EMODnet Thematic Lot n° 7 - Human Activities

9th Bi-monthly Report

Reporting Period: 05/03/2015 – 04/05/2015

Date: 04/05/2015

Contents

1. Highlights in this reporting period

- A series of improvements are being implemented as a result of a conference call with OSPAR

- Metadata are being updated to better explain the process history and overall quality of data

- Data collection on hydrocarbon licensing is almost complete, and a new dataset will soon be made available

2. Meetings held since last report

A conference call with OSPAR was organised on 31 March 2015. During the EMODnet-MSFD coordination meeting, OSPAR expressed their interest in the project, and it was decided that Human Activities should seek better coordination with OSPAR.
Cogea, AZTI and CETMAR participated in the conference call together with OSPAR.

Below are the main issues discussed:

- OSPAR suggested that the 'work-in-progress' status of the project be better specified to users. A notice has been put on the map legend, and the 'About' pages of the website are being redrafted.

- A first set of suggestions concerned the datasets for which OSPAR is a data source: dredging, aggregate extraction, dumped munitions, and wind farms. Based on OSPAR data, the datasets currently shown by Human Activities could include more information. The Human Activities team committed to studying solutions to improve these datasets.

- OSPAR also invited Human Activities to check out their data on oil and gas platforms, marine protected areas, marine litter, and underwater noise. Oil and gas platform were initially ruled out by the Human Activities team, as most Member States made available boreholes and/or wells instead. However, the Human Activities team took up on OSPAR's offer of data, and will soon make available platforms on the portal. Marine litter and underwater noise, on the other hand are out of the scope of contract, although they would undoubtedly be of interest for the project. It was thus decided to investigate how and when this information could be covered.

- The OSPAR boundary layer currently shown Human Activities is not correct. It will be replaced with the correct one.

- The most important suggestion concerned metadata. OSPAR noted that generally speaking the 'lineage' (quality & validity) section of metadata on Human Activities could be more infomative, and better explain the process history and/or overall quality of spatial datasets. As a result, all metadata are currently under revision (some have already been updated). Special attention is being paid to explaining in detail how the team has harmonised the data collected and made available on the portal.

- OSPAR also noted that it would be useful to provide a sort of a 'changelog' to easily spot changes whenever a dataset is updated. The Human Activities agreed on this suggestion and decided to provide this information through metadata.

Another conference call was organised on 21 April with the Italian partners involved in the EMODnet system (including checkpoints). It was agreed to investigate options to organise an EMODnet day in Italy.

3. Work package updates

WP 2 – Development of the portal and maintenance

Progress:

- Hydrocarbon Extraction data and metadata updated.
- Dredge Soil Dumping data and metadata updated.
- Aggregate Extraction metadata updated.
- 'Database under Construction' image added to legend and search page.
- Started investigating dataset filtering by attribute and 'map share' functionality.

Next Steps:

- Update port data.
- Allow ports & fish catches to be served as WFS (e.g. by restricting attributes).
- New data will be replaced/added as it becomes available.
- Further development on functionality.

WP 3 – Data collection

Aggregate extraction

We collected data on aggregates extraction in the Basque coast (Spain) starting from 1995.

The Ministry of Environment and Water in Bulgaria was contacted, but there has not been an answer yet. On the contrary, the person contacted at the Black Sea Economic Centre (Bulgaria) seems to be interested in sending us some data.

Cultural heritage

People in charge of SPLASHCOS project (Dr Hauke Jöns) and of the dissemination of SPLASHCOS data (Dick Schaap) have been contacted again by e-mail (April 24th) to obtain updates about the SPLASHCOS –viewer project, which was planned in the "beginning of 2005". The answer is still pending.

A similar request has also been sent on the same date to the team leader of the MACHUS project (Dr Johan Opdebeek). No answer has been received as of May 5th.

Phone contacts are planned in May to try to solve this problem.

Considering the difficulties in getting access to underwater sites datasets, a contact has been established with people in charge of the lighthouse database in order to feed the "cultural heritage" portal as soon as possible. http://www.lighthousesrus.org/Maps/Overview/EuropeS.htm.

Most lighthouses are located on the coast (out of the scope) but some of them are on the maritime domain (small islands or rocks) en could thus be integrated in our project.

Dredging

Most data from the Mediterranean have been collected from the web (Cyprus, France, Greece, Croatia, Italy, Malta and Slovenia) since contacted persons did not answer.

Hydrocarbon extraction

The dataset on boreholes is being updated. So far updates have been published for the following countries:

- Germany
- Italy
- Netherlands
- Norway
- UK

In addition, data collection is ongoing for licences, the new dataset under these theme announced in the previous progress report. So far data for the following countries have been collected a:

- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Denmark
- Germany
- Greece
- Ireland
- Italy
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Poland

Finally we are considering the possibility to also add bidding blocks under the hydrocarbon extraction theme

Mariculture

Main facts concerning data collection on mariculture during March-April are as follows:

- Datasets have been collected from Spain (for finfish and shellfish) and Finland (finfish only);
- The Greek Ministry for Agriculture has been contacted, based on contact information provided by Greek local experts, there has been no answer as of May 5th 2015;
- DG SANTE has sent a complete list of contacts for veterinary services in the MS in charge of the lists of registered aquaculture sites under Council Directive 2006/88/EC;

- Chief Veterinary Officers (based on the list provided by DG SANTE) have been contacted in all coastal MS where there is a production of marine aquaculture (source: FAO) and where data have not yet been collected. The following answers have been received:
  - In Croatia, geolocation information for mariculture sites is not available in the sanitary registry;
  - New updates of Irish datasets have been provided (in PDF) and the geo-referencing system used has been confirmed;
  - In Bulgaria, there is a marginal marine aquaculture production, but it comes from one single farm, land-based (re-circulation system);
  - There are no registered finfish sites in England and in Wales and the data already available in EMODnet for shellfish is correct;
  - In France, geolocation of shellfish farms is not available in the sanitary registry (Euroshell data constitute the best possible information). Geolocation data for finfish farms should be available, but we have not yet received the dataset.
- Answers are still pending in the following MS: Estonia, Germany, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Malta, Slovenia, Sweden. Among these MS, production is very significant in Greece and Italy and significant in Germany and Portugal. These MS will contacted again in the coming weeks.

Ocean energy facilities

Some European countries (Sweden, Norway, Belgium, Ireland, Germany, Italy, Spain, Denmark, Portugal, The Netherlands and United Kingdom) were contacted for data request. Some countries answered, but most of the new data have been collected from different web sites.

Other forms of area management / designation

The OSPAR boundary has been updated containing the external boundary and internal region boundary lines to describe the OSPAR area. In addition, a revision of the territorial water boundaries has been carried out in order to update the current layer.

Waste disposal

A review of all the contacted institutions has been developed. The efforts have been concentrated in establishing communication with the organizations placed in the Ionian Sea and Central Mediterranean Sea, Adriatic Sea, Aegean Levantine Sea and Black Sea basins. The contacts combined emails and telephone communications. New data on the offshore spoil grounds in Malta and dumped munition in Italy have been obtained.

Wind farms

The wind-farms has been reviewed in order to collect the accurate information. The European Wind Energy Association (EWEA) collaborate in this re-tuning process ensuring that information is up to date.

WP 5 – Data harmonisation (All)

Aggregate extraction

Data from OSPAR area is being geo-referenced and harmonised.

Dredging

New data from the Mediterranean is being harmonised.

Hydrocarbon extraction

Criteria are being defined to harmonise licences and bidding blocks.

Mariculture

Data processing is in final stage for the Shellfish database for Spain and Denmark. Datasets have been integrated into the database, and the following data harmonisation tasks have been carried out:

- Conversion from Excel tables to a database format;
- Identification and exclusion of sites corresponding to land-based systems;
- Harmonisation of species description;
- Identification of potential duplicates (same name and coordinates);
- Integration into the geodatabase;
- Harmonisation of coordinate reference systems.

The only remaining task is to measure and integrate into the geodatabase the distance between the identified sites and the coastline.

In addition, in Spain, there is a significant number of sites located in estuaries or coastal wetlands, such as salt marshes. Discussions are still ongoing with the Spanish authorities about whether they are considered as maritime or not. An option could be to leave them in the dataset and label them as "inland" as regards the distance to the coastline, as is done for a few sites in the UK.

The datasets for finfish farms are being processed for the following MS: Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Spain, UK (Scotland). Data processing includes the same steps as for the shellfish database.

Ocean energy facilities

New data from Baltic Sea, Greater North Sea, Celtic Seas, Macaronesia and Western Mediterranean Sea have been harmonised. However, from Eastern Mediterranean, Adriatic Sea and Black Sea have been confirmed that there are not ocean facilities.

Waste disposal

One dataset for Maltese marine waters indicating geographic position (point) for material disposal sites. Provided by David Kerr, Maritime Affairs Attaché from the Permanent Representation of Malta to the EU.

4. Specific challenges or difficulties encountered during the reporting period

No specific challenges or difficulties encountered.

5. User Feedback

Date	Name	Organization	Type of user feedback (*e.g. technical, case study etc)*	Response time to address user request
2015/03/04	Maria Olsson	Swedish Energy Agency	Technical	20 days
2015/03/17	Trevor Alcorn	Marine Institute	License Agreement for Use of Digital Data	1 day

6. Outreach and communication activities

No activities to report.

7. Updates on Progress Indicators

Indicator 1 - Volume of data made available through the portal

Activity		Type/format				
		Points	Lines	Polygons	Related tables/records	Raster tiles/cells
Cultural heritage						
Mariculture						
Aggregate extraction						
Dredging (e.g. navigational)						
Ocean energy facility						
Other forms of area management/designation						
Waste disposal (solids, including dredge material, dumped munitions, marine constructions)		15		558		
Wind farms						
Fisheries						
Hydrocarbon extraction		740				
Pipelines and cables	Landing stations (cables)					
	Schematic cables					
	Actual route locations (cables)					
Protected areas						
Commercial shipping, recreational shipping						
Major ports						

Indicator 2 - Organisations supplying each type of data based on (formal) sharing agreements and broken down into country and organisation type (e.g. government, industry, science).

Country	Name	Type
Malta	Permanent Representation of Malta to the EU	Government
Italy	Hydrographic Institute-Ministry of Defence	Government / Science

Indicator 3 - Organisations that have been approached to supply data with no result, including type of data sought and reason why it has not been supplied.

Country	Name	Type of data	Reason why data has not been supplied
Bulgaria	Ministry of Economy	Hydrocarbon extraction and licensing	No reply
Bulgaria	Ministry of Environment and Water. Water Management Directorate	Waste disposal	No reply
Bulgaria	Bulgarian Ministry of Defence	Waste disposal	No reply
Bulgaria	Geological Institute "Strashimir Dimitrov"	Hydrocarbon extraction and licensing	No reply
Croatia	Hydrographic Institute	Waste disposal	No reply
Croatia	Ministry of Defence	Waste disposal	No reply
France	BRGM	Hydrocarbon licensing	No reply
Greece	Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change	Waste disposal	No reply
Italy	Ministry of Environment	Waste disposal	No reply
Latvia	Ministry of Economics of the Republic of Latvia	Hydrocarbon extraction and licensing	No reply
Malta	Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change	Waste disposal	No reply
Malta	The Malta Environment & Planning Authority Environment Directorate	Waste disposal	No reply
Montenegro	GEOZAVOD – The Geological Survey of Montenegro	Hydrocarbon extraction and licensing	No reply

Country	Name	Type of data	Reason why data has not been supplied
Romania	Geological Institute of Romania	Hydrocarbon extraction and licensing	No reply
Romania	NAMR – National Agency for Mineral Resources	Hydrocarbon extraction and licensing	No reply
Romania	Romanian Navy-Ministry of Defence	Waste disposal	No reply
Romania	Water Resources Directorate- Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests	Waste disposal	No reply
Slovenia	Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning	Waste disposal	No reply
Slovenia	Environmental Agency (Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning)	Waste disposal	No reply
Slovenia	Ministry of Infrastructure Slovenian Maritime Administration	Waste disposal	No reply

Indicator 4 - Volume of each type of data and of each data product downloaded from the portal

1st March 2015 to 30th April 2015

Included are instances of downloads and initial requests for WFS links. Statistics exclude Human Activities and Central Portal partners.

Natura2000	16
Dumped Munitions	10
Telecommunication Cables (actual)	10
Hydrocarbon Extraction	8
Shellfish Production	8
Dredge Spoil Dumping	5
OSPAR Maritime Area	5
Aggregate Extraction	4
CDDA	4
Dredging	4
Maritime Boundaries	4
Telecommunication Cables (schematic)	4
Wind Farms	4
Main Ports	3
FAO Fishery Statistical Areas	2
Fish Catches	2

Ocean Energy Facilities	2
Advisory Councils	1
Barcelona Convention	1
ICES Statistical Areas	1
Telecommunication Landing Stations	1
Bucharest Convention	0
HELCOM Maritime Area	0

Indicator 5 - Organisations that have downloaded each data type

1st March 2015 to 30th April 2015

- University of Malaga (Energy), ES
- Institute IMDEA Agua (Research), ES
- URS (Environment), ES
- HR Wallingford (Environment), UK
- RAC/SPA - Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (Environment), ES
- HRI (Other), NL
- University of Pennsylvania (Education), US
- JRC (Research), IT
- CNR-ISMAR - The Institute of Marine Sciences / National Research Council of Italy (Research), IT
- Geo-Marine Technology (Research), US
- Marine Hydrophisical Institute (Transport), UA
- Cerema - Centre for Studies and expertise on risk, the environment , mobility and development (Energy), FR
- GTK - Geological Survey of Finland (Environment), FI
- Maersk Oil (Environment), DK
- IOGP - The International Association of Oil & Gas Producers (Mining), UK
- National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology (Research), IT
- French Ministry of Fisheries (Fisheries and agriculture), FR
- MEDDE/DPMA (Fisheries and agriculture), FR

Indicator 6 - Using user statistics to determine the main pages utilised and to identify preferred user navigations routes

Statistics include all visitors including partners.

View Data

Month	Unique Page Views	Avg. Time on Page (mm:ss)	Page Views	New Visitors	% New Visitors
Mar-15	223	02:36	315	115	51.57%
Apr-15	241	02:43	357	109	45.23%

Home

Month	Unique Page Views	Avg. Time on Page (mm:ss)	Page Views	New Visitors	% New Visitors
Mar-15	311	00:53	345	259	83.28%
Apr-15	344	01:02	435	291	84.59%

Search Data

Month	Unique Page Views	Avg. Time on Page (mm:ss)	Page Views	New Visitors	% New Visitors
Mar-15	83	00:55	308	43	51.81%
Apr-15	126	02:51	308	45	35.71%

Indicator 7 - List of what the downloaded data has been used for (divided into categories e.g. Government planning, pollution assessment and (commercial) environmental assessment, etc.)

1st March 2015 to 30th April 2015

Statistics exclude Human Activities and Central Portal partners

1	Research	38.99%
2	Environment	29.56%
3	Fisheries and agriculture	11.95%
4	Energy	5.03%
=	Other	5.03%
6	Education	2.52%
=	Transport	2.52%
8	Demography	1.26%
=	Mining	1.26%
=	Physical planning	1.26%
11	Tourism	0.63%