

**Press material** (v. 14.06.2015)

## **The Ocean Sampling Day, a Global Event for Sequencing the Oceans**

**June 15, 2015, Jacobs University gGmbH, Bremen, Germany**

**This Sunday (June 21<sup>st</sup>) the EU Project Micro B3 (Marine Microbial Biodiversity, Bioinformatics, Biotechnology) will perform for the second time the world wide Ocean Sampling Day (OSD). The enthusiastic reactions of all parties participating in the first OSD event on June 21<sup>st</sup> 2014 motivated us to repeat OSD in 2015. OSD 2015 will be accompanied by the citizen science campaign MyOSD.**

OSD 2014 provided 150 samples from all continents, ranging from subtropical waters in Hawaii to extreme environments such as the Fram Strait in the Arctic Ocean. This year more than 140 marine sites worldwide will sample again, to continue collecting the largest dataset on marine microbial diversity and function ever taken on a single day.

The citizen science initiative MyOSD calls citizens to get actively involved in the Ocean Sampling Day. With the MyOSD Sampling Kit and Smartphone App citizen scientists can collect marine microbes and important environmental data. MyOSD will be coordinated locally by over 20 OSD hubs worldwide.

All samples and data will be sent to Bremen, Germany for DNA extraction and sequencing to ensure maximum comparability. The resulting data will be made publicly available as soon as quality checks are finished. These cumulative samples, related in time, space and environmental parameters, will provide insights into fundamental rules describing microbial diversity and function and contribute to the blue economy through the identification of novel, ocean-derived biotechnologies. Ocean Sampling Day is jointly coordinated by Jacobs University in Bremen, Germany and University of Oxford, UK and it is part of the EU funded Ocean of Tomorrow research project Micro B3.

The novel Ocean Sampling Day (OSD) concept was designed within the EU-funded project Micro B3 to facilitate a global, coordinated, standardised campaign in marine data collection. OSD sampling activities have shown that this new approach is generating an exciting set of new, standardized and fully contextualized data from sampling to sequencing, analysis and annotation of gene functions. Moreover, the establishment of an OSD network connecting scientists and citizens in a global environmental movement is proving to be of incredible value.

**The Micro B3 coordinator, Prof. Dr. Frank Oliver Glöckner from Jacobs University Bremen states:**

*'OSD 2014 was already an incredible experience. It has marked a new area in collaborative marine science inspired by open sharing of data, material and experiences. The strong involvement of citizens in OSD 2015 will now add a new dimension to marine science.'*

**The OSD leader, Dr. Mesude Bicak from University of Oxford adds:**

*'With more than 150 research teams from all continents collecting standardised OSD samples in June 2014, OSD Consortium became the biggest global marine network to date. This June 2015, we are thrilled to build on this success even further with the enthusiasm of MyOSD Citizen Scientists!'*

**Julia Schnetzer, the coordinator of MyOSD from the Max Planck Institute for Marine Microbiology says:**

*'OSD and MyOSD together form a wonderful project giving scientists and citizen all around the world the opportunity to work together to unravel the mysteries of our ocean.'*

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**Contact for Micro B3 and OSD-related Press Enquiries:**

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## **Notes for editors**

Ocean Sampling Day and MyOSD are funded by the EU under grant agreement no 287589 as part of the Micro B3 project. They are coordinated by Jacobs University Bremen (Germany) and Oxford University (UK).

A full list of scientific partners can be found at <http://www.microb3.eu/partners/scientific>

## **Funding Acknowledgement and Disclaimer**

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The Micro B3 project is solely responsible for this publication. It does not represent the opinion of the EU. The EU is not responsible for any use that might be made of data appearing herein.

## Supporting Audio-Visual Material:

### Videos on OSD & MyOSD:

- OSD Teaser (1 minute): <http://youtu.be/FEw5AS1qo-o>
- OSD 2014 Trailer ( 1:30 minutes) <https://youtu.be/hBGOkB-Elmc?list=PLgacjRIHqvMC39eKYdGH0HAM68YszmbuJ>
- OSD Movie “The Ocean Sampling Day 2014 - a global scientific effort to study our ocean” (9 minutes) : <http://youtu.be/yUm7SsSe-cw?list=PLgacjRIHqvMC39eKYdGH0HAM68YszmbuJ>
- Tutorial for citizen scientists (MyOSD, 7:30 minutes): <https://youtu.be/Mtmp4Ltr4xo>
- Video promoting OSD by NOAA (3minutes): <http://youtu.be/7whot0vBTUQ>
- Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, Member of the EC in charge of Research, Innovation and Science, and Maria Damanaki, Member of the EC in charge of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, in a joint press conference presenting the an Action Plan for Innovation in the 'Blue Economy' to help use ocean resources sustainably and drive growth and jobs in Europe:  
<http://ec.europa.eu/avservices/video/player.cfm?ref=I088957&videolang=INT&starttime=595&endtime=680&devurl=http://ec.europa.eu/avservices/video/player/config.cfm>

### Photos/Logos/Dissemination material:

- <https://zarafa.mpi-bremen.de/owncloud/public.php?service=files&t=f79b35d9d7070cd0768497066394702c>

### Further material:

- A map of all stations participating in the OSD: <https://mb3is.megx.net/osd-registry/list>
- Background on OSD: [www.oceansamplingday.org](http://www.oceansamplingday.org)
- Background on MyOSD – Initiative for Citizen Scientists : [www.my-osd.org](http://www.my-osd.org)
- A map of all MyOSD samples provided with the App: <https://mb3is.megx.net/osd-app/samples>
- MyOSD Dissemination material & guides:  
<https://zarafa.mpi-bremen.de/owncloud/public.php?service=files&t=cc452ab3301c7e6061ebb934dc288fed>

### Contact/Twitter/Facebook/Instagram

- Contact the whole Ocean Sampling Day team via [osd-contact@microb3.eu](mailto:osd-contact@microb3.eu)
- We will post lots of photos on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/microb3osd> and Instagram: [https://instagram.com/microb3\\_osd/](https://instagram.com/microb3_osd/)
- We will be very active on Twitter: [https://twitter.com/Micro\\_B3](https://twitter.com/Micro_B3)

The official hashtags are #osd2015 and #oceansamplingday, and #myosd2015