Powering the European Marine Data Ecosystem

For a digital and green future

EMODnet OPEN CONFERENCE 2023

EMODnet
European Marine Observation and Data Network

Townhall:
EMODnet and EU Policy

Co-Chairs: Alessandra Giorgetti (OGS, Coordinator EMODnet Chemistry) and Fergal McGrath (Marine Institute, WP Lead EMODnet Seabed Habitats)

Townhall: EMODnet and EU Policy

House-keeping rules

- **Fully Physical (No Hybrid):** Please note that this townhall meeting is fully physical, and we won't have a virtual or hybrid component. All participants are expected to be present in person. A listening room is available in the case of the venue having exceeded capacity .
- **Time Management:** To ensure we cover all topics, we will adhere to the schedule. Each topic will be discussed in the time allocated. Each speaker will have a limited time to present.
- **Cell Phones and Electronics:** Please silence your cell phones and electronic devices to minimize disruptions.
- **Speaking Protocol, Microphone Usage and Question Submission:** Raise your hand for plenary if you wish to speak, and we will provide a microphone for you. Please wait your turn and be mindful of the time.
- **Slido Usage:** While we encourage in-person discussions, we will utilize Slido for interactive activities. We'll provide instructions once the Slido questions come up.
- **Flip Charts:** Please take the opportunity to leave your comments on the relevant flip charts before leaving the plenary.

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Key facts and expected outputs

- **Date and Timing:** 29 November 2023, 16:45-18:00

- **Key Objectives:**

The primary objective of each Townhall is to gather valuable stakeholder feedback and recommendations regarding the future evolution of EMODnet content and services for the period up to 2030 and beyond.

- **Format:**

Discussion on EMODnet's role in EU Green Deal and related Policy Implementation (MSFD, MSP, Birds and Habitats Directive, DCF) addressing issues related to regulatory monitoring data quality and use, data governance and data flows, producing community recommendations on areas where EMODnet already adds value and where EMODnet's role could be strengthened.

- **Reporting to Plenary:**

The insights and key messages obtained from each Townhall will be collated and presented to the Plenary on November 30th.

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Discussions

- **Plenary**

- **Topic Areas:**
  - Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)
  - Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)
  - Other Directives/Strategies (Birds and Habitats Directives, Biodiversity Strategy, Bathing Water Directive, Water Framework Directive, Climate Strategy, EU Green Deal/Zero Pollution Action Plan)

- **Aims:**
  - Collate recommendations on the added value of EMODnet services for EU Policy today, and how EMODnet services could evolve to better serve EU Policy.
  - Content evolution e.g., geographical scope, resolution, parameters, data products
  - EMODnet user-interface, data and web services, etc..
  - Short- (2 years), mid- (2-5 years) and longer-term (5-10 years +) EMODnet Activities.

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Agenda

16:45-17:00 Townhall Introduction

- *Welcome & Housekeeping Rules*
- *Objectives & Outcomes*
- *Use Cases & Examples*

17:00-17:45: Discussions (15mins Each)

- ***MSFD (15')***
  - *How is EMODnet currently providing marine data and knowledge for Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)? (5')*
  - *Going forward, how could EMODnet improve its role in supporting the MSFD? (10')*
- ***MSP (15')***
  - *How is EMODnet currently providing marine data and knowledge for the Marine Spatial Planning Directive (MSPD)? (5')*
  - *Going forward, how could EMODnet improve its role in supporting the MSPD? (10')*
- ***Other Directives/Strategies (15')***
  - *How is EMODnet currently providing marine data and knowledge for other Directives / Strategies, e.g. Birds and Habitats Directive, Biodiversity Strategy to 2030, Bathing Water Directive, Water Framework Directive, Climate, EU Green Deal etc.? (5')*
  - *Going forward, how could EMODnet improve its role in supporting these other Directives? (10')*

17:45-18:00 (Close) Open Floor / Collation of Comments (Flip Charts).

- *MSFD, Birds and Habitats Directive, Biodiversity, and Climate strategy.*

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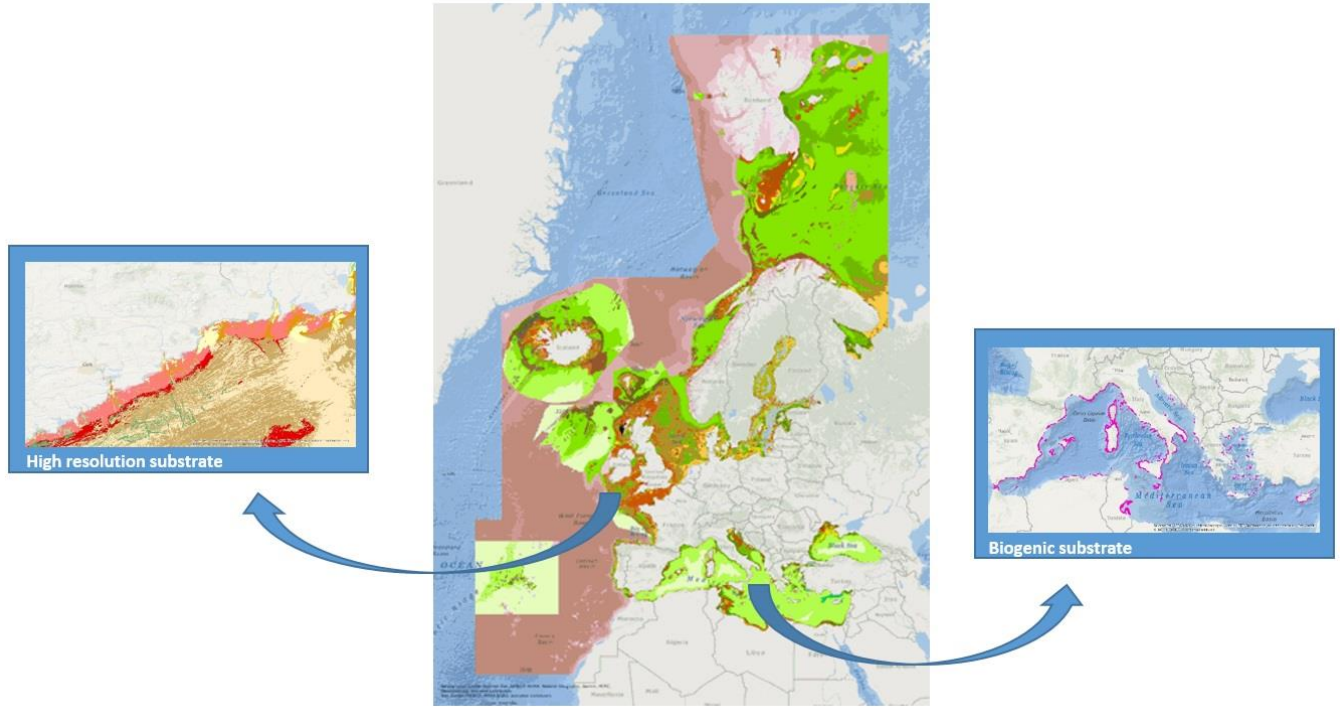
Use Cases & Examples

- **EMODnet Seabed Habitats**

- ***OUTPUTS:***
  - EUSeaMap 2023
  - Composite Products (EOVs, EFH)
  - BBHT (OSPAR QSR BH3 2023)
  - BENTHIC DATA Collection/ HABITAT MAPS Library



- ***USES:***
  - MSFD -*Benthic Habitats Assessment.*
  - MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING- *Habitat Distribution and Extent Offshore renewable energy project planning (EU Green Deal's clean energy objectives and strategies for a sustainable blue economy).*
  - MARINE PROTECTED AREAS /MONITORING - *Habitat Distribution and Extent.*
  - ECOSYSTEM SERVICES ASSESSMENTS – *Ecosystem management and Sustainable Fisheries (alignment with MSFD and WFD, maintaining water quality and protecting biodiversity, ensuring sustainable fisheries management under the CFP).*

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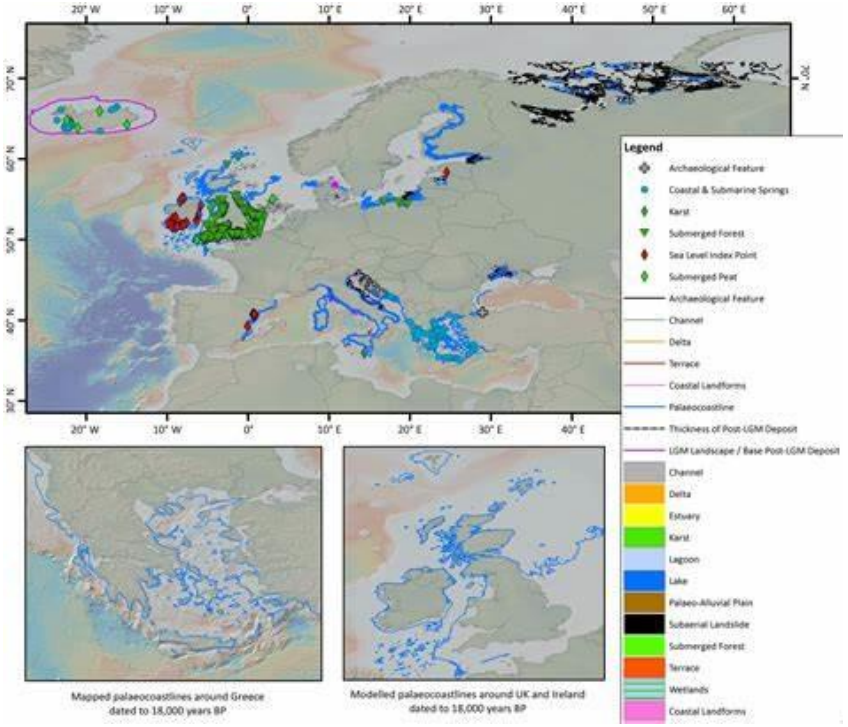
Use Cases & Examples



- **EMODnet Geology**

- ***OUTPUTS:***
  - Seabed Substrate, Seafloor geology (hard rock), geotechnical properties
  - Geohazards
  - Minerals
  - Submerged Landscapes

- ***USES:***
  - MSFD – *Best available information on seabed characteristics.*
  - MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING - *Technical properties for renewable energy project planning (EU Green Deal's clean energy objectives and strategies for a sustainable blue economy). Mineral distribution and Seabed characteristics.*
  - MARINE PROTECTED AREAS /MONITORING - *European framework for action on cultural heritage – underwater cultural heritage under threat of infrastructure constructions.*

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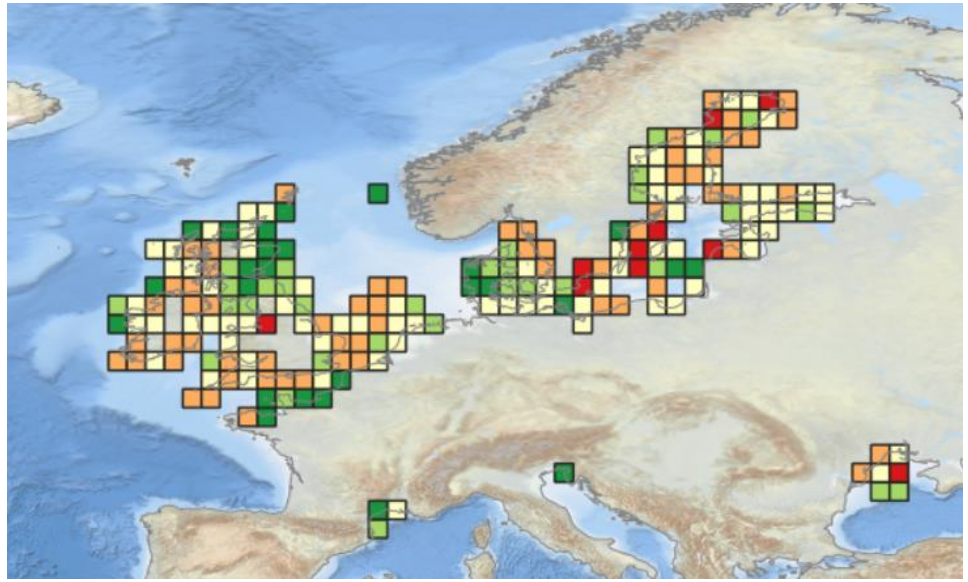
Use Cases & Examples



- **EMODnet Biology**

- ***OUTPUTS:***
  - Biodiversity and Biological data
  - Data Products
  - Services and Tools (Data integration with EU Services)

- ***USES:***
  - MSFD – *Best available biological information. Providing access to the EU's official monitoring reporting data.*
  - MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING - *Interoperable data and data products on temporal and spatial distribution of marine species.*
  - MARINE PROTECTED AREAS /MONITORING - *Species traits from European regional seas. Taxonomic backbone built on World Register of Marine Species (WoRMS) and supported by the European Ocean Biodiversity Information System (EurOBIS) data infrastructure.*

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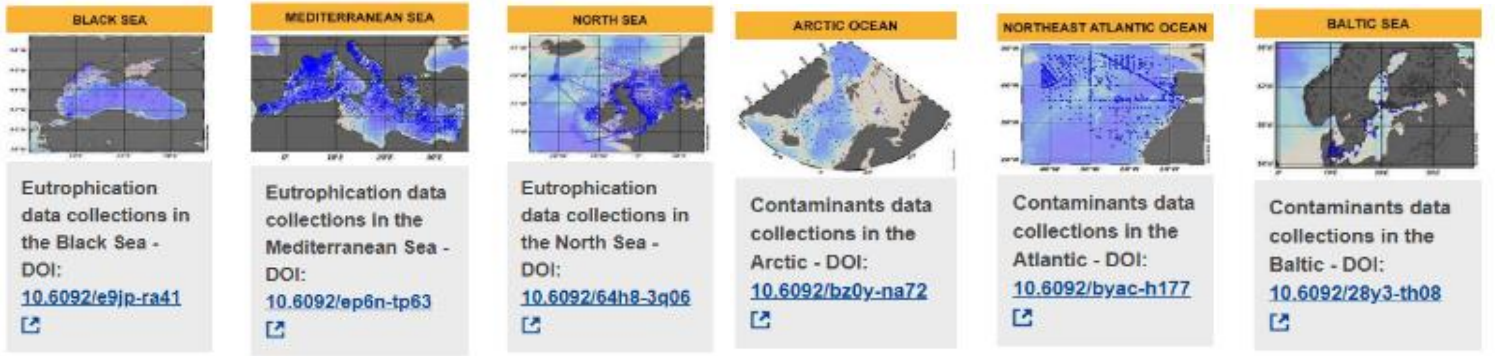
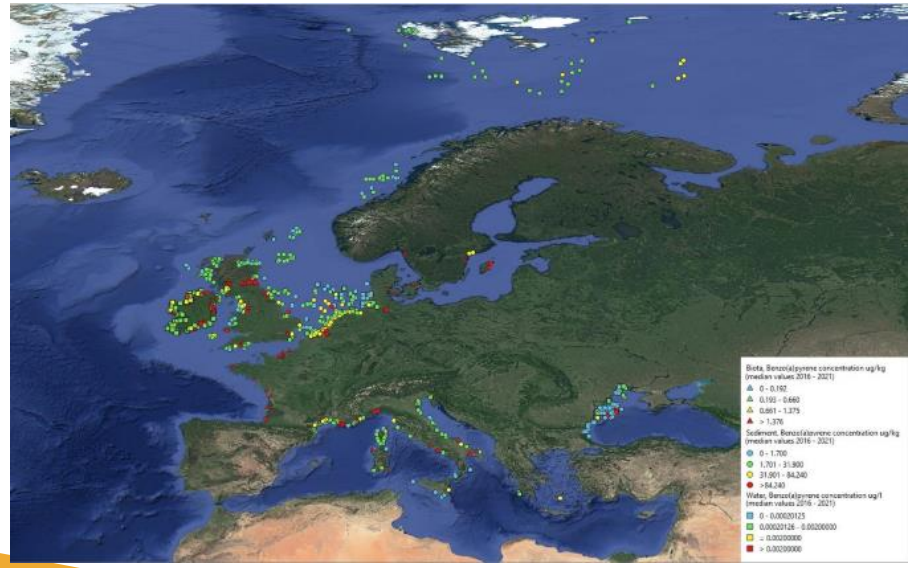
Use Cases & Examples

- **EMODnet Chemistry**

- ***OUTPUTS:***
  - Pan-European Marine Litter Database
  - User-oriented data products discussed with specific board of MSFD experts
  - Validated data collections for eutrophication & contaminants

- ***USES:***
  - MSFD - *Extensive and growing use) <=> Regional Sea Conventions (HELCOM, OSPAR, Black Sea).*
  - MSPD - *limited and expandable use.*





The MSFD is a framework directive, i.e. it is intended to 1) **Integrate the data and requirements of earlier monitoring and assessment programmes** under other directives such as the Habitats Directive, the Water Framework Directive or the EEA State of the Environment Report and the Regional Sea Conventions reports and 2) **Serve as a flagship**

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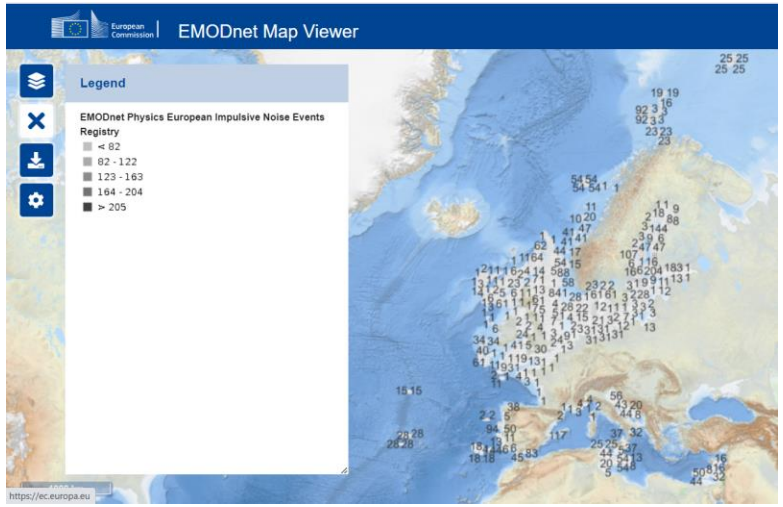
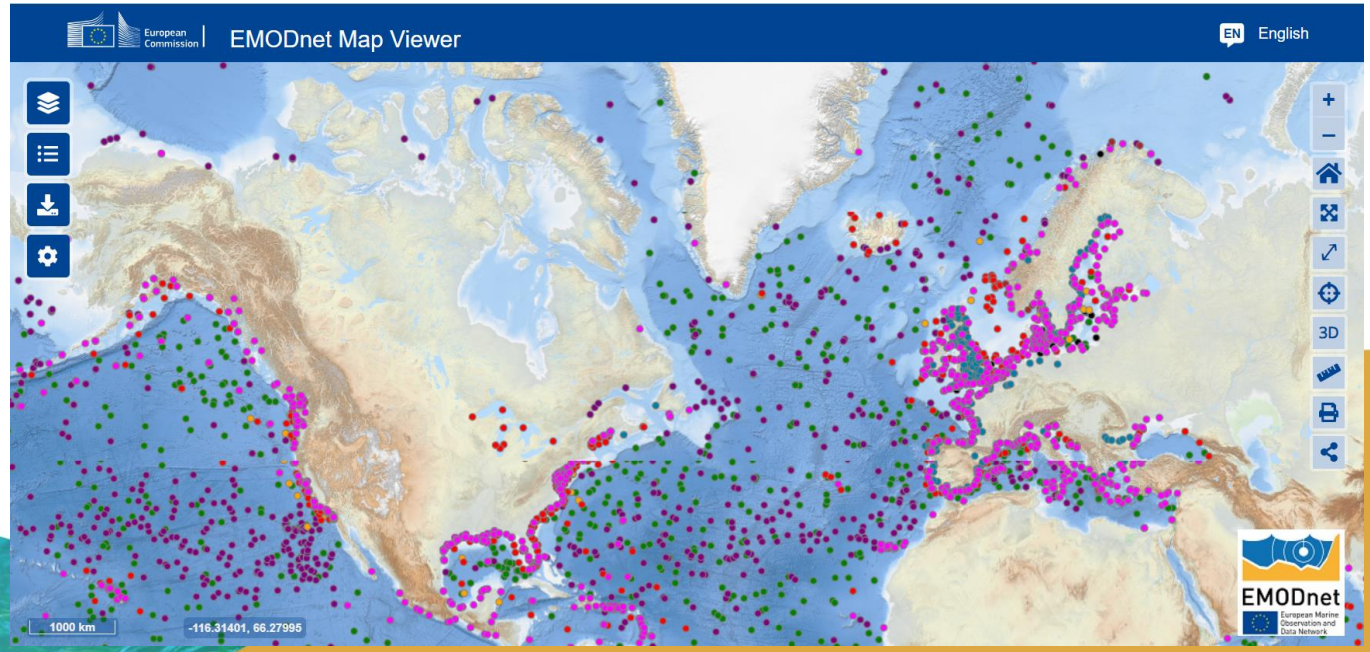
Use Cases & Examples

- **EMODnet Physics**

- ***OUTPUTS:***
  - Operational data access to new data types (e.g. river), new platforms (e.g. surface currents from HRF), more complete and exhaustive collections (e.g. sea level)
  - Underwater Noise
  - Support to communities (e.g. SOOS) and research on climate change

- ***USES:***
  - MSFD
  - MSPD
  - WFD





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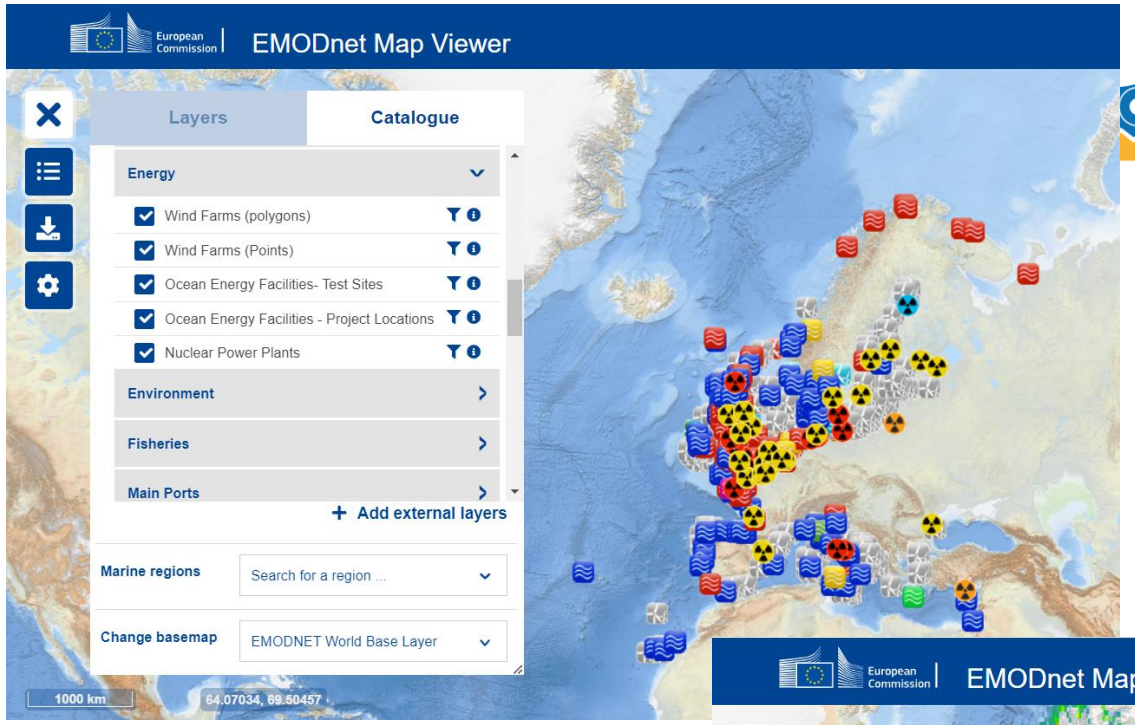
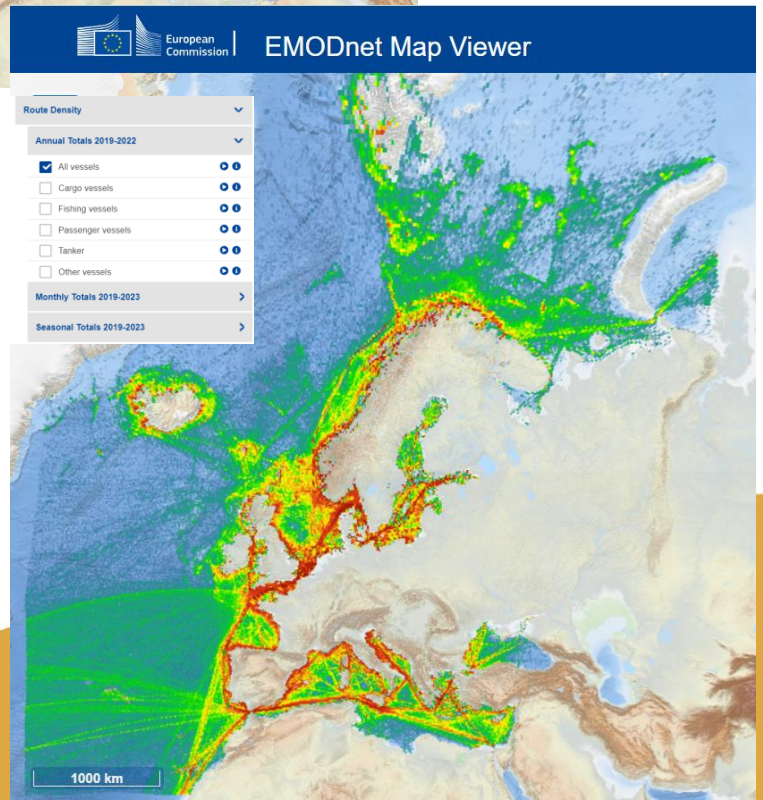
Use Cases & Examples

- **EMODnet Human Activities**

- ***OUTPUTS:***
  - Seafood and algae production
  - Temporal variation of shipping density
  - Offshore renewable energy

- ***USES:***
  - MSPD
  - Farm to Fork Strategy, Strategic guidelines for sustainable and competitive EU aquaculture, EU Algae Initiative - *related to the output 'Seafood and algae production'.*
  - REPowerEU to Q2 - *Related to the output 'Offshore renewable energy'.*





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Thank you for your attention

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emodnet.ec.europa.eu
Stay up-to-date with the latest news

The European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet) is financed by the European Union under Regulation (EU) 2021/1139 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 July 2021 establishing the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and its predecessor, Regulation (EU) No. 508/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund.

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