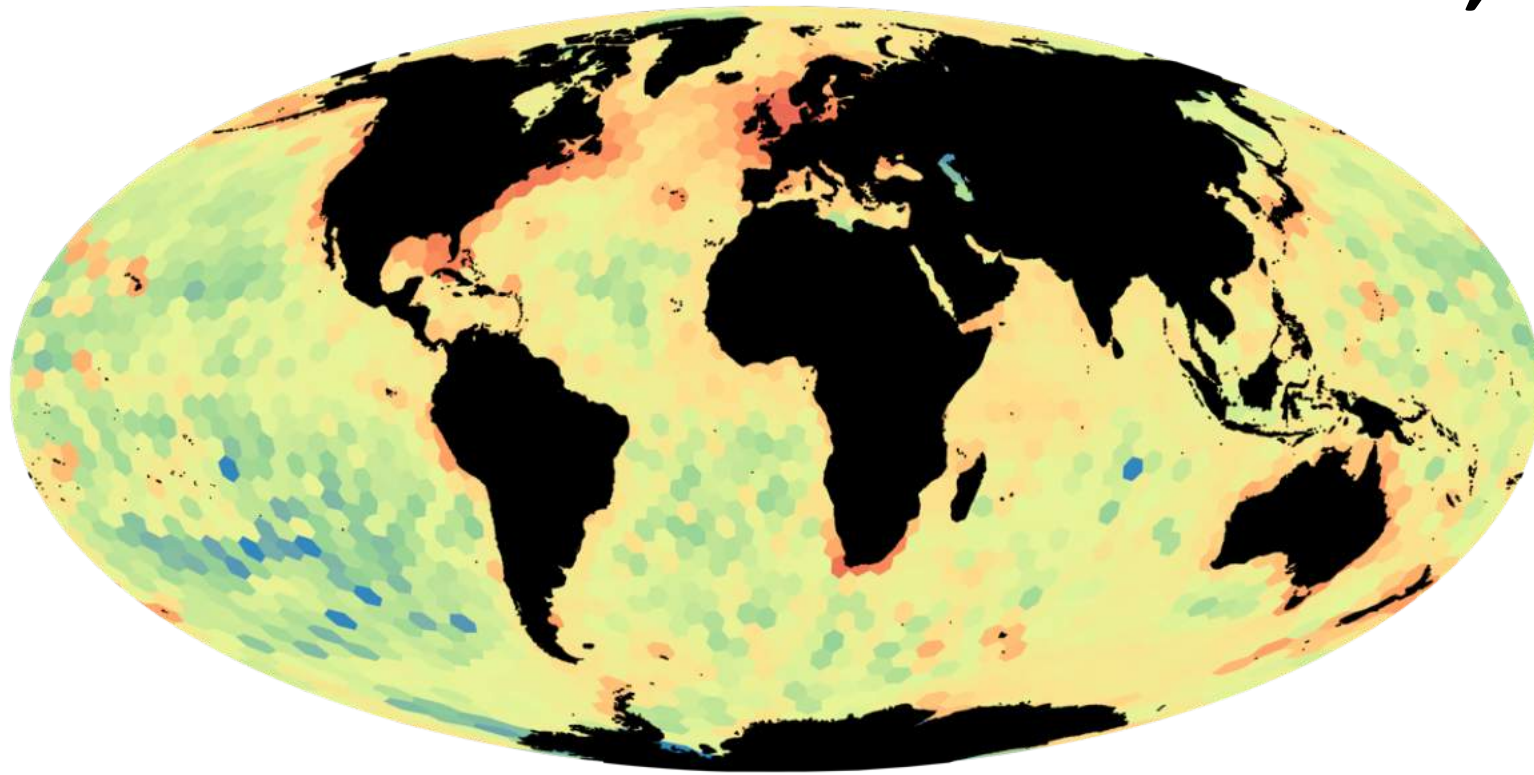
Intergovernmental  
Oceanographic  
Commission

**Ward Appeltans**

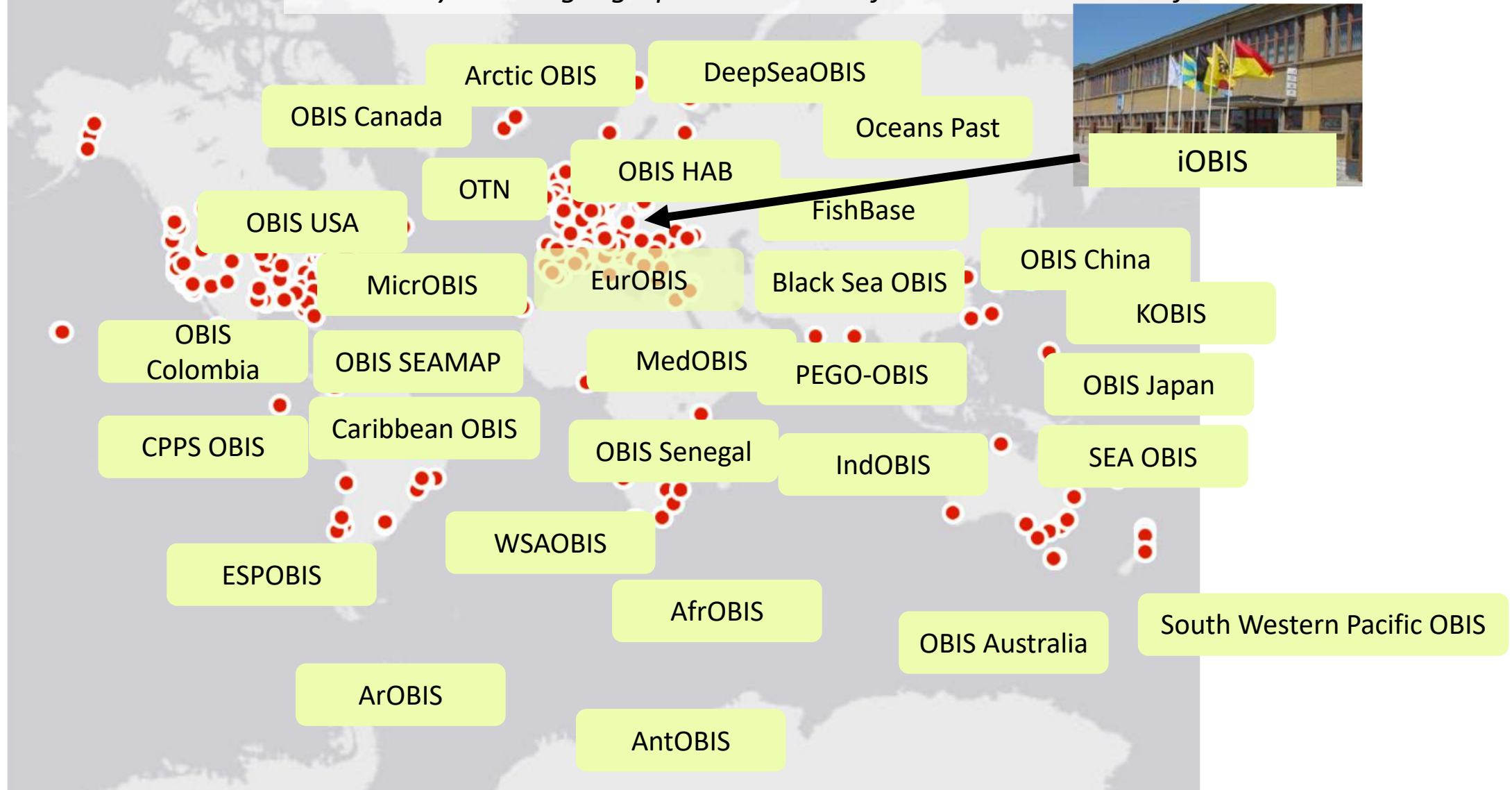
Marine Biodiversity Programme Specialist

[w.appeltans@unesco.org](mailto:w.appeltans@unesco.org)

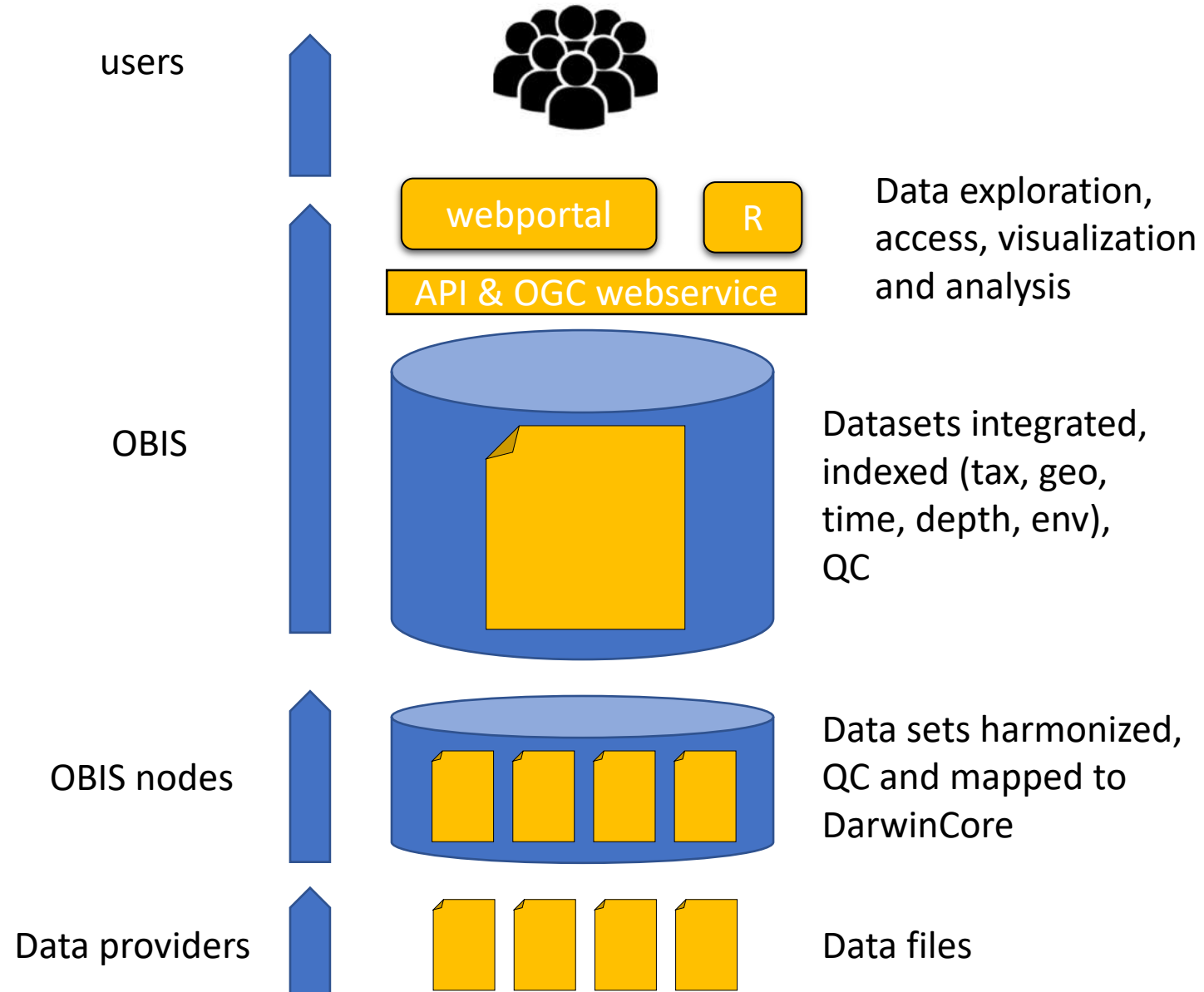
**>50 million records**  
**+8600 records daily in 2017**  
**120,000 marine species**  
**>2500 datasets**  
**>600 institutions**  
**30 OBIS nodes**



*"To build and maintain a global alliance that **collaborates with scientific communities** to facilitate free and **open access** to, and application of, biodiversity and biogeographic data and information on marine life."*



# OBIS architecture

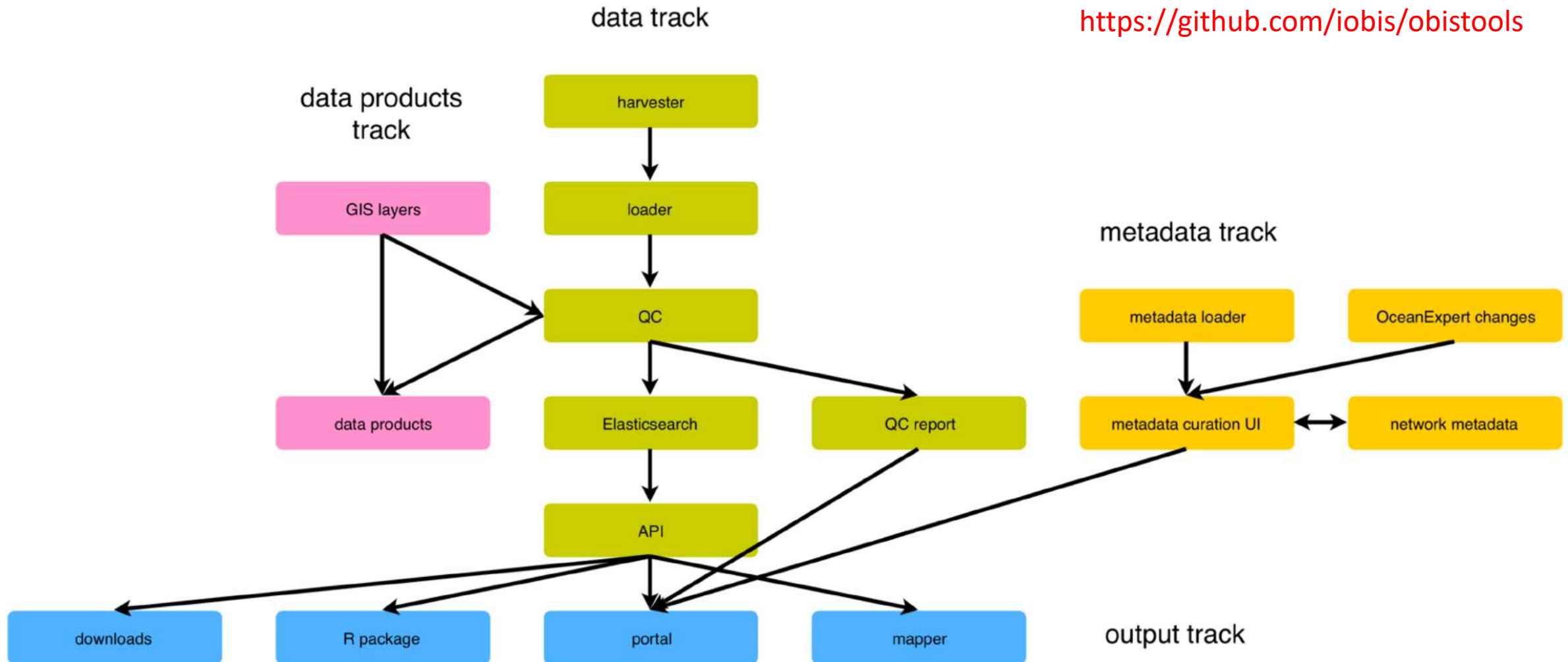


# Towards OBIS2.0

<https://github.com/iobis/api-docs>

<https://github.com/iobis/robis>

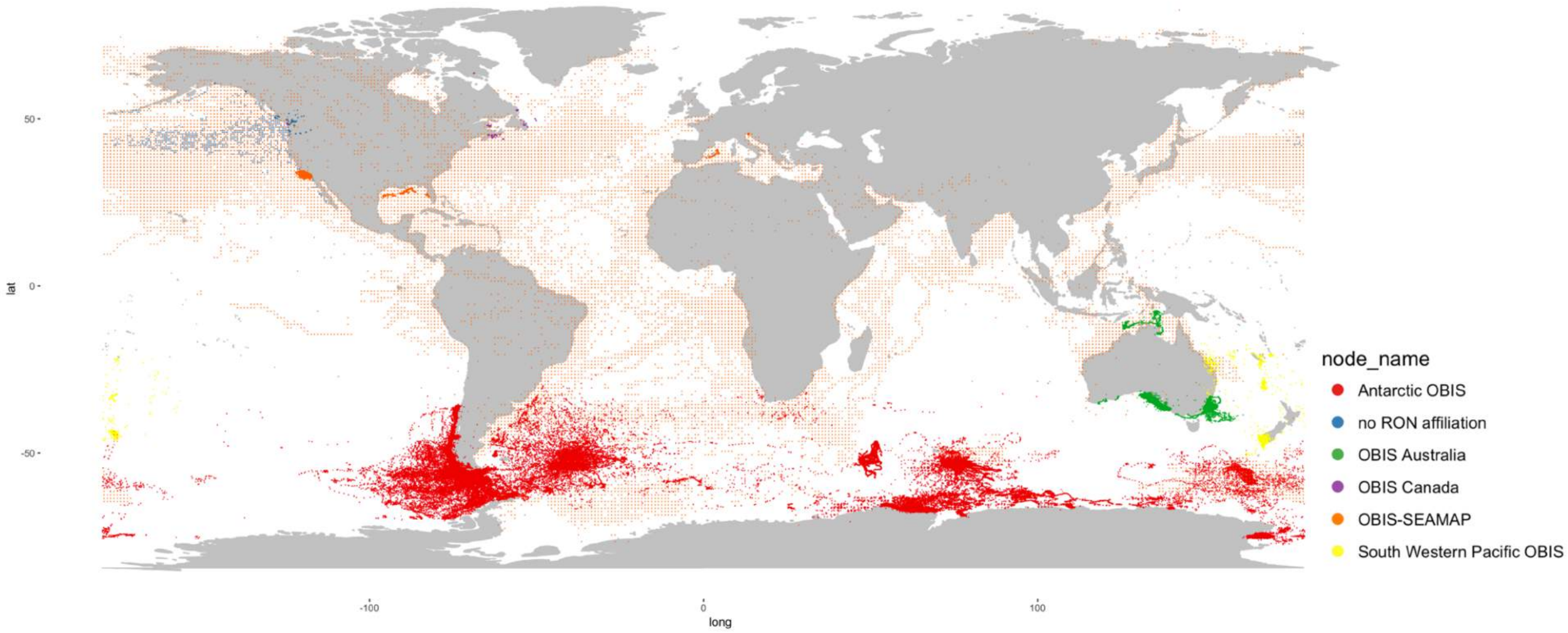
<https://github.com/iobis/obistools>



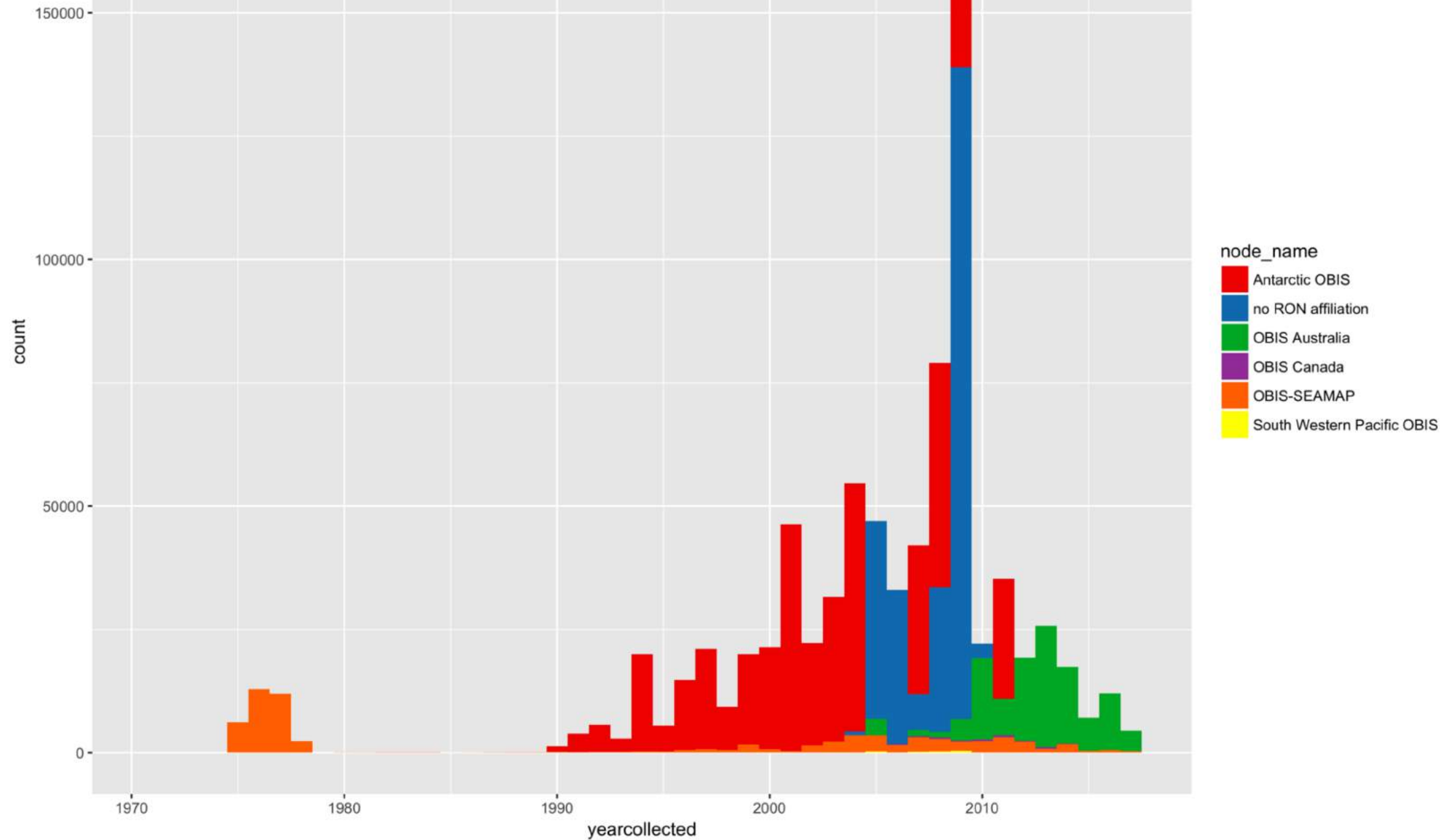


# Tracking data in OBIS

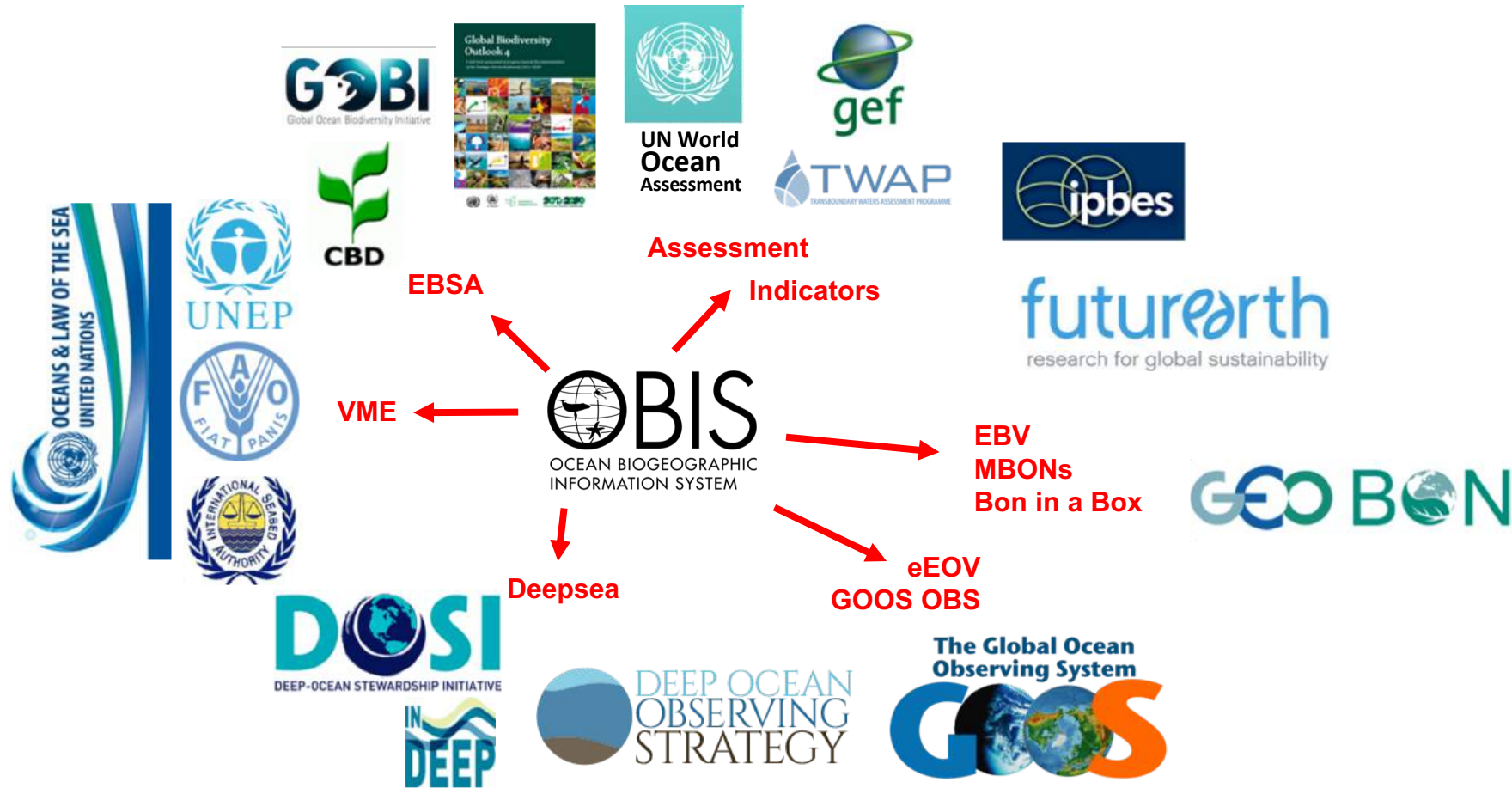
832,700 records  
282 datasets



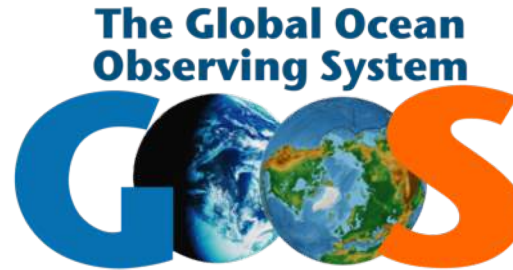
# Tracking data in OBIS



# Supporting International Processes







15 December 2016: New agreement to coordinate a global marine biodiversity observing system



This collaboration between GOOS BioEco, OBIS and GEOBON MBON will build a unified and globally consistent observing system that will: strengthen the three initiatives; make use of the best available resources; share expertise; and ensure compatibility between outputs and advice from the three initiatives.

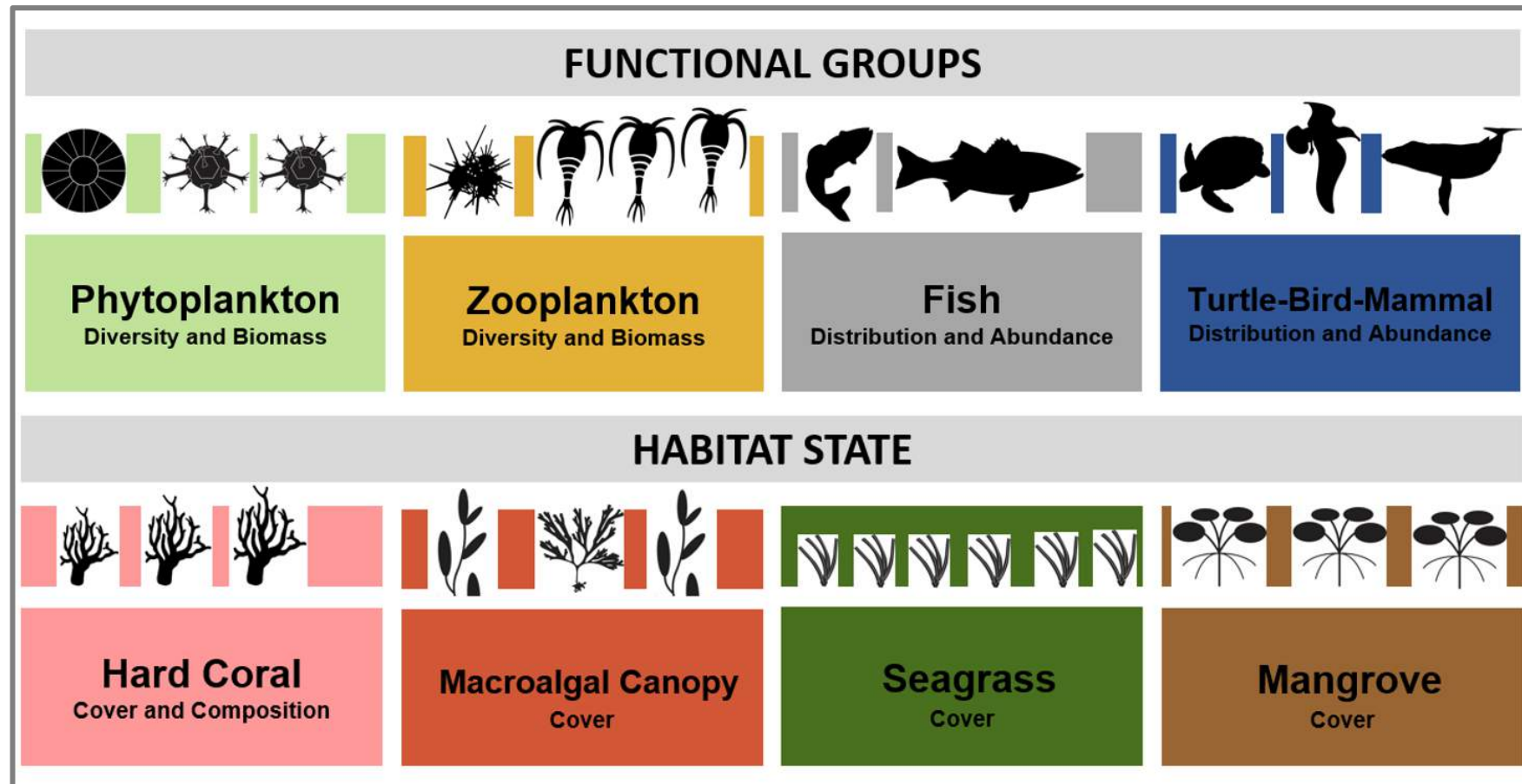
Agree on the key and central role of OBIS in fostering wider data sharing, data curation and aggregation in order to streamline the feeding of integrated and quality controlled datasets into models and forecasts.



**GOOS**  
Biology and Ecosystems Panel

# Essential Ocean Variables

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/gcb.14108>



# Second OBIS Executive Committee Meeting

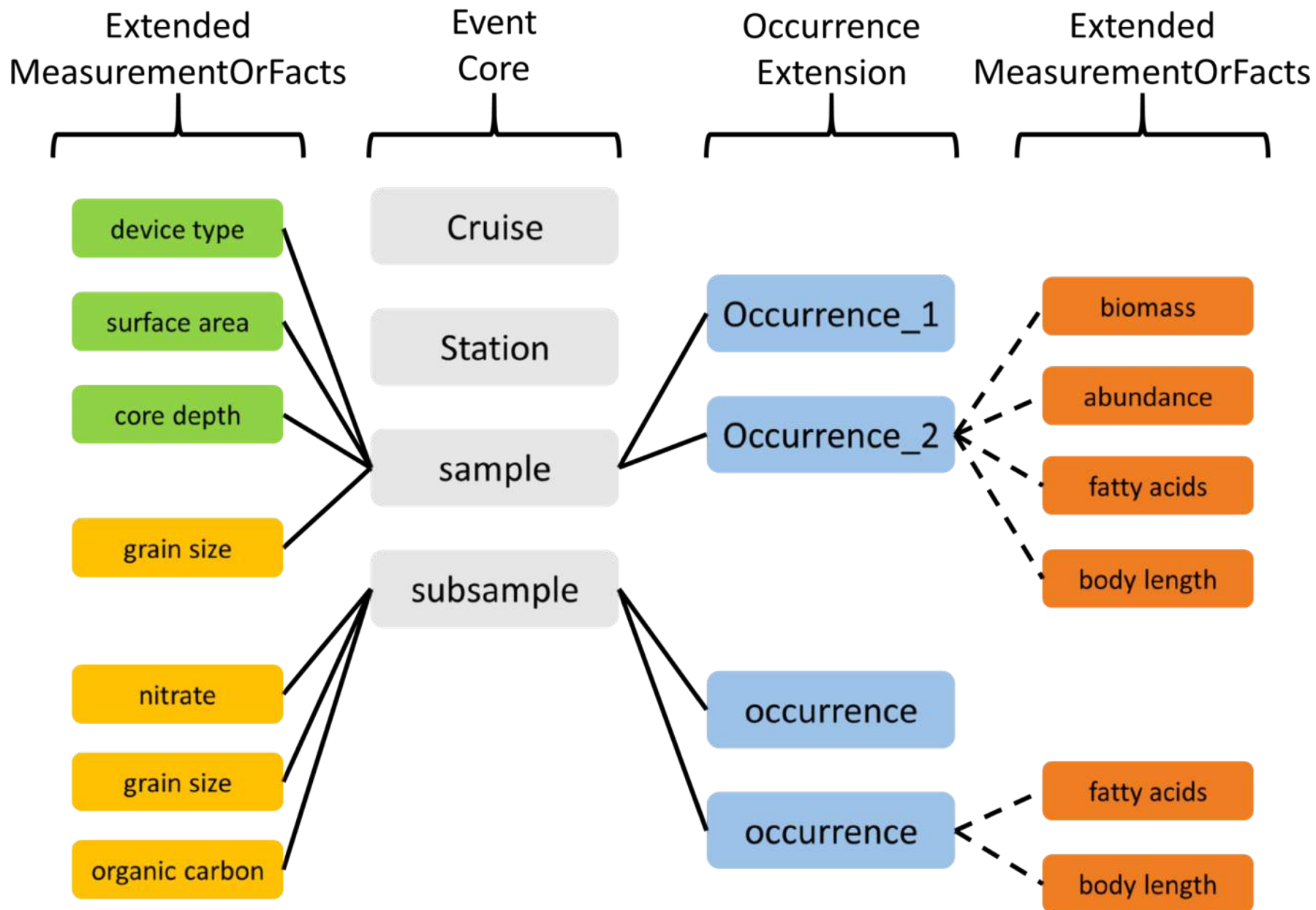


“Recommended that OBIS should be focussing on supporting the GOOS EOVs”



# OBIS-ENV-DATA

<http://iobis.org/manual/dataformat/>





Biology and Ecosystems Panel

# Phenomena

1. **Production** (including oceanic, shallow water and coastal primary production and the quality and extent of marine habitats)
2. **Change:** Community Shifts (including regime shifts and persistent changes in species composition, trophic structure, species range and phenology).
3. **Impact** (of changes): population loss, Mass Mortalities and Bleaching (including those due to disease, heat stress, acidification, deoxygenation, pollution, etc.),
4. **Resilience and Recovery** (recruitment, restoration)









Basically, the line of thought for the BioEco phenomena would be: what do we have (the baseline), what and how it is changing, what will be the consequences of these changes, and can the ecosystem recover?





# Derived products

- Indicators on
  - diversity, abundance, biomass by taxon and location (population status)
  - body size/size spectra, recruitment and size class distribution
  - foodweb (proportion per trophic level)
  - primary and secondary productivity rates
  - carbon sequestration rates
  - incidence rates (bloom, mass mortalities...)
- Maps of habitat cover, health condition, fragmentation
- Species home range, movement patterns, migration pathways
- Biodiversity hotspots, vulnerability spots

DMP label			
	Discoverable	1	D
	Accessible	2	A
	Standard encoding using	3	Usability
	Well documented metadata	4	
	Traceable	5	
	Quality documented	6	
	Preserved	7	Preservation
	Periodically verified	8	
	Reviewed and refreshed	9	Curation
	Tagged with permanent ID	10	

# GEOSS Data Management Principles

Adoption of the GEOSS Data Management Principles:

10 GEO Data Labels

Development of EBV Metadata Standards



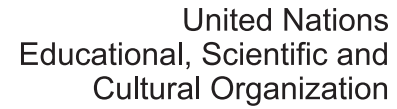
## EBV Data Product Assessment Process

Assessment of EBV Data Products fit-for-purpose, according to their usability for appropriate management and policy applications.

- level of maturity/readiness of EBV products according to spatial extent, coverage and resolution; temporal extent, coverage and periodicity;
- and reporting measurements of uncertainty and the likelihood of detecting change.



These flags should eventually facilitate data discoverability and usability.



UN focal point for establishment of regional training and research centers and a TMT clearing-house mechanism

## UNCLOS Article 276

# OTGA Regional Training Centres



- Online and on-site training
- Multiple languages
- Remote participation
- N-S, S-S and S-N training





In 2017: 151 people involved in 7 OBIS training courses



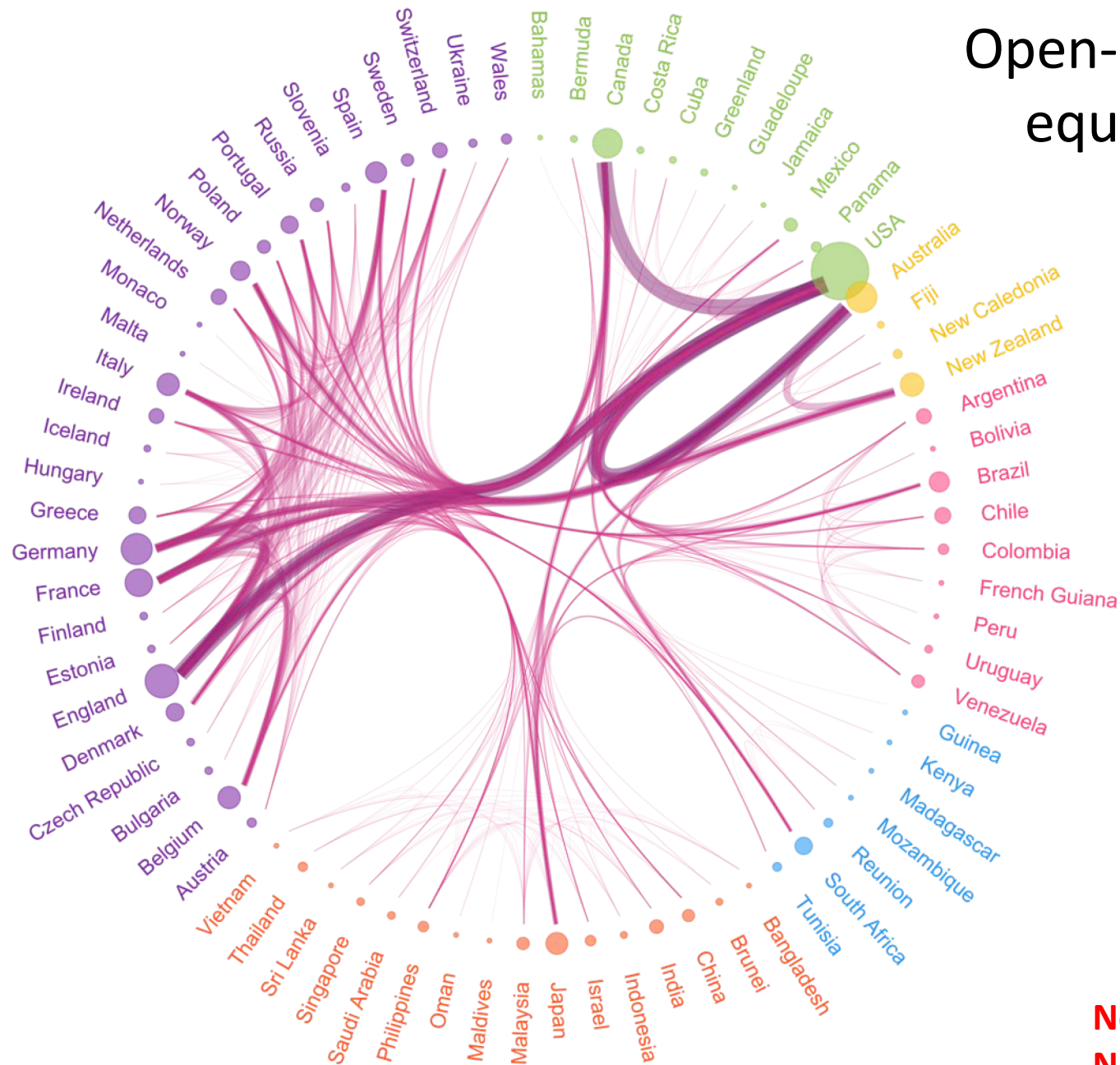


# New OBIS mapper (in development)

The screenshot displays the iobis.org/mapper2/ web application. The browser's address bar shows the URL. Below the address bar, there are navigation links for 'Apps', 'S obis', and 'Bookmarks'. The main area is a world map with a sidebar on the left containing zoom controls (+, -, and a home icon). On the right side, there is a 'Create layer' panel. This panel includes a text input field for 'Scientific name' with a placeholder 'Enter scientific name'. Below this, there are columns for 'Scientific name' and 'Taxon ID', with the text 'No taxa selected.' underneath. Further down, there are sections for 'Datasets', 'Area', 'Geometry', 'Time range', 'Depth range', and 'Styling'. At the bottom of the right panel, there is a 'Color scale' section with several color gradient bars and radio buttons for selection.



Open-access to research data supports  
equitable access and benefit sharing  
and enhances international  
collaboration



**2700 scientists from 73 countries  
collaborated on >1000 papers citing OBIS  
(based on Web of Science, in  
collaboration with VLIZ)**

**Note: strong differences in regional cooperation**  
**Note: grey literature is not included in this study**

# What can OBIS do for you?



# Acknowledgments

Over 1000 scientists  
30 OBIS Nodes



For taxonomic QC and providing their list of phytoplankton species, which helped in filtering OBIS for this presentation



All sponsors during the  
Census of Marine Life

See <http://iobis.org/about/>



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EXPLORATEURS