

COASTMAP

news

GIS FOR THE MARINE AND COASTAL SECTORS

WELCOME

to the second issue of Coast Map News¹. This issue reports on a number of new and existing initiatives that take a variety of approaches to the dissemination of marine and coastal data and information. Meanwhile, the decision to implement Integrated Coastal Zone Management in Europe (see article below) provides yet another reason to develop a more integrated approach. ■

¹www.cefas.co.uk/coastmap

IN THIS ISSUE

- SOLUTIONS FOR INTEGRATION
- ICZ MAP UPDATE
- MARINE CONSENT & ENVIRONMENT UNIT
- SEASEARCH
- OCEANNET
- SWORDS INTO PLOUGHSHARES

Solutions for Integration

CoastNET is a network for exchange of ideas, information, skills and expertise about matters related to coastal management in the UK. One of the ways that it does this is through conferences that stimulate debate on current issues facing marine and coastal managers.

The subject for its October 2001 conference was Coastal and Marine Management - Solutions for Integration.

This recognised that, despite exhaustive debate over the past decade or more, the UK was still no nearer to Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM). Furthermore, we have seen a proliferation of new initiatives but almost no effective integration between them. Many feel that the creation of DEFRA to form one department that sponsors many of the agencies directly involved in estuarine, coastal and marine environmental regulation provides an opportunity for a fresh start. However, there is a need to engender a sense of real urgency to meet the needs of an ever increasing number of legislative and policy requirements.

In a novel format, 23 speakers were each invited to talk for a maximum of five minutes about their choice of a specific solution towards the integration agenda. These broke down into a number of themes: forums, regulation, area-based approaches, integrated planning and integrated information. Electronic copies of the conference papers are available².

The issues raised were familiar: duplication of effort, ineffective dissemination of information, wasted resources, competition for limited funding, no consideration of cumulative effects, complex legislation, etc. ▶

Continued on next page...

ICZMap update

This ICZMap project reported in Issue 1 of Coast Map News now has a website³. In order to disseminate information on the project and provide the means to attract feedback from potential users, the project team need to build a contact database of people with an interest in it, or on whom coastal management issues may impact. If you want to register an interest you will find a form on the website. ■ ³ www.iczmap.com



Members of the ICZMap project team at GIS 2002

THE MARINE CONSENTS & ENVIRONMENT UNIT

The formation, in April 2001, of the Marine Consents and Environment Unit (MCEU) represented a significant step towards integrated management of the marine and coastal environment. The Unit is an alliance between the branches of Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions (DTLR) that are responsible for legislation relating to marine works. As a result, there is now a single point of contact for legislation relating to marine developments, offshore energy, coast defences, dredging and waste disposal. This benefits applicants by simplifying the application and administration procedures, and the environment by facilitating a more holistic scientific assessment of planned works.

Now, the introduction of the Unit's website⁴ brings the UK one step nearer to an integrated marine and coastal information system. The original aim of the website was to enable applications to be made on-line and provide background information relating to the legislation. However, it is also developing into a 'portal' for access to more general information about marine environmental and navigational safety matters. Future plans include addition of an interactive mapping facility that will enable users to display spatial information about all of the marine works in a particular area. ■

⁴ www.mceu.gov.uk

Continued from front page.....

Unfortunately, there was no real consensus as to the best way to address these problems. There were, however, some successes to report. The Marine Consents and Environment Unit (see ICZMap Update) was considered to be an important step in the right direction and there were pleas for it to be extended to cover more areas of marine consents. The ICZMap project, whose website went live on the previous day also attracted a good deal of interest.

For many, the highlight of the day was the speech by Michael Meacher (DEFRA Minister for the Environment and Countryside) who, fresh from a meeting of the EU Council of Environmental Ministers, chose this event to announce that they had agreed on the implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management. Hopefully this will be the catalyst that is needed to bring about the long-awaited 'Solutions for Integration'. ■

² bob.earll@dial.pipex.com

"National strategies should ... include adequate systems for monitoring and disseminating information to the public about their coastal zone. These systems should collect and provide information in appropriate and compatible formats to decision-makers at national, regional and local levels to facilitate integrated management."

January 2002, Common Position (EC) No 13/2002 Concerning the Implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management in Europe

"Users of marine and coastal zone information are diverse and have a wide range of needs. The conclusions of this workshop were that there are a number of inadequacies in the availability of, and access to, the information that they require."

June 1999, CEFAS Integrated Mapping Workshop

SEA-SEARCH - a Gateway to Marine Data, Information, Products and Services in Europe

SEA-SEARCH is a European co-operative network of 16 national oceanographic data centres and



marine information services, each specialising in management and access provision to extensive resources of oceanographic and marine data & information. Funded by the European Commission, the primary goal of SEA-SEARCH is to provide users with a central overview of, and access to, marine data and information in Europe.



The SEA-SEARCH website⁵ hosts an array of catalogues, overviews and links, and acts as central gateway to ocean and marine information and data resources of SEA-SEARCH partners and other related organisations in Europe, including:

- The European Directory of Marine Environmental Datasets
- Directory of Research Cruises
- The European Directory of Marine Environmental Research Projects
- The Marine Environmental Research Projects directory
- Marine data networks in Europe
- Marine Data & Information Centres in Europe
- A free text search engine of partner websites

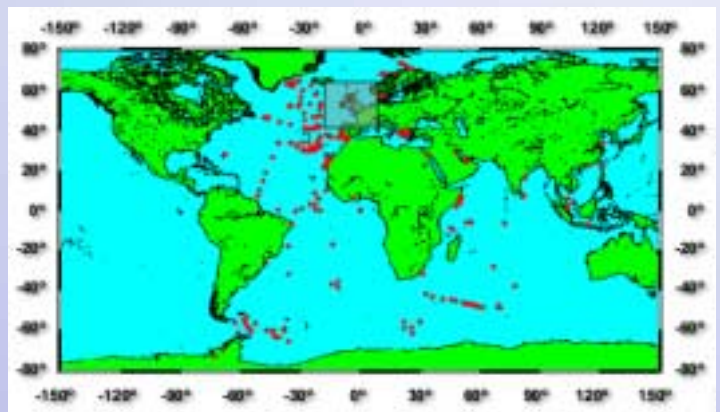
The on-line gateway to marine data, information, products and services in Europe can be accessed at [5www.sea-search.net](http://www.sea-search.net). ■

OCEANNET - THE UK MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL DATA NETWORK

The UK partner in SEA-SEARCH is the British Oceanographic Data Centre (BODC). BODC also provides a focus for the Marine Environmental Data Network - a partnership between UK Government Departments, Agencies and user groups with an interest in marine data under the auspices of the UK Inter-Agency Committee on Marine Science and Technology (IACMST).

The OceanNET web site⁶ has been set up to promote these activities and act as a portal to data and information about the marine environment. The OceanNET web site includes:

- Links to sources of marine data
- The UK Directory of Marine Environmental Data Sets, a component of the European Directory of Marine Environmental Data (EDMED)
- Climate of UK Waters at the Millennium - Status and Trends an on-line report describing current status and trends of weather, climate, sea temperature, salinity, sea level, waves and plankton in UK territorial waters
- The UK Cruise Inventory - information about research cruises carried out by UK scientists from the 1960s to the present day
- Coastal Zone Data Sets - information on major coastal data initiatives, links to diverse organisations collecting data in the coastal zone and links to other related catalogues
- The UK Inventory of Moored Current Meter Data contains current meter data collected by 80 organisations, primarily from seas around the British Isles and the eastern North Atlantic
- Marine Samples - report of an IACMST-sponsored Workshop which provides an overview of the UK's marine sample holdings
- The UK Inventory of Marine Monitoring Observations - a catalogue of measurements that are made on a routine basis in the waters around the UK (and further afield under UK funding). ■



⁶www.oceannet.org

SWORDS INTO PLOUGHSHARES?

DEFRA have recently supported a novel project to explore whether a technique, which was originally developed for use in military intelligence, could be adapted to meet the needs of marine and coastal information users. This project, which has been nicknamed 'ShaRK' (Sharing Resources for Knowledge) resulted from a partnership between CEFAS⁷ and Anite.net Ltd - a specialist information and e-Government company with experience in providing unusual and innovative information solutions.



The project emerged from the recognition that there were a number of similarities between the information requirements of the military intelligence community and those who manage or research the marine environment. These include the need to gather data in a frequently hostile environment with limited resources and fast-changing information requirements. The project therefore set out to explore whether a technique developed by the British Military Intelligence might be adapted for use in the marine and coastal knowledge and information environment. The technique, which has been proven in such hotspots as Bosnia, Kosovo and the Gulf, is known as CCIRM (Collection Co-ordination and Information Requirements Management).

The ShaRK project was primarily a scoping study to develop and test out the approach. It confirmed that a modified version of CCIRM could be used as an integrated system for managing knowledge and information about the marine and coastal environment. The result would be a system that is user-led, and technology independent so that it compliments rather than replaces existing initiatives. It also indicated that the benefits from adopting this approach would be significant, including more cost-effective information collection and improved support for decision-making and research. Given recent developments in Europe such as the Bergen Declaration, the adoption of ICZM, and the Water Framework Directive etc this is needed now more than ever. ■

⁷f.l.franklin@cefas.co.uk



CEFAS Burnham Laboratory
Remembrance Avenue
Burnham-on-Crouch
Essex CM0 8HA
Tel: +44 (0) 1621 787200
Fax: +44 (0) 1621 784989
<http://www.cefas.co.uk>

Editor: f.l.franklin@cefas.co.uk

Design and production:
Rachel Irish & Gill Hustwayte.

DATA PROTECTION
The CEFAS mailing list database for
Coast Map News is not sold or other-
wise distributed outside CEFAS

EVENTS

COZONE: Coastal Networks Meeting, King's College London, 25 June 2002
<http://cozone.org.uk/meetings.htm>

8th European Commission GI and GIS Workshop: ESDI - A Work in Progress, Dublin, Ireland 3-5 July 2002
www.ec-gis.org/Workshops/8th-gis/home.html

Second International Symposium on GIS/Spatial Analyses in Fisheries and Aquatic Science, Brighton, UK, 3-6 September 2002
<http://www.esl.co.jp/Sympo/sympo11.htm>

GIS 2002, London, UK, 17-19 September 2002
<http://www.agi.org.uk/public/events-news/frames.html>

Colour of Ocean Data: A Symposium on Oceanographic Data and Information Management with Special Attention to Biological Data, Brussels, 25-27 November 2002
www.vliz.be/En/Activ/Cod/cod.htm