MARINE BIOLOGICAL DATA, AS MANY OTHER TYPES OF DATA, are often collected on a relatively narrow geographical scope, and over a short time-span. Data gathering is often part of short-term projects or PhD or MSc theses. Yet, in order to answer questions related to global change, we need massive databases on long-term, large-scale patterns. How do we integrate individual databases into datasets that allow large-scale, long-term analyses? What is the role of international organisations such as the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and US Food and Agricultural Administration (FAO) in this? What is the role of the Census of Marine Life (CoML), the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS), and of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)? Which others have a role to play? These were some of the questions that were discussed during the “Ocean Biodiversity Informatics” (OBI) conference, held from 29 November to 1 December 2004 in Hamburg, Germany.
To facilitate communication of the project aims to as broad an audience as possible, and to disseminate the results of the project, the **Marine-B** (Marine Biodiversity) electronic mailing list is being utilised by MarBEF.

### To join the list

This process will generate a piece of mail inviting you, as the owner, to add yourself to the list. Send an email to:

listserv@listserv.heanet.ie

and leave the subject line blank. In the main part of the mail, type in the command:

subscribe MARINE-B <firstname surname>

Make sure that you do not add a signature at the end of the mail. You will then receive a message saying you are subscribed to the list.

### To send mail to the list

When you want to send mail to the list, just enter MARINE-B@listserv.heanet.ie in the ‘To’ field and your mail message will be distributed to the people who have signed on to the list.

If you wish to check the list archives, go to:


The website http://www.lsoft.com/ may be useful if you wish to get further information about listservers and the running of the list.

If you have any problems, please email Olive Heffernan (olive@ecoserve.ie).

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**Coralligene lithotham**