Introduction

- The IOC Ocean InfoHub Project (OIH) is a new, global initiative, to improve access to marine and coastal data and information.
- It is a three year project, commencing April 2020, funded by the Government of Flanders (Kingdom of Belgium)
- The intention is not to develop a new or centralised system, but to **develop interoperability between existing information systems**, thus improving the flow of information to end users.
- NOT a hub and spoke series of nodes, but a **network of hubs**

OIH Objectives

1 The OIH will anchor a **network of hubs** that will contribute to the transfer of marine technology, by enhancing shared scientific and technical capacities to render a wide range of data and information products and services available

2 The OIH will develop a proof-of-concept for an underlying **Ocean Data and Information System (ODIS) architecture** to enable scalable development of the global Ocean Infohub and interoperability with local, regional and thematic data and information infrastructures.

3 The OIH will promote and foster awareness and collaboration with established organizations and systems providing enabling support to the marine community, **connecting contributors and users with the resources** to support their efforts.

OIH links IOC databases

The OIH will first work with global IOC-associated online resources – including:

- OceanExpert
- OceanDocs
- the Ocean Best Practices System
- the Ocean Biodiversity Information System (OBIS)
- the World Ocean Database (WOD)
- and Ocean Data Portal (ODP)
- extended by partnerships with EurOcean, Marinetraining.eu, EMODNET, and other sources in the IOC ODIS Catalogue of Sources (ODIScat).

Initial data types:

1. **People and institutions/organizations**
2. **Documents**
3. **Spatial data/maps**
4. **Training opportunities**
5. **Vessels (research opportunities)**

Three pilot regions

1. African region,
2. Latin America and Caribbean region, and the
3. Pacific Small Island Developing States

These three regions have participated in the development of the proposal for the Ocean InfoHub Project and will take a lead on **pilot projects to test interoperability** between existing information hubs.

- Users can more easily discover what they need.
- Regions and countries can learn from each other; Africa, Pacific and LAC regions all have success stories that will be useful to share.
- The OIH development and implementation principles will be fully based on co-design

EMODnet can contribute…

EMODnet contributing to ODIS Catalogue

1. At present, all the EMODnet thematic portals/central portal were registered on ODIS catalogue, and for further contribution, it is possible to maintain these records and update if necessary.

2. In the future, for the EMOD-PACE project, once the maps are ready (WP5 from January2021), new records can be created for these as well.

In conclusion

1. The OIH will facilitate better access to global databases, but also better visibility of national and regional data holdings.
2. The OIH will assist countries in their reporting requirements
3. The OIH will support the IOC Capacity Development strategy.
- The project will also focus on the transfer of **local knowledge**,
- on supporting **early career scientist**s,
- and on **remedying gender disparity** by increasing access to information, technologies and opportunities.