



EMODnet Physical Parameters (EMODNet PP) Portal

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In December 2007 the European Parliament and Council adopted a common text for the Marine Strategy Framework Directive which aims to achieve environmentally healthy marine waters by 2020. This Directive includes an initiative for an overarching European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODNet). During the one-year consultation phase that followed the release of the EU Green Paper on a Future Maritime Policy for the European Union, stakeholders gave an overwhelming positive response. Facilitating access to high quality marine data will resolve difficulties and stimulate an expansion of value-added public and commercial services, lay the foundations for sound governance and reduce uncertainties on human impact on the planet as well as of forecasts relating to the future state of the marine environment. Better and linked marine data will have an immediate impact on the planning of environmental policy and mitigation measures, and will also facilitate impact assessments and scientific work.

The overall objectives of the EMODnet Physical Parameters (EMODNet PP) preparatory action is to provide access to archived and near real-time data on physical conditions in Europe's seas and oceans by means of a dedicated Pilot Portal and to determine how well the data meet the needs of users from industry, public authorities and scientists. The latter implicates that it is also an objective to identify data gaps and arguments why these gaps should be filled in future monitoring. This project will contribute towards the definition of an operational European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet). This is done done by:

1. providing through a portal:
 - a. access to marine data from measurement stations and ferryboxes. Both near real-time and archived data of time series are to be made available.
 - b. metadata for these data sets using EMODnet/INSPIRE standards.
 - c. metadata maps and overviews for whole sea-basins showing the availability of data and monitoring intensity of that basin.
2. monitoring and reporting on the effectiveness of the portal in meeting the needs of users in terms of ease of use, quality of information and fitness for purpose of the products delivered.
3. analysing what lessons have been learned for a future operational EMODnet.
4. keeping the portal operational afterwards

The EMODNet PP project asks for the following types of measurements:

Measurements from fixed stations that should cover at least:

1. wave height and period;
2. temperature of the water column;
3. wind speed and direction;
4. salinity of the water column;
5. horizontal velocity of the water column ;
6. light attenuation;
7. sea level.

Measurements from ferryboxes that should cover at least:

- temperature of the water column;
- salinity of the water column.

A portal accessing distributed data bases has been developed.