



**EMODnet**  
European Marine  
Observation and  
Data Network

**News  
Digest**

FEBRUARY 2021

## EMODnet: Providing Open Data, supporting Maritime Spatial Planning - New video and dataset



Transport, fishing, energy, minerals, tourism, recreation... These are just a few of the ways we use our seas and global Ocean. A growing population means growing demands, but ocean resources are finite. **We need to plan how, where and when we use our ocean and coastal zones. Maritime Spatial Planning is the answer.**

EMODnet provides access to transboundary data and products on a range of marine environmental parameters, as well as human activities related to the sea, such as aquaculture, shipping, pipelines, energy installations, oil and gas, renewable energy and much more.

**This short film** presents how EMODnet is providing open data to support **Maritime Spatial Planning**. It provides plenty of inspiration and information on where

to find and access data - whether as a resource for your daily work, or a project where data about MSP are required.

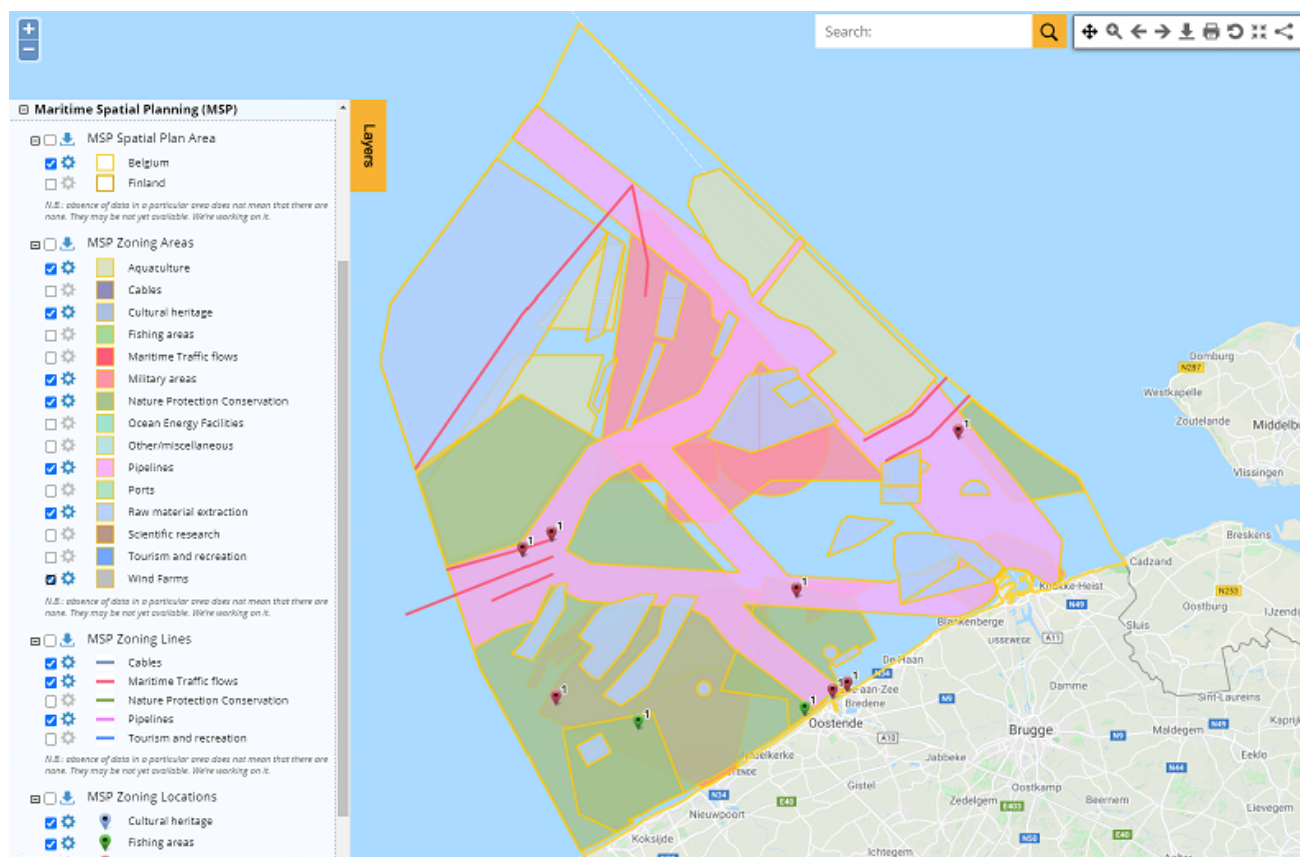


Image 1. MSP Spatial Plan Area, Zoning Areas, Zoning Lines and Zoning Locations for Belgium on the EMODnet Human Activities Portal

Moreover, EMODnet users now have access to new datasets on MSP, for Belgium and Finland, via the [EMODnet Human Activities Portal](#). Discover the plans to see what EU Member States are doing to effectively plan their maritime space and Blue Economy developments, towards an integrated approach to manage, monitor and protect our seas, across national borders. Access the maps [here](#).

Next to MSP updates, EMODnet Human Activities also released a new dataset on **military areas**, that can be consulted on the [EMODnet Human Activities Portal](#).

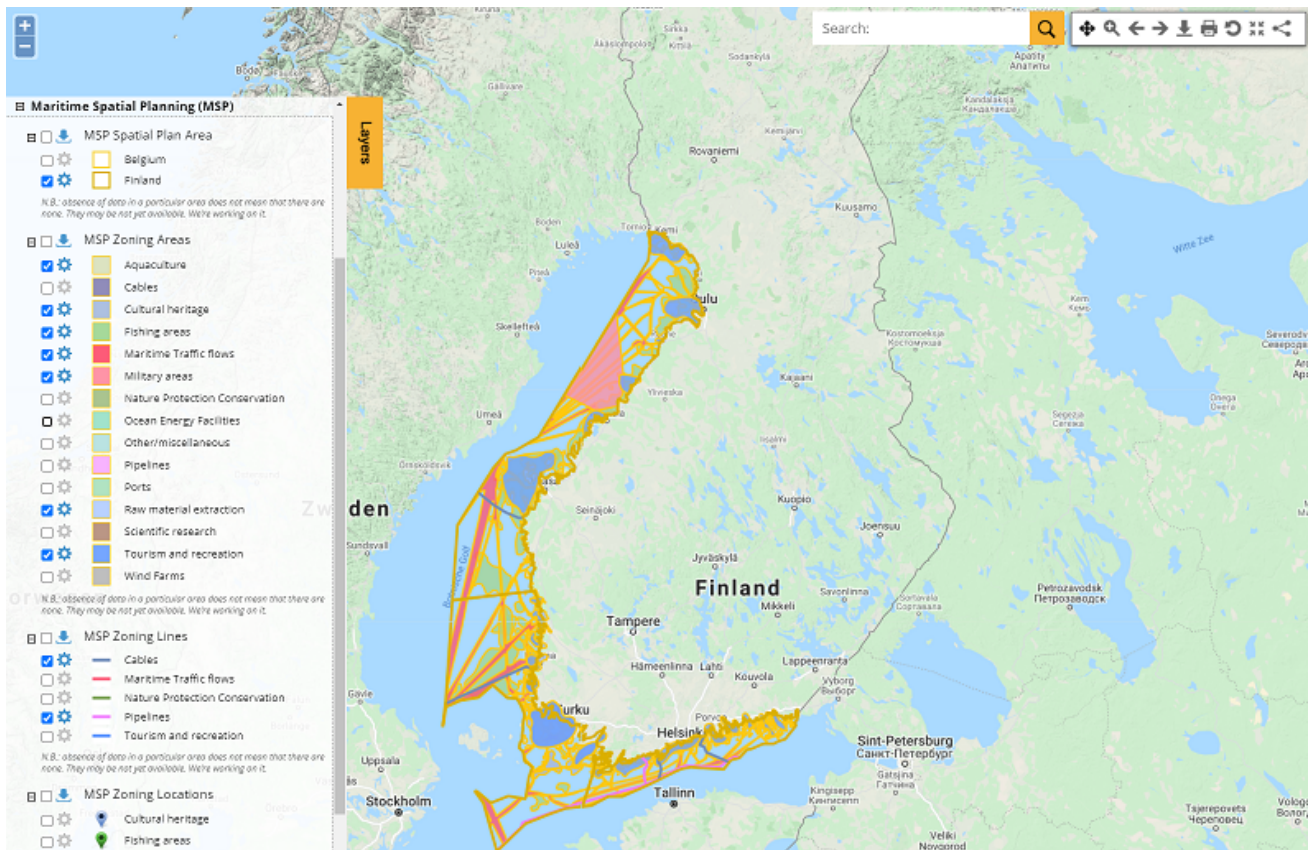


Image 2. MSP Spatial Plan Area, Zoning Areas, Zoning Lines and Zoning Locations for Finland on EMODnet Human Activities Portal

## Noteworthy additions of EMODnet data sets and products



**BIOLOGY**

In February 2021 **EMODnet Biology** improved its service allowing users to query information on and download data from all available [EMODnet Web Feature Service \(WFS\) endpoints](#) directly into their R working environment (a software environment for statistical computing and graphics, a key tool used for marine data analysis). More information can be found via this [link](#).

Secondly, a new data product “[Numerical abundance of benthic macroinvertebrates in North Sea and Baltic Sea\\*](#)” was released. The compiled dataset consists of more than 80.000 samples containing the numerical abundance of more than 4.000 benthic species that have been found in the North Sea and Baltic Sea. For all species with a frequency exceeding 100 samples, a gridded abundance raster map has been created with a spatial resolution of 1 degree. Learn more [here](#).

Lastly, the online event “[Data Solutions for a Changing Ocean](#)” will take place on **24 March 2021**. Participants will have the exclusive opportunity to hear about EMODnet Biology’s recent developments and future opportunities, and will be able to participate in a live Q&A with the EMODnet Biology Team. Eager to share your thoughts? The



organisers offer two sessions to capture a range of time zones. You can register [here](#).

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## EMODnet Biology

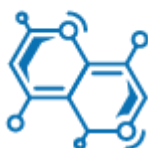
Data Solutions for  
a Changing Ocean

**EMODnet** An online showcase  
of achievement and  
opportunity



European Marine  
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### CHEMISTRY

**EMODnet Chemistry** has released two data guidelines about macro and micro litter and has expanded the marine litter data management to include (1) seafloor litter images and videos, (2) micro litter in sediment and (3) floating macro litter. The [Proposal for seafloor images and videos](#) provides the state-of-the-art and the EMODnet strategy to manage this type of data. The [Proposal for floating marine macro litter data management](#) provides the evaluation of the available data sources in Europe, the necessary key information, and further requirements for efficient data management. These new guidelines are for EMODnet Chemistry new motivation to further develop the corresponding centralized databases. Moreover, the proposal for micro-litter in sediment is planned to follow a similar approach to the one for contaminants with customized data fields, terms and vocabularies.

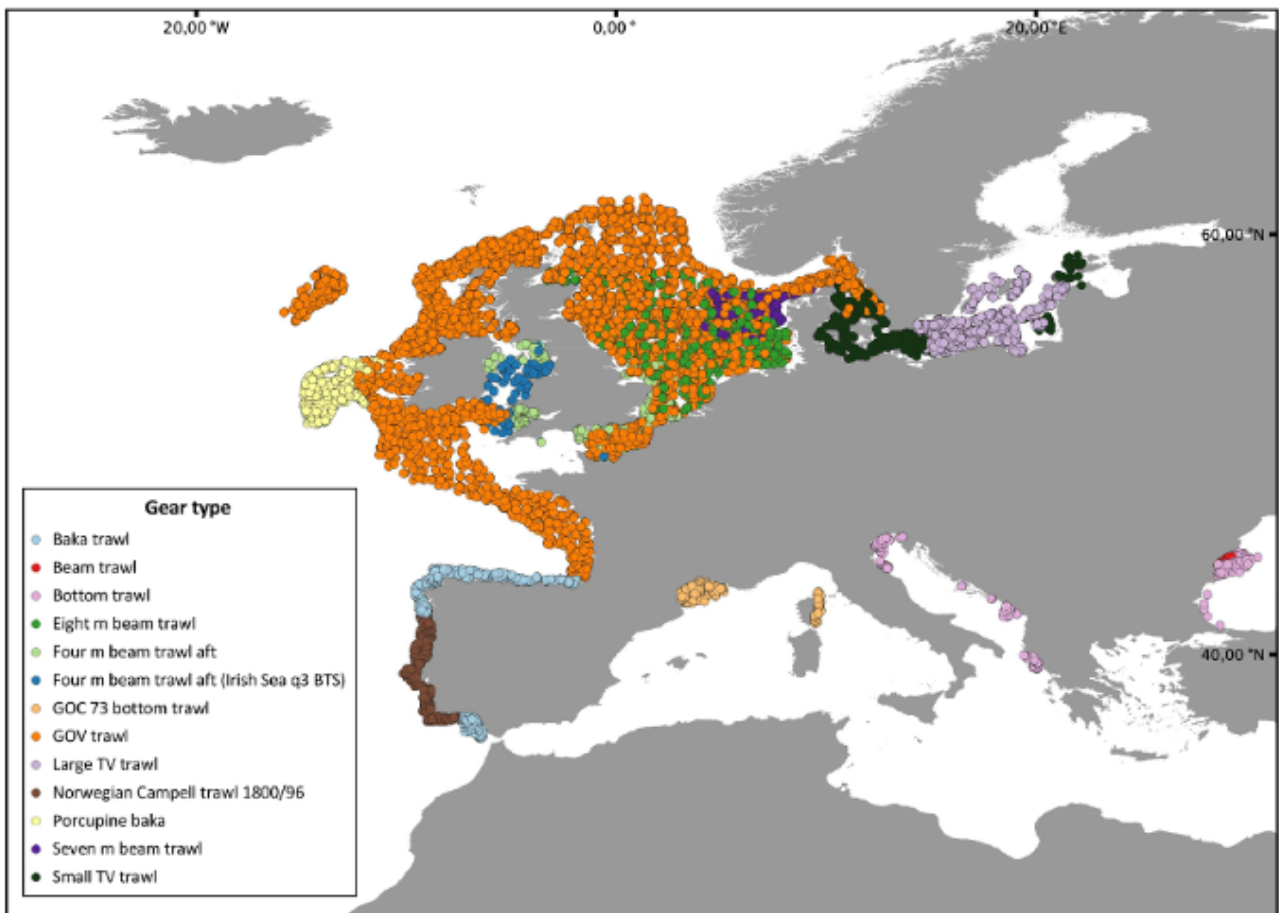


Image 3. Geographical distribution of operations of different trawling gears providing data on seafloor litter in Europe during the 2006–2019 period (modified from [www.emodnet-chemistry.eu](http://www.emodnet-chemistry.eu))

February was also the month in which the **third EMODnet Chemistry phase 4 Project Coordination Group meeting** took place. Key highlights of this online meeting included the highly improved data fairness level by updating and enriching the metadata, and the almost duplicated amount of metadata records and data sets (1048812, Feb 2021), compared to the June 2014 (661095). Other outcomes included upgrades of the regional data collections for contaminants and eutrophication who are now ready on the launch pad. Eager to know more about the latest EMODnet Chemistry plenary meeting? Have a look at [the presentations](#) here.



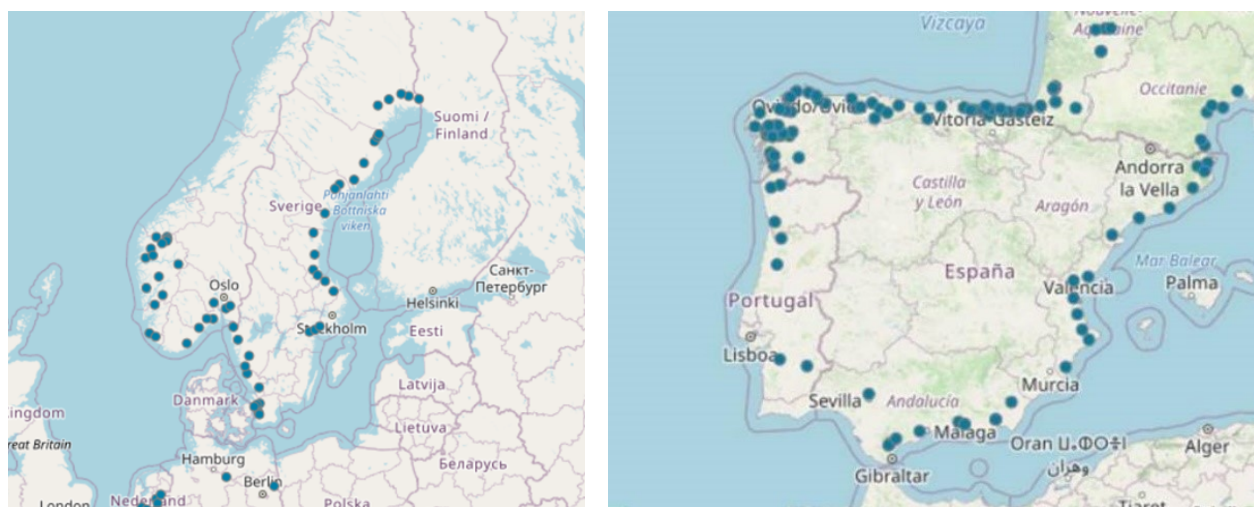


Image 5. Operational river data product, river water flow data for Sweden (left) and the Iberian coastline (right)

**EMODnet Physics** updated their [operational river data products](#)\*



by adding an overview of the Swedish as well as the Iberian coastline with near real time data rivers outflow.

#### PHYSICS

Furthermore, the next [Ferrybox and High Frequency Radar \(HFR\)](#) workshop is coming up on **17-18 March 2021**. The workshop is hosted by SMHI and co-sponsored by the EuroGOOS High Frequency Radar and EuroGOOS FerryBox Task Teams, EMODnet, the JERICO-S3 and the EuroSea projects. The workshop will bring together the FerryBox and HF Radar communities to exchange information on recent activities, share experiences, and discuss ways forward for different maritime regions. [Registration](#) is possible until **8 March 2021**.

**The Nippon Foundation - GEBCO Seabed 2030 Project have released a public online survey, 'Marine Geospatial Data: The Cornerstone of the Blue Economy'.**

The survey is aimed at individuals from government, academia, industry and civil society and asks critical questions about your priorities, activities and data/technology needs for seabed mapping. Since 2019, EMODnet Bathymetry and the Seabed 2030 Project share a Memorandum of Understanding with the convergent aim of improving the bathymetric knowledge, while promoting the distribution of this knowledge to all potential users. You can complete the survey [here](#).

*\*Please note that EMODnet is in the process of providing a central access point to its data and data products through the Central Portal in the coming months. More information will be available soon via [www.emodnet.eu](http://www.emodnet.eu).*

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## Interview with Niamh Connolly: "Ocean observations are critical to mankind's use of the ocean!"



In the further follow up from our 10 years Webinar, EMODnet is proud to present another interview, this time with Niamh Connolly, Director of Projects at University College Cork, Ireland and former Executive Secretary of the European Marine Board (EMB). In her interview, Niamh explains how EMODnet came about and why it is "the essence of cooperation in the marine & maritime landscape".

**Have a look and listen to Niamh's anecdotes on ocean observation, and the key - and unique - role of EMODnet.**

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**European Ocean Observing: EMODnet input to EC Consultation and European Parliament SEARICA event, 23 February 2021**





From Autumn 2020 to February 2021 the European Commission (DG MARE) launched a [public consultation towards a common EU approach to ocean observation](#). The consultation took part in two phases and aimed to gather opinions on the effectiveness, efficiency and fitness for purpose of ocean observation by the EU and its member states.

The **EMODnet Secretariat submitted responses** to both the [initial consultation on the impact assessment](#) and the **wider consultation in February 2021** (*download the open document [here](#)*, consultation closed on 19 February 2021).

In addition, many EMODnet thematic Coordinating organisations and wider partner institutes and stakeholders submitted responses, highlighting the huge and diverse collective expertise that the EMOD-network has, spanning the full pipeline of marine knowledge from data collection through ocean observing and marine monitoring, data curation and management, data services and web services for open data and data products, knowledge brokerage and end-users.

The EC Public Consultation received over 140 responses from research institutions, public authorities, international organisations, civil society, the private sector and wider stakeholders. The EC DG MARE will be assessing all feedback in the coming weeks.

On 23 February 2021, the European Parliament InterGroup on Seas, Rivers, Islands and Coastal Areas (SEARICA) organized a webinar to bring stakeholders together and discuss preliminary feedback from the public consultation on Ocean Observation, in collaboration with the Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the European Commission and the Conference of the Peripheral Maritime Regions. More information and documents are available [here](#).



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Prepared and published by the EMODnet Secretariat



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