

Copernicus Marine and EMODnet coordination meeting

March 18, 2022 - 10h-12h30

Participants: Zoi Konstantinou, Remy Denos (DG MARE), Fabienne Jacq (DG DEFIS) (excused), Kate Larkin, Jean Bart Calewaert, Conor Delaney (EMODnet Secretariat), Laurence Crosnier, Antonio Reppucci, Pierre-Yves Le Traon (Mercator Ocean International)

The meeting was held remotely on March 18, 2022. The agenda is given in the annex below.

Zoi Konstantinou introduced the meeting. She reminded participants of the close and very good cooperation between the two programmes and the necessity to continue to align technical aspects.

A summary of plans for Copernicus Marine 2 was then given by **P.Y. Le Traon** (see Copernicus presentation). This included a status of the Copernicus Marine Service, main highlights of past year activities as well as plans for 2021-2028. He noted that an important evolution for Copernicus Marine deals with the coastal ocean through a co-development approach with member states. The Copernicus Marine Service will also evolve its digital services (marine data store) taking advantage of the WEKEO platform and taking into account the Digital Twin Ocean development. He also explained that stronger interaction with EMODnet is planned in Copernicus Marine 2, in particular, for activities dealing with the coastal ocean (noting that the Digital Twin Ocean is another area of strong interaction). He also noted the planned expansion of Copernicus to biodiversity models.

Zoi Konstantinou asked about the proposed new service for marine biology and the associated requirements for *in situ* data. **P.Y. Le Traon** answered that there will be indeed new needs and this will require from the Copernicus Marine side new interfaces with the EMODnet Biology portal and OBIS. He also reminded that this evolution will start with a Horizon Europe project and that the implementation of a new service component (if decided) will not happen before 2026.

Jan-Bart Calewaert gave then an overview of EMODnet activities (see EMODnet overview and new workplan presentation). The EMODnet Secretariat conducts activities spanning the EMODnet network coherence and governance, consolidation and development of the EMODnet Central Portal, Monitoring EMODnet outputs, performance and progress (on a quarterly basis, and providing continuous support), EMODnet Communication, dissemination and outreach, supporting EC DG MARE's activities related to Ocean Observation, and Maintaining and further developing the European Atlas of the Seas. The key priorities of EMODnet in the period 2022-2023 were outlined as follows:

- Supporting and implementing the centralization process, guide transition towards fully integrated online presence via EMODnet Central Portal;
- Remaining operational and maintaining/expanding all other essential services and tasks (consolidation)
 - Resulting in more user-friendly, useful and fit-for-purpose EMODnet;

- Will be more coherent, efficient and easier to manage –and ready for supporting Europe’s Green Deal and Digital Agenda – Mission Ocean priorities, Digital Twin Ocean public service etc.
- European Atlas of the Seas
 - Build on foundations established over the past four years;
 - Further development of the Atlas;
 - Expand its impact across Europe and beyond;
 - Integrate Atlas in formal and informal Ocean Literacy curricula;
 - Establish Atlas as a communication tool.
- EC Ocean Observing initiative
 - Dedicated support to DG MARE to advance activities in its work programme related to EOO
 - Assess the benefits of the EMODnet Sea-basin Checkpoints
 - Representation by EMODnet on European Ocean Observing fora e.g., EOOS

An overview updates of EMODnet thematic developments in the coming 2 years was also presented (see document with Table of EMODnet thematic updates).

Kate Larkin added that in 2021 the EMODnet Central Portal had over 89,000 unique visits showing that many users already access EMODnet data and data products via the Central Portal, which will be fully streamlined with the centralisation of all EMODnet data and data products by the end of 2022, enabling a more simplified user experience and optimised user tracking (see slide in EMODnet overview presentation).

A status of the interfaces between EMODnet portals (physics and chemistry) was given by **Kate Larkin** and **Antonio Reppucci** (see the EMODnet overview presentation and Copernicus presentation). The different teams have set up good collaboration mechanisms and this leads to improved services on both sides (e.g. more data are ingested, more use of the data).

Laurence Crosnier gave a status of the different interactions between Copernicus Marine and EMODnet (see Copernicus presentation), including Copernicus (marine and other) data layers in the European Atlas of the Sea, common catalogue for the MSFD in the Baltic Sea, joint organization and participation to hackathons and meetings. She explained that the development of a common catalogue for the MSFD has been a difficult task as everything had to be done manually. It was recognized that this output was good with a user demand, yet high staff effort was required to continue to develop this for other sea-basins. For this reason, no further action is planned for the present time as the methodology should first be revised taking also into account the development of the new EMODnet common portal. Zoi Konstantinou reminded the importance of this joint effort. All participants agreed that a technical analysis is required now and a proposal for the extension of this common catalogue should be discussed at the next meeting.

Action: propose a new methodology to extend in a more automatic way the development of a common catalogue for the MSFD. Plan to be presented at the next coordination meeting.

Kate Larkin further explained the planning for a joint EMODnet-Copernicus Marine Service webinar on 12 May 2022 with the support of the EC (DG MARE and Defis), in collaboration with the All Atlantic initiative AANCHOR. An application was submitted on 15 March 2022 for this activity to be endorsed as a United Nations Ocean Decade satellite activity for the topic “transparent and accessible Ocean”. The audience was fully international and the two data services will work together and with the EC, AANCHOR, AIR Centre and others to encourage a wide and diverse participation.

Post-meeting note: On 12 April the application for an EMODnet-Copernicus Marine Service webinar in the context of the All-Atlantic Ocean Data Space was approved as a satellite activity for the topic “transparent and accessible Ocean” by the UN Ocean Decade organization team.

As far as the coastal activities are concerned, **P.Y. Le Traon** explained that Copernicus Marine plans to develop a new marine service line with improved satellite products (in particular for dynamic bathymetry) and improved interfaces with coastal monitoring and forecasting systems operated by member states. MOi also expects to start designing in 2022 a future Copernicus thematic hub on the coastal ocean that will gather products and services from the different Copernicus services (marine, land, emergency, climate).

EMODnet data services already provide many products and services for the coastal ocean, including EMODnet Bathymetry, Geology (e.g., coastal behavior, shoreline migration), Physics (riverine input, Sea Level Rise data from tide gauges, relative sea level trends, absolute sea level trends, maps of relative sea level trends and anomalies), EMODnet Human Activities (information on the blue economy activities and operations, Maritime Spatial Planning), together with many other relevant parameters from EMODnet Biology, Chemistry and Seabed Habitats. Many data from EMODnet are being used in the Copernicus “coastal thematic hub.”

Future Copernicus and EMODnet activities on the coastal ocean need to be developed in close interaction. Building on the first coastal meeting in June 2020, it was decided to organize a dedicated meeting next September to discuss and align plans for the coastal ocean between Copernicus Marine and EMODnet. MOi will also cover the contribution of the other Copernicus Services (land, emergency, climate).

Action: organize a meeting on September 22 to discuss and align plans for the coastal ocean between Copernicus Marine and EMODnet.

A new Copernicus Marine In Sit Thematic Assembly Centre (INSTAC) Technical Working Group was discussed. It was noted this will include EMODnet experts and also relates to and has strong links with the EuroGOOS Data Management Exchange and Quality (DATAMEQ) Working Group.

The Digital Ocean Forum was briefly discussed, in particular identifying the EMODnet contribution to this Mercator Ocean International activity where 50 experts have been invited across 5 Working Groups. EMODnet Secretariat Technical Coordinator **Conor Delaney** will co-Chair a Working Group on “Accessing Ocean Data and New Sensors” and EMODnet Secretariat Deputy Head **Kate Larkin** as a member of Working Group “Serving the Ocean | Ocean

Intelligence” and other EMODnet partners e.g., VLIZ (EMODnet Biology) and ETT (EMODnet Physics) involved.

The EC Ocean Observation initiative was noted by Zoi Konstantinou to be progressing fast with announcements expected in 2022. A newly published tender for a study on Ocean Observing reporting obligations was also noted that will further support this initiative.

Both EMODnet and Copernicus Marine are involved in the development of EOOS (MOi and EMODnet secretariat are both members of the EOOS steering group) and consider that the EOOS initiative is essential to the services they provide. It is expected that EOOS will play an important role in the future to support a forthcoming DG MARE initiative on ocean observation. This should be reviewed at the next coordination meeting.

A status update of the EU-China EMODPACE project was briefly provided, noting that the EMOD-PACE WP3 could share results with Copernicus Marine as this concerns Model (e.g., Copernicus) runs by NMDIS and wider China counterparts. Wider international collaborations and contributions to the UN Ocean Decade were also discussed (e.g., regions Asia, Africa, the plan for both MOi/Copernicus Marine Service and EMODnet to be UN Ocean Decade Implementing partners, Coordination Group on Data; FORSEA, MarineLife2030, COASTPREDICT, Decade Collaborative Centre for Ocean Prediction, ...) were finally briefly reviewed. EMODnet has also been invited into dialogue with EU4OceanObs related to an activity on communicating ocean observations, in collaboration with EuroGOOS and an opportunity was identified to work with Copernicus Marine Service also on this, in particular in terms of communicating the ocean observation and marine knowledge value chain and the role of EU marine data services EMODnet and Copernicus Marine Service.

The UN Ocean Conference was noted as an opportunity for EU marine data services. Mercator Ocean International will have a side event on the evolving governance towards an intergovernmental organization, as announced at the One Ocean Conference in February 2022. Copernicus Marine Service will also organize a side event with UNEP. EMODnet is investigating potential topics for side events including marine data for SDG14 and marine data interoperability, and noted its interest to collaborate with Copernicus Marine Service if the opportunity arises.

It was agreed that both EMODnet and Copernicus Marine should continue to exchange on their activities at the international level and propose coherent and harmonized approaches.

The next meeting should take place in October/November after the EMODnet steering committee meeting and should include a session with the contractors on both sides.

Action: next coordination meeting to be organized in October/November 2022, with a date to be selected in the coming weeks.

Zoi Konstantinou concluded the meeting noting the many areas of collaborations and that both DG MARE and DG DEFIS are very pleased on the collaboration.

Annex

Agenda of the Copernicus Marine and EMODnet coordination meeting - March 18, 2022

- **Introduction from EC** (DG Defis and DG MARE)
- **Copernicus Marine and EMODnet next phase**
 - **Copernicus Marine Service Phase #2** workplan priorities and evolution
 - **EMODnet 2022-2023** – workplan priorities and evolution
- **Copernicus Marine *in situ* TAC and EMODnet (Physics, Chemistry)**
- **Copernicus Marine – EMODnet wider thematic collaborations**
- **European Ocean Observing** (EC Ocean Observation initiative; EOOS; other)
- **Joint areas of activity**
 - **Coastal area:** Priorities, product development and joint activities
 - **User uptake, services and feedback** (Use cases, joint catalogues, training, demonstrations)
- **EU marine data space** (digital twin ocean etc)
- **International collaborations and contributions to the UN Ocean Decade** (EMODPACE/ASIA, Africa, Implementing partners, Coordination Group on Data; Decade Collaborative Centre for Ocean Prediction, ...)
- **Events**
 - **Upcoming CMEMS and EMODnet events** (Hackathons, Open Conferences, etc)
 - **Wider external meetings** (UN Ocean Conference 2022, other)
- **Wider society: European Atlas of the Seas** (if useful otherwise at next meeting)
- **Any Other Business**
- **Final reflections from EC** (DG Defis and DG MARE)
- **Set date for next Coordination meeting** (meeting to be with contractors: CMEMS INSTAC & EMODnet Coordinators)