

## The World Register of Marine Species is

### Hosted by

Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ), Belgium on behalf of the Society for the Management of Electronic Biodiversity Data.

### Funded by

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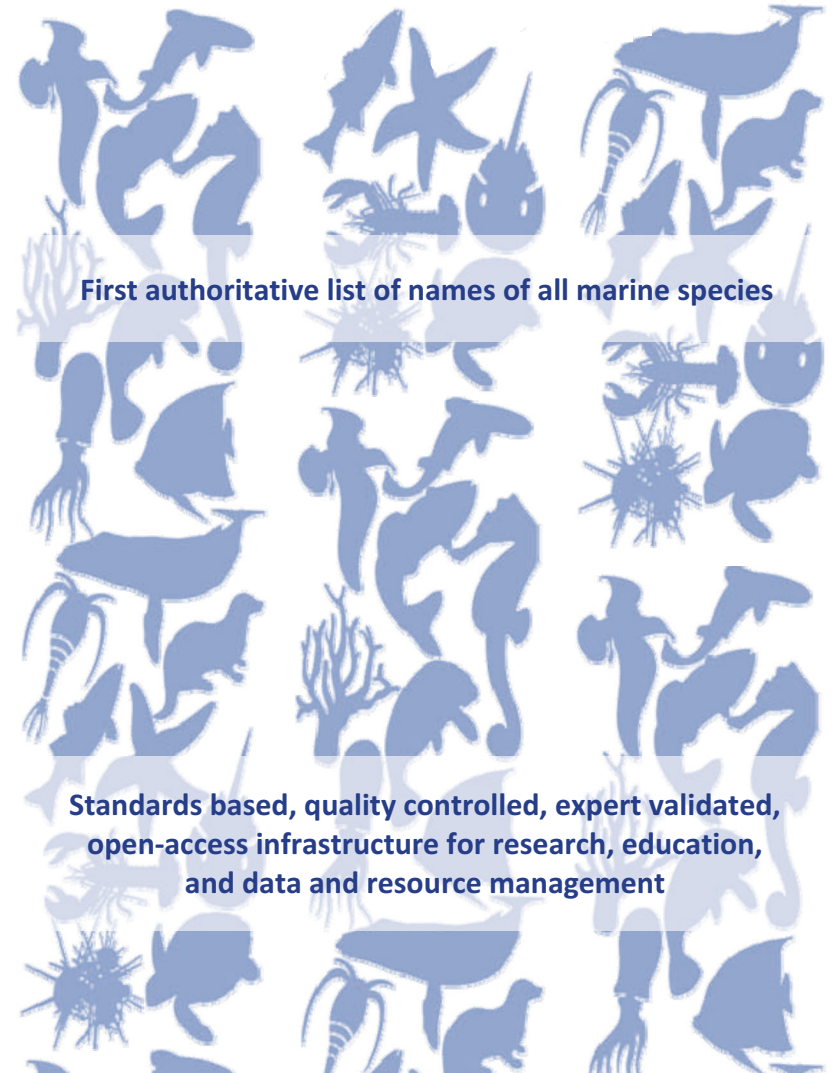
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 **WoRMS**  
World Register of Marine Species  
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# World Register of Marine Species



First authoritative list of names of all marine species

Standards based, quality controlled, expert validated,  
open-access infrastructure for research, education,  
and data and resource management

[www.marinespecies.org](http://www.marinespecies.org)

## Towards a World Register of Marine Species



The aim of a World Register of Marine Species (WoRMS) is to **provide an authoritative and comprehensive list of names of marine organisms**, including information on synonymy. While highest priority goes to valid names, other names in use are included so that this register can serve as a guide to interpret taxonomic literature.



The **content of WoRMS is controlled by taxonomic experts**, not by database managers. WoRMS has an editorial management system where each taxonomic group is represented by an expert who has the authority over the content, and is responsible to control the quality of the information. Each of these main taxonomic editors can invite several specialists of smaller groups within their area of responsibility.



**MarineSpecies.org is the web interface of WoRMS.** WoRMS holds a number of regional and global authoritative marine species lists of which a few are maintained externally. The majority of these lists has their own website hosted under MarineSpecies.org.



**WoRMS contains valid species names, synonym and vernacular names, and extra information such as pictures, literature and biogeographic data.** Besides species names, WoRMS also contains the higher classification. The classification used is a 'compromise' between established systems and recent changes. Its aim is to aid data management, rather than suggest any taxonomic or phylogenetic opinion on species relationships.



**Keeping WoRMS up-to-date is a continuous process.** New information is entered daily by the taxonomic editors and by our members of the data management team. Often data also come in from contributions of large datasets, such as global or regional species lists. No database of this size is without errors and omissions. We don't promise to make no errors, but we do promise to follow up and give feedback on any communications pointing out errors. Feedback is very welcome!

## The World Register of Marine Species integrates

### Global species lists

- ✦ World list of Porifera
- ✦ World list of Proseriata and Kalyptorhynchia - Rhabditophora
- ✦ World list of Mysids – Nemys
- ✦ World list of Nematodes – NeMys
- ✦ World list of Cumacea
- ✦ World list of Brachiopoda
- ✦ World list of Phoronida
- ✦ World list of Pycnogonida
- ✦ World list of Ophiuroidea
- ✦ World list of Isopoda
- ✦ World list of Copepoda
- ✦ World list of Euphausiacea
- ✦ World list of Nemertina
- ✦ World list of Tanaidacea
- ✦ World list of Marine Pisces (Fishbase)
- ✦ World list of Polychaeta
- ✦ World list of Rotifera
- ✦ Unesco Register of Marine Organisms

**Soon to come:** Asteroidea, Crinoidea, Holothuroidea, Mollusca, Amphipoda, Trematoda, Echiura, Chaetognatha

### Regional species lists

- ✦ European Register of Marine Species (ERMS)
- ✦ Register of Antarctic Marine Species (RAMS)
- ✦ North Atlantic Register for Marine Species (NARMS)
- ✦ Taxonomic Information System for the Belgian Coastal Area (TISBE)
- ✦ Marine Species Database for Eastern Africa (MASDEA)
- ✦ North Sea Benthos Project (NSBP)

### Board of Editors

The list of taxonomic experts can be found online.

Please contact us at [info@marinespecies.org](mailto:info@marinespecies.org) if you have any questions or want to contribute to this initiative.



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