Formal session

Agenda Item 6: Members approval

Document F6.7: DataMEQ Working Group proposal for data policy

DataMEQ WG proposes to deliver a EuroGOOS data policy which will require the EuroGOOS members commitment to share core ocean data openly according to the FAIR principles and CC-BY licence.

EuroGOOS
European Global Ocean Observing System

EuroGOOS Working Group on Data Management, Exchange and Quality, DataMEQ

Concept note: EuroGOOS data policy recommendations

Context

EuroGOOS Data Management, Exchange, and Quality Working Group (DataMEQ WG) helps to improve harmonisation, access to and integration of European marine data. DataMEQ WG fosters links between real-time and delayed mode data streams and works closely with EuroGOOS Task Teams and ROOS as well as Marine European Service providers (Copernicus and EMODnet).

Key Objectives of EuroGOOS DataMEQ WG are to:

- Develop an overall concept for the management of EuroGOOS observation data taking into consideration existing data management systems;
- Identify observations required for either in real-time or in delayed mode data;
- Propose the most effective ways to make observation data readily available for operational oceanographic purposes;
- Draft a minimum set of standards for data quality control and metadata which is related to observation data collection, processing, and exchange procedures
- Propose mechanisms to ease access to delayed mode observation data in cooperation with National Oceanographic Data Centres, keeping aware of the progress in SeaDataNet;
- Draft a minimum set of standards for data quality control which is related to observation data collection, processing, and exchange procedures.

In the view of the implementation of the EuroGOOS 2030 strategy calling for sustainable European ocean observing system and data provision for operational oceanographic services, DataMEQ WG is proposing to put forward recommendations for a European data policy for Open and Free data policy allowing the set up of, Findeable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable (FAIR) ocean data and metadata services for operational oceanography. Operational oceanography brings various economic and societal benefits (EuroGOOS 2016). It underpins significant decision and policy making in the marine domain, from weather forecasts, to maritime activities, search and rescue operations and climate modelling, and delivers vital services and information for a sustainable blue economy.

Rationale

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), recognising the vital importance of timely, free and unrestricted international exchange of oceanographic data for the efficient acquisition, integration and use of ocean observations gathered by the countries of the world, in 2019 endorsed the IOC Oceanographic Data Exchange Policy.

In 2021, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) adopted a new Unified Data Policy relating to the international exchange of meteorological, hydrological and climate data between the 193

Member states and territories of WMO. The WMO policy distinguishes two types of data which are required for meteorological service provision and must be exchanged: (i) 'core' data, which must be freely available, and (ii) 'recommended' data, for which agreements can be needed (see table 1 here). All data collected by Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) within the framework of Essential Ocean Variables (EOVs) and Essential Climate Variables (ECVs) are classed as core data that must be exchanged on a free and unrestricted basis.

Similarly in 2021 , ICES revised its data policy and all data provided to ICES are considered to be public data under CC-BY, unless otherwise explicitly specified as restricted data.

Goals and Objectives

DataMEQ WG proposes to deliver a EuroGOOS data policy which will require the EuroGOOS members commitment to share core ocean data openly according to the FAIR principles and CC-BY licence. By Core ocean data we mean at least the physical and biogeochemical EOVs which are necessary for the Copernicus Marine Service and the EuroGOOS regional operational systems , including coastal service, as well as the services delivered by EMODnet.

The document will be:

- Developed by the EuroGOOS DataMEQ which brings together experts from the abovementioned services and systems, along with the EuroGOOS operational networks, Task Teams. Dedicated legal advice will be sought after for a robust data policy proposal.
- Aligned with the framework for European Ocean Observing System (EOOS) and endorsed by the EuroGOOS General Assembly and EOOS governance bodies.
- Aligned with the data strategies developed by GOOS within the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021-2030.
- Support the European Commission's initiative 'Ocean Observations – Sharing Responsibility'.

Estimate of the work required

The development of the data policy will require the organisation of two-three hybrid meetings of the DataMEQ WG to develop a proposal for common data policy building on ICES, WMO and IODE examples.

EuroGOOS Office will finalise the document and have it revised by a legal expert (probably need to be funded). EuroGOOS Office will organise the consultation with members and prepare endorsement at the following GA.

V.1 Pouliquen, Eparkhina, 19/1/2022; v.2 reviewed by DataMEQ members during March 2022; reviewed by EuroGOOS Board 3/5/2022;
V.3 Pouliquen, Carval, Eparkhina 5/5/2022;
V3. Pouliquen, Carval 6/5/2022