



Università
degli Studi
di Palermo



**Memorandum of Agreement
regarding
monitoring marine biodiversity**

Preamble

We, the Department of Earth and Marine Sciences (DiSTeM) of the University of Palermo, based at Palermo, Italy, recognise the importance of the availability of marine biodiversity data for research and to inform government policy on trends in the distribution and abundance of species of ecological, economic and social importance, and changes in ecosystem processes and services.


Such data underpin commitments to UN SDG 14 and the Convention on Biological Diversity goals and targets, as well as regional and national needs to understand what is happening to the natural world. This knowledge informs society on how to adapt to improve environmental sustainability.

Thus, we wish to contribute towards the vision of the Marine Biodiversity Observation Network, part of the Group on Earth Observation Biodiversity Observation Network to improve the availability of ecologically representative marine biodiversity data in geographic space and over time.

Contact person for Dept. DiSTeM is Prof. Sabrina Lo Brutto sabrina.lobrutto@unipa.it

We agree to the following:

1. Our organisation will collect data on marine biodiversity on at least an annual basis;
2. Our sampling or observation methods will be standardised to aid comparability of data over the years, and may be adjusted to aid comparability with datasets internationally;
3. Our data will be published into the Ocean Biodiversity Information System (OBIS) as one or more datasets each year.

Signed on behalf of the organisation	Signed on behalf of EuroMarine
Prof. Attilio Sulli	Name Patrizio Mariani 
Director of Dept. DiSTeM	President