

# EMODnet Stakeholder Conference & Sea-basin Workshops

Stress-testing European Marine Data –  
Towards a European Ocean  
Observing System

14 -15 February 2017

Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium  
for Science and the Arts

Brussels, Belgium



**EMODnet**



European Marine  
Observation and  
Data Network

*Conference Chair: Phil Weaver (Chair of the EMODnet Steering Committee)*

## 14 February 2017

### **09:00-12:30 Plenary Opening: Stress-Testing European Marine Data – the EMODnet Sea-basin Checkpoints**

- **Welcome and setting the scene – 10'**  
Jan-Bart Calewaert (Head of the EMODnet Secretariat)
- **Importance of data & information for users of ocean and coastal space and the role of industry as users and providers of marine data – 30'**  
Keynote by Val Cummins (Irish Maritime and Energy Resource Cluster)
- **Concept and challenges of the EMODnet Sea-basin Checkpoints – 20'**  
Iain Shepherd (EC, Directorate-General Maritime Affairs and Fisheries)

*/ Coffee break from 10:00 until 10:30 /*

- **Results of the EMODnet Sea-basin Checkpoints to date – 90'**  
Jun She (Baltic), Nadia Pinardi (MedSea), Quillon Harpham (North Sea), Mikaël Vasquez (Atlantic), Atanas Palazov (Black Sea), Belinda Kater (Arctic)

*/ Lunch from 12:00 until 13:30 /*

### **13:30-17:00 Breakout session with six regional Sea-basin Stakeholder Workshops (in parallel)**

**Evening reception & networking dinner from 17:30 until 20:00**

14 February

## 15 February 2017

### 09:00-12:30 Plenary Closing: Improving Europe's Marine Observation Capacity

- **Outputs and recommendations from the Sea-basin Stakeholder Workshops – 90'**  
Jun She (Baltic), Nadia Pinardi (MedSea), Quillon Harpham (North Sea), Mikaël Vasquez (Atlantic), Atanas Palazov (Black Sea), Belinda Kater (Arctic) - 60' updates + 30' discussion

*/ Coffee break from 10:30 until 11:00 /*

- **Outcome of the Consultation on establishing a European Ocean Observing System (EOOS) – 15'**  
Glenn Nolan (EuroGOOS)
- **Marine data & observations for storm surge forecasting and other Met Office ocean modelling - 30'**  
Keynote by Clare O'Neill (Ocean Modelling Scientist, UK Met Office)
- **Concluding panel discussion: Towards improved data collection and open access - Synthesis of findings from the Conference – 75'**  
Bernhard Friess (EC, Directorate-General Maritime Affairs and Fisheries),  
Niall McDonough (European Marine Board),  
Simon Jennings (ICES), Samantha Burgess (WWF),  
Val Cummins (Irish Maritime and Energy Resource Cluster)

*/ Lunch from 13:00 until 14:00 /*

### 14:00 -18:00 EMODnet Steering Committee Meeting (closed meeting)

# Speakers' Profiles



**Phil Weaver**, chair of the EMODnet Steering Committee, trained as a geologist and completed a PhD in micropalaeontology in 1978. He joined the Institute of Oceanographic Sciences in the UK in 1980 and

transferred with them to the National Oceanography Centre (NOC) in Southampton in 1995. He was Director of the NERC Strategic Research Division at NOC from 2006 – 2010. In 2010 he set up Seascope Consultants Ltd, though he remains a Senior Visiting Fellow of NOC and still actively publishes his research in leading marine science journals. Phil is currently the Scientific Coordinator of the Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative (GOBI), and is the Coordinator of the FP7-funded MIDAS project focusing on environmental impacts of extracting mineral and energy resources from the deep-sea environment.



**Jan-Bart Calewaert** is head of the EMODnet Secretariat. He trained as a bio-engineer and holds a Masters in Marine Environment Management. Through most of his career, Jan-Bart has been involved in a range of multi-

disciplinary research projects and science policy advisory bodies in support of marine research, sustainable management of marine and coastal environments and related policy frameworks. He has mostly worked at the interface between science and policy, combining his broad expertise in marine sciences with knowledge of the marine and maritime policy landscape in Belgium and Europe.



**Bernhard Friess** has been head of the European Commission's Directorate for Maritime Policy and Blue Economy since January 2017. Previously he was the director of the "Atlantic, Outermost Regions and

Arctic" Directorate of the European Commission's Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Directorate-General. Mr Friess studied Law at Munich University. His career with the European Commission included assignment in the areas of Education and Training, Competition Policy and Internal Market Policy.



**Valerie Cummins** is a coastal scientist from University College Cork, with a special interest in the green blue economy (i.e. reconciling the need to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in the context of a

thriving maritime sector). She was co-founder of the Irish Maritime and Energy Resource Cluster (IMERC), an ambitious initiative to develop a global maritime innovation hub in Cork Harbour, which she led for the last six years. Prior to IMERC, Val was Director of the Coastal and Marine Research Centre for ten years. She won major research grants and built significant research capability within a team of 35 scientists. She has published in peer reviewed journals on coastal governance and is active internationally as co-chair of the Future Earth Coast since 2016.

# Speakers' Profiles



**Iain Shepherd** is a senior expert at the Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries. A physics graduate, he worked for many years at the Joint Research Centre (JRC) in support of scientific EU policies on issues such as nuclear reactor safety, humanitarian aid and fisheries control. He provided technical expertise to the inter-Commission service group that was set up to develop a more integrated approach to the EU maritime policy, subsequently joined the Task Force within the Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries and then moved to the Atlantic, Outermost Regions and Arctic Unit. He has contributed to a number of initiatives aimed at promoting growth in the blue economy and has special responsibility for the Marine Knowledge 2020 initiative to widen access to information about the sea and for a new process to obtain an agreed picture of the nature, size and dynamics of the EU's blue economy.



**Jun She** is the coordinator of EMODnet Baltic Sea-basin Checkpoint. He has a PhD in climate dynamics in 1991 and is a senior researcher of Danish Meteorological Institute (DMI). Dr. She has also been Chair of the EuroGOOS Scientific Advisory Working Group since 2014. His early research in China, Japan and USA (1991-1998) was on ocean and wave modelling, data assimilation and sampling strategy design. He moved to Denmark in 1998 and started his career on operational oceanography becoming Deputy Director of Centre for Ocean and Ice at DMI. He has led a series of activities in assessing and optimising European Sea observing networks in EU projects ODon, ECOOP and OPEC. He has been deeply involved in developing Copernicus Marine Environment Monitoring Service, as a MyOcean Board Member during 2009-2015, and now Deputy Coordinator of Baltic Sea Marine Monitoring and Forecasting Centre (BALMFC).



**Nadia Pinardi** is the coordinator of the EMODnet Mediterranean Sea-basin Checkpoint. She holds a Ph.D. in Applied Physics from Harvard University, and she is associate tenure professor of Oceanography at Bologna University, Italy. Her interests range from ocean numerical modelling and forecasting to data assimilation, predictability and numerical modelling of the marine physical-biological interactions. She has coordinated, since the middle of the nineties, the development and implementation of operational oceanography in the Mediterranean Sea. She is now co-president of the Joint Committee for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM), a WMO and UNESCO-IOC coordinating group for the development of operational meteo-marine and oceanographic services.



**Quillon Harpham** is a Principal Scientist in the Hydrodynamics and Metocean Group at HR Wallingford specialising in hydroinformatics. He is a Chartered Marine Scientist and is the coordinator of the North Sea Checkpoint project as well as leading HR Wallingford's participation in Atlantic Checkpoint. He directs the SeaZone marine data service, is the current chair of the OpenMI Association and the company's technical representative at the Open Geospatial Consortium. Quillon has an MSc in Numerical Analysis and over 20 years' experience of water information systems and data. He has designed, coded and implemented a number of award winning projects with specialisations including data and information management; model and data integration; workflow; web applications; usability and standardisation.

# Speakers' Profiles



**Mickaël Vasquez** is the joint co-ordinator of the EMODnet Atlantic Sea-basin Checkpoint. He studied in Paris, where he obtained a Masters in Software Engineering applied to Geosciences and has been working

at Ifremer (Brest, France) since 2010. He has more than 15 years of experience on managing spatial data in support of marine research, and he has more recently specialized in marine habitats mapping. As a marine mapping scientist Mickaël was heavily involved in the European Commission INTERREG Project MeshAtlantic as well as in the two first phases of EMODnet Seabed Habitats.



**Atanas Palazov** is the coordinator of EMODnet Black Sea Checkpoint. He has a PhD in engineering and is the Head of the Bulgarian National Oceanographic Data Centre and former Director of IO-BAS (2007-

2015). He is also the coordinator of two EEA supported projects (IMAMO, MARLEN), and key expert in DG MARE MARSPLAN-BS Project (Cross-Border Maritime Spatial Plan for the Black Sea – Romania, Bulgaria). Dr. Palazov is a Member of IOC/GOOS Steering Committee, Member of the Black-SeaGOOS Committee, Founder and first coordinator and member of ODINBLACKSEA. He is also Chairman of the National Oceanographic Commission, Member of the interdepartmental working group on Integrated maritime policy for the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria and Member of the Advisory and Coordinating Council on the conservation of the marine environment in Black Sea waters.



**Belinda Kater** is project manager of the EMODnet Sea-basin Checkpoint. She is trained as a marine biologist. She has been working for ARCADIS (The Netherlands) since 2007 where she leads the work on Marine and

Aquatic Ecology of the Nature Department. Formerly she worked for the Rijkswaterstaat, the Dutch Government Administration responsible for the design, construction, management and maintenance of the main infrastructure facilities in the Netherlands. For 25 years she has worked worldwide on many marine environmental projects, varying from Environmental Impact Assessments to Water Quality Studies. Apart from managing international projects she likes to perform modelling studies and analyse large datasets.



**Glenn Nolan** is Secretary General of the European Global Ocean Observing System (EuroGOOS AISBL). He leads EuroGOOS in delivering the 2015-2020 strategic plan to promote, cooperate, co-produce and sustain

Europe's Ocean Observing System. Previously Glenn was responsible for the delivery of oceanographic products and services to the Irish government and marine sectors including maritime safety, environment and fisheries, wave energy and smart technologies at Ireland's Marine Institute, leading a multi-disciplinary team of scientists, modellers, technicians and administrators to leverage Ireland's oceanographic potential. Glenn is currently a member of various advisory bodies including the GOOS steering committee, Copernicus Marine Service (CMEMS) advisory committee, Euro-Argo advisory board, EC GEO high level working group and the EC Atlantic Seabed mapping International Working Group.

# Speakers' Profiles



**Clare O'Neill** is an ocean forecasting research scientist at the United Kingdom's Met Office. Currently working on setting up a new storm surge model for the UK, she has also worked on setting up, running, and analysing ocean models for commercial customers, especially from the oil and gas industry. Before joining the Met Office in 2012, she was a coastal modeller at the National Oceanography Centre (formerly Proudman Oceanographic Laboratory) where she was responsible for a pre-operational modelling system for the Irish Sea, comprising a nested suite of ocean-ecosystem models and a website that displayed results to users. An oceanographer, Dr. O'Neill completed her PhD in ocean modelling, at Plymouth University, in 2008. During this time she set up a POLCOMS model of the Rockall Bank region and used this to investigate formation and cascading of dense water.



**Simon Jennings** is the Chair of the Science Committee of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) and an Honorary Chair of Environmental Sciences at the University of East Anglia (UEA). He formerly held roles as both a Lead Scientist and Lead Adviser at the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas), Lowestoft, UK. Simon also remains active as a research scientist, working with colleagues to further understanding of marine systems and their interactions with people and the environment. This understanding is being used to improve methods of monitoring, assessment and management.



**Niall McDonough** is Executive Director of the European Marine Board. Trained as a marine biologist with a PhD in mariculture, his research interests included aquaculture, fisheries and marine resource management. Following two years with the Environmental Change Institute at the National University of Ireland, Galway, Niall served for five years as Head of the Centre for Marine Resources and Mariculture at Queen's University working on ecosystem approaches to sustainable inshore mariculture and shellfish stock restoration. From 2007 to 2009 he worked with the Irish Marine Institute as Team Leader for International Affairs. He sits on several international advisory panels and has responsibility to communicate on behalf of the Board with European and international partners. He is co-Chair of the Steering Group for the European Ocean Observing System (EOOS) initiative.



**Samantha Burgess** is Head of European Marine Policy for WWF. Sam has over 15 years experience in the marine, earth and environmental fields, focusing on ocean governance & science-informed policy. Previously Sam was Director of OceanTerra, specialising in innovative solutions to environmental challenges and formerly Chief Scientific Advisor and Director of Evidence for the Marine Management Organisation which manages and regulates fishing, planning, licensing and conservation activities in England. Prior to her work in government, Sam led the marine programme for an international non-governmental organisation focusing on citizen science and conservation. Sam has publications in earth system science, marine ecology and aquaculture and her career has spanned the academic, not-for-profit, consultancy and government sectors.

EMODnet: your gateway to marine data in Europe

[www.emodnet.eu](http://www.emodnet.eu)



The European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet) is financed by the European Commission under Regulation (EU) No. 1255/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2011 establishing a Programme to support the further development of an Integrated Maritime Policy.