AQUAMARINA

MEETING OF THE AQUAMARINA DATA AND INDICATORS WORKING GROUP
3 MARCH 2009 - BRUSSELS

MINUTES

Attendees:

- BOUTEAU CRON Florence; Conseil Régional Aquitaine; florence.cron@aquitaine.fr
- ZECOVIC Sheila; Conseil Régional Aquitaine; sheila.zecovic@aquitaine.fr
- REISZ Bjorn; Telemark County Council, bjorn.reisz@tvfk.no
- KALAYDJIAN Regis; IFREMER; regis.kalaydjian@ifremer.fr
- FLAMANT Anouk; Region Haute Normandie (Brussels Office) haute-normandie@skynet.be
- BONI Ana-Lisa, Région Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (Head of Brussels Office); boni.paca@bruxeurope.be
- SUBIRAT Ana FEPORTS; Valencia, asubirats@feports-cv.org
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Apologies:

- ARTOM Corinna; Liguria; corinna.artom@regione.liguria.it
- DESRENTES François; CPMR; francois.desrentes@crpm.org

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1. Approval of the working group’s framework and objectives document.

The participants approved the terms of the framework document (see in annex 1), though they did stress the difficulty presented by streamlining indicators at European level. It is proposed to make a written request to the Commission to carry out an assessment and a general reflection on indicators and data concerning maritime policies.

With regard to the INSPIRE Directive, the participants shared the considerations set out in the framework document. Since the meeting, a consultation has been organised on the EMODNET initiative (European Marine Observations and Data NETwork). The working group responded to this consultation in an on-line questionnaire and with a document that had been circulated beforehand among AQUAMARINA members (see in annex)
2. Presentation by Mr Régis Kalaydjian (IFREMER). Presentation of the study on “Setting up a database on maritime data and indicators in the wider maritime economy” commissioned by Eurostat.

We thank Mr Kalaydjian for his presentation (see in annex). It should be noted that that data from the Regions had so far not been identified by Eurostat and that this study highlighted the need to take into account information from Regions that are responsible for planning and economic development in coastal and maritime areas.


The working group approved and forwarded a communication on this issue to the AQUAMARINA group:

Communication from the AQUAMARINA data and indicators working group at the AQUAMARINA meeting of 3 March 2009 on the Roadmap for maritime spatial planning: Achieving Common Principles in the EU.

The Regions recall that:

- coastal zone management requires analysis tools to be set up such as systems for gathering and utilising geo-referenced data (GIS).
- the minimum geographic area to be taken into account under an integrated maritime policy stretches from the coastal catchment area to international waters (or the bottom of the continental shelf).
- on an operational level, many regions have developed these management tools given their competences in relation to the coast. It should be noted however that they have sometimes done this independently and that national and transnational interoperability needs to be checked. 
- the regional level is the right level to collect and collate planning data.

Questions addressed by the working group to the Commission:

- If we consider Maritime Planning in relation to the Marine Strategy Directive, is it planned to work with third countries in the same Region in order to have an interoperable planning system?
- While it is necessary to look at planning at ecosystem level; How is an ecosystem defined?
- Given that planning is a process integrating all coastal and maritime policies; what are the relations with the INSPIRE Directive and the three related Annexes, the data from which could shed light on the maritime planning decision? What are the links with the EMODNET initiative?
At its plenary meeting in Brussels on 12 November 2008, the Aquamarina working group decided to set up a Thematic Commission on maritime data and indicators.

**This initiative is based on the following considerations:**

- Several points of the Blue Book action plan focus explicitly on the information and data required to implement an integrated maritime policy. This is especially the case of actions 3.3 “European Marine Observation and Data Network”, 6.5 “Improving Socio-Economic Data for maritime sectors and maritime regions”, 8.2 “European Atlas of the Seas” and 8.3 “Making information publicly available on Commission proposals on Maritime Affairs”.

- A number of other points of the action plan require data, information and indicators to be available if they are to be achieved. These include in particular: 3.1 “Surveillance Activities” and 3.2 “Maritime Spatial Planning and integrated coastal zone management”. These guidelines are confirmed in the “roadmap” (COM(2008) 791 of 25 November 2008): “It is a process that consists of data collection, ...” (COM(2008) 791, p.3).

- Other points of the action plan contain a significant data/information component. This is notably the case of action 5.1 “European Maritime Research”.

Furthermore, it is necessary to have a clear vision of what is available and accessible in terms of data and indicators if we want to be able to draw up transnational and cross-border cooperation projects in the framework of the instruments available to the regions.

Finally, it appears to be absolutely essential to make a thorough inventory of existing initiatives in this area, as well as the institutional actors involved.

The data/indicators Thematic Commission led by Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur Region (PACA) and the CPMR therefore proposes to undertake work in accordance with the arrangements described below.

The member regions of the Aquamarina Thematic Commission wishing to take part in this Data/Indicators sub-group are invited to put their names forward as soon as possible to:

- Mrs Corinne Lochet – Service Mer de la région PACA clochet@regionpaca.fr
  Or bvasselin@regionpaca.fr
- Mr François Desrentes – CPMR General Secretariat francois.desrentes@crpm.org
I. - STATE OF PLAY

- In order to formulate and introduce territorial strategies and management policies, it is first necessary to evaluate what already exists using statistics, evaluations, atlases, indicators, etc. This depends on the existence of enough good quality comparable and accessible data compiled at the right level to suit needs.

- Over the past few years, a large number of initiatives on indicators and data have been launched at national and European level. Among the most significant initiatives and existing regulatory/legal instruments for the marine, maritime and coastal environment, we might list the following:

  - The Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy (ICZM), which has been set out in the form of a Recommendation of the Parliament and Council
  - The Blue Book on the EU’s maritime dimension and its action plan;
  - The framework Directive on the EU’s marine strategy;
  - The framework directive on water;
  - The roadmap for maritime spatial planning: achieving common principles in the EU.

... in addition to several initiatives concerning a number of different policies and focusing on: the responses to be given to the impacts of global change, natural hazards and spatial planning (Flood Directive; Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion; Green Paper on Adaptation to Climate Change; the EIA/SIA Directive); maintaining biodiversity and habitat protection; the aspects of integrated development; the standardisation of data (INSPIRE); the “data” component of maritime research policy; and the work led by the European Environment Agency.

- Aware of the difficulties in carrying out this exercise at European level, and the stakes that coastal and maritime data and indicators represent with regard to the implementation of EU policies, the Regions wish to look together at this issue and take part alongside the European Union in setting up the operational tools that are really needed in this area.

II. - PROPOSED ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

II.1 COASTAL AND MARITIME DATA PRODUCED IN EUROPEAN PROJECTS

State of play: Lack of coordination, promotion, sharing, rolling out... of data and indicators produced in European projects

An initial meeting organised on the initiative of the CPMR in the presence of DG Regio, DG Environment, the European Environment Agency and the Regions of Aquitaine and PACA highlighted the need to completely review this issue. In particular it has been shown that the maritime regions need to be able to have access to a whole range of data and indicators in order to draw up their cooperation projects and programmes.

  - For the current programming period (2007-2013) this can be done by working with the Technical Secretariats of the Cooperation Programmes;

  - For the next programming period, on the basis of reflections led during the current programming period, joint requests should be formulated on the data and indicators used in the Operational Programmes (OP) of the next programming period.

▶ The objective of this process consists first of all in making sure that the indicators and data drawn up at EU level are consistent enough for them to be accepted by the Different DGs of the Commission and be incorporated into the way their policies and programmes work. (Things cannot carry on as
they are at present in an environment characterised by a multitude of wide-ranging data/indicators applied solely to the sectors for which they were designed).

The current set-up, which is seen to be obscure and confused, therefore needs to be made clearer and more legible.

▶ One of the conditions to be met to achieve this is the need to coordinate the Commission’s services, which might mean finding a lever, possibly in the form of the Blue Book Action Plan. This possibility then justifies the Aquamarine Group’s initiative in this area.

This initiative should include the following work aiming to provide EU officials with the right information to allow them to orient their actions internally. The main issue therefore is to specify the needs and expectations of the regions / local authorities with regard to data and indicators.

- **A preliminary task** of establishing what exists in terms of binding regulations in the field of data and indicators, - both in the framework of the various directives as well as regarding the information that has to be provided when drawing up programmes and projects;

- **Stage 1**: define the message to be conveyed to potential project leaders on the one hand, and the Interreg Secretariats on the other (similar message but may be presented differently)

- **Stage 2**: organise the dissemination of the message. This could take the form of information days in each of the cooperation areas with the help of the Geographical Commissions;

- **Stage 3**: invite the Interreg secretariats to discuss this issue in operational terms, i.e. by evaluating how the message can be conveyed in the call for tender and evaluation phase of accepted projects. This work should be led in close collaboration with the relevant directorate of DG Regio.

### II.2 Legislation designed to produce, pool and manage coastal and marine data - The INSPIRE Directive

The work undertaken needs to provide responses to the following questions and expectations on maritime data:

- ensure better access of the data covered by the Directive (user-friendly, free of charge, etc.) for public actors;

- ask for common meta-data to be introduced to improve legibility and interoperability at European level (at present, meta-data are requested on the basis of each individual member state and some areas are streamlined at European level - e.g. bathymetry)

- in line with the transnational dimension of maritime issues, ask for the coastal and maritime data listed in the annexes to the Directive to be interoperable at European level

- in a future review of the annexes (fisheries, nautical tourism, coastal tourism, etc.), ask for socioeconomic data to be added that have a particularly strong impact on sustainable development.

Moreover, it will be appropriate to encourage dissemination of the Directive among the CPMR’s member Regions and to set up training sessions (working groups, etc.).
II.3 European Atlas of the Seas

Replies are needed to the following questions:
- What is the timetable? How to ensure coordination between the different DGs?
- What is the geographical area covered? The purpose? The evolutionary nature? The parameters represented and the source of the data employed?
- How can the Regions be involved in defining the representation of these territories of major interest?

II.4 Spatial Planning


The question of data / indicators is clearly raised in this document, which also plans to organise four workshops in 2009 to debate the principles set out in the Communication.

The Thematic Commission on data / indicators proposes to feed into the reflections of the CPMR and the Aquamarina group in order to contribute to structuring their participation in this series of workshops organised by DG MARE.

III. Proposed Membership of the Thematic Commission

The member regions of the Aquamarina working group wishing to take part in this Data/Indicators Thematic Commission are invited to put their names forward as soon as possible to PACA Region: clochet@regionpaca.fr – bvasselin@regionpaca.fr
francois.desrentes@crpm.org

The lead region of this Thematic Commission (PACA) will also make contact with certain regions to encourage them to take part in this initiative.
Furthermore, DG Research, DG Environment, DG Regio and DG MARE, together with the European Environment Agency, will be invited to take part in the activities.

IV. Timetable

- First technical meeting of the working sub-group: end of January 2009 - Brussels;
- Aquamarina plenary meeting: end of February 2009 - Brussels.
Response from the “Data and indicators” working group of the CPMR AQUAMARINA Group

The Regions of the AQUAMARINA group welcome the strategy aiming to bring coherence, interoperability and a multidisciplinary approach to marine data and observation in Europe. As stated in their response to the Green Paper on a European Maritime Policy, the Regions share the Commission’s view on the need for ready and free access to data which is necessary for the management and protection of Europe’s seas and coastal areas. They support the idea that data is a public good.

They wish however to make some comments and raise some questions on the issues involved.

Geographical scale:

Working at the level of sea basins, as set out in the Marine Strategy Directive, is an important basis for reflection with regard to numerous issues, and is necessary from a technical point of view for characterizing marine hydrodynamics and assessing biodiversity, fish stocks, climate changes, transport of pollutants, etc.

- It is therefore essential that the EU sets up cooperation mechanisms between States in order to allow the joint collection of data with non-EU countries as well as in waters that are not under the jurisdiction of shore States (the high seas). The setting-up of regional bodies (as mentioned in the Marine Strategy Directive) for data cooperation and coordination, similar to those set up under the Common Fisheries Policy, would represent a step forward in operational data management, in planning at the level of sea basins, and in raising the awareness of stakeholders about sharing a public good.

- The aim of EMODNET is to provide a basis for reflection, monitoring, policies, and indicators relating to European maritime affairs in a context of integrated management. It is therefore necessary to take into account a “land-sea interface” extending at least as far as the coastal river basins, as recommended in the White Paper on adapting to climate change and in texts dealing with integrated coastal zone management.
This would help to encourage the establishment, which is not proving easy, of a multidisciplinary approach between terrestrial and marine scientific disciplines.

The link between EMODNET and the European Atlas of the Seas (see the Action Plan of the Blue Book on Maritime Policy) is important and should enable the Atlas to be kept permanently up to date.

**Actors:**

The principle actors cited in the document are: States, the EU, the scientific community, and private firms. 

*Limiting the initiative to these actors alone would not enable the realities of the operational management of the coasts in coastal areas to be fully taken into account.*

It is important that the Regions, as well as the other levels of governance, also be taken into account as users who require reliable data on an operational level. They need such data in order to implement spatial planning and coastal protection policies (White Paper on adapting to climate change), Directives on environmental monitoring (Water Directive, Marine Strategy Directive), policies to reduce pollution from land-based sources, assessments of ecosystems in the coastal areas, the roadmap for maritime spatial planning, etc.

**The Regions often also produce data, for example in the framework of studies on human activity, the coastal economy, coastal protection, environmental protection, pollution, fisheries management and aquaculture, port activities etc.**

These data are often collected independently of any scientific programme and do not always reach the scientific community. Conversely, it is difficult to link research objectives with operational needs. This is often due to the lack of any forum for dialogue.

*Cooperation within bodies at the level of the sea basins, supported by the regional authorities, which are closer to the level of territorial action, could foster closer collaboration between science and management.*

EMODNET aims to link together all marine data from different sources. The Regions are surprised that no mention is made of the datasets they possess and the systems by which these are made available.

Many of Europe’s maritime Regions have created geographic information systems (GIS) for use as tools in the management of their policies and their territories. These GIS have often been developed independently from one another and outside any national framework. These regional systems will have to be made interoperable at a transnational level, since they will be required both as a source of data for the EU – via Member States – and as databases for operational management.

*In fact, in a cross-border context but also at the level of sub-regions, the regional GIS will be more easily connectable than national systems.*

A number of projects submitted under European programmes (the MAREMED project for the Mediterranean under the MED programme; the ANCORIM Atlantic seaboard project under the Interreg IV C programme), include actions to test interoperability between regions on issues related to coastal management.

Many regions are working on interoperability issues, particularly concerning the evolution of the coastline, erosion, etc. For these reasons, the Regional level should also, in our view, be included in the diagram on the construction of indicators (Figure 1).

*The Regions are ready to share their experience and their policies under the action planned by the Commission on human activities and maritime spatial planning.*
Data:

With regard to human activities, the Regions underline the need for a better understanding of the use of coastal waters by such activities as water sports, sailing, diving, and coastal tourism, all of which have an impact on the environment. The Regions also recommend adding a layer of administrative data on the methods of maritime zone management, so as to take account of the different existing management methods and the organisation of governance in these zones. (Such data are certainly available on Member States’ or Regions’ web sites).

The Regions also ask that the following points be taken into account in the funding and priorities of European programming:

- Training for local managers in the use of data management tools
- The necessary archiving of historical data (over the last fifty years) on different media so as not to lose valuable and useful information, particularly in the area of climate change (especially violent events) and monitoring of ecosystems and biodiversity. Whether in respect of older media, such as paper, or magnetic storage devices that are becoming demagnetized, the Regions draw the Commission’s attention to the urgent need for it and Member States to be aware of this problem.

Given the importance of the success of the EMODNET project and its interaction with all levels of governance and all already existing systems, the member Regions of AQUAMARINA propose to take part in the testing of the “ur-EMODNET” and to organise a seminar with the Commission to present examples of the data management systems they have set up in the framework of their operational policies relating to the coastal areas.

More information, please contact:
francois.desrentes@crpm.org or clochet@regionpaca.fr
CPMR – Aquamarina
« Data and Indicators » Thematic Committee

Update from Action 6.5:
Development of the IMP Database

Brussels, 3 March 2009
R. Kalaydjian, Ifremer

The views expressed herein are only those of the author

The Context

• Blue Book: EU Integrated Maritime Policy
• Action Plan ➔ Action 6.5: IMP database
• Eurostat Project: Jan 2008-Jan 2009
The Context

- Need for informing maritime policy fields
  - Transport, industry, clusters, R&D, tourism
  - Resources: fisheries, energy, etc.
  - Marine environment
  - Maritime regions, islands
  - Employment

- Need for economic and social data

The Context

- Initial situation
  - Patchy information. Sometimes NO info
  - Information sources: diverse, sporadic

- Need for:
  - An overview of basic material
  - A structured data framework...
  - Compliant with ESS quality standards

The Project
The Project

- Development of a database
  - Architecture
  - Data collection
- Report to Eurostat
  - Achievements, weaknesses
  - Recommendations, improvement strategy

The Database

- Architecture
  - Maritime Sectors / NACE
  - Geographical breakdown, maritime regions, islands / NUTS
- Key Variables
  - Nb of enterprises
  - Turnover
  - Value added
  - Employment
  - Staff costs
  - Energy cons.
  - External trade

111 NACE codes for maritime activities
The Database

- Data collection
  - From Eurostat New Cronos database
  - From National Stat Offices + others
  - In line with Quality standards (no estimates)
  - Other sources
    - COMEXT, CN 2007, Transport (traffic)
    - Industry associations, specific reports (Ecotec...)

Report to Eurostat

- Achievements
  - A database with a flexible architecture: for future extension and update
  - Architecture / fundamental dimensions
  - Overview of available data at EU level
  - Compliance with Quality standards (NACE and NUTS) – strict coverage, no overlap
Report to Eurostat

- Weaknesses
  - Coverage
    - Maritime activities vs NACE
    - Few NUTS 3 data (confidentiality)
  - Trade-offs
    - Coverage vs Quality
    - NACE vs NUTS resolution

Report to Eurostat

- Weaknesses
  - Question marks on Quality (accuracy)
    - Coverage of Industries by Business Inquiries (over 20 staff)
    - Location of Businesses (per NUTS 3 units):
      - Report on Turnover and VA / head offices
      - Report on Employment / production units

Report to Eurostat

- Recommendations (1/3)
  - Improve coverage
    - Discuss improvement of business inquiries with NSOs
    - Discuss Key Variables with Industry
    - Discuss better coverage of Coastal Tourism (harmonising visitor surveys?)
    - Develop a mirror database (industry sources)
Report to Eurostat

• Recommendations (2/3)
  – Additional indicators
    • Maritime Basin approach
      – Seaport Traffic, Energy, Sand and Gravel, Fisheries, Coastal Businesses, Tourism Visits, Job areas, ...
    • Sustainable development indicators
      – Traffic pressure, Tourism intensity, Marinas, CZ Protection, Tourism jobs (seasonality), Water cons., Coastal Water Quality, Fish Stocks, ...

• Recommendations (3/3)
  – Bridge to geo-spatial data
    • Complement to the IMP database
    • INSPIRE ↔ Geo-spatial Metadata
  – Role of Maritime Regions