

CREATING A DATA PORTAL REDISTRIBUTING PHYSICAL, CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL SCHELDT ESTUARY DATA

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Since the beginning of 2008 VLIZ is working on the creation of a data portal for the ScheldeMonitor. This data portal aims to redistribute and visualize physical, chemical and biological Scheldt Estuary data. Data comes from both Flemish and Dutch government and research institutes performing measurements on the Zeeschelde and Westerschelde.

Over 30 instances are involved in monitoring or measuring one or another aspect of the Scheldt Estuary. In most cases different institutes are responsible for monitoring the Dutch and Flemish part of the estuary. Data for the entire estuary is rarely available in an integrated way. The data portal that is being developed wants to add value by providing individual datasets through one portal.

Within the framework of the data portal, we aim to set up the data exchange protocols with the data providers as automated as reasonably possible. However, at the same time a pragmatic approach is followed, making design decisions on an ad hoc basis and trying not to complicate things IT-wise.

The ScheldeMonitor data portal is being set up with financial support of the Flemish Government, Beleidsdomein Mobiliteit en Openbare werken, Maritime Toegang and will be available at www.scheldemonitor.org