



## **Workshop: World Register of Marine Cave Species (WoRCS)**

The goal of the WoRCS initiative is to create a comprehensive taxonomic and ecological database of known marine cave species worldwide (including those from anchialine caves) and to present this as a Thematic Species Database (TSD) of WoRMS, with all data dynamically linked to WoRMS and their team of taxonomic editors. Therefore in WoRCS (as a subset of WoRMS), the taxonomy will be managed by the taxonomic editorial board of WoRMS, whereas the cave-related information will be managed by the WoRCS thematic editors in collaboration with the taxonomic editors of WoRMS. The geographical information used in WoRCS (e.g., locality, sea, ocean, and country's Exclusive Economic Zones) will be in accordance with international standards ([www.marineregions.org](http://www.marineregions.org)) used in WoRMS

### **Outcomes:**

- Delimitation of the scope of the World Register of Marine Cave Species (WoRCS)
- List of targeted data (e.g. distribution, ecological traits, conservation status)
- Vocabulary used for ecology and taxonomy of marine cave species
- List of current and potential new editors (if needed) and delimitation of their roles in (a) taxonomy, (b) geography, and (c) database management
- Plans for compiling a gazetteer of caves with geo-coordinates
- WoRCS Governance and policies (including data exchange)
- Strategic plan
- Work plan for the next year
- Data encoding plans by (a) taxonomic group and (b) region
- Paper publication plan

### **Venue:**

Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ) – Wandelaarkaai 7, 8400 Oostende  
22-25 February 2016

### **Confirmed participants:**

Vasilis Gerovasileiou (Hellenic Centre for Marine Research, Greece)  
Nicolas Bailly (Hellenic Centre for Marine Research, Greece & FishBase Information and Research Group, Philippines)  
Geoff Boxshall (Natural History Museum, Department of Zoology, UK)  
Thomas M. Iliffe (Texas A&M University at Galveston, USA)  
Alejandro Martínez (University of Copenhagen, Denmark)  
Fernando Álvarez (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico)  
William F. Humphreys (Western Australian Museum, Australia)  
Damià Jaume (Instituto Mediterráneo de Estudios Avanzados, IMEDEA, Spain)

## Monday 22 February 2016 (day 1)

**12:00 arrival & sandwich lunch**

**13:00 Chair of the day Vasilis Gerovasileiou**

- Opening of the workshop [Vasilis Gerovasileiou & Nicolas Bailly]
- Practical information [Stefanie Dekeyzer]
- Round-table [all]
- Adoption of the agenda

**13:30 Presentation of existing databases**

- World Register of Marine Species [Stefanie Dekeyzer]
- Database of Mediterranean marine cave biodiversity [Vasilis Gerovasileiou]
- Anchialine Caves and Cave Fauna of the World [Thomas M. Iliffe]
- Database from Stygofauna Mundi, SeaLifeBase and FishBase [Nicolas Bailly]
- Subterranean Marine Cave Fauna of the World [Alejandro Martínez]
- Anchialine fauna of Mexico [Fernando Álvarez]
- Anchialine fauna of the Balearic Islands [Damià Jaume]
- Other potential databases / checklists [all]

**15:30: coffee / tea break**

**16:00** Defining the aims of WoRCS [Vasilis Gerovasileiou & all]

**16:30** List of targeted data [Vasilis Gerovasileiou & all]

**18:00 end of Day 1**

## Tuesday 23 February 2016 (day 2)

**9:00 Chair of the day Nicolas Bailly**

Defining terminology (part 1) [Nicolas Bailly & all]

**10:30 coffee / tea break**

**11:00**

Presentation of the Aphia online editing interface [WoRMS DMT]

Hands-on training with the Aphia online editing interface

**12:30 sandwich lunch**

**13:30** Hands-on training (continued)

**15:30 coffee / tea break**

**16:00** Hands-on training (continued)

**16:30** Data encoding plans for WoRCS (part 1) [Nicolas Bailly]

**18:00 end of day 2**

**19:00 Dinner in Ostend, offered by LifeWatch**

<b>Wednesday 24 February 2016 (day 3)</b>
---

**9:00 Chair of the day Vasilis Gerovasileiou**

Defining terminology (part 2) [a volunteer selected the day before]

**9:30** Data encoding plans for WoRCS (part 2) [a volunteer]

**10:30 coffee / tea break**

**11:00** Data exchange between existing databases and WoRCS [Nicolas Bailly]

**11:30** Plans for compiling a gazetteer of caves with geo-coordinates [Thomas M. Iliffe]

**12:00** Short presentation of Marine Regions [WoRMS DMT]

**12:30 sandwich lunch**

**13:30** Setting up the WoRCS Editorial team [Vasilis Gerovasileiou & all]

**14:00** WoRCS policies and governance [Nicolas Bailly & all]

**14:30** Paper publication plan [Vasilis Gerovasileiou & all]

**15:30: coffee / tea break**

**16:00** Hands-on data input with the Aphia online editing interface

**16:30** Outline for report writing [all]

**18:00 end of day 3**

<b>Thursday 25 February 2016 (day 4)</b>
--

**9:00 Chair of the day Nicolas Bailly**

Strategic plan for the next 5 years, including fund raising, conference participations ...  
[Nicolas Bailly & all]

**9:30** Detailed work plan for the next year, including possible meeting(s) & persons in charge  
[Nicolas Bailly & all]

**10:30 coffee / tea break**

**11:00**

Compiling workshop report [all]

Adoption of the workshop report & closure of the meeting [Vasilis Gerovasileiou & Nicolas Bailly]

**12:30 sandwich lunch**

**13:30 end of workshop**