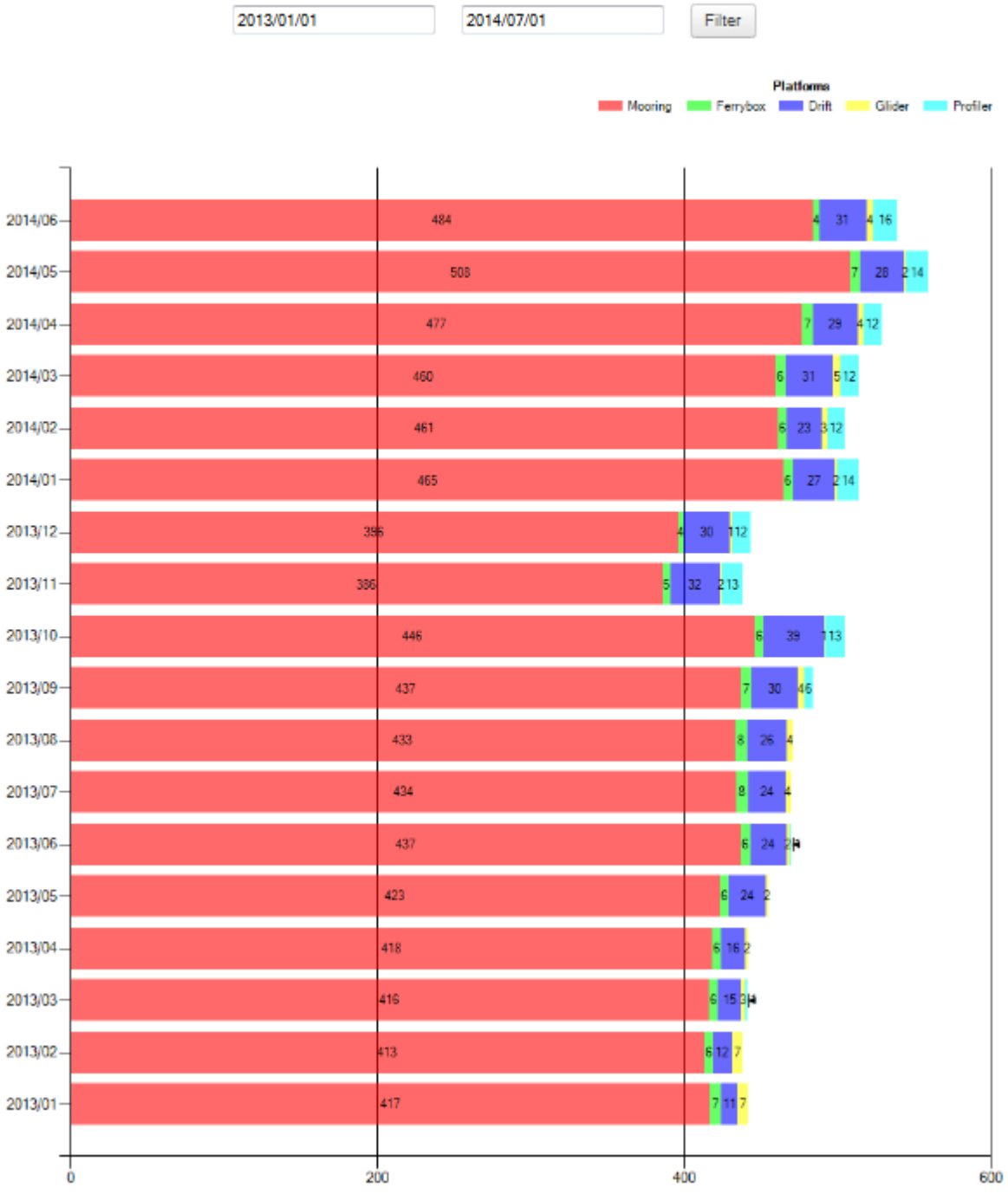
(1) provide a graph or table of the monthly number of platforms reporting?

The following figure shows the number of monthly file available per month per platform type (since January 2013)



[1]

[1] http://www.emodnet-physics.eu/map/dashboard/Section14.aspx

Columns E and F in the annex (EMODnetPhysics_Annual.Report_Annex) gives the precise figure of monthly file for each platform where column E indicates the time range and column F how many files are available (e.g. data available from 2011 to 2012, means at most 24 files, if they all are present F = 24/24 if there are some gaps the numerator is lower than 24).

(2) indicate how you intend to take into account the results of testing of the Portal by the EMODnet Secretariat.

User evaluation feedback about the Secretariat managed survey of the Physics portal:

F: "The overall feedback was positive with regards to the objective of providing a marine gateway to European physical parameters. However, all the users mentioned that there needs to be a refinement of the user guidance and tailoring of the information on the central portal less to the funders with regards to the nature of the information provided and presented. The overall achievement of providing access would be re-enforced with a refining of the service and outlining the current state of the deliverables. This would make users realise that it is an ongoing project to which they can contribute and allow for work in progress tasks"

The document was analyzed and in what follow some comments and actions are reported (F = user Feedback, C = EMODnet Physics comment, A = EMODnet Physics Action):

1. User flow between central and thematic portal

F: "*The users requested that the access point to data discovery services could be simplified, i.e. would be able to access the portal directly from the main page on the central portal. They all stated that if the aim is a data discovery service, any additional information (the summary page) could be of interest but should be optional, they did not want to have to navigate past it to get to the data".*

C: The EMODnet Physics portal is designed to reduce as much as possible the time (and clicks) to access to the data. If the user is asked to access to EMODnet Physics data via the EMODnet Central he is going to find at least 2 further levels before accessing the EMODnet Physics data. the feedback is biased by the way the users were asked to test the system.

From the central portal's summary page, the users found it not apparent where to go next. It was not clear but confusing to see option of website/portal/documentation links; what is the difference? One of the user expected to be able to link directly through the parameters listed on the summary page, or at least have an indication of what parameters are currently available.

One of the user tried to access the website but was unable too. (Note subsequent verification with Physics, highlighted that the link on the central portal was out of date due to upgrading work

C: These comments concern how the EMODnet Central portal is designed and provides information rather than the EMODnet Physics landing page and operational portal.

2. Review of core information services of the thematic portal
   2.1. Search & visualization functionality

F: Main comments from users were with regards to the tools and operations of the layers.

- *When the map is first accessed, data is shown but this is not reflected in the 'on' and 'off' of layers .*
- *No tooltips or an indication of the metadata/origin of the data provided for the layers*
- *Symbology with no explanation, yellow and red warning triangles ?*
- *What is ROOS ?*

C1: The EMODnet Physics map was designed to instantaneously show the full (near real time) data availability – filters are designed to refine the selection.
A1: the portal is under continuous development – it is still missing (and they are already planned to be developed) some more help-tooltips, easy user guides, legends

- *Why is the data listed under the heading 'platform' ?*
  - *What is meant by the different types of data ?*
  - *What is CDI ?*

A2: filters label will be re-written and reorganized to be more logic (e.g. a time range filter will be added)

- *Can the individual parameters had different symbology, such that their data sources can easily be identified on the map.*

C2: one of the farmer release of the EMODnet Physics map was designed in a such way but as soon as the platform number and typology increased there was a need (user feedback) to clear up the displayed symbols

- *Functionality that allows the search to be refined (narrowed down) by selecting multiple tabs (i.e. sea level and temperature) to view data sources where multiple parameters are being monitored. For example, when 'sea level' is selected buoys with sea level data are shown, and it may be helpful that when an additional parameters is selected, such as 'temperature', only buoys which provide both sea level and temperature data be shown on the map.*
- *If multiple parameters are selected at first search, why does the search not reflect just the items that have all of the multiple parameters available ?*

C3: filters are designed to work in AND between macro-filters and OR between intra-filters
A3: see A1

- *What are 'other parameters' ?*

C4: everything that was not possible to classify in a different way – full legend is described in the landing page: http://www.emodnet-physics.eu/portal/user-s-guide

- *Overlays menu very hidden in the corner, make them more prominent ?*
- *There seems to be no difference in the filter being ON or OFF (in terms of visibility) (at the bottom of the map)*
- *On the bottom of the legend (x clear) the user thought it closed the legend box, not clear the data search.*
- *The smaller toolbar next to the legend what is the functionality*

C5: see C2
A4: see A1

- *Is there a measuring tool if someone needed to calculate the distance of a platform to shore or another platform ?*

C6: no there is not and it is not planned at the moment

2.2. Documentation

F: The users did not locate the documentation, and there was an expectation of it to be more in build into the actual portal via tooltips (see above). User would value a workflow from data search to publication

C7: the User Guide is available into the landing page: http://www.emodnet-physics.eu/portal/user-s-guide

A5: see A1, a specific focus will be to create a user guidance document that documents the user flow from searching till publication

2.3. Sign in/login

F: No reference to data login until at the platform info. Why is the login necessary, what additional services are available ? Can I save my searches ?

C8: login is required to download data older than 60 days. According the data source infrastructure different credentials maybe required. The adoption of the Open-ID management is under study and development. The system is both using cookies to save last selection and a "share" feature that creates a unique url with the applied search (it is a way to save and share the search)
A6: see A1, furthermore the support for accessing and downloading data via major Open-ID credentials (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, etc.)

2.4. QA/QC

F: The users where unsure of the QA/QC procedure the dataset had been through. What is the meaning of the quality flag on the information box

C9: The QA/QC are applied at institute and assembly level according international standardized procedure, they are and they should be in charge for this activity and responsibility as they really know their data. See also C2.
A7: see A1

2.5. Accreditation

F: The users were not sure how to accredit the data, and what the citation for EMODnet would need to be
A8: a tooltip/description about how to cite data will be provided.

(3) indicate whether users are primarily interested in particular types of data (temperature, salinity etc)

Direct contacts, in particular MetoFrance, RINA – Dappolonia, DHI, Marina Italiana asked for waves and winds data

EMSA was interested in any data valuable for S&R (Search and Rescue) activities (i.e. winds, waves, salinity, temperature)

The following table is providing the overlook about which country is downloading what parameter (to be considered that when you download a parameter you get the full set – if user is interested in temperature and the platform is providing temperature and salinity – the user gets both).

<< table >>

(4) indicate what steps are being made to make archived data from National Oceanographic Data Centres available, together with a timetable.

When a NODC validates a dataset one (some) CDI(s) is(are) made available in SeaDataNet. As SeaDataNet is designed to manage metadata to marine data in general, and marine data recorded under research projects, this is a general procedure whatever is the parameters and validated dataset. The results is available at http://seadatanet.maris2.nl/v_cdi_v3/search.asp.

From this general catalogue it is possible to extract a potential subset of metadata valuable for the EMODnet Physics scope and 11.450 CDI files have already been identified and made available under a test page at:

http://slim-emodnet-physics.maris2.nl/v_cdi_v3/browse_step.asp.

For the time being the approach was to link those CDIs to operational platforms and create a unique access system. Unfortunately because the station (platforms ID) are not harmonized (sometimes not provided even) the process is far from being possible.

The proposed alternative strategy overcome this limitation and is willing to present the identified metadata without linking it to a specific platform (once all the potential information is available it will be possible to push the community to look for links between operational data and validated historical datasets). This is already possible with the available information and is under development (a first release – that needs some manual steps - is foreseen by end of the year, a final release which integrates machine-to-machine interfaces with SeaDataNet system is foreseen by end 2015)

In parallel both SeaDataNet data centres and operational data providers have been and are encouraged to gather and make available more validated long term data sets and to further push and promote the EMODnet Physics approach and needs a specific session during next SeaDataNet Annual meeting is already planned

One of the scope of the session is to list and establish a direct contact with NODCs and speed up the process.

(5) provide more detail about discussions with projects such as Copernicus and SeaDataNet about the single sign-in?

The three groups (Copernicus, SeaDataNet and EMODnet Physics) are discussing the topic for (about) past 2 years and different approaches were proposed and tested to have a single sign-in.

Given that both SeaDataNet and MyOcean are using the same CAS - Controlled Authentication System – technology and the data access is managed by IFREMER, the first approach was to define a common basic license for “basic public access”. This was not achieved for a simple reason: while MyOcean license allows user to access all the data, SeaDataNet license may not be enough and user may have to negotiate with the NODC hosting the requested dataset. Most of the SeaDataNet data (about 90%) are accessible without negotiation anyhow the system and license are designed to handle negotiation and are not easy to be integrated with a different typology of license.

A second approach was to propose a new user both the MyO and SDN licenses to let the user to accept both and create one credential that is valid in both the systems. This approach also failed as the two projects are evolving and are too close to the end.

At the moment the community is discussing about the definition of a MarineID

At EMODnet level the access to near real time data is provided via ROOSs that already accepted to provide data access when basic user information is provided (name or openID, organization if available, place and time of the request, requested data) – that is already tracked and the access to the operational platform data and their history is already provided and user can already use either his MyOcean credential (if he is a MyOcean user already) or one of the major OpenID credential.

Access to validated dataset is mediated via SeaDataNet and at the moment a SeaDataNet user is required to access the request system (SeaDataNet is also evolving the system to handle openID login) at the moment as interim solution EMODnetPhysics is forwarding the user selection to the SeaDataNet request system.

During the meeting in September the topic will be discussed to identify a better and more integrated approach that has to last longer than a project life (SeaDataNet is going to close in about one year time)