

13th EMODnet Steering Committee Meeting  
Autumn 2020  
9-10 November

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On behalf of the Consortium



Seabed Habitats  
[www.emodnet-seabedhabitats.eu](http://www.emodnet-seabedhabitats.eu)

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# Status update (on thematic Portal)

- Main achievements
  - **48 new maps or groundtruth point datasets collated, processed and made available:** Spain (4), France (8), Italy (8), Ireland (8), Denmark( 9), Bulgaria (1), United Kingdom (10)
  - **132 maps from Greece now open access** (so far with restricted access)
  - **Additional M2M connections:** includes layers from GEBCO/NOAA, HELCOM, VLIZ, EEA and EMODnet Human Activities
  - **A webpage summarising data and data products available:** ABOUT > Data Products Summary
  - **EUSeaMap 2019 technical report published** <https://doi.org/10.13155/74782>
  - **Needs from RSCs collected**
  - **A new GeoServer environment:** in case of shutdown, a replica copy will activate to continue the provision of services
- Challenges
  - **JIRA issue EMODNET-33** (raised by EASME): a complicated one for us, about to be closed
  - **Cookie policy issue:** a potentially critical issue, which the JNCC came across. Will be mentioned at the TWG
  - **COVID-19**
    - Overall, a complicated but controlled situation
    - Some partners do not have the technology to access their enterprise network from home
    - For these partners, data planned to be processed in year 1 (deadline within the consortium) will be processed in year 2

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# Cross-Thematic Interactions

- **Current interactions**

- High resolution DTM (Bathymetry) and seabed substrate data (Geology) product: key inputs to EUseaMap
  - Interaction now well established and standardised – No need for further investigation
- Biology: specific work with OBIS/EMODnet Biology on harvesting and filtering habitat point information in OBIS

- **Jamboree 2021**

- Biology: promoting guidance on how to include habitat data in OBIS and better way to joining up when both species and habitat are available in the same records
- EMODnet Physics: discussion in progress
- CMEMS
  - Seabed habitat mapping / modelling community requires full-coverage gridded data on environmental conditions at the seabed (currents, waves, temperature, light, etc.)
  - What CMEMS provides
    - has no equivalent in Europe regarding the spatial coverage
    - but is not fit for the purpose of Seabed Habitat modelling on important criterias
    - Example: spatial resolution, usually around 4km, too coarse
  - Proposal: a session between EMODnet Seabed Habitat and CMEMS data providers, where we would voice the data requirements of Seabed Habitat mapping / modelling community

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# External interactions

- **RSCs: consultation outcomes**

- OSPAR: we will create an updated habitat map for the NE Atlantic, combining survey maps and EUSeaMap
- RAC/SPA: we will lead on the creation of a product on “coralligenous and other calcareous bio-concretions” in the Mediterranean Sea
- HELCOM
  - EUSeaMap 2021 will be used for the cumulative impact assessments in the 3<sup>rd</sup> holistic assessment of the Baltic Sea (HOLAS 3)
  - EMODnet Seabed Habitat invited at 4th meeting of the HELCOM Expert network on Benthic Habitats (EN-benthic)
  - Present Emodnet Seabed habitat plans and show what the portal offers
    - Discuss synergies in data collation (e.g. Natura 2000 maps)
    - Gather feedback on requirement for habitat mapping products in the future
- Black Sea commission: no feedback yet

- **ICES**

- Ifremer, JNCC and the Marine Institute are members of the WGMHM (Working Group on Marine Habitat mapping)
- We publish the metadata of the datasets we collate in the ICES catalog

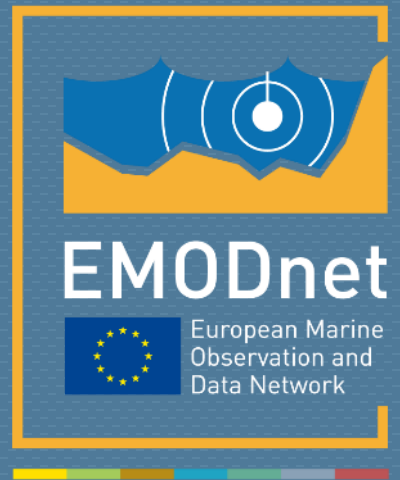
- **CMEMS**: meeting with D. Obaton (Head of Mercator Ocean’s Operations & Services Department) in Toulouse, 08/10/2020

- CMEMS to include EUSeaMap 2019 in their MSFD portfolio
- EMODnet Seabed Habitat to write a use case on their extensive use of CMEMS’ products, and publish it on CMEMS’ portal

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# Future Outlook

- **EUSeaMap 2021** (including interaction with Geology lot)
- **New products**
  - European maps of some EOVs (essential ocean variables)
    - Seagrass,
    - Macroalgal canopy
    - Coral
  - A European map of biogenic habitats
    - Biogenic habitats = firm reefs or beds formed by a habitat-forming species (eg coral, sabellaria, mussel species)
  - Coralligenous and other calcareous bioconcretions in the Mediterranean
- **More datasets made available**
  - ~ 60 maps or point datasets
  - point habitat information stored in OBIS/ EMODnet Biology, harvested via M2M connections
- **Events**
  - Merigéo (French conference on GIS data and applications): joint presentation Seabed Habitats (Mickaël Vasquez) - Bathymetry (Thierry Schmitt) on synergies between the 2 thematic lots
  - HELCOM Expert network on Benthic Habitats: presentation of Seabed Habitats, gather feedback, discuss synergies
  - EMODnet Conference and Jamboree



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