



# EMODnet



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## EMODnet Biology V

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EMODnet Phase III

### D3.1.1 Internal WP3 and WP4 Workshop



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## Document info

Title [ref]*	D3.1.1 Internal WP3 and WP4 Workshop
WP title [ref]*	WP3- Data Products WP4- Uptake and Outreach
Task [ref]*	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
Authors [affiliation]	Benjamin Weigel, INRAE Marina Lipizer, OGS
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\*[ref] refers to the corresponding abbreviated name of the Deliverable (or WP, or Task...), if appropriate

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# Internal workshop

The workshop was kicked-off by an introductory presentation to its aims and purpose given by Benjamin Weigel (Slide deck 1). The main goal was to facilitate cross-WP collaboration and awareness of previous work done by WP3 and WP4 to discuss the best possible ways of how EMODnet can support Regional Sea Convention (RSC) needs in the future. WP3 contributed with knowledge of existing data products, and WP4 contributed with specific information relating to their previous work with RSCs. The focus behind this exercise was to increase the relevance of existing as well as newly developed data products. The workshop also served as a supporting precursor for WP4 deliverables 4.2.2 (Questionnaire to inform about what data & products EMODnet Biology offers and to collect stakeholder needs, M6) and 4.2.3 (Workshop with RSCs to understand major needs, M12). For this, the workshop participants jointly discussed the questionnaire draft (slide deck 2) and suggested modifications and additions.

## 1 Participants

Workshop participants with affiliations

Name	Organisation
<b>Benjamin Weigel</b>	Institut National de Recherche pour l'Agriculture, L'Alimentation et l'Environnement (INRAE)
<b>Marina Lipizer</b>	Istituto Nazionale di Oceanografia e di Geofisica Sperimentale Trieste (OGS)
<b>Joanna Beja</b>	Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ)
<b>Salvador Fernandez</b>	Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ)
<b>Luuk van der Heijden</b>	Stichting Deltares
<b>Elvira Ramos</b>	Instituto de Hidráulica Ambiental de la Universidad de Cantabria (IH Cantabria)
<b>Gert Van Hoey</b>	Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research (ILVO)
<b>Arnfinn Morvik</b>	Havforskningsinstituttet Institute of Marine Research (IMR)
<b>Lisa Benedetti</b>	International Ocean Data Exchanged (IODE-UNESCO)
<b>Antonina dos Santos</b>	Instituto Português do Mar e da Atmosfera (IPMA)
<b>Karline Soetaert</b>	Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research (NIOZ)
<b>Astrid Wittmann</b>	Pangaea- University of Bremen
<b>Tom Webb</b>	University of Sheffield
<b>Charles Troupin</b>	Université Liège
<b>Laura Boicenco</b>	National Institute for Marine Research and Development (NIMRD)
<b>Neil Holdsworth</b>	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)

## 2 Discussion

The main discussion points centred on the upcoming stakeholder workshop organized by WP4 that will engage RSCs, namely OSPAR (North Atlantic/North Sea), HELCOM (Baltic), UNEP/MAP (Barcelona Convention (Mediterranean), Black Sea Commission (Black Sea), with the goal to identify their specific needs and involvement. WP3 and WP4 aim on working to align data products with identified needs to increase product relevance and support RSCs in the best possible way.

One action for doing so is to compile all information previous EMODnet Biology contributions, in terms of data and data products, covering GES criteria and MSFD indicators. The compilation of such a table (e.g. slide deck 2) is currently ongoing work covered by VLIZ. It was suggested that this could become a “living document” where new data and products can be added along with an expanding range of indicators.

Most of the group discussion focused on the stakeholder questionnaire draft (slide deck 2) and its improvement. All participants are encouraged to contribute and suggest edits to the draft by September 15th, keeping in mind that the questionnaire is supposed to be brief and as simple as possible while at the same time provided most useful output and detail. The purpose of the survey is to identify gaps in data products and analysis tools that WP3 could support.

Raised discussion points by workshop participants that will be addressed in the revision of the questionnaire are listed below:

- Opening up questionnaire to specific needs and wishes of RSCs may still be useful and insightful even if those may not be directly feasible for EMODnet
- RSCs will not only be interested in data products but also data availability
- For the question concerning temporal scales, it may be interesting to include not only the resolution but the time frame the data is from.
- Instead of only asking which data products are needed, it could be additionally formulated in a way asking what the current gaps in data collection and data products are for their indicators.
- The question on which products are needed should be extended to include also “tools” such as R packages WP3 have developed/ are developing. Concerning the previous bullet point, this should also be extended considering the tools, i.e. what gaps in data analysis tools could be filled.
- One question should address where RSCs are getting their data from, e.g. OBIS, GBIF etc.
- It could be showcased that EMODnet has much data and products beyond MSFD indicators in order to see if there may be interest in adopting anything.
- The question concerning the metadata was found to possibly be less relevant in the survey, with unclear interpretation of results. Additionally, there is not much that can be altered concerning the metadata in the portal. Possibility to address ease of navigability through the portal to assess user friendliness was suggested, but could be outside of the scope of this survey
- We could highlight that the biology lot is the only EMODnet lot building analysis tools with the possibility to plug in own data.
- Given the uneven expertise of EMODnet experts (e.g. very strong in benthos but lacking e.g. birds) the question rises how this constraint could be addressed. One possibility would be to be more openly inclusive to external experts. There was a thought of adding this to the survey by asking if external experts would be willing to collaborate (identified based on lacking species groups)

Lastly it was discussed that concrete dates for the workshop will have to be decided as soon as possible in order to have sufficient time for preparation. The approximate workshop period will be April/May 2024. Further, it will have to be decided how many workshops there will be help, i.e. if there will be multiple RSC-specific ones, grouped, or only one.

The workshop was concluded by briefly discussing the upcoming [EMODnet Open Conference and Jamboree](#), which will be held in Brussels end of November this year. All EMODnet partners were encouraged to register and/or submit an abstract (abstract deadline 2023-09-14)

### **3 Annexes**

Slide deck 1 - Pages 8-11

Slide deck 2- Pages 13-17



**BIOLOGY**

*Dive into data on Europe's marine life*

# WP3 – WP4 internal workshop

*Regional Sea Convention needs and involvement*

September 7<sup>th</sup>

INRAE

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**AIMS**



**Cross WP communication and knowledge exchange  
to achieve best possible outcomes for this phase**



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**AIMS**

- Discuss RSCs needs and involvement
- (Preparation for) aligning data products with RSCs' needs in close collaboration with WP4
- Compile information on what WP3 can/ has deliver/ed
- Focus on the relevance of data products
- WS as precursor for co-creation WS of WP4 with RSC in M12



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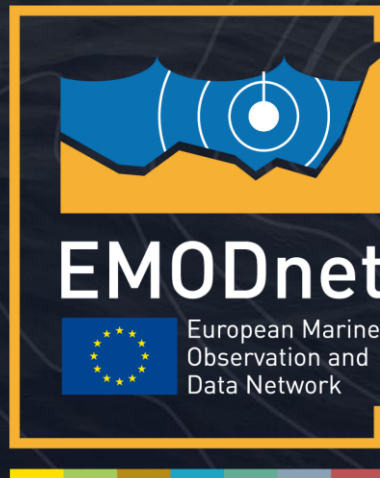
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**WP3 will contribute with knowledge of products and possible connections to other projects.**

**WP4 will contribute with specific information relating to their previous work with the RSCs and other European and international initiatives**



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## WP3 – WP4 Workshop, 07.09.2023

### WP4 - Uptake and Outreach

**WP4 Objectives:** to promote EMODnet Biology data (WP2), products (WP3) and services (WP5) and engage relevant actors (e.g. RSCs) and contribute to implementation of EU legislation

- ❖ **What** is EMODnet Biology contribution to assess environmental status assessment (towards “GES” *sensu* MSFD) in terms of data and products
- ❖ **Who** will be engaged: OSPAR (North Atlantic/North Sea), HELCOM (Baltic), UNEP/MAP (Barcelona Convention (Mediterranean), Black Sea Commission (Black Sea)
- ❖ **How:** stakeholder identification; questionnaire (on data and products needs and on specific requirements); workshops for RSCs
- ❖ **When:** questionnaire to be sent (November); workshop (April/May)



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# What is the expected contribution from this workshop:

What is EMODnet Biology contribution to assess environmental status assessment (towards “GES” *sensu* MSFD) in terms of data and products

Good environmental status (GES): what do we need?

## 11 descriptors of GES

<b>Biological diversity</b> 1. 	<b>Non-Indigenous species</b> 2. 	<b>Population of commercial fish/shellfish</b> 3. 	<b>Elements of marine food webs</b> 4. 
<b>Eutrophication</b> 5. 	<b>Sea floor integrity</b> 6. 	<b>Alteration of hydrographical conditions</b> 7. 	<b>Concentrations of contaminants</b> 8. 
<b>Contaminants in fish/seafood for human consumption</b> 9. 	<b>Marine litter</b> 10. 	<b>Introduction of energy including underwater noise</b> 11. 	



MSFD (Marine Strategy Framework Directive) adopted in 2008: lays down criteria for all EU Member States to evaluate and GES for the national waters

## 11 descriptors of GES

For each descriptors there are several **Criteria**, under Criteria there are multiple **Indicators**,...  
In the case of **D1 Biological diversity**:

**D1C1 Mortality rate from incidental bycatch**

**D1C2 Population abundance**

C2.1 Population trends and abundance of seals  
C2.2 Harbour Seal and Grey Seal Abundance Assessment Values (Method for assessment including pup production for grey seal)  
C2.3 Pilot Assessment on Abundance and Distribution of Killer Whales  
...

**D1C3 Demographic characteristics**

**D1C4 Distributional Range and pattern**

**D1C5 Habitat for the species**

EMODnet Biology may contribute to:

**D1 Biodiversity**

**D2 Non - indigenous species**

**D3 Commercial fish stocks**

**D4 Food webs**

**D5 Eutrophication**



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## D1 Biodiversity:

# Good environmental status (GES): what do we need?

## D1C2 Population abundance - RSCs relevant indicators per species group

### Mammals:

<b>HELCOM:</b>	<b>C2.1 Population trends and abundance of seals</b>
<b>OSPAR:</b>	<b>C2.2 Harbour Seal and Grey Seal Abundance</b>
	<b>C2.3 Pilot Assessment on Abundance and Distribution of Killer Whales</b>
	<b>C2.4 Abundance and Distribution of Coastal Bottlenose Dolphins</b>
<b>UNEPMAP:</b>	<b>C2.5 Abundance and Distribution of Cetaceans</b>
	<b>C2.6 Species population abundance (marine mammals, Common Indicator 4)</b>

### Birds:

<b>HELCOM:</b>	<b>C2.7 Abundance of wintering waterbirds in the Baltic Sea</b>
<b>OSPAR:</b>	<b>C2.8 Marine Bird Abundance</b>
<b>UNEPMAP:</b>	<b>C2.9 Population size of selected species (of seabirds) is maintained</b>

### Reptiles:

<b>UNEPMAP:</b>	<b>C2.10 Population abundance (Reptiles; Common Indicator 4)</b>
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### sea turtles

### Fish

<b>HELCOM:</b>	<b>C2.11 Abundance of salmon spawners and smolt</b>
	<b>C2.12 Abundance of sea trout spawners and parr</b>
	<b>C2.13 Abundance of key coastal fish species</b>
<b>OSPAR:</b>	<b>C2.14 Recovery in the Population Abundance of Sensitive Fish Species</b>
	<b>C2.15 Fish abundance (Common Indicator FC1)</b>



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## Contribution of EMODnet Biology to GES criteria & indicators:

Descriptor 1: Biodiversity					
Criteria	Indicators				
D1C2 Population abundance	Species groups	Targeted by EMODnet Biology data	Targeted by EMODnet Biology products	Sea basin	Temporal range
Marine Mammals	Harbour Seal and Grey Seal				
	Killer Whales				
	Bottlenose Dolphins				
	cetaceans				
	Mediterranean monk seal (Monachus monachus).				
Marine birds	wintering waterbirds				
Marine reptiles	(Caretta caretta) and greens (Chelonia mydas)				
Fish	salmon spawners and smolt				
	sea trout spawners and parr				
	key coastal fish species				





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## WP4 Needs from WP4



“Best products” answering RSCs (& MSFD) needs: in general and for each sea basin



What are RSCs needs? Please contribute to questionnaire on “Data products (maps/spatial-temporal trends,...)”:

Question	Answer
Have you ever used data products from EMODnet Biology?	Yes No
What kind of data products?	spatial distribution maps, temporal trends, harmonized dataset on functional group
Please indicate what data products you most need. Proposal: What are the main gaps? Answers: Information on specific groups/Spatial distribution/Temporal/Updated information	spatial distribution maps, temporal trends, harmonized dataset on functional group, Migration routes Other Not relevant
Other needs	Free text
What is the spatial scale required?	Local National Sub-regional Regional Other→please specify Not relevant
What are the time frames required?	Less than monthly monthly, seasonally, yearly, Decade Other Not relevant
Are metadata sufficiently described?	large improvement needed, some improvement needed, basic information available, well described, do not know Other