

Working to Deliver Improved Access to and Stewardship of UK Marine Data and Information

The UK Marine Environmental Data and
Information Network – MEDIN

David Cotton – dcott@oceannet.org

Marine Environmental Data and Information Network

- A collaborative and open partnership, open to all with an interest in **improving our management** of marine data and information, and developing **better access** to our marine data resources.
- Sponsors include government departments, research councils, environmental and conservation agencies, trading funds
- + additional public and private sector involvement (>30 partners)
- Government interest is to support implementation of a national marine monitoring and management strategy.
- Wider interest to reduce costs in sourcing, evaluating and preparing data



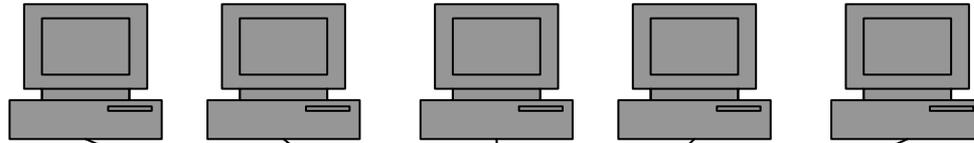
MEDIN Objectives

MEDIN aims to deliver:

- Secure long-term management of priority marine data sets, according to best practice standards.
- Improved access to authoritative marine data held in this network, through a central (discovery) metadata search capability.
- An agreed set of common standards for metadata, data format and content maintained and supported through implementation by partners.
- Guidelines, contractual clauses and software tools to support these standards and best practice data acquisition and management.

2009

Users



Data search – simple queries

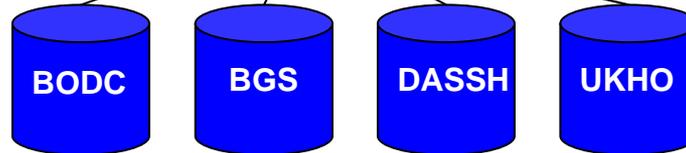
**MEDIN
Portal**



**Metadata
catalogue**



**Data Archive
Centres**



water
column
oceanog.

geophys
/ geology

marine
species
& habitats

bathymetry

Discovery
metadata std

DAC
stds

The MEDIN Data Archive Centre Network

MEDIN is building a network of “accredited” marine Data Archive Centres, to provide long term management for UK’s marine data.

The DACs are linked by the adoption of common standards and common descriptions of their data.

The first four DACs incorporated into the network are:



BODC: Water column oceanography – all marine data collected under NERC contracts



BGS: Marine geology and geophysics



DASSH: Marine species and habitats



UKHO: Bathymetry

Next: Fisheries data, marine meteorology

Initial Network Services - MEDIN Portals

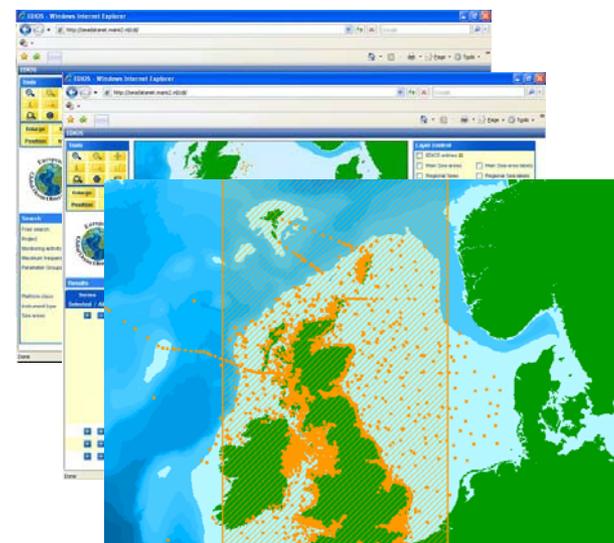
MEDIN Discovery Portal - Search capability to allow users to identify and locate *all data* held within the MEDIN DAC framework.

www.oceannet.org/data_discovery_portal

To be upgraded – more functions, onward links to data sources, Library of standards and guidance notes, searchable catalogues covering specific data themes.

- **Evaluation Metadata Portal** – UK Directory of *Marine Observing Systems* – Developed to help coordinate and plan marine monitoring in the UK

www.ukdmos.org

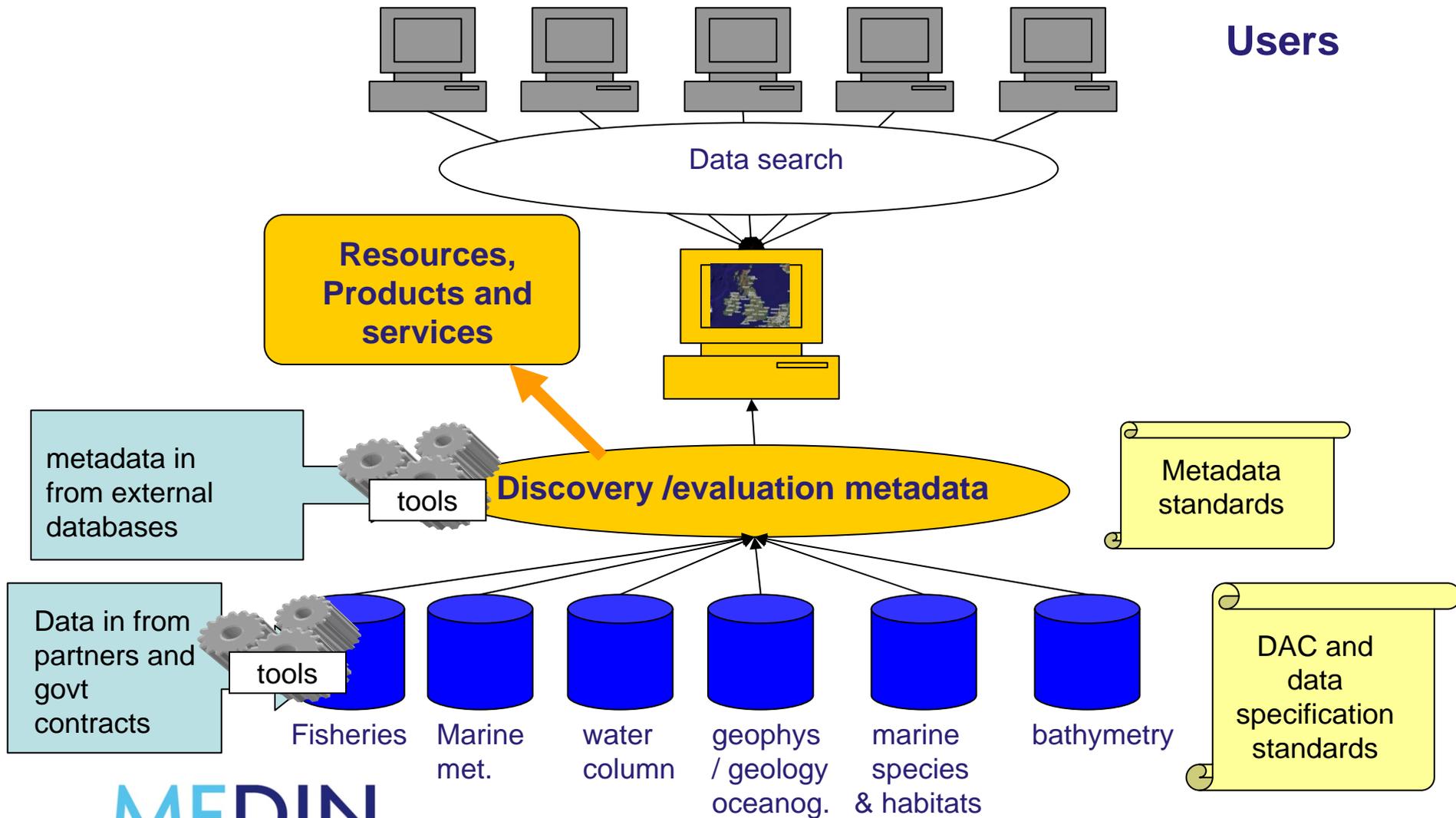


Five year development plan

Aim is to establish by 2013 a comprehensive and fully operational UK framework for managing and accessing marine data and information, linked in to international obligations and systems.

By 2013 all MEDIN partners will have implemented MEDIN standards, and data management best practice, as part of “business as usual”.

2013



Making MEDIN Work

- The main barriers to improving data access and management are not **TECHNICAL**, but **ORGANISATIONAL**
- Technical solutions cannot compensate for data kept in disparate, undocumented, formats without proper metadata.
- Organisations holding environmental data have to work together to agree best practices and standards **AND IMPLEMENT THEM!**

Consolidating the Data Centre network

Bringing marine data into the MEDIN DAC network

- **Data already collected, but not archived**
 - The MEDIN DACs already maintain comprehensive data holdings for their identified themes .
 - MEDIN will identify and support the upload of priority data sets that are not currently securely managed. **This is a priority for 2009-10**
- **New data collections**
 - The MEDIN DACs have agreements in place with funders and key partners.
 - The MEDIN partnership agreement requires partners to archive their marine data within the MEDIN DAC network.
 - Partners are encouraged to adopt the “Data Clause” whilst contracting the collection of marine data – this requires arrangements to be made in advance to ensure the archival of data at the completion of the contract.

Making MEDIN Work

The only way to establish a sustainable approach over the long term is to have all partners adopt common standards and procedures as ***normal working practice.***

MEDIN Partner Commitments

- Apply and document recognised Quality Control procedures.
- All marine data of long-term interest to be lodged with DACs recognised by MEDIN. In return DACs to ensure data are always freely available to supplier.
- Generate metadata records for all marine data in MEDIN format and make these metadata freely available to MEDIN.
- Establish a clear policy with regard to data ownership, licencing and access as they adhere to individual data sets.

Include the above in all contracts as a “Data Clause”

- Contribute to the activities of the work streams – help to develop and implement standards and build resources.

Thank you!

Visit us at

<http://www.oceannet.org>

David Cotton,
The Marine Environmental Data and Information Network
(MEDIN)

**NB! MEDIN meeting in Liverpool on
30th June**