

What's New in FishBase

The main goal for the FishBase CD released in the year 2000 was to cover all 25,000 species then known to science. That goal was achieved. Additional/new features of the FishBase 2000 release were:

- over 70,000 names (valid, synonyms, misspellings, misidentifications) assigned to over 25,000 species;
- over 100,000 common names in over 200 languages;
- support for the parametrization of ecosystem models;
- new trophic (Lindeman) pyramids for major ecosystems;
- a new 'Key Facts' page with 'best estimates with error margin' for important management parameters;
- a November 2000 update of Eschmeyer's (1998) Catalog of Fishes;
- an October 2000 update of IUCN's threatened fishes;
- over 25,000 pictures;
- over 20,000 references;
- new graphs and reports; and
- more data for more species.

In the year 2015, over 33,000 species of fishes are known to science and are presented in FishBase. Numbers of common names and pictures have more than doubled. The spread of information covered has not increased much, rather, some topics are given less emphasis, such as the presentation of museum collections of fishes, as this task has meanwhile been taken over by others (GBIF; www.gbif.org). New emphasis is on summarizing existing knowledge and spreading it to species for which no direct publications exist. This is done with a rigorous Bayesian approach. New challenges arise from the very active OpenScience community, who want full online data access (we have meanwhile an *rfishbase* interface). Also, the exploding use of mobile devices continues the pressure to constantly update the user interface (and background software) of FishBase. But maybe this is not new but ongoing.

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