



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: 03/03/2021 - (24 months)

EMODnet Phase III – Quarterly Progress Report (17)

Reporting Period: 01/04/2021 – 30/06/2021



Contents

1.Highlights in this quarter.....	3
2. Identified issues: status and actions taken	5
3. User feedback (Contact Us form, online chat & other communication means).....	6
4. Meetings/events held/attended & planned	9
5. Communication assets.....	11
6. Monitoring indicators	13
7. Annex: Other documentation attached	15

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1. Highlights in this quarter

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

Updated data sets:

- Nationally designated protected areas
- Maritime boundaries
- EEZ areas
- MSP (new plan from Denmark)

Data on cables have been acquired from SHOM. They will be available online shortly

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

- Route density maps updated to June 2021
- New contract signed for the acquisition of AIS data until 2025

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

- Migration of the server to Germany almost completed

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

- Several meetings held to finalise the phasing out of the thematic portal

Task 5: Contribute content to dedicated spaces in the Central Portal

Nothing to report

Task 6: Ensure the involvement of Regional Sea Conventions

A meeting with the Barcelona Convention took place in April 2021. The Human Activities Portal is not currently used by the Barcelona Convention but it might become useful in the future. The Secretariat is currently working on gathering data related to the eleven ecological objectives of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. In the future stages, they consider including information on pressures from human activities.

Task 7: Contribute to the implementation of EU legislation and broader initiative for open data

A partners meeting took place to discuss changing EMODnet HA's data models to make them fully compliant with INSPIRE. A pilot exercise was developed by AZTI. It envisages creating new data models loosely based on INSPIRE's land use data model, as done by the MarSP project.

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

Nothing to report

Task 9: Maintain the existing thematic web portal for a maximum of six months from the start of the project

Nothing to report

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

N.B. the workplan of EMODnet Human Activities is not structured around milestones, other than project deliverables.

2. Identified issues: status and actions taken

A. Priority issue(s) identified and communicated by EASME/ DG MARE/ SECRETARIAT				
Priority issue	Status (Pending/Resolved)	Action(s) taken / remaining actions planned	Date due	Date resolved
Jira ticket EM-79 (CWS)	Pending	This is being finalised	When migration to the new server is complete	
Jira ticket EM-41 (WCS time dimension)	Pending	This is being finalised	<i>When migration to the new server is complete</i>	
Jira ticket EM-86 (Human Activities - Web Services MetadataUrl and DataUrl fields)	Pending	This is being finalised	When migration to the new server is complete	

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. User feedback (Contact Us form, online chat & other communication means)

Overview of user feedback and/or requests received in this quarter							
Date	Organisation	Type of user feedback (e.g. technical, case study, etc.) and short description of the feedback received	Means of contact	Response time	Status of user query: resolved/pending	Measures taken to resolve the query	Status: if not (yet) resolved/pending, explain reason why and expected timeline
01/04/21	Individual	Data: user asked if a data set on EEZs was available	E-mail	Same day	Resolved	Explained where to get it	
01/04/21	Individual	Data: user asked how to download the wrecks data set	E-mail	Same day	Resolved	Explained that the data source does not make data available for download	
07/04/21	Individual	Technical: user asked questions on the method to calculate vessel density maps	E-mail	Same day	Resolved	Explained	
21/04/21	ICF	Data: questions on underwater munitions for an EC study	E-mail	Same day	Resolved	Answered the question. A call conference took place.	
23/04/21	Individual	Technical: user couldn't add WMS for density maps	E-mail	Same day	Resolved	Explained how to do it	
23/04/21	Individual	Technical: user wanted to know how to single out	E-mail	Same day	Resolved	Explained how to do it	

		fishing vessels in density maps					
29/04/21	Individual	Technical: user asked what vessels are included under 'other' in route density maps (question received via EMODnet Secretariat)	E-mail	Same day	Resolved	Explained	
04/05/21	Individual	Technical: user had issues with WMS for wind farms	E-mail	Same day	Resolved	Explained how to fix it	
10/05/21	Individual	User needed access to raw AIS data	E-mail	Same day	Resolved	Explained this is not possible	
11/05/21	Individual	Technical: user said download was very slow	E-mail	Same day	Resolved	The problem was on the user side. A file was sent via email.	
12/05/21	Individual	User needed to know catches by type of fishing vessel (question received via EMODnet Secretariat)	E-mail	Same day	Resolved	Explained this is not possible	
13/05/21	Individual	Technical: user needed vessel density around Madeira	E-mail	Same day	Resolved	Explained how to get it	
27/05/21	Individual	Technical: user asked how to download the submerged archaeology data set	E-mail	Same day	Resolved	Explained this is not possible because the data provider only offers a WMS	
01/06/21	Individual	Technical: user thought there were missing farms in the Baltic Sea	E-mail	Same day	Resolved	User didn't realize there are two wind farms data sets, one	

						with polygons and one with points	
17/06/21	Individual	Technical: user asked how to separate the above water installations from the shapefile "Offshore Installations"	E-mail	Same day	Resolved	Explained how to do it	
22/06/21	Individual	Technical: user asked how to get vessel density rasters available in a greyscale though WMS	E-mail	Same day	Resolved	Explained that this is not possible as WMS essentially returns an image	
24/06/21	Individual	Technical: user asked where to get IMO traffic schemes	E-mail	Same day	Resolved	Explained they're not available on EMODnet HA (not in the contract). The information needs to be sourced country by country	

4. Meetings/events held/attended & planned

A. Meetings/events organised and attended					
Date	Location	Type event (internal or external meeting, training/workshop)	Indicate if a ppt was given (yes/no + short description)	Meeting attended (A) / organised (O)	Short description and main results (# participants, agreements made, etc.)
14/04/21	Remote meeting	Call conference	No	O	Meeting with the Secretariat on use cases
20/05/21	Remote meeting	Workshop	Yes	A	EMD workshop on Ocean Observation and Marine Data for the Blue Economy
14/06/21	Remote meeting	EMODnet Open Conference	No	A	Presentation of EMODnet HA's main achievements
17/06/21	Remote meeting	EMODnet HA partners meeting	No	O	Amongst other things, discussion on Human Pressure Index, compliance with INSPIRE, how to improve coverage.
SUM				O	Total # of meetings organised = 2
SUM				A	Total # of meetings attended = 2

B. Meetings/events planned in the future				
Date	Location	Type event (meeting, training (workshop), etc.)	Meeting to be attended (A) / organised (O)	Short description and main expected outcomes

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5. Communication assets

A. Communication products				
Date	Communication material	Short description (of the material, title, ...) of the asset	Main results	Name of event at which material was disseminated (if applicable)

B. Planned communication products			
Date	Communication material	Short description (of the material, title, ...) and/or link to the asset	Main results expected

List of known publications using EMODnet data or data products

Date	Type and name of journal, conference, ...	Publication title including DOI (if known)	Author(s)	Organisation(s)
	Marine Policy	Spatial overlap between human activities and seabed habitats in European Seas: Insights into EMODnet's data for management purposes https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2021.104551	Solaun O. et al.	AZTI
29/04/21	Mühendislik Bilimleri ve Araştırmaları Dergisi	Determining Suitable Regions for Potential Offshore Wind Farms in Bandırma Bay using Multi-criteria-Decision-Making Method https://doi.org/10.46387/bjesr.900204	Karipoğlu F. et al.	İZMİR YÜKSEK TEKNOLOJİ ENSTİTÜSÜ
	Frontiers in marine science	Changes in Underwater Noise and Vessel Traffic in the Approaches to Halifax Harbor, Nova Scotia, Canada https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2021.674788	Breeze H. et al.	Bedford Institute of Oceanography, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Dartmouth, NS, Canada
11/05/21	PeerJ Life % Environment	First days at sea: depicting migration patterns of juvenile seabirds in highly impacted seascapes 10.7717/peerj.11054	Louzao M. et al.	AZTI

6. Monitoring indicators

Comments on the progress indicators in the excel template		
Progress indicator	Means of collecting figures	Comment
1. Current status and coverage of total available thematic data A) Volume and coverage of available data If you don't use the provided sea-basin figures, please indicate why you do not use them, as from when, and what do you use instead and why?	Database	Several data set received an update. Their volume increased. N.B.: sea-basin figures seldom make sense when dealing with discrete data.
B) Usage of data in this quarter	Download form	Number of download went down for no apparent reason. Incidentally, there was a marked increased in number of WMS and WFS requests, which were historically low. If confirmed, this might signal an interesting trend.
2. Current status and coverage of total number of data products A) Volume and coverage of available data products If you don't use the provided sea-basin figures, please indicate why you do not use them, as from when, and what do you use instead and why?	Database	Vessel density map are updated once a year, so no changes. Route density maps are updated every month, so their volume increases by definition. Coverage is 100% for both data products, so it can't possibly increase any further. N.B.: sea basin figures can be calculated in this case.
B) Usage of data products in this quarter	Download form	Number of downloads continues to increase for both data products.
3. Organisations supplying/approached to supply data and data products within this quarter		Nothing to report
4. Online 'Web' interfaces to access or view data		Nothing noteworthy
5. Statistics on information volunteered through download forms		We've stopped collecting email addresses from users, so we're not counting total number any longer
6. Published use cases		Nothing noteworthy

Comments on the progress indicators in the excel template		
Progress indicator	Means of collecting figures	Comment
8.1. Technical monitoring		Nothing noteworthy
8.2. Portal user-friendliness (Visual harmonization score)		Nothing noteworthy
9. Visibility & Analytics for web pages	Matomo	Visibility slightly decreasing for no apparent reason
10. Visibility & Analytics for web sections	Matomo	Blog visibility going down, as no new posts were published
11. Average visit duration for web pages	Matomo	Visit duration is increasing for documents (vessel density method probably) and 'search data'

The monitoring numbers reported as part of the progress monitoring of EMODnet performance are collected through Matomo. In some cases, numbers from other monitoring systems may also be reported (e.g. Awstats, Google Analytics), and if so, must be reported in the table above. Each system uses different technical approaches and therefore has its strengths and shortcomings. Therefore, results are indicative and care should be taken when interpreting absolute numbers or comparing results from different tools. It is often more sensible to consider trends over time collected by the same monitoring tool.

7. Annex: Other documentation attached

The Barcelona Convention – minutes from the meeting – April 9th 2021

Participants	Barcelona convention. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jelena Knezevic - MED POL Programme Officer. AND International: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Séverine Renault – Managing Director at AND-I; • Safa SOUIDI – Consultant.
Agenda	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Presentation of the new datasets and activities of the EMODNet Human Activities Portal. 2. Exploration of synergies between EMODNet and Barcelona Convention.

1. Presentation of the new datasets and activities of the EMODNet Human Activities Portal

The main new datasets and activities have been presented by AND-International.

2. Exploration of synergies between EMODNet and Barcelona Convention

- Barcelona Convention mainly uses portals such as Chemistry, Biology and Sea habitats for their activities but they sometimes have difficulties finding the relevant information among the different portals. AND-International mentioned that all thematic portals will be merged into a single portal, which will facilitate access and combination of datasets from different themes.
- The Human Activities Portal is not currently used by the Barcelona Convention but will be useful in the future. In fact, the Barcelona Convention is currently working on gathering data related to the eleven ecological objectives of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. In the future stages, Barcelona Convention considers that it will be interesting to integrate information on pressures from human activities. The Human Activities datasets will then be a relevant source.
- In order to centralise all the data gathered in the context of the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, the Barcelona Convention, particularly the INFO/RAC has developed a system called [IMAP](#) (data will be available through a GIS layer in the future but this is not the case at this stage). One of the difficulties encountered by the Barcelona Convention is to gather data from different sources, which potentially have different formats. The Barcelona Convention advised to make contact with the Info/RAC director to discuss possible interactions and collaboration between the IMAP system and EMODNet.
- In relation to data gaps in the Mediterranean Sea, the Barcelona Convention advised to contact the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean regarding aquaculture data, the

REMPEC¹ regarding hydrocarbon dataset and the PAP/RAC² regarding Marine Spatial Planning.
The relevant contacts could be provided by the Barcelona Convention.

Contacts communicated by Barcelona Convention after the meeting:

- ✓ INFO/RAC: Arthur Pasquale [INFO-RAC] arthur.pasquale@info-rac.org
- ✓ PAP/RAC: Zeljka Skaricic [PAPRAC] <zeljka.skaricic@paprac.org>; Marko Prem
marko.prem@paprac.org
- ✓ REMPEC: Gabino Gonzalez [REMPEC] ggonzalez@rempec.org
- ✓ GFCM: Bernal, Miguel (FIDG) <Miguel.Bernal@fao.org>

¹ REMPEC: one of the seven components of the Barcelona Convention Secretariat in charge of the implementation of the prevention and emergency protocol.

² PAP/RAC : one of the seven components of the Barcelona Convention Secretariat in charge of the implementation of the ICZM protocol.