Marine Knowledge Infrastructure

Who are you?

What is your name? (Family name then forenames) This will not be published.
Hall, Stephen

what is your contact e-mail?
sph@noc.soton.ac.uk

You can either reply in a personal capacity or on behalf of your organisation	I am replying on behalf of organisation

What is the name of your organisation?
National Oceanography Centre, Southampton UK

Who do you work for or represent?	public research institution
Where are you mainly based? Where are you or your organisation located? (for regional administrations). From which country is the region you represent?	United Kingdom
Is a marine knowledge infrastructure relevant to your work?	Yes
Which European seas are you most directly interested in (you can indicate up to six)?	Arctic Ocean (including Barents Sea and Greenland Sea) Bay of Biscay and the Iberian Coast North-East Atlantic West of Scotland, Irish Sea, Celtic Seas Waters surrounding the Azores, Madeira and the Canary Islands Other

which other seas
Mediterranean

Which (if any) of these other seas or marine basins interests you most	Arctic Indian Ocean Caribbean North Atlantic South Atlantic Southern Ocean
what scale are you primarily interested in (maximum of 2)?	shelf open ocean

Working with marine data and observations

Are you or your organisation directly involved with collecting, processing or using marine data and observations?	yes
Why does your organisation require data and observations? (choose a minimum of 1 and a	to understand the behaviour of the planet to provide advice for marine management (eg

maximum of 3)	fisheries catch limits) for teaching students
What phases of data processing are you (or your organisation if you are replying on behalf of them) involved with - you can choose more than one?	collecting data processing data for intermediate users using data for a particular application
How soon after a measurement or observation are data required? If you require data at different times then select the fastest.	immediately (near real-time)
What products do you deliver to the end-user or customer	raw data indicators maps scientific reports trends

Importance of data to your work

bathymetric data (water depth, digital terrain data)	required
meteorological data (wind, air temperature)	required
other physical data (temperature, current, salinity, waves, tides)	required
geology, sediments, geohazards, strata, sea-floor habitats	required
chemicals	required
biology, speciation, biodiversity (except for fish)	required
fisheries data - landings, effort, size, age etc	useful
human activity (except fishing), gravel extraction, petroleum, renewable energy, aquaculture etc	useful

ease of working with data

Discovery: can you find all the data you need easily or does it take a lot of effort to find who holds the data?	there could be some improvements
Access: do organisations holding the data provide it to you willingly	there could be some improvements
Use: are you allowed to use the data for whatever purposes you want or are you restricted to certain uses?	there could be some improvements
Is your budget sufficient to pay for the data	there could be some improvements

you need?	

Coherence: are marine data sufficienly interoperable? is it straightforward to mix and match data from different laboratories, different countries or different disciplines?	there could be some improvements

Quality: do you have enough information about the quality (accuracy and precision) of the data you use?	there could be some improvements

Temporal resolution: The sampling is sufficient. More frequent sampling would not improve accuracy.	there are significant barriers to efficient working

Spatial resolution: Spatial resolution is sufficient. A finer spatial resoultion would not improve the the accuracy of your work?	there are significant barriers to efficient working

Design of Marine Data Infrastructure

Which existing bodies or organisations could provide a disciplinary (eg geology) or regional data hub
British Oceanographic Data Centre (BODC) Liverpool UK National Oceanography Centre Data Team, Southampton UK

Principles for marine data infrastructure

Data should be collected bearing in mind that it can be used for many purposes?	strongly agree

Interoperable standards, formats and nomenclatures across borders and across disciplines should be developed	strongly agree

Specific action is needed at sea-basin level to check sampling, coherence and quality. For instance to produce gridded data.	strongly agree

Without sustainable financial support from the EU, it will be extremely difficult to build up a sustainable European infrastructure	strongly agree

The priorities for a European Marine Data and Observation Network in terms of the particular types of data being made available should be defined by the users.	strongly agree

It is important that an operational European and Marine Observation and Data Network builds on structures and organisations that already exist	strongly agree

Data should be accompanied by indications of of ownership, accuracy and precision	strongly agree

Data collected using public funding should be freely available at marginal cost to all other	strongly agree

public and private bodies.	

Roadmap

Have you read the Commission Staff Working Document "Building a European marine knowledge infrastructure: Roadmap for a European Marine Observation and Data Nework" http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/pdf/roadmap_emodnet_en.pdf	yes

Have you read the whole document or only the executive summary?	whole document

Do you agree with this roadmap?	strongly agree

Do you have any comments on the roadmap?
The roadmap is very stong on data issues, but not strong enough on the need to gather observations. Marine spatial planning requires a greater density of observations. The private sector also has a large resource of marine data which should be available for planning purposes.

Options for Moving Ahead

The EU has a role in improving Europe's marine data infrastructure	yes

options for moving forward

The EU should contribute towards the collection of marine data (over and above the fisheries data and space-based data which are already supported to some extent)	strongly agree
The EU should support the assembly and quality checking of marine data at a sea-basin scale in order to facilitate discovery and access of coherent data and to highlight the completeness and consistency of the monitoring networks	strongly agree
The EU should support the production or parameters or indicators based on the coherent sea-basin data that can directly contribute towards the maritime economy, coastal communities or the marine environment - tsunami warnings, wind-farm suitability, fish spawning grounds, species extinction risk etc	strongly agree

Do you have any other points that you would like to make?
NOCS strongly supports EMODNET. Working with other European Marine research institutes we co-drafted the Aberdeen Declaration in 2007 which mentions EMODNET. In the UK the Marine and Coastal Access Bill and Scottish Marine Bill would benefit from the enhanced data infrastructure proposed under EMODNET to achieve well-informed marine spatial planning. We support the concept of 'collect once, use many times' for marine data - observations are essential. The private sector can be encouraged to make their data available to the wider public.

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