

Marine Biological Data Management at Japan Oceanographic Data Center (JODC)

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Japan Oceanographic Data Center (JODC) was established in 1965 in accordance with the resolution adopted by Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO in 1961. Since its establishment, JODC has been carrying out its services as the National Oceanographic Data Center of Japan under the system of International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE) promoted by IOC. The purpose of the IODE is to enhance marine research, exploration, and development by facilitating the exchange of oceanographic data and information between Member States.

In addition to the above, JODC has been filling the role of the synthetic marine data bank of Japan. JODC is collecting the important marine data obtained by various domestic institutions and providing secondary users with them. These works of JODC contribute to the various kinds of oceanographic researches and the activities of marine environment protection.

As an activity of the National Oceanographic Data Center, JODC has been tackling the development of the marine biological data management system since 1984. Because the expert knowledge is needed for marine biological data management, we consult with the advisory committee. This advisory committee consists of domestic researchers on marine biology from national research institutes, universities and private companies.

In order to manage marine plankton data obtained by domestic institutions, JODC published the first edition of JODC Taxonomic Code in 1988. More than 15 thousands taxonomic codes have been established. The taxonomic code is an integer of 14 digits that are allocated to phylum (division), class, order, family, genus, species, subspecies in each 2 digits, and followed the scientific name. At the present time, based on the newest results of biological research, we are making an overall revision of the taxonomic code with the advisory committee. The new edition of the JODC Taxonomic Code of marine plankton will be presented in a short time. Now, we are holding about 25 thousands profiles of marine plankton data, in which organisms are classified by the JODC Taxonomic Code.

Furthermore, we are preparing to expand the data management system for the benthos data. JODC and the advisory committee are now editing the new taxonomic code of benthos.