

*EC Consultation on the document*

**“WISE-MARINE, EXTENDING WISE TO SERVE AS A COMMON REPORTING PLATFORM FOR THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT COMMUNITY UNDER THE EU MARINE STRATEGY”**

**Marine Board – ESF views**

**The Marine Board**

**Agrees:**

- That the concept behind the geographical division of regions / eco-regions should be clarified and harmonised taking into account the context of the MSFD, the Maritime Policy, Regional conventions and geographical divisions of ICES and EEA (page 15). It should be emphasised though that monitoring systems and associated techniques are difficult to harmonize on a regional based approach due to the ecological characteristics of the different regions.
- The geographical target of the MSFD is regional-based, whereas EMODNET would operate at global, regional and local scale. Cross-fertilisation and combination of the initiatives will better support the sustainable development of resources and the provision of an efficient tool for Marine Spatial Planning.

**Recommends:**

- To highlight, in accordance with the development of the MSFD (part 1.3), the role and importance of the forthcoming Maritime Research Strategy within the European marine research landscape, aiming to propose and implement new governance models and operational tools in marine data observations and management (e.g. EMODNET, Atlas of the Sea) as pillars of the Maritime Policy. This should also be reflected in the Figure 1.1 page 3.
- To mention in part 1.2 the different EC data systems and data reporting requirements being prepared or developed by other EC directorates such as the DCR and EMODNET (DG MARE), Habitat & Natura 2000 (DG ENV) or European initiatives (e.g. MERSEA, SEADATANET).
- To mention page 3, that WISE and WISE-marine should be referred to both as data management systems (namely with a dedicated approach and policy for free data access) and information systems (delivering outputs).
- To elaborate and consolidate a common European marine data policy, prior to activating operational phases and technical implementation of the data and information systems. The WISE and WISE-marine data policy should largely take cognisance of the recommendations of the EMODNET Panel (Marine Board-ESF and EUROGOOS) with regard to data sharing and data access. Furthermore, WISE-Marine should build on and be informed by the work of the MODEG Group. WISE-marine must engage and build upon initiatives such as EMODNET and

other initiatives (e.g. SEADATANET) to harmonise data management practices overall (page 4).

- The overall objective of EMODNET is to enable implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy for Europe in establishing permanent, sustained monitoring and observation structures, networks and the underpinning of data provision, curation, information management and dissemination needed to support good ocean governance (including risk assessment, modelling and prediction), good science, a better understanding of ocean dynamics (including climate change and geodynamics), improved resource utilisation and the protection of the marine environment.

The establishment of EMODNET calls for the implementation of a data management structure to facilitate networking and integration of existing/developing observing systems, to harmonise strategies and methodologies for data management practises (including data policy), to generate marine services and to ensure data distribution for end-users.

- To harmonise and ensure quality assurance of standardised data between EMODNET-DCR-GMES/MCS-MSFD.
- To secure its successful implementation and use over time, the development of the WISE-marine initiative should take into account upstream specificities of both MSFD (and its related reporting obligations) and the Maritime Research Strategy, making sure that no adverse effects will emerge from their future implementation.
- To specify, whenever there is mention of “marine strategies” that these should be further defined (whether these strategies are national or European based); to specify operations needed and planned to “make good use of any pre-existing marine data infrastructure and opportunities”.
- To incorporate private industry (oil and gas exploration and exploitation), the military and the European Maritime Safety Agency in the list of potential users and data providers.
- To identify gaps and shortcomings in existing data.

**Suggests:**

- To incorporate the Marine Board – ESF as a facilitating platform between WISE-marine and the on-going developments taking place within EMODNET, enabling know-how transfers, share of experiences and exchange of best practises, avoiding duplication between the initiatives.