

Census of Marine Life Sabbatical Funding Opportunity
Joint Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS)-Ocean.US Project

Launched by awards from the US National Oceanographic Partnership Program in 2000, the Ocean Biogeographical Information System (OBIS, www.iobis.org) is both the data assimilation framework for the Census of Marine Life research program which will culminate in 2010, and potentially the long-term framework for assimilation of spatially referenced data about marine life. The Data Management and Communications (DMAC) component of the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) will provide a coherent framework for integrating existing and emerging coastal and ocean observing systems into a seamless, interoperable, data-sharing network through the adoption of common standards and protocols.

One goal of the joint OBIS-Ocean.US project is to understand better the human resource needs and organizational arrangements in Ocean.US to have a system that provides outstanding services on data about living marine resources. A second goal is to lead by example, i.e., to develop, implement, and document software required for the integration of the OBIS global systematic, ecological, and environmental data with IOOS data. This position is envisioned as a short-term (e.g., one semester) sabbatical or part-time fellowship opportunity. Depending on candidate qualifications, initial tasks may include:

- Metadata & Data Discovery: develop interoperability solutions between OBIS and DMAC metadata standards and catalog architectures; develop bi-directional linkages between the catalog/discovery and data transport/access services.
- Transport & Access: develop interoperability solutions among OBIS, the Open Source Project for a Network Data Access Protocol (OPeNDAP), and the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC). OPeNDAP and OGC are current solutions for syntactic description and transport of binary ocean data.
- Archive: work with OBIS community to determine requirements for long-term archive, and devise practices and methods to facilitate submission of OBIS data to IOOS archive services.
- IT Security: devise strategies, practices, and methods to back up OBIS data, protecting them from loss by accident or malicious interference, system failure, support termination, and system changes. Establish procedures to ensure security of necessary server-based software exposed to the public.
- Coordination: work closely with the DMAC expert teams addressing each of the above technical areas.
- US OBIS stakeholders: develop better understanding of stakeholder needs for marine biodiversity data and establish mechanisms for communicating information between OBIS and IOOS communities.

- Demonstrations: identify and promote opportunities to demonstrate applications of OBIS data to public and private stakeholders.

The position will be housed at the offices of Ocean.US in Arlington, VA and will report to jointly to the Executive Director of Ocean.US and the Manager of the U.S. Regional Node of the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS) at the U.S. Geological Survey, National Biological Information Infrastructure.

The Ideal Candidate Will Have:

- Familiarity with marine biological data sets and ocean science data management issues (required);
- Knowledge of IT systems, software development and engineering, web-services-based architectures, and networking and communications;
- Familiarity with the roles of U.S. government ocean agencies (helpful but not required), and with users of marine biological data in maritime industries and State government (helpful but not required).

Application and Selection Process:

To apply for this position and receive immediate consideration, submit a CV (not to exceed 3 pages) and letter of interest (not to exceed 3 pages) addressing the listed qualifications by MAY 25, 2006 to:

Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education (CORE)
Attn: Michael Feldman
U.S. Census of Marine Life Program
FBO: Alfred P. Sloan Foundation
1201 New York Avenue, NW
Suite 420
Washington, DC 20005

Application information and final candidates will be evaluated by a review panel representing the CORE, Ocean.US, U.S. Regional OBIS Node, OBIS International Portal, and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. The total amount of funding available (including for fringe benefits, etc.) is \$45,000. It is likely that the actual award would be directly to the selected applicant's present employer, which must be a non-profit institution located in the USA. Applicants must be USA citizens or permanent residents.