

## Activities

- WP1 Project Management
  1. The draft final report of EMODnet Biology has been drafted and sent to DG MARE (15/04/2011). Comments and feedback from EU and MODEG were received (03/05/2011). Based on these comment, the final report was sent to DG MARE (19/05/2011) and accepted. The final report is available at <http://bio.emodnet.eu/documents/Final-Report/> and <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/maritimeforum/node/2006>
  2. A request for feedback on the portal was sent around (09/03/2011) to over 1,000 emails (marine biology mailing lists). Feedback was integrated in the final report.
  3. The Biological Lot of EMODnet attended the general EMODnet meeting in Brussels, 07 and 08 June 2011. The final report of the Biological Lot was presented.
  4. The preparations for a biological data analysis workshop are going on. Final date of the workshop will take place in Crete, from 25-27 October 2011. The general goal of the workshop is to test a number of hypotheses related to the distribution and patterns of European marine biodiversity. About 20 scientists will be invited to attend the workshop.

Hypotheses to be tested are related to:

    - Can we distinct diversity patterns and hotspots (using diversity indices) of European Marine Waters based on EurOBIS data?
    - Can we confirm species distribution patterns and trends of some selected higher organisms based on available data (Harbour porpoise, Harbour seal, Common guillemot, Fulmar, Loggerhead, harbour porpoise)?
  5. A meeting between the biological lot and the habitat mapping lot was organised 06 June in order to explore common activities between both projects (validation of habitat maps with biological data)
- WP2 Technical Development

The V1 of the Biological data portal is now available. Its usage and performance will be monitored during the maintenance phase. The portal is available at <http://bio.emodnet.eu/portal>

The technical details and latest updates are described in detail in the final report (<http://bio.emodnet.eu/documents/Final-Report/>)

- WP3 Data Digitisation, Standardisation, Analysis & Delivery

1. Data inventory:

- (a) The Black Sea data rescue action is in progress. All contracts have been sent back to VLIZ and initial payments for the digitisation and QC of these datasets have been made for all but one dataset. IBSS (Institute of Biology of the Southern Seas) acts as liaison between EMODnet and the Black Sea scientific community and is responsible for the first check on the data before sending them to EMODnet. So far, 6 datasets have been made available online:

- 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 the 5th cruise of the R/V "Kiev"  
<http://bio.emodnet.eu/component/imis/?module=dataset&dasid=2698>
- 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>

- (b) 37 datasets have been identified within GBIF – the Global Biodiversity Information Facility - (European datasets containing marine data) and described. Their QC is in progress.

- (c) In analogy with the Black Sea mini-data grant program, to rescue and digitise data from the Black Sea, a comparable initiative has been set up in the Mediterranean Sea. In a first phase – starting end of July, early August – the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR), will make an inventory of available marine datasets within the Mediterranean region and the person-months necessary to get these data ready for submission to EMODnet/EurOBIS. The inventory will run for 3 months and based on the results, it will be decided which datasets should be given priority to be submitted.

2. GAP-analysis:

The results of the EurOBIS gap-analysis were published in *Hydrobiologia*.

Full reference:

**Vandepitte, L.; Hernandez, F.; Claus, S.; Vanhoorne, B.; De Hauwere, N.; Deneudt, K.; Appeltans, W.; Mees, J.** (2011). Analysing the content of the European Ocean Biogeographic Information System (EurOBIS): available data, limitations, prospects and a look at the future. *Hydrobiologia* 667(1): 1-14 + suppl. material (28 pages).

The paper can be downloaded at

<http://www.vliz.be/imis/imis.php?module=ref&refid=203944>

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'. We became expert of the working groups Species observations, Habitats and biotopes, biogeographic regions. The taxonomic standard used in EMODnet is also proposed as a standard in the INSPIRE data specifications of species observations (through the EUNomen ID – which is based for marine species on WoRMS).

4. Contact/progress of different data providers

- **Germany**: preparation of the national German benthic monitoring data to submit to EMODnet/EurOBIS is ongoing. Data are expected in the near future.
- **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&dased=2234>).
- **WaddenSea Secretariat**: communication is in progress with people from Trilateral Monitoring Programme of the Wadden Sea to share their data with EMODnet/EurOBIS. The latest information we received was a negative answer from the TMP. They suggested to contact the original dataproviders.

• WP4 Data Management, QC/QA & Integration

5. Quality control actions.

Overall quality control procedures are ongoing.

6. Integration and update of data into EurOBIS.

- 6 new datasets from the Black Sea mini-data grant program (see earlier)

- OBIS Seemap:  
Updates of the 19 already available datasets  
10 new datasets were added (May 2011):
  - Marine mammal monitoring from coastal sites in Cardigan Bay, UK. 2004-2009  
<http://bio.emodnet.eu/component/imis/?module=dataset&dasid=2818>
  - CCRU Cetacean sighting in Scotland waters 1997-2010  
<http://bio.emodnet.eu/component/imis/?module=dataset&dasid=2819>
  - POPA Cetacean seabird and sea turtle sightings in the Azores area 1998-2009  
<http://bio.emodnet.eu/component/imis/?module=dataset&dasid=2821>
  - Marine awareness North Wales; Wildlife trust harbour porpoise baseline surveys on the North coast of Anlesey, Wales, UK  
<http://bio.emodnet.eu/component/imis/?module=dataset&dasid=2823>
  - Canary Islands – OAG  
<http://bio.emodnet.eu/component/imis/?module=dataset&dasid=2825>
  - Cetacean occurrence off the West Central Portugal coast from boat-based surveys 2007-2008  
<http://bio.emodnet.eu/component/imis/?module=dataset&dasid=2826>
  - OceanCare cetacean sightings 2001-2010  
<http://bio.emodnet.eu/component/imis/?module=dataset&dasid=2827>
  - Baltic porpoise acoustic surveys 01-02  
<http://bio.emodnet.eu/component/imis/?module=dataset&dasid=2828>
  - TARTACare Calabria: monitoring and conservation of the loggerhead turtle nesting activity along the Ionian coast of Calabria (Southern Italy)  
<http://bio.emodnet.eu/component/imis/?module=dataset&dasid=22829>
  - First satellite tracking of sea turtles in Albania  
<http://bio.emodnet.eu/component/imis/?module=dataset&dasid=2830>
  
- GBIF  
37 European (partly) marine datasets have been identified within GBIF, which are not yet present in EurOBIS or OBIS.  
Currently, the quality control for these datasets is ongoing. Datasets will be added to EMODnet/EurOBIS after quality control has been completed.