

## Activities

- WP1 Project Management

1. The Biological Lot of EMODnet attended the general EMODnet meeting in Brussels, 28 and 29 of November 2010. The progress of the biological project was presented.
2. The preparations for a biological data analysis workshop have started. This workshop will take place in Crete, from 7-9 June 2011. The general goal of the workshop is to test a number of hypotheses related to the distribution and patterns of European marine biodiversity.

The first suggestions of hypotheses to be tested are:

- What are the biodiversity hot-spots and how can this information be used as a baseline or initial assessment for Good Environmental Status (GES) under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD).
- Create distribution patterns and trends of some selected higher organisms, based on available data (e.g. harbour porpoise, harbour seal, ...)
- Validate European habitat maps, based on available benthic data

Participants will be urged to include new data to EurOBIS which can strengthen the planned data analyses. There will be a close collaboration with the Habitat lot, to see whether the available biological data can validate their produced habitat maps.

3. The second interim report of the Biological project has been drafted and sent to the Commission.

- WP2 Technical Development

From within the Data Catalog, there is now the possibility to click to additional information on the related institutes, projects and literature. From each dataset that has its data available within EMODnet, there is now a direct link to the data on the geographic portal.

There is now direct link from the Portal to the Data Catalog. It's now also possible to submit new data to EMODnet Bio by clicking the "submit data" button. This gives access to a submission form, where basic information on the data has to be filled in (=metadata) and where data can be uploaded. Once

these data have passed the quality control procedures, they can be added to the Portal.

When displaying the data of a certain species, a number of relevant fields have been added: now information on the sampling date (year-month-day), exact location (latitude-longitude), sampling depth (minimum-maximum), the sex and the number of observed individuals can be consulted directly. When the field 'number of observed individuals' is empty, only the presence information has been documented. Additionally, the institution where the data originate from is mentioned and there is a link provided to the taxonomic information in the World Register of Marine Species (WoRMS) and the metadata of the dataset the species record was retrieved from.

A manual on the use of the Data Portal and Data Catalog has been developed and put online. It can be consulted at and downloaded from the 'help' page.

When downloading data, a small questionnaire will pop up. Users are asked to give their name, institute, email, country and the purpose of the download. This information will be used by the EMODnet data management team to get an idea of the user group and their data needs. Downloading data is only possible after agreement with the 'terms of use'.

A data product, called 'statistics' indicates the number of observations and number of species of mammals, birds, reptiles, fish, plankton, macroalgae and higher plants for each European Seabasin.

- WP3 Data Digitisation, Standardisation, Analysis & Delivery

1. Data inventory:

- (a) A reminder will be sent out to the SeaDataNet partners who have not yet replied.
- (b) The Black Sea data rescue action is in progress. From the thirteen datasets identified to receive a data grant in an earlier phase, the responsible of four of these datasets have returned their signed contract. Initial payments for the digitisation and QC of these datasets are in progress. IBSS (Institute of Biology of the Southern Seas) acts as liaison between EMODnet and the Black Sea scientific community and will also do a first check on the data before sending them to EMODnet. The first datasets are expected to be incorporated into EMODnet/EurOBIS in May 2011.

The metadata of these 13 datasets have already been added to the EMODnet data catalog.

- Macroalgae of the Crimean coastal zone (Black Sea, 1997-2007)  
<http://bio.emodnet.eu/component/imis/?module=dataset&dasid=2690>
- Seagrasses of the Crimean coastal zone (Black Sea, 1980-2009)  
<http://bio.emodnet.eu/component/imis/?module=dataset&dasid=2693>

- Phytoplankton of the Ukrainian Black Sea Shelf (1985-2005)  
<http://bio.emodnet.eu/component/imis/?module=dataset&dasid=2694>
- Zooplankton in the Ukrainian Black Sea Shelf (1989-2005)  
<http://bio.emodnet.eu/component/imis/?module=dataset&dasid=2695>
- Phytoplankton data collected in the Black Sea during 107 cruise of the R/V "Kovalevskiy"  
<http://bio.emodnet.eu/component/imis/?module=dataset&dasid=2699>
- Phytoplankton data collected in the Black Sea during 33 cruise of the R/V "Professor Vodyanitskiy"  
<http://bio.emodnet.eu/component/imis/?module=dataset&dasid=2703>
- Phytoplankton data collected in the Black Sea during 37 cruise of the R/V "Professor Vodyanitskiy"  
<http://bio.emodnet.eu/component/imis/?module=dataset&dasid=2704>
- Phytoplankton data collected in the Black Sea during a cruise of the R/V "Experiment"  
<http://bio.emodnet.eu/component/imis/?module=dataset&dasid=2696>
- Phytoplankton data collected in the Black Sea during the 5th cruise of the R/V "Kiev"  
<http://bio.emodnet.eu/component/imis/?module=dataset&dasid=2698>
- Cetacean bycatches in the northern Black Sea  
<http://bio.emodnet.eu/component/imis/?module=dataset&dasid=2705>
- Cetacean sightings in the Black Sea, Sea of Azov and Kerch Strait  
<http://bio.emodnet.eu/component/imis/?module=dataset&dasid=2706>
- Phytoplankton of the northern part of the Black Sea 1992-1993  
<http://bio.emodnet.eu/component/imis/?module=dataset&dasid=2708>

## 2. GAP-analysis:

The results of the EurOBIS gap-analysis were submitted to Hydrobiologia. The manuscript has received a positive evaluation by the reviewers and will be accepted for publication after revision.

- ## 3. The Biological project registered as a Spatial Data Interest Community (SDIC) at INSPIRE under the name 'Preparatory Action for Biology of the European Marine Observation and Data Network' and proposed for Annex III, 19: Species distribution to
- 1) submit reference material as input to the Drafting Teams
  - 2) register a project to test/revise/develop the draft Implementing Rules
  - 3) participate in the review process to
  - 4) implement pilot projects to test/revise/develop the draft Implementing Rules and to
  - 5) be kept informed.
- Biological partnership requested to become partners to discuss.

## 4. Contact/progress of different data providers

- ICES: the DATRAS database has been split up into its separate datasets (8), coming from the international beam trawl surveys. This provides more transparency and clarity to the actual content of the DATRAS database

and will help to avoid duplication. The metadata of these component datasets are already available online, the coupling of the data to the subdatasets is in progress

(<http://bio.emodnet.eu/component/imis/?module=dataset&dasid=2141>).

- PANGAEA: the umbrella database PANGAEA has been subdivided into the several smaller datasets it contains (39). This action provides more transparency and clarity to the actual content of PANGAEA and helps to avoid duplication. Similar to ICES-DATRAS, the metadata of the component datasets are already available online. Some descriptions are still incomplete and will be updated in collaboration with PANGAEA. Coupling of the data to the matching subdatasets is in progress (<http://bio.emodnet.eu/component/imis/?module=dataset&dasid=815>).
  - PML: an update of the L4 plankton monitoring dataset was done in November. The number of distribution records has risen from 49 597 to 64 659.
  - Denmark: conversations on possible contribution of the Danish national database for marine data EurOBIS/EMODnet are ongoing. (<http://bio.emodnet.eu/component/imis/?module=dataset&dasid=2234>).
- WP4 Data Management, QC/QA & Integration
5. Quality control actions.  
Quality control procedures are ongoing.
  6. Integration and update of data into EurOBIS.
    - Update of the L4 plankton monitoring dataset.
    - No new datasets were integrated since the last bimonthly report. Several new datasets and updates of existing datasets are however listed to contribute to EurOBIS/EMODnet in the near future.