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ENVIRONMENTAL OBSERVATION FRAMEWORK

PAPER E: Data Initiative Status reports (v2)

Updates (September 2013) are provided by:

- GEOSS Data CORE Survey
- Data Management in Cefas (DMiC)
- Defra, UK INSPIRE

Previous updates (previous 12 months) supplied by:

- UK Location (April 2013)
- JNCC (April 2013)
- MBA (April 2013)
- Envia (British Library) (April 2013)
- UK-EOF Environmental Observations Activity Catalogue (April 2013)
- NBN Gateway (January 2013)
- EA Open Data Programme (January 2013)
- DataShare & INSPIRE (January 2013)
- MEDIN (October 2012)
- NERC Science Information Strategy (October 2012)

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Initiative Name: **GEOSS Data CORE Survey**		
Report Date	4 September 2013	Web link: http://www.earthobservations.org/geoss_dsp.shtml
Domain Lead	Miles Gabriel, GIS Ltd on behalf of Dr Katherine Bass, Earth Observations Team, Strategic Evidence and Analysis, Defra	
Brief Description	GEO has circulated an invitation to complete a short online survey about the added value of the "GEOSS Data Collection of Open Resources for Everyone (GEOSS Data CORE)". The survey is being carried out in the framework of the European FP7 GEOWOW project (http://www.geowow.eu/) and is available at: http://sdi-survey.jrc.ec.europa.eu/limesv/index.php?sid=17679&lang=en The primary motivation of the survey is to gather information on the Community's awareness, use and perceived value of the GEOSS Data CORE, with a view to encouraging future contributions. It would be very helpful if UK-EOF members, and particularly those that pledged data to the Data CORE, could complete the survey asap. GE⬤ GROUP ON EARTH OBSERVATIONS	

Main areas of interest		Are you
	Global Y/ N̶	o Budding Infrastructure Y/ N̶
	European Y/ N̶	o Setting Standards Y/ N̶
	National Y/ N̶	o Holding Data Y/N̶
	Sector Y/ N̶	o Holding Metadata Y/N̶
Links to other initiatives	INSPIRE Directive	
Activities in this period	n/a	
Activities next period with key deadlines	n/a	
Issues and risks	n/a	
Requests on Others	To complete the GEOSS Data CORE survey asap.	

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Initiative Name:	**Data Management in Cefas (DMiC)**	
Report Date	4 September 2013	Web link http://www.cefas.defra.gov.uk/
Domain Lead (name, organisation)	Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas)	
Brief Description	The DMiC programme is reorganising Cefas data management to facilitate the integration of science disciplines, extend the re-use of data and increase availability and accessibility, both internally and externally. Cefas is a MEDIN Data Archive Centre (FishDAC) and is mandated, as a Crown Body, to publish metadata to the http://data.gov.uk/ portal and to make public data available and accessible. Initial effort has focused on the creation of a Cefas Master Data Register (MDR) that acts as a metadata catalogue, a data management tool and a metadata publication vehicle. This currently holds in excess of 3,000 records, some half of which cover public data. Records reflect the existence of some 100 SQLServer operational relational databases and the result of over 20+ years of research cruises and projects. A number of the operational systems cover environmental monitoring from sea temperature through water quality to fish stock assessments and fish disease via extensive surveys of sediments, the benthos, habitats and contaminants. Planned developments cover the integration of the data covered by the metadata records into an integrated search, query and data access Cefas Data System. This will provide access to legacy research data and summary data from the operational relational database systems, linked to and from the relevant metadata.	

Main areas of interest			Are you	
	Global	Y/ N̶	o Budding Infrastructure	Y/ N̶
	European	Y/ N̶	o Setting Standards	Y/ N̶
	National	Y/ N̶	o Holding Data	Y/N̶
	Sector	Y/ N̶	o Holding Metadata	Y/N̶
Links to other initiatives	MEDIN, INSPIRE			
Activities in this period	Consolidation and quality assurance of metadata records prior to publication via http://data.gov.uk/ , MEDIN and INSPIRE.			
Activities next period with key deadlines	Development of integrated data search, query and access system. Development and population of a GeoServer system for map related aspects of our data.			
Issues and risks	Capacity of staff to provide metadata and data from historical projects.			

Requests on Others	

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Initiative Name UK Location		
Report Date	16th August 2013	Web link http://data.gov.uk/location
Domain Lead (name, organisation)	Tim Ashelford, Defra, UK INSPIRE.	
Brief Description	Following a review, Defra now leads and coordinates the UK implementation of the EC INSPIRE Directive and BIS is custodian of the UK Location Strategy. . INSPIRE aims to provide enhanced access across the EU, to a wide variety of spatial data about the environment.	

Main areas of interest			Are you	
	Global	N	o Building Infrastructure	Y
	European	Y	o Setting Standards	Y
	National	Y	o Holding Data	N
	Sector	Y	o Holding Metadata	Y

Links to other initiatives	The National Information Infrastructure
Activities in this period	• Now over 1200 Location Metadata records registered on data.gov.uk from over 20 UK Publishers. BGS & CEH most prolific publishers. • INSPIRE Compliant Download services now available from several UK data providers including BGS, UKHO, EA, OS & Land & Property Services Northern Ireland. • UK INSPIRE Monitoring Report published. • UK INSPIRE Statistical Units and Population Distribution Workshop, run jointly with Defra and ONS, 2nd May 2013, • A UK INSPIRE event was held in London on 12 August 2013. 60 delegates from across the public, sector, research and GI industry attended. • UK INSPIRE Harvester and metadata editor have been updated and now include an enhanced validation check • Call for experts made by the European Commission for the development of a pool of experts to support the continued maintenance of INSPIRE.
Activities next period with key deadlines	• Continue engagement with data providers as INSPIRE Annex III Dec 2013 deadline for metadata, view and download services approaches. • Identification and discussions with potential thematic partners (organisations that could act as UK lead for an INSPIRE

	theme)
Issues and risks	Resource constraints within data provider organisations limit the publication of data and services to UK Location
Requests on Others	Identify potential A III datasets and prepare to publish metadata, view and download services for Annex III data by December 2013.

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Initiative Name: UK Location

Report Date	8th April 2013	Web link http://data.gov.uk/location
Domain Lead	Tim Ashelford, Defra, UK Location Programme.	
Brief Description	UK Location is a UK pan-government initiative to improve the sharing and re-use of public sector location information. Established following the publication of the UK Location Strategy, it incorporates the implementation of the strategy and the EC INSPIRE Directive.	

Main areas of interest			Are you	
	Global	N	o Building Infrastructure	Y
	European	Y	o Setting Standards	Y
	National	Y	o Holding Data	N
	Sector	Y	o Holding Metadata	Y
Links to other initiatives				

Activities in this period	- Review of UK Location Programme underway - Defra focusing on INSPIRE delivery. - Defra Network DataShare now offers Web Feature Services to INSPIRE datasets. - Download services also available from OS & Land & Property Services Northern Ireland. - Download Services Operational Guidance on how to go about implementing a Download Service in the UK is now available - INSPIRE Annex III Virtual Conference 5 Feb 2013.. Slides for those that could not make http://www.slideshare.net/andjnewman/inspire-in-the-uk-are-you-ready-for-annex-iii … - Powered by INSPIRE conference, 4/5 March 2013 organised by Gov of Belgium, The Netherlands, Germany, Luxemburg and the United Kingdom. Spatial data are indispensable ingredients for decision making concerning our environment. Powered by the European INSPIRE programme, spatial data under 34 environmental themes is made digitally available for re-use. March 4 and 5 http://www.poweredbyinspire.eu/p/39/Home.
Activities next period with key deadlines	- Continue A III engagement - INSPIRE Conference 2013, June 23-27, Florence, t.co/XhSpg4MR .Call for papers - Identification and discussions with potential thematic partners (organisations that could act as UK lead for an INSPIRE theme) - UK INSPIRE Statistical Units and Population Distribution

Version 3 March 2012

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Various Nature Conservation data initiatives involving JNCC

Report Date	April 2013 (covering the 6 months up to this date)	Web link www.jncc.defra.gov.uk
Domain Lead	Dave Chambers, JNCC	
Brief Description	JNCC is the public body that advises the UK Government and devolved administrations on UK-wide and international nature conservation. JNCC is led by the Joint Committee, which brings together members from the nature conservation bodies for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and independent members. The company employs around 130 people based in offices in Peterborough and Aberdeen. A high proportion of our work involves collation and dissemination of evidence.	

Main areas of interest		Are you
	Global Y	o Budding Infrastructure N
	European Y	o Setting Standards Y
	National Y	o Holding Data Y
	Sector Y (biodiversity)	o Holding Metadata Y

Links to other initiatives	JNCC staff make a significant contribution to the National Biodiversity Network. We also have close links to the Marine Environmental Data and Information Network.
Activities in this period (note that this is just some brief highlights of our recent work on data/surveillance initiatives – it is far from comprehensive).	**Surveillance and reporting:** • Data collated on the status and trends of 200 important and threatened species and habitats listed under the Habitats Directive. This is a six yearly reporting obligation under Article 17 of the Directive. Public consultation now officially launched. See Http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-6387 . This has represented a major undertaking for JNCC and the Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies. • The evidence in the Draft Article 17 report includes information collated on Nitrogen Impacts. • Further progress in getting agreed GB level surveillance plans in place for European Protected Species such as the Great Crested Newt. • Earth Observation (EO): We have recently updated the Crick Framework, which gives information on how EO techniques can be used for mapping Biodiversity Action Plan Priority and Habitats Directive Annex 1 habitats (www.jncc.defra.gov.uk/EO); details of a pilot study in Norfolk will be published shortly via the JNCC website. JNCC has also begun to explore more broadscale approaches to utilising EO in assessing change in the landscape. • We have worked with Defra's response team and partners on Chalara (ash dieback) to provide evidence

	of impacts on biodiversity. http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/chalara • We have developed, in collaboration with CEH, methods for generating trend information from NBN data and also modelling species distributions. • There has been a significant new release of the Biodiversity Planning and Reporting System software. http://ukbars.defra.gov.uk/ **Protected Areas:** • JNCC has provided formal advice to Defra prior to the start of the public consultation on Marine Conservation Zones, which recommends 31 sites to be designated in 2013. • We have updated the Common Database on Designated Areas produced and submitted to the European Environment Agency. • Natura 2000 information transferred to the revised EU data structure.
Activities next period with key deadlines	• Improvements to metadata management and data cataloguing, especially for marine survey data. • Final submission of the UK Report under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive, and Article 12 of the Birds Directive. • Completion of the first phase of the development of a database to manage official UK information relating to Marine Protected Areas and all Natura 2000 sites. • Further work on establishing protocols for collating information on protected areas, using INSPIRE services as far as possible.
Issues and risks	JNCC are currently subject to a Triennial Review. http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/about/with/ndpb-review/ but this should be completed by the summer. This review is linked to the current reviews of Natural England and the Environment Agency.
Requests on Others	The scope of the EOF catalogue redevelopment and data management protocols must be carefully considered to ensure that costs do not outweigh the benefits.

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Initiative Name: MBA			
Report Date	21/01/2013		www.mba.ac.uk
Domain Lead	Becky Seeley, Marine Biological Association		
Brief Description	Learned Society and Research Institute. Established in 1884.		
Main areas of interest			Are you
	Global	Y	○ Budding Infrastructure Y
	European	Y	○ Setting Standards Y
	National	Y	○ Holding Data Y
	Sector	Y	○ Holding Metadata Y
Links to other initiatives	NBN, MEDIN, NERC, , UKMMAS (HBDSEG), MCCIP, Western Channel Observatory, GBIF, OBIS, WoRMS, MECN, EMBOS, UKIMON		
Activities in this period	Run MEDIN DAC for biodiversity data, provide MEDIN metadata helpdesk and support function, archive datasets from Large range of organisations, serve as Marine Node for NBN. Provided data from long-term time series to initiatives as described. The MBA via MECN has also undertaken large-scale analyses of biological time series data and published the results in scientific literature and in reports to Defra.		
Activities next period with key deadlines	Time-series review to be undertaken by MBA hosted MECN and workshop on benthic time-series being organised.		
Issues and risks	Continuation funding		
Requests on Others			

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Initiative Name: Envia

Report Date	5/4/2013	Web link http://www.envia.bl.uk:8080/xmlui/
Domain Lead	Johanna Kieniewicz, The British Library	
Brief Description	Envia is a new resource being developed by The British Library to federate access to environmental information, both within a British Library repository, as well as elsewhere on the web. It is a tool through which researchers will be able to discover government reports, journal articles, PhD these and datasets. Central to the concept of Envia is the notion that environmental information discovery should be as easy and seamless as possible. Thus, Envia is designed to be searchable through multiple entry points, with search boxes embedded in a British Library website, partner websites, and users' browsers. Through these, environmental science researchers and practitioners will be able to directly access content located either within the Envia repository or hosted on external websites. Envia has an initial focus on information related to flooding. Envia is funded and developed by The British Library and is being delivered in partnership with Living With Environmental Change.	

Main areas of interest			Are you	
	Global	Y	o Budding Infrastructure	Y
	European	Y	o Setting Standards	N
	National	Y	o Holding Data	N
	Sector	Y	o Holding Metadata	Y

Links to other initiatives	
Activities in this period	• EnviLOD project with the University of Sheffield and HR Wallingford exploring the potential of Linked Open Data to environmental science • Jan 25 dissemination workshop for EnviLOD project • February 2013 first steering group meeting • Testing workflows, adding content streams, user interface work
Activities next period with key deadlines	• 19th April 2013 launch of Envia Beta • Adding additional content streams • Acquiring and processing initial feedback on Envia
Issues and risks	
Requests on Others	• Recruit users within your organisations for the Beta test • Feed back to us!

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Initiative Name UK-EOF Environmental Observations Activity Catalogue

Report Date	April 2013	Web link http://www.ukeof.org.uk/catalogue/default.aspx
Domain Lead	Amber Vater, UK-EOF	
Brief Description	The UK-EOF catalogue aims to provide a definitive list of UK funded observation activities/programmes and link to their data. Established in 2009, the UK-EOF catalogue holds metadata for over 1200 observation activities and programmes describing 'who, what, where and why' the observations are being undertaken. The catalogue has been used to provide evidence for the UK-EOF funders and wider community including analysis for a sustainable funding debate hosted by Sir John Beddington, an assessment of Defra family activities and a review of biodiversity investments in the UK.	

Main areas of interest	Global N	Are you
		o Budding Infrastructure N
	European N	o Setting Standards N
	National Y	o Holding Data N
	Sector Y	o Holding Metadata Y

Links to other initiatives	LWEC Envirobase; UKDMOS; data.gov.uk
Activities in this period	Development of a new database schema to align the UK-EOF catalogue with the INSPIRE EF data model. Stage 1 is underway; • Gap analysis against current EOF schema and INSPIRE EF data Model. The analysis will include what is missing for EF compliance as well as additional fields that EOF require (e.g. financial information) that are not part of the EF schema. • Transform the EOF schema to the new EF data model (with UK-EOF extensions).
Activities next period with key deadlines	• Update content that is missing from the current EOF records as well as additional content required to meet INSPIRE EF requirements e.g. spatial information will need be sourced. • Identification of controlled lists and vocabularies.
Issues and risks	• The INSPIRE Environmental Monitoring Facilities (EF) data specification is not yet finalised and is subject to change. • Catalogue content update is reliant on timely input from the observation activity owners.
Requests on Others	**Major providers of data to the catalogue to attend a workshop currently being planned for May 2013. Including representatives from; EA, Met Office, Fera, UKDMOS, SEWeb, NERC, NE, others? Contact Amber for information if you think you should be involved on behalf of your organisation.**

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Initiative Name NBN Gateway

Report Date	Jan 2013	Web link www.nbn.org.uk www.data.nbn.org.uk
Domain Lead	Paula Lightfoot, Data Access Officer, NBN Trust	
Brief Description	The National Biodiversity Network is a partnership involving many of the UK's wildlife conservation organisations, the government and country agencies, environmental agencies, local records centres and voluntary groups. These organisations collect and use biodiversity data and are committed to making this information widely available. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) supports specific projects to develop the NBN further. The NBN Gateway is the tool developed by the NBN Trust and its partners for communicating and sharing biodiversity data via the internet. In January 2013 there were over 80 million species records from over 140 data providers available through the Gateway. The Gateway also gives access to geographic information (e.g. designated site boundaries) and habitat data. The NBN had its 10 year anniverary in 2010 and published a strategy for its development over the next 10 years.	

Main areas of interest	Global Y The NBN Gateway is the UK node of GBIF	**Are you**
		o Budding Infrastructure Y
	European Y	o Setting Standards Y
	National Y	o Holding Data Y *Sharing data on behalf of the organisations which hold the data*
	Sector Y Biodiversity data from the public sector, private sector and NGOs	o Holding Metadata Y

Activities in this period	• The NBN Conference was held at the Royal Society in November 2012 and attended by around 180 delegates - more information. This included the launch of the UK-EOF funded report on Citizen Science.
	• The iRecord system for online recording and centralised verification was launched in July 2012. www.brc.ac.uk/iRecord.
	• Verification rules from NBN Record Cleaner were integrated into iRecord in August 2012 – more information.
	• 9 datasets from iRecord have already been made fully publicly available via the NBN Gateway, some within a week of being made, clearly demonstrating the efficiency of data flow.
	• Data from the NBN Gateway was used in Defra's *Chalara fraxinea* control plan (ash dieback) – more information.
	• Data from the NBN Gateway was used by JNCC for reporting under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive in 2012.
	• Version 5 of the NBN Gateway was released in January 2013, with

	new functionality to be rolled out in stages during 2013.
	• In addition to being represented on the Scottish Biodiversity Information Forum (SBIF) Steering Group, the NBN Trust is chairing two SBIF working groups on data sharing/data flow and commercial data use – first meeting held December 2012
Activities next period with key deadlines	• Rollout of new functionality of NBN Gateway v.5, including new interfaces for managing access to data and for downloading data.
	• Development of new REST web services to facilitate use of data from the NBN
	• Development of an online recording portal for ecological consultants in consultation with IEEM
	• Event in March 2013 to promote the NBN, particularly focussing on new audiences.
Issues and risks	Reduction in funding of the infrastructure that supports biological recording. The results of this are becoming increasingly evident. Latest potential casualty – Millport (NBN data provider)
	Different models and strategies for coordinating and funding of biological recording effort in England, Scotland, Wales and N. Ireland.
	Triennial reviews of non-departmental public bodies.
Requests on others	

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Initiative Name: Environment Agency Open Data Programme

Report Date	14th January 2012	Web link: http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/
Domain Lead	Stefan Carlyle, Environment Agency	
Brief Description	Environment Agency (EA) has contributed metadata for publication on data.gov.uk. All of the new datasets will be published in an open, standardised format so that they can be freely re-used by third parties under terms similar to the Open Government Licence. DataShare is EA's leading edge data download service. It has been developed for the last 2 years to provide almost 800 partner organisations. It is also being used to help deliver a shared solution to meet the INSPIRE Directive's obligations for the Defra Network. EA wants as wide a use of the data as practicable and encourage development of new products using EA data. An example of our seeking new ways to promote growth in the use of our data is the recent introduction of a 3-month free product development licence. The direction of travel for the Environment Agency is towards implementation of the Transparency Principles and towards the Tim Berners-Lee 5 star rating for access to and use of Environment Agency data. Our pilot studies on linked data using Bathing Water Data will deliver 5 star services. EA vision is for data from different systems, tools and places will be much easier to link together and derive knowledge from, and our data will be more standardised and much easier to reuse.	

Main areas of interest	Global Y/ ~~N~~	Are you ○ Budding Infrastructure Y/ ~~N~~
	European Y/ ~~N~~	○ Setting Standards Y/ ~~N~~
	National Y/ ~~N~~	○ Holding Data Y/~~N~~
	Sector Y/ ~~N~~	○ Holding Metadata Y/~~N~~

Links to other initiatives	• INSPIRE/UK Location Strategy • Transparency/Data.gov.uk • Open Data Strategy • ESSP

Activities in this period	**Title: Data.gov.uk User Survey** The second annual UK Location/Cabinet Office Data.gov.uk User Survey is now complete and the responses are being analysed. **DataShare** EA has finalised a Collaborative Agreement with Defra to cover the use of our DataShare service for the Defra Network. This formalises the arrangements EA has already put in place, the

services EA offers, and the responsibilities of Defra Network Bodies.
Contact: Chris Jarvis

Title: Inspire Directive
EA now publishes data as a 'Web Feature Service' which allows our users to incorporate and use our data in their GIS systems without having to download a copy of it. EA is one of the few UK bodies who have delivered this capability in time to meet the INSPIRE deadline.
Contact: Chris Jarvis

Title: Data Standards
We are working toward publishing the first release of the Data Standards Compendium. This will provide a list of data standards for use in the Environment Agency. Implementing these standards will help will support data quality improvements as well as our ability to share and integrate our data. Data standards are one of the key areas to help us manage, and have confidence in, our DMMI estate.
Contact: Susie MacLeay D&I national lead: data standards

Title: Central Modelling Platform
The Central Modelling Platform went live on 17th October and is currently being rolled out to users across the organisation, including FCRM, Air Quality and Water Quality (marine and freshwater). Currently we've got about 500 users.
Contact: Helen James

WISE State of the Environment (SoE) Reporting
We have successfully loaded the WISE SoE data on to the central data repository (CDR). This was the first time that the biology data has been submitted directly to the CDR.
Contact: Debbie Bamford (7-21-2137 / 07771387967)

Harmonised Monitoring Scheme report to Defra
We have successfully delivered the HMS report to Defra, including results from Scotland.
Contact: Abby Lane (7 12 4303 / 07795317775)

ECN Reporting
The annual Freshwater Chemistry and Flow Data return has been successfully submitted to the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology to use for their Environmental Change Network reporting.
Contact: Nikki Terrett 07788304964

Activities next period with key deadlines	• Preparations for separation of EA Wales from EA England • Easimap Replacement • Deployment of WIY Farm Yard web service
Issues and risks	• Separation of EA Wales from EA England may cause delays due to medium term reallocation of resources to setting up SB Wales.
Requests on Others	N/A

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Initiative Name: Environment Agency DataShare & INSPIRE		
Report Date	Jan 2013	Web link http://www.geostore.com/environment-agency/
Domain Lead	Miles Gabriel, GIS Ltd & EA	
Brief Description	**What is it?** DataShare is Defra Network's data download and live feed portal. **What does it do?** DataShare supports Defra Network bodies' fulfilment of their INSPIRE Directive obligations, as well as other obligations such as those under FoI, EIR, RoPSI. It provides cost effective and efficient access to spatial datasets to members of the public, internal staff, contractors and our professional partners. **How does it do this?** Datasets downloaded via DataShare are pre-cut to users' operational (or user defined) areas and are made available in a range of common data formats (ESRI shapefile, MapInfo MID/MIF and TAB, DXF, DWG, JPEG, JPEG2000, ECW, GeoTiff, etc). Users can also access data as a WMS (Web Map Service) or Web Feature Service (WFS) that allows you to link directly to the data from your GIS software without the need to download the data. **The story so far?** DataShare has been online since July 2009 offering nearly 240 Defra Network and 3rd party data layers and is rapidly growing in registered users and order numbers: • over 4,600 registered users • ~40,000 unique data orders made (up to 2,500/month) • peak ordering of 1,003 in a single day • 65% orders by Local Authorities • 95% of all orders are downloaded • since enabling DataShare for our contractors offline contractor licensing has reduced by > 35%.	

Main areas of interest			Are you	
	Global	N	o Budding Infrastructure	Y
	European	N	o Setting Standards	N
	National	Y	o Holding Data	Y
	Sector Y		o Holding Metadata	Y

Links to other initiatives	data.gov.uk, INSPIRE, open data.
Activities in this period	1. DataShare has gone live with recent enhancements to support Defra Network compliance of the INSPIRE Directive Download Service obligations, including: • solution provision for British Waterways, Defra, English Heritage, Environment Agency, Forestry Commission,

	Natural England and the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office, • provision of 60 Defra Network data layers via direct access INSPIRE compliant WFS (Web Feature Service) 2.0.0. This allows public users to select the data layers they require and copy the URL into their GIS software (this includes freeware options) for instant access to live data, see DataShare's WFS Environmental OpenData page, • significant increase (to 79) in the number of DN data layers available via direct download in a choice of data formats (inc. GML, shape, tab), see DataShare's Download OpenData page, • ability to evaluate (visualise) data layers via data.gov.uk Defra Network metadata records. 2. Enhancement of DataShare to enable use by Natural England to provide data to their contractors and partners. 3. Expansion of the service to a wider range of users (inc. members of the public, Central Government, Rivers Trusts, etc).
Activities next period with key deadlines	The following updates are being considered: • continued increase in the number of datasets available via the site (particularly for Natural England users), • plans to investigate the feasibility of enabling EA users to access NE data direct, and vice versa, • potential geodatabase 10 and support, • RSS feed for data updates, • user feedback tools, • removal of some Forestry Commission data and UKHO data.
Issues and risks	Risks and issues are being managed via a Data Publishers Technical Working Group and Defra Network INSPIRE Compliance Board.
Requests on Others	None

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Initiative Name MEDIN

Report Date	25/09/2012	Web link http://www.oceannet.org/
Domain Lead (name, organisation)	Dave Cotton	

Brief Description	The Marine Environmental Data and Information Network (MEDIN) promotes sharing of, and improved access to, UK marine data. It is an open partnership and our partners are both public and private sector. MEDIN aims to provide: • secure long-term management of marine datasets by setting up a network of Data Archive Centres (DACs) • improved access to authoritative marine data held in this network, through a central discovery metadata portal • an agreed set of common standards for metadata, data format and content maintained and supported by partners • guidelines, contractual clauses and software tools to support standards and best practice data management

Main areas of interest			Are you
	Global	N	o Budding Infrastructure Y Network of Data Archive Centres (DACs) for themed data i.e. for oceanography, for benthic flora, fauna and habitat data etc
	European	N	o Setting Standards Y INSPIRE compliant MEDIN metadata discovery standard
	National	Y	o Holding Data Y MEDIN accredited DACs hold data
	Sector Marine	Y	o Holding Metadata Y Available through an online portal http://portal.oceannet.org/search/full

Links to other initiatives	http://www.dassh.ac.uk http://www.bgs.ac.uk/GeoIndex/offshore.htm https://www.bodc.ac.uk/data/online_delivery/nodb/search/ http://www.ukho.gov.uk/Pages/Home.aspx http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/science/MSInteractive http://www.nafc.ac.uk/SSMEI.aspx http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/ http://www.oasis.ac.uk/ http://www.marinealsf-navigator.org.uk/

Activities in this period	• Three new DACs have been accredited by MEDIN. These are Met Office, FishDAC and Historic Environment DAC making a total of seven MEDIN DACs • Revision of the MEDIN metadata standard (currently on version 2.3.7). • 14 data guidelines documents now available • UKDMOS has undergone updates and now includes additional search function to look for datasets relevant to

	the Marine Strategy Framework Directive • 3662 records of marine data sets currently in the Portal • Improvements to Portal functionality to improve user experience
Activities next period with key deadlines	• Increase the content of the Portal • Increase the usage of the portal • Consolidate the DAC network / increase the transfer and flow of data • Maintain good communication & linkage across relevant initiatives. • Articulate the role of MEDIN within UK, European and other international data initiatives • Establish widespread adoption of standards for metadata and data. • Coordinate and provide access to reference data. • Assess MEDIN performance against user expectations and needs
Issues and risks	An operational framework for improving the management of and access to marine data is now in place, with standards to underpin it. The success of the framework in delivering improvements depends upon members of the marine community adopting the standards and making use of the framework Current funding arrangements run to 2014. Early preparations are underway to put together a business plan for 2014-2017 to support the case for continued sponsorship.
Requests on Others	Collaboration with members who hold marine data

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Initiative Name NERC Science Information Strategy

Report Date	October 2012	Web link
Domain Lead (name, organisation)	Mike Brown	
Brief Description	The NERC Science Information Strategy (SIS) has been created to provide the framework for NERC to work more closely and effectively with its scientific communities, both internal and external, in delivering data and information management services.	

Main areas of interest			Are you	
	Global	Y	o Budding Infrastructure	Y
	European	Y	o Setting Standards	Y
	National	Y	o Holding Data	Y
	Sector	Y	o Holding Metadata	Y

Links to other initiatives	MEDIN NBN JRC Alter-Net ILTER, etc
Activities in this period	Quality check and update of Discovery metadata in NERC portal Implementation of a new standards compliant infrastructure for NERC portal and NERC Data centres, including map viewer and increased semantic search capability Implement a federated vocabulary service across NERC Data centres (SPARQL) Pilot Project to demonstrate linked data approach between CEH, BODC and BGS
Activities next period with key deadlines	Delivery of new NERC portal (April 2013) All records in NERC portal quality reviewed and corrected as necessary April 2013) Linked data proof of concept (June 2013)
Issues and risks	NERC Data Centres under review
Requests on Others	