

Education - Access data and create maps with the European Atlas of the Seas!

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Looking for a user-friendly, easily accessible, interactive map-based educational tool on the ocean? With a catalogue of more than 270 map layers available in 24 languages, the European Atlas of the Seas (www.european-atlas-of-the-seas) can help you to easily access data on a wide range of topics, including marine sciences, pollution at sea, climate change, marine biodiversity and the blue economy!

But that's not all. You can go a step further and create your own working space in the Atlas with the 'My Maps' tool! In addition, with the new 'My Locations' tool, you can create your own maps showing locations you have selected and save them in your personal password protected 'My Maps' folder. Your maps will thus not be visible to all other Atlas users but you will be able to share the links to your maps with people you work with.

The 'My Locations' tool marks a significant step towards expanding the ways you can use the European Atlas of the Seas:

Personalised mapping - Tailor your map layer by adding your locations and relevant details, ensuring a fully customised map with a legend you have designed. Note that you can combine the map layer you have created with existing map layers in the Atlas and save the resulting map in 'My Maps'. You can, for example, use the tool to show the results of small citizen science initiatives.

Enhanced teaching - Whether you are studying marine biodiversity, tracking pollution, or teaching about climate change impacts, you can pinpoint key locations on your map to create an engaging educational experience. You can use your map to highlight the location of case studies.

Customised demonstrations - Combine the use of the 'My Locations' tool and the 'Measures tool' to create your own map and easily calculate distances between two locations you have marked or between your marked locations and other points of interest on the map. This is especially useful for analysing the proximity of specific features or comparing distances between different locations.

Saved time and simplified navigation - Create a map layer with locations that are directly relevant to you that you will always be able to combine with other map layers to quickly see where you are on the map and easily zoom in on your area of interest.

Ease of Use - Teachers and students who have collected data during a field trip or a project and recorded it in a table can easily copy their data from this table into the 'My Locations' tool to create a new map layer and visualise the result of their work.

Possibility to update and share your maps - Once you have saved your map layer in your personal 'My Maps' space, you can further work on it to update it with additional locations or data by adding rows and columns. You can thus continuously build upon your map and show it or send it to your colleagues or students.

Whether you are a marine researcher, a teacher, an environmental advocate, a policy maker, and/or a citizen passionate about the ocean, the European Atlas of the Seas offers accessible and user-friendly tools to explore, analyse, and visualise marine data. Use it to study environmental trends, monitor coastal developments, or gain insights into marine ecosystems and the blue economy. Use the 'My Locations' tool to show where your research sites are located, which coastal areas your project is focusing on or where you have carried out beach-cleaning activities!

The European Atlas of the Seas is an initiative of the European Commission. It is powered by the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet).

Keywords

Marine Data, Ocean Literacy, Digital Atlas, Communication, Education