

## Project Summary

### Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

**Project OBIS-USA (Ocean Biogeographic Information System US)**

**Type of Project:** Technical Assistance

**Project Discipline:** Natural

**Funding Agency:** USGS

**Other Partners/Cooperators:** University of Colorado at Boulder

**Effective Dates:** 8/1/2102 - 7/31/2013

**Funding Amount:** \$299,987 (The total estimated funding for this project is \$1,550,000)

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

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**Project Abstract:** The University of Colorado Museum Of Natural History (CUMNH) will provide technical assistance to increase science delivery and technology transfer of marine biological and natural resources data and information. The purpose is to further of the U.S. Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS-USA), a collaborative effort among federal, state, and local agencies, non-governmental organizations, universities, and private sector groups to provide an integrated gateway to marine biological data. OBIS-USA is a national marine biogeographic data asset that contains biological occurrence data that are taxonomically, spatially and temporally resolved. The intended audience includes natural resource managers, researchers, decision makers, educators, and the general public.

OBIS-USA provides the nation with a mechanism for accessing the vast amount of existing disparate marine biological and natural resources data, and analytical tools that support and enhance science-based decision-making. The initiative supports ecosystem-based planning, monitoring, ocean observing and Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning goals. Using enterprise portal technology, OBIS-USA provides an integrating framework for making these data and analytic tools available. The USGS is looking for collaborative opportunities with a university to increase the availability and usefulness of marine biogeographic data and their application. Technical assistance relates to the following research area: Bioinformatics

The purpose is to enhance data sharing and accessibility related to marine biogeographic data. This activity will employ a variety of approaches to interact with educators, researchers, policy/decision-makers to document critical information needs and identify, inventory and improve access to key data/information products. Emphasis will be on delivering quality science-based content to serve the needs of a variety of user communities. Specifically, the university will provide:

1. Maintenance and transition of the existing web presence to the USGS enterprise portal. This task includes maintaining the availability of data, access tools and services that have been implemented in previous activities, while collaborating the bureau scientists and associated contractor staff to transition operational elements to the USGS facility in Lakewood Colorado. This task involves database and web technical operations, the continued use of standards (Darwin Core and GCMD, FGDC and consideration of the emerging ISO metadata standard) and maintenance of data quality and data transparency capabilities. Also needed is monitoring and management of performance characteristics of the web presence at usgs.gov/obis-usa.
2. Development includes technical activities to add new data/metadata to OBIS-USA, the design and programming of data accessibility tools such as web screens and services, and innovations using Darwin Core terminology to expand the range of applications served OBIS-USA. Current collaborations with NOAA, DOD, NSF, USGS and other DOI bureaus (such as BOEM) will continue and new collaborations with these and other partners will be initiated.
3. Community-building involves cultivating more participants (those who contribute data to OBIS-USA) and more users (those who get data out of OBIS-USA for applications). This also includes the identification and strategic planning of new, enhanced capabilities for OBIS-USA and establishing/maintaining a forum for coordinating requirements for new offerings to the community of biological data originators and users. Outreach activities are expected to occur through a variety channels and venues associated with US marine biology communities.
4. Integration of OBIS-USA in this opportunity refers specifically to making sure OBIS-USA's technical and strategic activities for marine biological data integrate with other USGS activities in data, technology and US information strategy

**Keywords:** Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS-USA), technical assistance, science delivery and technology transfer, University of Colorado Museum of Natural History, USGS-NBII

