

Seeing Deeply Into the Sea's Biodiversity

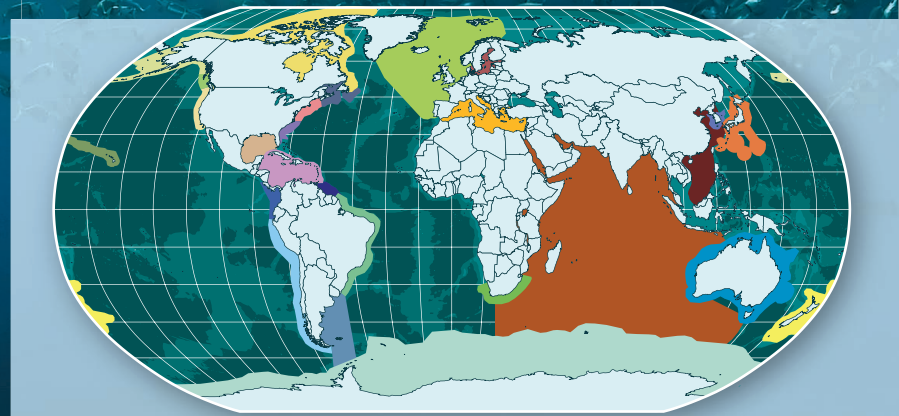
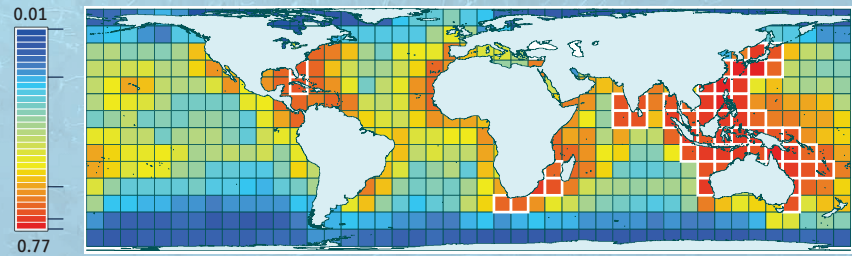
Results from the decade-long Census of Marine Life are pouring in, providing insights into what lives where in the world's oceans

For the past 10 years, scientists from 80 nations have been creating the Census of Marine Life (*Science*, 2 June 2000, p. 1575; 31 October 2003, p. 773). Derek Tittensor of Dalhousie University in Halifax, Canada, and colleagues have now analyzed more than 6.5 million entries from the census databases, as well as other data for 11,500 marine species to create a map (top right) of diversity hot spots. Corals and coastal fishes are most diverse in Southeast Asia, as indicated by the outlined squares in the map, the team reported online 28 July in *Nature*.

Another analysis, drawn from field surveys and literature reviews by 360 scientists, appears in a series in the 2 August *PLoS ONE*. It looks at species diversity in 25 regions of the world and comes up with a global average of what types of species populate the oceans (see pie chart). The proportions of species that inhabit particular waters change according to location.

—ELIZABETH PENNISI

BIODIVERSITY HOT SPOTS



REGIONS STUDIED WITH SPECIES TOTAL

Alaska 5925	S.A. Tropical West Atlantic 2743	Arctic Canada 3038	Japan 32,777
Western Canada 2636	Tropical East Pacific 6696	Atlantic Europe 12,270	South Korea 9900
California 10,160	Hawaii 8244	Eastern Canada 3160	China 22,365
Gulf of Mexico 15,374	Brazil Shelves 9101	U.S. Northeast 5045	Indian Ocean 23,964
Caribbean 12,046	Humboldt Current 10,186	U.S. Southeast 4229	South Africa 12,715
Antarctica 8200	Patagonia Shelf 3776	Baltic 5865	Australia 32,889
		Mediterranean 16,848	New Zealand 12,780

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