

The Netherlands National Oceanographic Data *Committee* A model for nationwide oceanographic data management

N.M. Kaaijk (1) and T.F. de Bruin (2)

(1) National Institute for Coastal and Marine Management (RIKZ)
Ministerie van Verkeer en Waterstaat, Directoraat-Generaal Rijkswaterstaat, Rijksinstituut voor Kust en Zee (Den Haag), Kortenaerkade 1, Postbus 20907, NL-2500 EX Den Haag, The Netherlands

(2) Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research (Royal NIOZ)
National Oceanographic Data Committee, PO Box 59, 1790 AD Den Burg, The Netherlands

E-mail: n.m.kaaijk@rikz.rws.minvenw.nl

In many countries a previously existing data centre has at some point been designated as the National Oceanographic Data Centre (NODC). In the Netherlands a different approach was chosen.

Eight oceanographic institutions joined forces in 1997 and established a National Oceanographic Data *Committee*. Within this committee the institutions are represented by their data management experts. The eight institutions come from the governmental, scientific and private sectors and together manage over 90 % of all oceanographic data held in the Netherlands.

Since its inception this committee has become the national platform for oceanographic data management and represents the Netherlands in international bodies like IODE, ICES-MDM and the European eaSearch project.

In this poster the organisational structure is presented and both advantages and disadvantages of the decentralised approach are discussed.