



**EMODnet**



European Marine  
Observation and  
Data Network

# **EMODnet Thematic Lot n°2 – Seabed Habitats**

**EASME/EMFF/2018/1.3.1.8/Lot2/SI2.810241**

**Start date of the project: 25/09/2019 - (24 months)**

**EMODnet Phase III – Quarterly Progress Report (10)**

**Reporting Period: 01/10/2019 – 31/12/2019**



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## Disclaimer

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# 1 Highlights during the reporting period

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

- All partners have started to prepare the datasets (~50 datasets were listed). During the first year the Project will focus on these datasets. This involves filling in INSPIRE-compliant metadata, getting the datasets into a standard format, checking for geometry errors and carrying out confidence assessments and, for some of them, acquiring the datasets.
- Each partner now has more responsibility for the above-mentioned quality requirements of their data submissions. To help with this task:
  - Marine Institute has made some templates for habitat maps and metadata
  - ISPRA has developed VBA scripts for point dataset quality check
  - JNCC developed a tool to help quality check the maps
- To instruct partners on these new tools and templates, ISPRA, lead of WP2 (Data collation) held two web training sessions in December.
- In order to facilitate data ingestion from third parties (i.e. data providers that are not partners), the Project has agreed on a more flexible policy for survey habitat map confidence assessment. We will now accept maps whose confidence assessment varies spatially, that do not follow the MESH confidence assessment method, and even those for which no confidence assessment has been made.

## **Task 2: construct products**

Nothing to report

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

- We have started to log potential targets for additional data to access via machine-to-machine connections.
- JIRA issue n° EMODNET-33 "EASME - Action on Web Services MetadataUrl and DataUrl fields": as mentioned in section 3 we have planned to have it addressed by the end of March.

#### **Task 4: maintain and further develop a thematic web portal**

- Following Action 12 from the September Steering Committee meeting, we registered the portal on FAIRsharing.org in October: <https://fairsharing.org/biodbcore-001328/>
- Use cases:
  - We have added 10 new use cases to the website: 8 Research & Academia, 2 Policy Makers: <https://www.emodnet-seabedhabitats.eu/resources/use-cases>. More are in progress.
  - The new Trust IT video on use cases has been embedded on the site to increase visibility: <https://www.emodnet-seabedhabitats.eu/resources/use-cases/policy-makers/>
- The 'About' section has been updated for the new phase: <https://www.emodnet-seabedhabitats.eu/about>
- The 2004-2008 INTERREG-funded MESH Project produced a wealth of useful habitat mapping content. The project website has now been archived so we have begun a process to rescue the still-relevant content, including:
  - Recommend Operating Guidelines: <https://www.emodnet-seabedhabitats.eu/resources/recommended-operating-guidelines/>
  - Other useful reference documents describing MESH products and activities, starting with workshop reports: <https://www.emodnet-seabedhabitats.eu/resources/mesh-archive/mesh-workshop-reports/>
- GDPR compliance:
  - We have created a new data protection notice, according to EASME template: <https://www.emodnet-seabedhabitats.eu/privacy-policy/>
  - The website now launches with cookies disabled as standard, with users having to click 'Accept' before cookies are installed. It should be noted that if a user declines the use of cookies then the following features are disabled:
    - Website usage tracking
    - Live chat
    - Interactive map

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

- We have reopened discussions with RAC/SPA about the creation of a Memorandum of Understanding that will allow them to share habitat data with the project via machine-to-machine connections.

#### **Task 6: install a process to monitor performance and deal with user feedback**

Nothing to report

#### **Task 7: operate a help desk offering support to users**

- Although the live chat was in place at the end of the last phase, we had to disable it temporarily while we dealt with the cookie acceptance issues. This has now been solved and the live chat (powered by Tawk.To) was reinstated on 20/12/19.

## 2 Challenges encountered during the reporting period

Main challenge	Measures taken
Nothing to report	

## 3 Identified issues: status and actions taken

Issue identified	Status (Pending/ Resolved)	Action taken	Date due
Letter from EASME (ref. Ares(2019)7151776) - EMODnet websites - compliance with applicable data protection rules	Resolved	EMODnet Seabed Habitats is now compliant with all the requirements. The reply for all thematic portals was coordinated by the EMODnet Secretariat, to which was sent (09/12/2019): - An updated checklist (annex 1) - An update on the action plan that was submitted on 04/08/2019 - a record of processing of personal data	31/12/2019
JIRA issue EMODNET-33. EASME - Action on Web Services MetadataUrl and DataUrl fields  On 21/11/19, EASME requested that for each layer, the data url field (pointing to predefined download link) should be filled, by 31/12/19. We responded to say that this will not be possible to implement for hundreds of layers by the deadline. EASME responded to say "it is ok if you don't fully comply by the next progress report given the time of year. Providing a status update and a reasonable target date for completion would be sufficient."	Pending	JNCC are in the process of writing some code that will automatically harvest this information from each layer's metadata record. The date given under 'date due' is our suggested reasonable target date.	31/03/2020

## 4 User Feedback

Date	Organisation	Type of user feedback (e.g. technical, case study, etc.)	Response time
30/10/2019	University of Venice	Data enquiry	30 mins
14/11/2019	University of St. Andrews	Data enquiry	30 mins
15/11/2019	Marche polytechnica university	Data enquiry	20 mins
19/11/2019	European Comission	Technical	18 hours
05/12/2019	University of Toyko	General	2 hours
20/12/2019	EMODnet Geology	Technical	3 days

## 5 Meetings held/attended since last report

Table: Meetings organised and attended.

Date	Location	Type event (meeting, training (workshop), etc.)	Attended (A) / Organised (O)	Short description and main results (# participants, agreements made, etc.)
24/10/2019	Videoconf	First Project Management Team meeting	O	The Project Management Team comprises WP leaders), meets every 3 months. Its task is to implement the scientific and technical activities
14/11/2019	Videoconf	First project meeting	O	All partners attended. WP leaders presented the WP, deliverables and timeline
16/12/2019	Videoconf	2nd Project Management Team meeting	O	The Project Management Team comprises WP leaders), meets every 3 months. Its task is to implement the scientific and technical activities
<b>SUM</b>			<b>O</b>	<b>Total # of meetings organised = 3</b>
<b>SUM</b>			<b>A</b>	<b>Total # of meetings attended = 0</b>

## 6 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.)
16-17/10/2019	Poster	Title: "Marine habitats of importance in Kerry" presented at the Annual seminar of the Irish National Seabed Mapping Programme, Dingle, Co. Kerry, Ireland. Link to event details: <a href="https://www.infomar.ie/sites/default/files/2019-10/INFOMAR_2019_Seminar_Agenda_0.pdf">https://www.infomar.ie/sites/default/files/2019-10/INFOMAR_2019_Seminar_Agenda_0.pdf</a>	100+ participants
20/11/2019	News item	Title: "Phase three extended through to 2021". Link to new item: <a href="https://www.emodnet-seabedhabitats.eu/news/phase-3-extension/">https://www.emodnet-seabedhabitats.eu/news/phase-3-extension/</a>	
31/10/2019	Abstract submission: oral presentation	Title: "Synergies between EMODnet Seabed Habitat et EMODnet Bathymetry". Submitted to the French Marine GIS and remote sensing conference (occurs every 2 years).	Abstract accepted
31/10/2019	Abstract submission: poster	Title: "A European web portal to access spatial data on benthic habitats: EMODnet Seabed Habitats". Submitted to the French Marine GIS and remote sensing conference (occurs every 2 years).	Abstract accepted
<b>SUM ...</b>			<b>Total # of posters: 1</b>
<b>SUM ...</b>			<b>Total # of news items: 1</b>
<b>SUM ...</b>			<b>Total # of abstract submissions: 2</b>

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

Date	Name of journal, conference, ...	Publication title	Authors	Organisation(s)
<b>01/2020</b>	Journal "Biodiversity and Conservation"	Evaluating seabed habitat representativeness across a diverse set of marine protected areas on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge	Milla-Figueras, D., Schmiing, M., Amorim, P. et al. Biodivers Conserv	Institute of Marine Research (IMAR), Department of Oceanography and Fisheries, University of the Azores

## 7 Annex: Other documentation attached

List in Annex if you wish to provide any additional information.

## 8 Monitoring indicators

Table: Comments on the progress indicators in the excel template.

Progress indicator	Comment
1.1 Volume of available acquired data	<p>No change since previous report; however, the following correction has been made since the previous report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the row that was previously present entitled 'Seabed Habitats (Habitats Directive - Official 2013 reported distribution) - Number of datasets', has been moved to Indicator 1.2 as this is actually a data product.</li> </ul>
1.2 Number and coverage of built & external data products	<p>No change since previous report; however, the following corrections have been made since the previous report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physics row has been split up according to Newly built, Updated and External data products. And the number of products has been altered.</li> <li>Geology row added to include the external data product from EMODnet Geology.</li> <li>the row entitled 'Seabed Habitats (Habitats Directive - Official 2013 reported distribution) - Number of datasets', has been moved here from Indicator 1.1 as this is actually a data product.</li> <li>'Seabed Habitats (Essential Ocean Variables) - Km2' added as an additional row, as this was missing from the previous report</li> <li>The total number individual habitat maps from surveys has been corrected</li> <li>As a result of the changes described above, the total number of built and external data products has also been changed.</li> </ul> <p>Finally, we have added hyperlinks to the description of each data product, which shows exactly which products are being described.</p>
2. Organisations supplying each type of data	No organisations have supplied data since the end of the last contract.
3. Interfaces to access or view data: list changes or new items within reporting period	GeoServer endpoints and mapper url provided.
4. Usage of data and data products per interface and per theme	<p>Seabed habitats subtheme has been split by individual maps from survey and non-survey data (i.e. EUSeaMap, OSPAR etc.) - this is due to the large download usage of survey maps.</p> <p>Decline in trends is most likely due to a different time reporting duration: this report is 3 months only, whereas the previous report was covering a longer period from the end of the previous phase (May 2019) to end of September 2019 (~5 months).</p> <p>Number of map visualisations is different in this quarter, as it would make more sense to use the stats provided by TrustIT in indicator 10; this is will be done going forward.</p>
5. Distribution of users that have used the portal's data and data products per organisation type and	A lot of interesting uses, for example: establishing the movement of seal pups from the Isle of May in relation to sediment type; development of a Bulgarian maritime spatial plan; ICES WG FBIT analysis.



country, and their main use cases	
6. External products (websites, apps, ...) built on top of web-services: update since last quarterly report	No updates since previous report
7. Published use case and number of readings	There are in fact 27 use cases published on our website ( <a href="https://www.emodnet-seabedhabitats.eu/resources/use-cases/">https://www.emodnet-seabedhabitats.eu/resources/use-cases/</a> ) – The indicator 7 only records those that have been copied onto the central portal.
8. Portal and Social Media visibility	Regarding indicator 8.1, the decline in trends is most likely due to a different time reporting duration: this report is 3 months only, whereas the previous report was covering a longer period from the end of the previous phase (May 2019) to end of September 2019 (~5 months).
9.1 Technical monitoring	NA
9.2 Portal user-friendliness	The 4 elements that do not reach the highest score, (i.e. Font type, Favicon, Social Media icons, and GDPR compliant) will be fixed for the next quarterly report.
10. Visibility & Analytics for web pages	The dip in visibility during Q4 of 2018 was due to the implementation of SSL certificates across JNCC servers, making them HTTPS. The monitoring service deployed by the Secretariat / VLIZ was hosted on an HTTP service, meaning they could not access the JNCC servers due to the lack of encryption.
11. Visibility & Analytics for web sections	The dip in visibility during Q4 of 2018 was due to the implementation of SSL certificates across JNCC servers, making them HTTPS. The monitoring service deployed by the Secretariat / VLIZ was hosted on an HTTP service, meaning they could not access the JNCC servers due to the lack of encryption.
12. Average visit duration for web pages	Visit duration for web pages has remained fairly consistent over the course of 2018 and 2019. The high variability for the Web Services page is probably a consequence of the small number of overall visits to this page, meaning that a small number of outliers can skew the results.

The monitoring numbers reported as part of the progress monitoring of EMODnet performance are collected through Matomo. In some cases, numbers from other monitoring systems may also be reported (e.g. Awstats, Google Analytics). Each system uses different technical approaches and therefore has its strengths and shortcomings. Therefore, results are indicative and care should be taken with interpreting absolute numbers or comparing results from different tools. It is often more sensible to consider trends over time collected by the same monitoring tool.