



EMODnet



European Marine
Observation and
Data Network

EMODnet Thematic Lot n°5 – Human Activities

CINEA/EMFAF/2024-25/3.6/4500083509

Start date of the project: 03/03/2025 (24 months)

Operational Phase

Quarterly Progress Report (35)

Reporting Period: 01/10/2025 – 31/12/2025



Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| 1. Highlights in this quarter | 3 |
| 2. Identified issues: status and actions taken..... | 6 |
| 3. Communication assets | 8 |
| 4. Monitoring indicators..... | 10 |
| 5. Annex: Other documentation attached | 12 |

Disclaimer

The information and views set out in this report are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of the CINEA or of the European Commission. Neither the CINEA, nor the European Commission, guarantee the accuracy of the data included in this study. Neither the CINEA, the European Commission nor any person acting on the CINEA's or on the European Commission's behalf may be held responsible for the use which may be made of the information.

1. Highlights in this quarter

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

Dataset that received an update:

- UNESCO World Heritage Convention sites
- Dredging
- Nationally designated areas (MPAs)
- Fishing quotas
- Main ports traffic (goods, vessels, passengers)
- Freshwater aquaculture
- Advisory councils
- Dredge spoil dumping
- Maritime Spatial Planning

Aquaculture:

- For the marine finfish dataset, updated data from Croatia, France, Denmark, Italy have been processed. Contacts were established with the Croatian and Lithuanian authorities to verify whether more recent and harmonised data are available. In the case of Lithuania, the most recent data were provided to the EMODnet team in 2022; since then, no updated data have been made available online or transmitted to the team.
- An online meeting with the European Molluscan Producers Association (EMPA), represented by its Secretary General, Mr Thibault Pivetta, was held on 11 December 2025. The objective was to explore opportunities for collaboration to improve EMODnet Aquaculture data coverage and quality. Follow-up actions are being organised, including further contacts with EMPA members in the Member States.

Coastal tourism:

- After participating in several workshops and events (last but not least the Sun&Blue Congress in Almería in November 2025) it was decided to make available data sets on nights spent by tourists in coastal NUTS3 and tourism intensity (number of nights spent by tourists/number of total residents). The relevant data were acquired from Eurostat and are currently being georeferenced.

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

New AIS data were acquired to solve the issue (reported previously) that prevented us to update the vessel density maps to 2024.

Task 3: Develop procedures for machine-to-machine connections to data and data products, in a common manner across the EMODnet service

Nothing to report.

Task 4: Fulfil the EMODnet Central Portal requirements that ensure all data and data products can be found, viewed and downloaded with ease (from the Central Portal)

Nothing to report

Task 5: Provide content for the reserved space for each thematic group within the EMODnet Central Portal, following any necessary requirements

Contributed content for a blog post: <https://emodnet.ec.europa.eu/en/blog-8-december-2025-behind-scenes-emodnet-human-activities-vessel-density-maps>

Task 6: Ensure the involvement of Regional Sea Conventions (RSC) and other relevant actors

Nothing to report

Task 7: Contribute to the implementation of EU legislation and broader initiative for open data, particularly on issues of standardisation, interoperability and availability of reporting data, including by non-EU organisations, when relevant

Contact is maintained with the various heads of the MSPs of the Member States. In fact, during this period, several updates were made to this dataset:

- First, the harmonisation work on the Italian MSP has been completed. Once prepared and ready, it was uploaded to the portal.
- Moreover, two regional MSPs from Estonia (Regional plan for marine area bordering Hiiu County and County plan of maritime area bordering Pärnu county) were also harmonised, prepared and uploaded to the portal.
- Following a request from the Spanish MSP authorities, it was necessary to review and correct some data related to this MSP on the portal. These modifications were successfully implemented.

In addition to these updates, the harmonisation work of two German Länders MSPs continues (Lower Saxony and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern). Finally, it should be noted that we also expect to receive new data on MSPs from various Member States soon. This is due to the new contacts made, as well as the work carried out by countries with their MSPs. In the data we provide, updates or new MSP plans are identified through several fields. Each plan includes a “**Version ID**” field, which indicates the specific version of the MSP dataset represented. In addition, the “**Valid from**” and “**Valid to**” fields specify the temporal validity of the plan, allowing users to distinguish between successive versions over time. Furthermore, the “**Official source**” field provides the legal or regulatory reference on which the MSP plan is based. This official source usually reflects the corresponding legal act, amendment, or update, which can also indicate whether the plan represents a new version or an update of an existing one.

Task 8: Monitor quality/performance and deal with user feedback

Nothing to report

Task 9: Dedicate specific resources to the EMODnet Central Portal Task Force

Nothing to report

| 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 |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

| 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 |
| EMODNET-2146 Error in wind farm layer | Resolved | A user found that, upon downloading the wind farm data layer, coordinates were swapped. It was explained that this behaviour results from the OGC WFS 1.1.0 specification, which mandates latitude/longitude (Y/X) axis order for EPSG:4326, while the ESRI Shapefile format expects longitude/latitude (X/Y). As a result, coordinate axes appear reversed when exporting to SHAPE-ZIP. This is a well-known interoperability issue between WFS 1.1.0 and Shapefile encoding, not specific to GeoServer or GeoNetwork. Other formats (e.g., GeoJSON, GML) are unaffected and handle coordinates correctly. | | |
| EMODNET-2211 SURIMI project looking for "2025 - Fisheries effort, landings, catches, capacity, biological data up to 2024." | Pending | A user signalled that potentially relevant fishery-related data are available from the JRC. The team replied that these are already being considered for future inclusions | | |

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 calculation based on number of records and related records</i> | Volume and coverage both increased as a result of regular updates |
| What is your opinion on the data coverage within EMODnet for your thematic? | <i>n.a.</i> | Nothing new to report |
| B) Usage of data in this quarter | <i>Number of downloads and web service requests</i> | There was an increase in the number of downloads and WFS requests. WMS requests, on the other hand, went down. Q4 usually sees an increase in all metrics, due to a rebound after the holiday season. |
| 2. Current status and coverage of total number of data products A) Volume and coverage of available data products | <i>Own calculation based on number of products and spatial extent</i> | Volume increased for the route density maps, as a result of data update |
| B) Usage of data products in this quarter | <i>Number of downloads and web service requests</i> | In this chase the number of manual downloads went down, but there was a considerable increase in the number of WFS requests, in line with the recen trend which sees a marked preference towards consuming data products through web services |
| 3. Internal and external organisations supplying/approached to supply data and data products within this quarter | <i>Reporting by partners</i> | Nothing to report |
| 5.1 Daily number of page views of EMODnet Thematic entry page | Europa Analytics | Increase in number of page views after the summer holiday season |

| 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 | Increase for all indicators after the summer holiday season, except for % of returning visitiros |

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