



# EMODnet



European Marine  
Observation and  
Data Network

## EMODnet Thematic Lot n° 2 - Seabed Habitats

**EASME/EMFF/2016/1.3.1.2/Lot2/SI2.751208**

**Start date of the project: 05/05/2017 - (24 months)**

**EMODnet Phase III – Quarterly Progress Report (5)**

**Reporting Period: 01/04/2018 – 30/06/2018**



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## **Disclaimer**

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# 1 Highlights during the reporting period

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## General highlights:

- The end of the first year of EMODnet Seabed Habitats was on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2018. All data collation work packages (WP3, 4 and 5) completed initial data collation phases and a new web portal was launched to mark the end of the first year.
- EMODnet Seabed Habitats had its third partner meeting, hosted by CCMAR and attended by all partners, in Faro, Portugal from 28<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> May. At the meeting we reviewed the progress and deliverables during the first year of the project and made plans to progress the required work during the second year.
- Lead partner, JNCC travelled to Ostend on 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> June for meetings with the EMODnet Secretariat to discuss communications and outreach work and with EMODnet Biology to discuss areas of common interest across the projects.
- EMODnet Seabed Habitats partners have attended several conferences this quarter presenting the portal at events in the UK, Greece, Italy and the USA. Italian partners ISPRA presented on the EMODnet Seabed Habitats portal at the GeoHab conference in California, USA from 7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> May.

Below are listed specific developments in relation to each of the eight tasks outlined in the tender specification:

### **Task 1: Develop a common method of access to data held in repositories**

In May 2018 we published an additional 257 habitat maps from across the 12 partners on the web mapping portal (representing an almost 60% increase in the number of maps available). In April 2018 WP4 leaders ISPRA completed collation of ground-truthing habitat data points from almost all partners for onwards submission to EurOBIS early on in Year 2 of the project. Once the data has been submitted to EurOBIS it will also be made available via the EMODnet Seabed Habitats portal.

### **Task 2: Construct products from one or more data sources that provide users with information about the distribution of parameters in time and space**

In April 2018 we produced a revised version of the broad-scale habitat map for the Black Sea to better reflect the reality of the habitats on the seabed. This map has now been incorporated within EUSeaMap and will be published on the EMODnet Seabed Habitats portal shortly.

### **Task 3: Develop procedures for machine-to-machine connections to data and data products**

In May 2018 JNCC transferred the EMODnet Seabed Habitats mapping portal over to GeoServer. This new platform allows for improved machine-to-machine connections through INSPIRE and OGC compliant Web Mapping Services (WMS) and Web Feature Services (WFS) and additionally includes Web Coverage Services (WCS) as standard.

### **Task 4: Develop a web portal allowing users to find, visualise and download data**

In May 2018 the EMODnet Seabed Habitats web portal was relaunched and now operates on the Umbraco Content Management System. It has been brought up-to-date and is now in line with the recently launched

EMODnet Style Guide. The mapper has been updated with the additional 257 habitat maps and now holds 737 datasets.

#### **Task 5: Ensure the involvement of regional sea conventions**

On 13<sup>th</sup> June 2018 EMODnet Seabed Habitats joined a meeting of the OSPAR Intersessional Correspondence Group – Co-ordination of Biodiversity Assessment and Monitoring (ICG-COBAM) to discuss how EMODnet can support them through the provision of datasets which they require for their reporting. In addition to providing information on the Seabed Habitats products available we have put them in touch with the relevant contacts at EMODnet Biology and EMODnet Human Activities for other datasets of relevance for their assessments.

#### **Task 6: Facilitate interoperability with data distributed by non-EU organisations**

The habitat points ground-truthing data that have been collated through WP 4 (initial round of data collation completed in April 2018) for submission to EurOBIS are compliant with Darwin Core, facilitating interoperability with non-EU data.

#### **Task 7: Install a process to monitor performance and deal with user feedback**

In May 2018 EMODnet Seabed Habitats launched a new online helpdesk feature alongside other communications channels and so, moving forwards there should be an enhanced user experience in relation to providing feedback on the portal.

#### **Task 8: Operate a help desk offering support to users**

In May 2018 an online helpdesk was launched on the EMODnet Seabed Habitats portal as part of the new website. The EMODnet Seabed Habitats team are now available to answer external queries from 0900-1700, Monday to Friday via the online helpdesk, contact form, phone number or email address.

## 2 Challenges encountered during the reporting period

Main challenge	Measures taken
<p><b>Difficulties in obtaining third party data.</b></p>	<p>At the Project Steering Group meeting in May 2018 we discussed the difficulties experienced by partners in trying to extract data from third party organisations. Sometimes organisations are willing to provide data but the data preparation process is long and they do not have the time or resources available to prepare and submit the data. We discussed various approaches available to us and subsequently followed up with further discussions with the EMODnet Secretariat and EMODnet Biology. In Year 2 we will explore whether organisations will be more willing to submit data to become part of the <a href="#">EMODnet Associated Data Partner Scheme</a>. Should the project be extended for a further two years we would consider <a href="#">exploring the approach adopted by EMODnet Biology</a> of issuing grants to certain organisations to facilitate the data submission process.</p> <p>We have not yet listed any organisations that have been approached to supply data with no result (indicator 3), because we prefer to view these difficulties as a 'work in progress'.</p>
<p><b>Move of website and web mapping services</b></p>	<p>In May 2018 we migrated our website to a new content management system and implemented extensive changes to bring it in line with the revised EMODnet style guide at the same time as switching our mapping services from MapServer to GeoServer. This has inevitably led to some bugs as a result of such major changes. We are working to resolve issues as and when they are identified but identifying them all is an ongoing process as evidenced by the user feedback on certain aspects of the portal.</p>
<p><b>Production of EUSeaMap 2019</b></p>	<p>At the recent partner meeting (May 2018) we discussed the production of a new version of EUSeaMap in Year 2 of the project. The EUNIS system of habitat classification which EUSeaMap uses is in the process of being completely revised and a new version is imminent. We discussed whether or not we could use the new version within the 2019 re-run of EUSeaMap but as there is currently no release date for the updated classification and as it would require amending the thresholds and assumptions which underpin multiple different parts of the model (which would take several months of work) it will not be possible to use the updated classification when re-running the model in 2019. This means that the map could be in an outdated classification system as soon as it is published depending on the final release date for the updated version of EUNIS.</p>

## 3 User Feedback

Date	Organisation	Type of user feedback (e.g. technical, case study, etc.)	Response time
<b>23/05/2018</b>	Not disclosed	Technical: Unable to view layers on Map Viewer	40 minutes
<b>23/05/2018</b>	MERC consultants	Technical: Link to metadata not working	1 minute
<b>28/05/2018</b>	Not disclosed	Technical: Link in PDF booklet not working	3 minutes
<b>01/06/2018</b>	EMODnet Secretariat	Technical: Various issues with the map viewer	1 minute
<b>01/06/2018</b>	EMODnet Secretariat	Suggestion: Would be useful to have a search function within the map layers to find things like mussel beds, without having to go through every layer manually	1 minute
<b>26/06/2018</b>	EMODnet Secretariat	Technical: Broken metadata links on mapper	40 minutes
<b>2016</b>	JRC	User case: EUSeaMap (EUNIS classification) v 2016 used in assessment of spatial distribution of marine ecosystem service capacity in the European seas <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/publication/eur-scientific-and-technical-research-reports/spatial-distribution-marine-ecosystem-service-capacity-european-seas">https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/publication/eur-scientific-and-technical-research-reports/spatial-distribution-marine-ecosystem-service-capacity-european-seas</a>	N/A
<b>2016-2017</b>	Freshwater Ecosystem Services Mapping and Assessment in Bulgaria (FEMA), funded by EEA Financial Mechanism 2009-2014	User case: Assessment and mapping of the ecosystem types, ecological state and ecosystem services in the Bulgarian Black Sea. Used EUSeaMap (EUNIS classification) v2016 - Black Sea <a href="http://www.freshwater-ecoservices-bg.eu/images/fema_docs/presentations/20170331_08_FEMA-MARE-Karamfilov_et_al.pdf">http://www.freshwater-ecoservices-bg.eu/images/fema_docs/presentations/20170331_08_FEMA-MARE-Karamfilov_et_al.pdf</a>	N/A
<b>2018</b>	BRGM (French Geological survey), responsible for MSFD descriptor 6 in France	User case: EUSeaMap (EUNIS classification) v2016 used in assessment of MSFD descriptor 6 (sea-floor integrity) in French Mainland waters <a href="http://infoterre.brgm.fr/rapports/RP-67420-FR.pdf">http://infoterre.brgm.fr/rapports/RP-67420-FR.pdf</a>	N/A
<b>2018</b>	Universidade de Aveiro	User case: EUSeaMap (EUNIS classification) v2016 used in a journal publication - Marine biological value along the Portuguese continental shelf <a href="https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1470160X18303819#!">https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1470160X18303819#!</a>	N/A
<b>Ongoing</b>	General Administration of Natural	User case: Used on the Maritime Area Planning Geoportal for Marine Spatial Planning in Portuguese waters <a href="http://webgis.dgrm.mam.gov.pt/arcgis/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=df8accb510bc4f33963d9b03bf3674b8">http://webgis.dgrm.mam.gov.pt/arcgis/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=df8accb510bc4f33963d9b03bf3674b8</a>	N/A

	<p>Resources, Maritime Security and Services (DGRM), Portugal</p>		
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## 4 Meetings held/attended since last report

Date	Type event (meeting, training (workshop), etc.)	Attended (A) / Organised (O)	Short description and main results (# participants, agreements made, etc.)
11-12/04/2018	Meeting: WP2 Meeting	O	To assess the Black Sea broadscale seabed habitat map and brainstorm on solutions to issues
24/04/2018	Meeting: MEDIN 10 Year Meeting	A	Discussions with other meeting attendees about progress with EMODnet Seabed Habitats
03-04/05/2018	Meeting: EMODnet Biology Meeting	A	Attended EMODnet Biology Partner meeting to maintain links and co-ordination between EMODnet Biology and Seabed Habitats, particularly in relation to WP4 ground truthing.
22-24/05/2018	Meeting/Workshop: ICES Working Group on Marine Habitat Mapping	A	Meeting focussed on confidence in habitat mapping. Considered links between ICES WGMHM and EMODnet Seabed Habitats and if/how these could be improved.
28-31/05/2018	Meeting: EMODnet Seabed Habitats Partner Meeting	O	Meeting of 12 partners to discuss work completed in Year 1 of the project and plans for Year 2.
06-07/06/2018	Meeting: Bilateral meeting with EMODnet Secretariat	O	Attended Ostend to meet with the EMODnet Secretariat to discuss plans for EMODnet Seabed Habitats with a particular focus on communications and outreach.
07/06/2018	Meeting: Bilateral meeting with EMODnet Biology	O	Met with EMODnet Biology leaders in Ostend to discuss areas of common interest between the two portals, in particular ground truthing data points and submission to EurOBIS, collation of data from third parties, species and habitat distribution modelling and the Data Products Workshops.
13/06/2018	Meeting: OSPAR ICG-COBAM	A	Invited to attend the OSPAR ICG-COBAM meeting to discuss how EMODnet can help deliver data layers to assist with their habitat assessment requirements.
<b>SUM of O</b>			<b>(Total # of meetings organised) 4</b>
<b>SUM of A</b>			<b>(Total # of meetings attended) 4</b>



## 5 Outreach and communication activities

Table: Communication activities.

Date	Communication action/material	Short description (of the material, title, ...) and/or link to the activity	Main results (# participants, # views, # press clippings, etc.)
<b>05/2018</b>	EMODnet Seabed Habitats brochure	<a href="#">EMODnet Seabed Habitats brochure</a> updated and published	
<b>08/05/2018</b>	Presentation at GeoHab, California USA	Oral presentation on Infralittoral/Circalittoral biozone boundary definition in a riverine input influenced area	
<b>08/05/2018</b>	Poster presentation at GeoHab, California USA	Poster on A New EMODnet Seabed Habitat Product: Ground-Truth Data Collection	
<b>03/06/2018</b>	Oral presentation at 12th Panhellenic Symposium of Oceanography and Fisheries, Corfu, Greece	Oral presentation on EMODnet Seabed Habitats: A European broad-scale seabed habitat map	
<b>05/06/2018</b>	Poster presentation at 49° Congresso. della Società Italiana di Biologia Marina.	Poster on EuSeaMap - A Pan European Seabed Habitats Cartography: Evolution and Perspective	
<b>08/06/2018</b>	Oral presentation at EMODnet Italia Day, Trieste, Italy	Oral presentation on the EMODnet Seabed Habitats data portal	
<b>26-27/06/2018</b>	Poster presentation at Beyond the Coast, Hull, UK	Poster on the EMODnet Seabed Habitats Portal	
<b>SUM Brochures</b>			<b>1</b>
<b>SUM Oral conference presentation</b>			<b>3</b>
<b>SUM Poster conference presentation</b>			<b>3</b>

Table: List of known publications using EMODnet data or data products.

Date	Name of journal, conference, ...	Publication title	Authors	Organisation(s)
October 2018	Ecological Indicators	EUSeaMap (EUNIS classification) v2016 used in a journal publication - Marine biological value along the Portuguese continental shelf  <a href="https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1470160X18303819#!">https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1470160X18303819#!</a>	Inês Gomes, Sergi Pérez-Jorge, Laura Peteiro, Joana Andrade, Juan Bueno-Pardo, Victor Quintino, Ana Maria Rodrigues, Manuela Azevedo, Ann Vanreusel, Henrique Queiroga, Klaas Deneudt	Aveiro University, Ghent University, University of the Azores, Vigo University, SPEA, IPMA, Flanders Marine Institute

## 6 Annex: Other documentation attached

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N/A

## 7 New monitoring indicators

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Please consult and fill in the designated excel template.