



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES  
ATLANTIC, OUTERMOST REGIONS AND ARCTIC

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**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**

**Subject: Preparatory Actions for European Marine Observation and Data Network**

The Maritime Policy Blue Book, welcomed by the European Council in December 2007, announced that the European Commission would take steps to set up a European Marine Observation and Data Network in order to improve access to high quality marine data – for private bodies, for public authorities and for researchers. In April 2009 a roadmap was published (SEC(2009) 499) outlining the measures that would be taken to meet this objective. A first step has been to launch a set of preparatory actions. These are developing, for a limited set of sea basins, prototypes that gather experience for a later permanent operational system but that are themselves useful to those who use marine data in the course of their professional work. These preparatory actions are building:

1. a catalogue of European marine data collections with common formats and nomenclature complete with information including at least geographical location, time of measurement, ownership, precision and accuracy.
2. a set of complete interoperable map layers for European sea basins, showing where data is being collected, where the gaps are and providing seamless quality-checked data layers (gridded or polygons) for unrestricted public access.

The five actions are for hydrographic data, geological data, chemical data, biological data and broad-scale habitats. More details can be found on

<http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/emodnet/preparatory/home.html>

A recent public consultation revealed deep dissatisfaction with Europe's marine data infrastructure amongst professionals from all countries and in all disciplines. This effort is aimed at meeting those concerns. We therefore urge all those who hold relevant data to collaborate with the consortia engaged in these preparatory actions in order to ensure that we learn the appropriate lessons and facilitate a more efficient framework for those who work with marine data.

Yours sincerely,

Reinhard PRIEBE  
Director

Annex: Consortia engaged in preparatory actions.





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**ANNEX: CONSORTIA ENGAGED IN PREPARATORY ACTIONS FOR EUROPEAN MARINE  
OBSERVATION AND DATA NETWORK**

**Hydrography**

Mariene Informatie Service 'MARIS' BV in consortium with Institut français de recherche pour l'exploitation de la mer (IFREMER), ATLAS, NERC, National Oceanography Centre Southampton (NOC), Instituto Español de Oceanografía (IEO), Geological Survey of Ireland and Service Hydrographique et Oceanographique de la Marine (SHOM)

**Geology**

National Environment Research Council (British Geological Survey) in consortium with Geological Survey of Finland, Geological Survey of Sweden, Geological Survey of Norway, Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland, Geological Survey of Estonia, Latvian Environment, Lithuanian Institute for Geology and Geography, Geology and Meteorology Agency, Polish Geological Institute, Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources, Germany, Deltares, Netherlands, Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Bureau de Recherches Géologiques et Minières, France and Geological Survey of Ireland

**Chemistry**

Istituto Nazionale di Oceanografia e di Geofisica Sperimentale (OGS) in consortium with Mariene Informatie Service 'MARIS' BV, (MARIS), National Environmental research Council British Oceanographic Data Centre, (BODC), Institut français de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la Mer (Ifremer), Bundesamt für Seeschifffahrt und Hydrographie (BSH), Institute of Marine Research, Havforskninginstituttet Norway (IMR), National Environmental Research Institute, (NERI), Vlamms Instituut voor de Zee (VLIZ), Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research (NIOZ), Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI), Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR), All-Russian Research Institute of Hydrometeorological Information – World Data Centre, (RIHMI-WDC), P.P. Shirshov Institute of Oceanology Russian Academy of Science, (PPIO), Marine Hydrophysical Institute (MHI) of the Ukrainian National Academy of Sciences (MHI), Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Oceanology (BASIO), National Institute for Marine Research and Development "Grigor Antipa" (INCDM), Tbilisi State University (TSU), International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), Alfred-Wegener-Institut für Polar- und Meeresforschung (AWI), Université de Liège (UL), Instituto Español de Oceanografía (IEO), CLS, Marine Institute (MI) and University of Cyprus (UC)

## **Biology**

Vlaams Instituut voor de Zee / Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ) in consortium with Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences/ Koninklijke Akademie van Wetenschappen (KNAW), Institute of Geology; Centre for Estuarine and Marine Ecology, Marine Information Systems (MARIS), Institut Français de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la Mer (IFREMER), International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), University of Bremen (UniHB), Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), Rutgers University Institute for Marine and Coastal Sciences (IMCS) and Institute of Biology of the Southern Seas, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (IBSS NASU)

## **Broad Scale Habitats**

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