



EMODnet



European Marine
Observation and
Data Network

EMODnet Thematic Lot n°7 – Human Activities

EASME/EMFF/2019/1.3.1.9/Lot 7/SI2.835999

Start date of the project: 03/03/2023 (24 months)

Centralisation Phase

Quarterly Progress Report (28)

Reporting Period: 01/01/2024 – 30/03/2024



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1. Highlights in this quarter

Task 1: Maintain and improve a common method of access to data held in repositories

Aquaculture:

- WFD dataset for shellfish protected areas was delivered on 06/02/2024
- Update on the marine finfish dataset started in the summer continued. A problem was identified with the Norwegian data during QA at the end of 2023 following modifications in the structure of data provided by the Norwegian Fisheries Directorate: the data available online now merges a relational model into a single table, which does not include a single identifier anymore, as the same location (which constitutes our unit of reference) can host more than one licence, but one licence can also cover more than one location, hence resulting in duplicates and errors when we processed the data. We dedicated our efforts this quarter to the automation and documentation of the processes to update the Norwegian aquaculture data (linking directly to the source through API connection), which will facilitate and secure not only the update of the marine finfish dataset, but also the freshwater and shellfish datasets. This is currently being finalised so the marine finfish dataset should be ready to go to QA in the coming days.
- A meeting with Eurostat took place in February to explore paths for cooperation

Cultural heritage

- We processed the UNESCO World Heritage List to identify coastal locations. This new dataset is ready for QA.
- We are investigating how to put back online the data from SPLASHCOS and the MACHU project:
 - o For SPLASHCOS, it should be possible to integrate the WMS link previously available in the old portal.
 - o For the MACHU project, we need to ask their authorisation again, but there is no clear contact. We have filled in a registration form, but did not receive any feedback at this stage. Next step is to reach out to the Dutch Cultural Agency, which manages access rights.

Fishery

- A meeting took place in January with other units of MARE to assess the feasibility of ingesting more fishery-related data. HA team waiting for receiving data to further process.

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

- Vessel density maps received their yearly update with 2023 data.

Task 3: Develop procedures for machine-to-machine connections to data and data products

- Completed a seamless transition to a new server (still hosted in Germany). This was required to upgrade GeoServer (Re. notice to all lots concerning vulnerabilities in versions < 2.24.0) which in turn required an upgrade from Java 8 to Java 11. It was decided that provisioning a new server was the best way to do this to reduce risk of downtime. The server has an improved specification and GeoNetwork was also upgraded at the same time.

We are now running:

- GeoServer v2.24.1
- GeoNetwork v4.4.0.0

Task 4: Contribute data, data products and content to a central portal that allows users to find, view and download data and data products

- The MSP dataset was updated with the new version of Denmark’s spatial plan.
- The offshore installations dataset received its yearly updated.
- The military areas dataset was updated with new information on Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden.
- The waste disposal dataset includes updated information including the recent study on underwater unexploded munition published by CINEA (https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/publications/study-underwater-unexploded-munition_en)

Task 5: Contribute content to dedicated spaces in the Central Portal**Task 6: Ensure the involvement of Regional Sea Conventions****Task 7: Contribute to the implementation of EU legislation and broader initiative for open data**

- INSPIRE data model: we started automatising the harmonisation process from the current EMODnet Human Activities’ datasets to a unified “Land/marine Use” product using the single INSPIRE-compliant model developed in 2022.
- On March 13, 2024, the “MSP Data Tools and Guidance Workshop: TEG on Data for MSP” was held in Brussels with online participation and more than 400 attendees. During this event, the EMODnet MSP datasets were introduced and explained to this wide audience during the presentation [EU MSP data layer and current state of play](#). In addition, the use of this dataset was also explained through the developed applications in ongoing projects (e.g. ReMAP). The presentations and the recording of the workshop has been published on the European MSP Platform (available here: <https://maritime-spatial-planning.ec.europa.eu/events/msp-data-tools-and-guidance-workshop-teg-data-msp>)

Task 8: Monitoring quality / performance and deal with user feedback**Task 9: Maintain the existing thematic web portal for a maximum of six months from the start of the project**

Status of the Milestones and Deliverables listed in the workplan					
Milestone/Deliverable in numerical order	WP	Date due	Status (To do/ Delivered/ Delayed)	Date delivered	If Delayed: reason for delay and expected delivery date
e.g. M1: xxx	WP1	Dd/mm/yyyy	Delivered	Dd/mm/yyyy	...
e.g. D1.1: xxx	WP1	Dd/mm/yyyy	Delayed		...

Status of the Milestones and Deliverables listed in the workplan					
Milestone/Deliverable in numerical order	WP	Date due	Status (To do/ Delivered/ Delayed)	Date delivered	If Delayed: reason for delay and expected delivery date

EMODnet Human Activities work plan is not structured around milestones, as the project is managed as an iterative and incremental process.

2. Identified issues: status and actions taken

A. Priority issue(s) identified and communicated by CINEA/ DG MARE/ SECRETARIAT				
Priority issue	Status (Pending/ Resolved)	Action(s) taken/ remaining actions planned	Date due	Date resolved
EM-913 Three Human Activities layers disabled	Pending	Three layers sourced from Marine Regions were disabled due to the delimitation between Ireland and UK not being correct or subject to controversy. Will be restored once an update is provided		
EMODNET-1758 Query re. format / presentation of EMODnet fisheries data	Resolved	Explained what fishing intensity is		
EMODNET-1760 Requesting permission to create graphical image using your 2021 dataset on desalination plants	Resolved	Explained that no permission is needed as long as EMODnet is duly acknowledged		
EMODNET-1762 Database on Desalination plants in the EU	Pending	User reported alleged inconsistencies in the desalination data set. The original provider hasn't yet replied		
EMODNET-1764 Errors in EMODnet database	Pending	User reported errors in the pipeline data set. The data however come from official sources.		

B. Issues / challenges identified by the thematic assembly group itself				
Priority issue / challenge	Status (Pending/ Resolved)	Action(s) taken / remaining actions planned	Date due	Date resolved

3. Communication assets

A. (Co-)Authored peer-reviewed publications in the quarter					
Date of publication	Type of publication	Full reference	ISBN	DOI	Is it open access? Yes/No
	e.g. paper; conference proceedings; book chapter; ...				

B. Other/non-peer reviewed types of publications (co-)authored in the quarter					
Date of publication	Type of publication	Full reference	ISBN	DOI	Is it open access? Yes/No
	e.g. paper; conference proceedings; book chapter; ...				

B. Other/non-peer reviewed types of publications (co-)authored in the quarter					
Date of publication	Type of publication	Full reference	ISBN	DOI	Is it open access? Yes/No

For a comprehensive overview of publications referring to/making use of EMODnet data and/or data products, please consult Google Scholar.

4. Monitoring indicators

Comments on the progress indicators in the indicators spreadsheet		
Progress indicator	Means of collecting figures	Comment
1. Current status and coverage of total available thematic data A) Volume and coverage of available data	<i>Own database</i>	Massive increase in coverage and volume of dumped munitions, due to addition of new sources. Other data sets received updates, but overall with little increase in coverage and volume. A new data set was added.
What is your opinion on the data coverage within EMODnet for your thematic?		Coverage remains patchy for a number of data sets, where little progress can realistically be achieved in the short term. These are mainly: pipelines, cables, aquaculture.
B) Usage of data in this quarter	<i>Europa Analytics</i>	Marked increase (+48%) in number of manual downloads, which is difficult to explain. There was an increase (+15%) in the number of WMS requests, but not to the same extent. On the other hand, WFS requests remained stable
2. Current status and coverage of total number of data products A) Volume and coverage of available data products	<i>Own database</i>	Volume increased for both vessel and route density maps. Vessel density maps have received (part of) their annual update, whereas route density maps are updated monthly
B) Usage of data products in this quarter	<i>Europa Analytics</i>	Same trend observed for data sets. Marked increased in the number of downloads (especially for vessel density maps), in this case accompanied by a decrease in the number of WMS requests
3. Internal and external organisations supplying/approached to supply data and data products within this quarter		Nothing to report
5.1 Daily number of page views of EMODnet Thematic entry page	Europa Analytics	Nothing to report

Comments on the progress indicators in the indicators spreadsheet		
Progress indicator	Means of collecting figures	Comment
5.2 Quarterly total number of visitors, page views, unique page views and percentage of returning visitors	Europa Analytics	The increasing trend in downloads doesn't reflect in more visitors to the entry pages. The two things are not necessarily related to each other.

The monitoring numbers reported as part of the progress monitoring of EMODnet performance are collected through Europa Analytics, unless reported otherwise.

5. Annex: Other documentation attached

[List in Annex if you wish to provide any additional information.]