

2nd EMODnet-MSFD Coordination Meeting

Date: 27 February 2015

Location: Brussels, DG MARE, Rue Joseph II 79/99 - MARE ROOM J99 05/86 DIR GEN MEETING ROOM

Attendance: upon invitation only

Aim: The aim of the meeting is to consider and discuss EMODnet progress and product development with relevance for Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and marine environmental monitoring and reporting. The meeting will have a specific focus on a range of new EMODnet Chemistry products which are currently under development. The meeting will also report on progress made in other portals such as EMODnet Biology and Human Activities (see www.emodnet.eu for full range of portals and data resources).

Meeting Chair: David Connor (EC DG ENV)

Invited participants:

EU and other bodies: Iain Shepherd (DG MARE), Trine Christiansen and Johnny Reker (EEA), David Connor (DG ENV), Neil Holdsworth (ICES)

Member State MSFD representatives/experts: Manuel Nicolaus (Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science, UK), Cecile Gozler (Developpement Durable, France), Eoin O'Grady (Marine Institute, Ireland), Alexander Schroeder (NLWKN-OL Niedersachsen, Germany), Giordano Giordi (ISPRA, Italy) and Niels Kinneging (RWS, Netherlands), Debbie Hembury (DEFRA, UK)

Regional Sea Convention representatives: Vivi Fleming-Lehtinen (HELCOM), Tatjana Hema (MEDPOL), Halil Ibrahim Sur and Irina Makarenko (BSC) and Emily Corcoran (OSPAR)

EMODnet: Phil Weaver (EMODnet Steering Committee Chair), Simon Claus (EMODnet Biology), Alessandro Pititto (EMODnet Human Activities), Alessandra Giorgetti, Marine Lipizer, Dick Schaap (EMODnet Chemistry)

Apologies: (Hans-Christian Reimers, State Agency for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Areas, Germany)



Tentative Agenda

Start of the Meeting: 8:30

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Agreement on objectives and agenda of the meeting
3. EMODnet-MSFD status update
 - Short recap on EMODnet goals and current state of play – Iain Shepherd (DG MARE)
 - Short recap and updates on MSFD recent developments – Meeting Chair David Connor
 - Short round of comments by meeting participants on (i) expectations for the meeting and longer term interactions; and (ii) general observations, potential, issues and challenges with regards to making use of EMODnet for MSFD and environmental reporting purposes. [New participants are invited to shortly present/introduce their organisation, relevant activities and interests]
 - Short discussion on how to streamline the interaction process between main EMODnet and MSFD actors.
4. EMODnet Chemistry products and tools relevant for MSFD, environmental monitoring & reporting
 - Chemistry progress update and demonstration of two new type of products: (i) gridded DIVA maps with 10 year sliding window (example focus on nutrients); (ii) time series plots. – Alessandra Giorgetti (EMODnet Chemistry)

10:30-10:45 Coffee break

- Feedback from MSFD actors from RSC and Member States on usefulness of these products in view of current practices (how are descriptors calculated now) and what is needed to make these EMODnet Chemistry products suitable for use? – Regional Sea Conventions and Member State experts
- Specific requirements for data and products covering contaminants?
- Discussion and conclusion – list of requirements

12:30-13:30 Lunch break

5. EMODnet Biodiversity data and products relevant for MSFD, environmental monitoring & reporting
 - Update on EMODnet biology MSFD activities related to species and habitats
 - Feedback from MSFD actors on current practices and what is needed to make EMODnet suitable for use? – max 10' each Regional Sea Conventions and Member State experts
 - Discussion and conclusion – list of requirements

14:45-15:00 Coffee break

6. EMODnet Human Activities
 - Update on EMODnet Human Activities portal available datasets potentially relevant for MSFD, environmental monitoring & reporting - what can EMODnet offer now and in the future?
 - Questions from participants, discussion and conclusion
7. AOB
8. Wrap up and recap: actions and outline for follow up process – next meeting?

16:00 End of meeting



Short background

The European Marine Observation and Data network (EMODnet) is a long term marine data initiative developed through a stepwise approach aiming to ensure that European marine data will become easily accessible, interoperable and free of restrictions on use. Supported by the European Commission, EMODnet started in 2009 as a network of organisations working together to assemble marine datasets according to a number of themes and makes these available using agreed standards and formats with the specific target of developing a multi-resolution map of the entire seabed and overlying water column of European waters by 2020. For general information - you can find regular EMODnet progress updates by the Secretariat on the Maritime Forum (filter on 'EMODnet'): <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/maritimeforum/>. There is also a load of information available on the central portal (e.g. leaflet, brochure, overviews of the different projects, etc.) and the Secretariat also posts news and info updates regularly on twitter (<https://twitter.com/EMODnet>).

One of the core concepts behind EMODnet is to collect European marine data once and then make them available for multiple use(rs). A core group of envisaged users of the EMODnet service are the Member States, Regional Seas Conventions and European bodies which require marine data and products in the framework of environmental monitoring, assessment and reporting, in particular in relation to the European Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). While discussions between the EMODnet and MSFD communities have already taken place on *ad hoc* basis in the past at various levels and occasions, with the start of EMODnet phase II it is very timely to pick up the pace in a coordinated process to identify how EMODnet can best contribute in practical terms to the MSFD and what concrete actions are required to make this happen.

To this end, the EMODnet Secretariat together with DG MARE, DG ENV and relevant actors met on 9 September 2014 for the first time in a dedicated EMODnet-MSFD coordination meeting to agree on a coordinated process, consider how EMODnet can be of more use in the future, and start developing potential contributions. For a recap, the meeting minutes and presentations of the first coordination meeting can be found here: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/maritimeforum/en/node/3643>.

Following this meeting, WG DIKE reported on the renewed impetus and reiterated its interest and support to intensify collaboration. EMODnet Biology engaged directly with OSPAR and HELCOM experts at the COBAM meeting in October 2014 and is working on a new set of products relevant for MSFD reporting. EMODnet Human Activities held a first meeting with stakeholders to probe possible interest and feedback on future actions and needs in January 2015. EMODnet Chemistry continued to work on a set of new products for users including MSFD actors. To keep the momentum and in particular with a view on assessing the usefulness of EMODnet products from Chemistry and Biology, it was considered timely to reconvene key representatives from both communities to drive further progress.