



Feedback from the European Marine Board Secretariat to the European Commission's consultation and call for evidence on [GreenData4All – updated rules on geospatial environmental data and access to environmental information](#)

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The European Marine Board (www.marineboard.eu) welcomes the initiative of the European Commission to modernize the public environmental data sharing framework and to make the INSPIRE Directive a more effective and cost-efficient instrument for environmental data sharing, in support of environmental policy development and implementation, and the transition to a more sustainable economy.

As aiming to advance Seas & Ocean science, the European Marine Board would like to highlight that the sharing of marine environmental data face different challenges, such as complex sources of data and formats, lack of support for making data Open and FAIR, and lack of encouragement of the inclusion of non-sensitive environmental / resources / social data in EU repositories such as EMODnet (<https://emodnet.ec.europa.eu/en/>). EMODnet is the *in situ* marine data service of the EC DG MARE and is the *in situ* marine pillar for the European Digital Twin Ocean(https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/eu-missions-horizon-europe/restore-our-ocean-and-waters/european-digital-twin-ocean-european-dto_en), connected to Destination Earth, and the wider European Green Deal Data Space. At the evaluation assessment for EMODnet of the 2014-2020 period by EC (published in 2023): "Overall, the external evaluation study assessed that improvements in productivity, innovation and accuracy yielded cumulative benefits in the order of 20 times the annual cost. Between 2014 and 2020, the funding provided by the EMFF amounted to EUR 51.3 million, i.e. EUR 7.3 million per year. So EMODnet has not only been effective in helping to achieve its objectives, but it is also efficient because it generates benefits that are larger than its cost." <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/5897e1d8-2ba9-11ee-95a2-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-search>

In addition, the GREAT project, funded by the Digital Europe program, aims to establish the Green Deal Data Space Foundation and its Community of Practice which builds on both the European Green Deal and the EU's Strategy for Data. <https://www.egi.eu/project/great-project/>

The European Marine Board's Future Science Brief No. 6 '[Big Data in Marine Science](#)' provides recommendations for scaling-up big data applications for improving our understanding of the marine environment and for managing human activities that impact the ocean. In summary, this document recommends to:

- **Enhance data acquisition** through the increase of efficiency of data transfer to allow more real-time, or near real-time analyses and decision making;
- **Enhance data handling and management** through more widespread adoption of community data standards and well-designed data management plans based on Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable (FAIR) principles so that data are machine-readable. We also recommend the increased use of existing marine data management infrastructures, such as EMODnet;
- **Increase data interoperability and accessibility** by upgrading European marine data management infrastructures to handle and exchange more multidisciplinary and real-time data. These infrastructures should include more integrated cloud computing, data storage and big data analytical tools. We recommend increased participation of the European marine science community in development of Virtual Research Environments (VREs) and European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) initiatives. We also recommend that these infrastructures should be sustained in the long term and that there should be more cross-disciplinary fertilization of computing technology from multimedia and digital sectors. Interoperability and data exchange between European data infrastructures and international counterparts will be important for common access to data on larger sea-basin and global scales and to create a 'digital ocean twin'.