

## How can EMODnet Biology be used for marine biodiversity studies?

*Joana Beja<sup>1</sup>, Leen Vandepitte<sup>1</sup>, Vasilis Gerovasileiou<sup>2</sup>, Peter Herman<sup>3</sup>, Dan Lear<sup>4</sup>, Bart Vanhoorne<sup>1</sup>,  
EMODnet Biology partners*

1 Flanders Marine Institute, Belgium

2 Hellenic Centre for Marine Research, Greece

3 Deltares, The Netherlands

4 Marine Biological Association, United Kingdom

### **Aim**

As a consequence of the 2007 European Union Maritime Policy, the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet) was established to improve access to high quality marine data. From 2009 to 2012, a set of preparatory actions led to the development of an online portal which allowed for the access and download of these data European marine biological data.

### **Methods**

EMODnet Biology is currently a partnership between 22 organisations, but it has connections with other international initiatives such as OBIS and GBIF, ensuring that the data is not duplicated but can be widely accessed. We will show how the partnership is organised and the various ways data providers can submit their data and the different procedures we undertake to make data FAIR.

EMODnet Biology data includes and encourages the use of the World Register of Marine Species (WoRMS) for species scientific names, British Oceanographic Data Centre NVS2 for measurements or facts that accompany the data and Marine Regions for the sample locations, thus improving standardisation and interoperability with other data.

### **Results**

Over the last 20 years, the European marine biological landscape has changed significantly. MarBEF included 94 marine institutes in its network and gave rise to EurOBIS and ERMS (which became WoRMS). With the setup of EMODnet Biology (meta)data interoperability and standardisation has been the main aim alongside the free and open access to the data.

EMODnet Biology currently provides access to almost 25 million records from over 1000 datasets of various taxonomic groups. It also provides access to an ever-growing portfolio of data products and various tools.

### **Main conclusion**

EMODnet Biology data have been used in several assessments (UN World Ocean Assessments and IPBES regional and global assessments, both via OBIS) and have also contributed to an OSPAR assessment on the introduction of non-indigenous species.

### **Thematic Areas**

Biodiversity and Population and Species