The Micro B3 Consortium initiated the idea of an orchestrated Ocean Sampling Day (OSD) with the ambitious aim to turn this into long-term time series (Genomic Observatories). The main goal of OSD is to analyse marine microbial biodiversity and function of the World’s ocean.

The first Ocean Sampling Day took place on June 21st, 2014. This OSD event involved 191 sampling sites from all continents ranging from tropical waters around Hawaii to extremely cold environments such as the Fram Strait in the Arctic Ocean.

Standardized procedures, including the OSD handbook and a centralized hub for laboratory work and data processing assure a high level of consistency and data interoperability. The required bioinformatics capacity for data management, processing and analysis are combined in the Micro B3 Information System (Micro B3-IS). The Micro B3 Reporting- and Service Standards (M2B3) ensure consistent data storage across domains in the data archives shown below.

The OSD on June 21st, 2014 has shown that more than 190 marine stations can be mobilized, organized and trained to work closely together to create a snapshot of the microbes in the World’s ocean.

The next OSD is planned for June 21st, 2015.

For more information please visit: www.oceansamplingday.org