

RID: The European Information Catalogue of Marine Research Infrastructures

Introduction

High quality information about marine research infrastructures is essential for ocean science and technology development. Identification of capabilities, gaps and opportunities, decision-making on development and funding priorities, and education and training are examples of activities needing that type of information. However, having a relevant catalogue is a challenging and endless task.

Methods

EurOcean develops the Research Infrastructures Database (RID) since 2006. It is a repository of technical, scientific and operational information about European marine research infrastructures. The information is provided by infrastructure owners and operators. It is validated and harmonized with relevant standards, and made available for free through a web application.

Results

The RID comprises over 1.000 infrastructures from 35 countries. It supports policy makers, think tanks and funding programmes. Candidate data continues to increase, features could be developed and usage could increase. Expanding data providers, end users and their interaction seems the logical way forward.

Conclusion

For over 15 years, EurOcean has gathered, maintained, and provided free access to information about marine research infrastructures to its stakeholders through the RID. The RID has facilitated various marine research, policy support, education and training activities in Europe and worldwide. To continue and improve this initiative, EurOcean is considering the creation of a European Community of Interest on Marine Research Infrastructures Information.