



Terms of Reference for Study on Interim Evaluation of European Marine Observation and Data Network

1. OBJECTIVES

The objective is to provide an interim evaluation of the work done under the marine knowledge chapter of the preparatory actions of the EU's integrated maritime policy. In particular the contractor will:

1. assess the user-friendliness of the portals
2. gauge the re-usability of the data
3. determine how well the portals have overcome the legal obstacles to data sharing identified in "legal aspects of marine environmental data"¹

2. BACKGROUND – PROJECTS TO BE ASSESSED

In 2008 and 2009 a set of projects were launched following calls for tender, MARE/2008/03 (4 lots) and MARE/2008/07 (1 lot), whose objectives were to assemble fragmented and inaccessible marine data into interoperable, contiguous and publicly available data streams for complete maritime basins. The specific objectives of each lot were to:

1. collate existing data from public and private organisations relating to the state of maritime basins; processing them into interoperable formats which includes agreed standards, common baselines or reference conditions; assessing their accuracy and precision and assembling them into common datasets;
2. develop, test, operate and maintain a portal allowing public access and viewing of these data and a link to WISE-marine
3. monitor and report on the effectiveness of the system in meeting the needs of users in terms of ease of use, quality of information and fitness for purpose of the products delivered;

¹ "Legal Aspects Of Marine Environmental Data" study under Framework Service Contract, No. FISH/2006/09 – LOT2

4. analyse what further steps need to be taken to improve the accuracy, precision, coverage and ease of use of the data, including a scheme for sustainable quality assurance and control of the data delivered to the system, both in this preparatory action and in the future larger system.
5. analyse the necessary requirements to maintain the components built up in each lot as a sustainable infrastructure
6. keep the portal operational afterwards and be prepared to transfer to the Commission.

Full details of all the projects including contracts, presentations and progress reports are included on the EU's maritime forum²:

3. TASKS

3.1. User-friendliness of the portal

The contractor should determine how well each portal - hydrography, geology, chemistry, biology, physical habitats - delivers to the users a good understanding of

1. the scope of the European Marine Observation and Data Network
2. the data coverage of the portal
3. the quality of data in the portal
4. how to download data from the portal
5. how to provide feedback

The results of the analysis will be summarised and included in the final report.

3.2. Re-usability of data

The contractor should assess the re-usability of the portal by downloading data, importing them into their own systems (geographical information system, statistical analysis package) and performing simple processing tasks. These tasks are:

3.2.1. Hydrography

Download data of bathymetry and coastline from one sea-basin

Prepare map of coastline and bathymetry

Prepare map showing confidence levels in bathymetry

3.2.2. Geology

Download data of marine sediments and underlying strata for one sea-basin

Prepare map of sediments

Prepare map of underlying strata

² <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/maritimeforum/taxonomy/term/162>

Prepare map showing confidence levels in sediment data

3.2.3. *Chemistry*

Download data of two pollutants in the water column and one in the sediment in one sea basin

Prepare timeplots of measurements of these pollutants showing seasonal dependence.

Prepare map of annual average levels along coastline for one particular year

3.2.4. *Biology*

Download data on species from portal

Determine for the North Sea and the Atlantic Iberian Coast the number of records of each family of species – phytoplankton, zooplankton, angiosperms, macro-algae, invertebrate bottom fauna, bird communities, sea mammals, reptiles

3.2.5. *Physical Habitats*

Download data on physical habitats from portal

Construct table comparing the percentages of each sea-basin covered by each habitat at levels 2 and 3.

The contractor will summarise the challenges in completing these tasks.

3.3. **Progress on Accessibility**

Based on the first two tasks, and by questioning the coordinators of the projects (by telephone), assess how well the portals have overcome legal obstacles to data sharing identified in "legal aspects of marine environmental data"³.

4. **DELIVERABLES**

1. One report describing the outcome of the study
2. One five page executive summary

The reports should be in English and delivered in electronic form (Microsoft Word and adobe pdf)

5. **TIMETABLE**

Within one month of the start of the project the contractor should meet with Commission staff to inaugurate the project

³ "Legal Aspects Of Marine Environmental Data" study under Framework Service Contract, No. FISH/2006/09 – LOT2

Four months after signature of the contract, the contractor will deliver a draft report

The contractor will present the results to the Commission at a meeting in the two weeks following delivery of the draft report.

The Commission will deliver comments on the draft report within one calendar month of the delivery of the draft report

The final report and executive summary will be delivered by the contractor six calendar months after the signature of the contract.