



EMODnet



European Marine
Observation and
Data Network

EMODnet Thematic Lot n°7 – Human Activities

EASME/EMFF/2019/1.3.1.9/Lot 7/SI2.835999

Start date of the project: 03/03/2023 (24 months)

Centralisation Phase

Quarterly Progress Report (27)

Reporting Period: 01/10/2023 – 31/21/2023



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1. Highlights in this quarter

Task 1: Maintain and improve a common method of access to data held in repositories

- ICES joined the EMODnet HA partners meeting during the Open Conference. It was agreed that closer dialogue and cooperation should be pursued with the goal of making available more fisheries-related data. This will have to be done in conjunction with DG MARE, who also have plans for releasing more fishery-related data.
- A WFD dataset for shellfish protected areas has been processed and is being controlled for quality assurance.

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

- Vessel density maps now due to receive an update with 2023 data

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

Task 4: Contribute data, data products and content to a central portal that allows users to find, view and download data and data products

- The information of renewable energy on offshore windfarms was updated including the recent developments identified in this matter.
- The maritime boundaries dataset was updated including recent changes in boundaries in France, Portugal, Spain, Slovenia, and Croatia.
- Lighthouses: Updated dataset delivered
- Shellfish polygon: New dataset containing shellfish farms polygons delivered

The following data sets have received their annual update:

- Aggregate extraction
- Dredging
- State of bathing waters
- Main ports
- Ocean energy
- Urban wastewater treatment plants and discharge points

Task 5: Contribute content to dedicated spaces in the Central Portal

The new version of the method for making vessel density maps was published on the EU Publication Office and was also uploaded to the Central Portal. Compared with the previous version, this version recommends using a different software stack to speed up calculations. The method now has a DOI.

Task 6: Ensure the involvement of Regional Sea Conventions

In December 2023, a meeting took place with the Black Sea Commission. The main takeaways are:

- The Black Sea Commission (BSC) is familiar with EMODnet activities and is eager to collaborate and join the EMODnet’s mission to provide publicly open data, also when it comes to Human Activities. However, in order to provide the datasets available at the BSC, the Secretariat needs an approval from each member country.
- The BSC Advisory Group is currently frozen due to the Russian – Ukraine war
- Nonetheless, they offered to put EMODnet HA in contact with some of their data sources, e.g. Shipping Activity Centre in Bulgaria, Odessa pollution and biological database – data on aquaculture and waste, Black Sea economic commission (BSEC) cooperation for data on cultural heritage.
- BSC will provide an updated list of the data that they have at their disposal to provide a general and updated overview.
- The BSC proposed that EMODnet HA could be admitted as an observer during BSC meetings. EMODnet HA and the BSC will make contact again in the first quarter of 2024 to assess progress.

Task 7: Contribute to the implementation of EU legislation and broader initiative for open data

During the EMODnet HA partners meeting in November, it was decided how to progress with the implementation of an INSPIRE-compliant data model as per the concept note developed in 2022. An algorithm is being implemented to automatise the harmonisation process from actual EMODnet HA data models to a unified “Land/marine Use” product – similarly to what has been done for the MSP data set.

A meeting took place in October 2023 aimed at tutoring DG MARE’s staff on how to visualise and extract MSP data from EMODnet. Several suggestions as to how to improve usability were put forward and might be implemented over the coming months. To evaluate feasibility and implications, these suggestions will be discussed in the framework of the Technical Expert Group on MSP data.

Task 8: Monitoring quality / performance and deal with user feedback**Task 9: Maintain the existing thematic web portal for a maximum of six months from the start of the project**

Status of the Milestones and Deliverables listed in the workplan					
Milestone/Deliverable in numerical order	WP	Date due	Status (To do/ Delivered/ Delayed)	Date delivered	If Delayed: reason for delay and expected delivery date
e.g. M1: xxx	WP1	Dd/mm/yyyy	Delivered	Dd/mm/yyyy	...

e.g. D1.1: xxx	WP1	Dd/mm/yyyy	Delayed		...

EMODnet Human Activities work plan is not structured around milestones, as the project is managed as an iterative and incremental process.

2. Identified issues: status and actions taken

A. Priority issue(s) identified and communicated by CINEA/ DG MARE/ SECRETARIAT				
Priority issue	Status (Pending/ Resolved)	Action(s) taken/ remaining actions planned	Date due	Date resolved
EM-867 Provide EMODnet metadata records relevant to Ocean Hackathon 2023	Resolved	Metadata provided		08/11/2023

B. Issues / challenges identified by the thematic assembly group itself				
Priority issue / challenge	Status (Pending/ Resolved)	Action(s) taken / remaining actions planned	Date due	Date resolved

3. Communication assets

A. (Co-)Authored peer-reviewed publications in the quarter					
Date of publication	Type of publication	Full reference	ISBN	DOI	Is it open access? Yes/No
	e.g. paper; conference proceedings; book chapter; ...				

B. Other/non-peer reviewed types of publications (co-)authored in the quarter					
Date of publication	Type of publication	Full reference	ISBN	DOI	Is it open access? Yes/No
09/11/2023	Paper	European Commission, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Falco, L., Pititto, A., Adnams, W. et al., EU vessel density map – Detailed method, Publications Office of the European Union, 2023, https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2771/518143	978-92-68-09107-4	10.2771/518143	Yes

For a compressive overview of publications referring to/making use of EMODnet data and/or data products, please consult Google Scholar.

4. Monitoring indicators

Comments on the progress indicators in the indicators spreadsheet		
Progress indicator	Means of collecting figures	Comment
1. Current status and coverage of total available thematic data A) Volume and coverage of available data	<i>Own database</i>	Volume increases as a result of data sets receiving updates
What is your opinion on the data coverage within EMODnet for your thematic?		Coverage is ever improving, as can be seen by the increase in data coverage, but there remain data sets which should be improved, such as aquaculture (in some MSs), pipelines and cables, though there don't seem to be useful sources
B) Usage of data in this quarter	<i>Europa Analytics</i>	Marked increase in usage (+30% downloads and WMS, and +40% WFS on average). This is consistent with the historical trend, as Q4 comes after the summer season where usage tends to decrease.
2. Current status and coverage of total number of data products A) Volume and coverage of available data products	<i>Own database</i>	Nothing to report
B) Usage of data products in this quarter	<i>Europa Analytics</i>	Marked increase, especially when it comes to WMS requests. This is consistent with the historical trend, as Q4 comes after the summer season where usage tends to decrease.
3. Internal and external organisations supplying/approached to supply data and data products within this quarter		Nothing to report
5.1 Daily number of page views of EMODnet Thematic entry page	Europa Analytics	Though this is not immediately visible from the graphs - the scales are different - there's a marked increase in the daily number of page views, with a peak during the EMODnet

		Open Conference. Once again, the increase is mostly due to the fact that in the summer traffic is usually lower.
5.2 Quarterly total number of visitors, page views, unique page views and percentage of returning visitors	Europa Analytics	Increase in number of visitors and page views. Unique page views and % of returning visitors are stable.

The monitoring numbers reported as part of the progress monitoring of EMODnet performance are collected through Europa Analytics, unless reported otherwise.

5. Annex: Other documentation attached

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