Global Map of Shannon's Index of Biodiversity (OBIS)

The dataset shows a global map of Shannon's index of biodiversity, calculated based on data held in the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS). OBIS (www.iobis.org) is a global network that integrates marine species distribution data from various sources. OBIS was the data integration component of the Census of Marine Life project (www.coml.org), and is the marine sister-network of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF; www.gbif.org), and the biodiversity data management component of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC; http://ioc.unesco.org/).


Temporal range: Up to 26 February 2014

Geographical range: Global

Supplementary information: Grid cells with less than 50 records were coded as 'no data'.

Purpose of creation: A diversity index is a mathematical measure of species diversity, which provides more information than simply species richness (i.e. the number of species present). For instance, a diversity index provides information about rarity and commonness of species in a given community.

Creation methodology: Diversity is a function of two factors: number of species ('species richness') and number (i.e. abundance) of specimens belonging to these species ('evenness'). Several indices measuring diversity have been proposed, giving more or less weight to either of these two factors.

Shannon's index takes into account both abundance and evenness of species present in a given community. Here, the index was calculated for 50 records. A high value of the index is representative of a diverse and equally distributed community, and lower values represent less diverse community. A value of 0 represents a community with just one species.
Limitations: The index is based on records collated from various sources and is thus prone to error in species identification, although only data from authoritative scientists and science organizations approved by OBIS are served. Major gaps in data and knowledge about the oceans are reflected in OBIS' data coverage (see www.iobis.org/data/policy/disclaimer for further details). The content of OBIS is suitable for the study of broad patterns of the distribution of biodiversity; it is not sufficient to allow a detailed analysis on a regional scale, or to study the distribution patterns of individual taxa.

Maintenance frequency: Data are updated in intervals that are uneven in duration.

Main access/use constraint: See 'Other access/use constraint(s)'.

Other access/use constraints: Data use conditions can be accessed at www.iobis.org/data/policy/disclaimer. Data and maps must be cited as per www.iobis.org/about/citation.

Contact organisation: OBIS Secretariat, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (UNESCO)

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Data format(s): Web map service

Distribution format(s): Web map service  Dataset size (uncompressed): Not applicable

Webpage and/or download: http://data.unep-wcmc.org/datasets/15
Other webpage: www.iobis.org/node/214
Web map service: http://iobis.org/geoserver/wms

Factsheet:
Resolution, scale: 1 dd  Reference system: WGS 1984
West bounding: -180.0  East bounding: 180.0
South bounding: -90.0  North bounding: 90.0
Metadata standard: UNEP-WCMC Specific  Date of metadata: 03/11/2015