Marine Data News

MEDIN marine environmental data & information network

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A MEDIN metadata HELPLINE is now available

CALL 01752 633291

If you have any problems generating metadata or have any metadata related questions please contact our support helpdesk on 01752 633291 for help and advice.

The helpdesk email address is **medin.metadata@mba.ac.uk**

Upgrades to UKDMOS

Upgrades have been made to the application that shows UK marine monitoring programmes to improve coordination: **www.ukdmos.org**.

UKDMOS is a web-based searchable application of marine monitoring programmes conducted by the UK which provides information to coordinate marine monitoring across different organisations. Further details are available **here**. More recently UKDMOS has undergone some developments which include:

- Integration of the UKMMAS Protocols database so that the protocols for each monitoring programme can be viewed.

- Allowing searches by the descriptors and indicators used in the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

- Linking the ships used for each monitoring programme to a sister application 'Eurofleets' where the cruise plans and cruise summary reports for those ships can be viewed. Further details on eurofleets can be seen **here** and project website **here**.

www.ukdmos.org

MMO announce marine plan areas

The MMO has announced the first two marine plan areas that will be developed from April 2011. These sea areas are off the coast between Flamborough Head in East Riding of Yorkshire to Felixstowe in Suffolk (known formally as East Inshore and East Offshore). More information **here**.

Please post any comments or concerns on the **SIG Discussion Forum**.

News

HR Wallingford creates new Environment team

International research and consultancy organisation HR Wallingford has announced the creation of a new team of environmental specialists to enhance existing capabilities and act as a centre of excellence for aquatic environmental solutions.

Environmental issues are at the heart of sustainable economic growth and social development. Management of the environment aims to conserve ecosystems now and for future generations, for their value as a natural resource as well as for the services and benefits they provide to society. Over the past 20 years a significant body of environmental legislation has been introduced to ensure that the principles of sustainable development and environmental protection are considered during the planning and implementation of projects.

Due to strong growth in market opportunity and recent indications from our national and international clients, HR Wallingford has created a new environment group as a centre of excellence for aquatic environmental solutions. The environment group integrates environmental expertise and assessment into HR Wallingford's world-leading capabilities in civil engineering and hydraulics. The group brings together HR Wallingford's existing environmental specialists and experienced new staff from a wide range of professional backgrounds including environmental regulation, marine ecology and Environmental Impact Assessment.

"Much of HR Wallingford's work focuses on the state of the aquatic environment and the effects of changes to that state," explains Nicola Clay, manager of the new group. "Our new environment group will provide consultancy advice, environmental assessment and policy support to underpin and add value to our existing services. We will give our clients useful and meaningful information to help them understand the key environmental issues, maximising accessibility for non-specialists through the innovative application of GIS and highly visual presentation techniques."

In keeping with HR Wallingford's reputation for innovative research, the new team will also develop modelling and predictive tools for use in environmental assessment and management, with a particular focus on tools that can assist in ecosystem based management such as ecological and water quality modelling.

One of the first projects the new environment group will work on is to develop a method of assessing the vulnerability of marine habitats in Wales to the impacts of climate change, for the Countryside Council for Wales. This work will assist in meeting the requirements of the Climate Change Act 2008.

New NERC Data Policy for Jan 2011

The National Environment Research Council's (NERC) Data Policy details NERC's commitment to support the long-term management of environmental data and also outlines the roles and responsibilities of all those involved in collecting and managing environmental data. The NERC data centres provide support and guidance in data management to those funded by NERC, are responsible for the long-term management of data and provide access to NERC's holdings of environmental data.

The new policy can be viewed here: **http://www.nerc.ac.uk/research/sites/data/policy2011.asp**

NERC have created the data policy to be consistent with legal frameworks, such as the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, the INSPIRE Regulations 2009 and contractual arrangements with other bodies where, for example, NERC holds data on their behalf but does not own the intellectual property rights.

To reflect NERC's continuing commitment to openness and transparency in the research process, and in support of the government's developing agenda on open access to public data, the NERC Data Policy has been substantially revised, and this new version of NERC's Data Policy will come into force in January 2011.

Key items within the new Data Policy

There are a number of significant changes in the new Data Policy, compared to the existing version.

The policy covers environmental data acquired, assembled or created through research, survey and monitoring activities that are either fully or partially funded by NERC. It also applies to environmental data managed by NERC where NERC was not the original funder. At the heart of the policy is a clear definition of environmental data - placing the government's concept of public data in a scientific context.

All environmental data held by the NERC data centres will be made freely available without any restrictions on use - except for a limited number of data sets where third party rights require NERC to restrict access or to levy charges, or for large or complex requests, where NERC may charge for the cost of supplying the data.

The policy introduces a formal requirement for all applications for NERC funding to include outline data management plans, which will be evaluated as part of the standard NERC grant assessment process. This brings NERC into line with similar requirements from MRC and BBSRC, and the requirement for a data management plan announced by the **National Science Foundation**. All successful applicants for funding will be required to produce a full data management plan, in conjunction with the relevant NERC data centre.

There is a clear definition of how long researchers will be entitled to exclusive access to the data they generate. This 'right of first use' will normally be two years from the end of data collection.

The policy introduces the concept of the NERC 'Data Value Checklist'. This is a set of criteria which will be used to identify environmental data of long-term value, and will inform all decisions that the NERC data centres make on the acquisition and disposal of environmental data.

The policy includes a clear statement on the need for openness and access to the data that underpin research publications. It also introduces a new requirement that all research publications arising from NERC funding must include a statement on how the supporting data and any other relevant research materials can be accessed.

The policy will come into force in January 2011; however, the requirement for data management plans will not be implemented until 2012, to allow NERC time to implement new grant application and review processes fully as part of the migration of grant processing to the RCUK Shared Services Centre.

Metadata Tools Launched

UK Location has launched the beta version of the Metadata Editor which will enable users to create, edit and validate UK Location compliant discovery metadata resources. The Metadata Editor has been built by Ordnance Survey using the GeoNetwork platform and is available in two formats - *Online* and *Download* (see below).

The MEDIN standards working group is currently considering how these tools can be extended to the MEDIN profile and how to attain interoperability between MEDIN and UK Location metadata and discovery services.

Online

The online version is for use by metadata creators to create, edit, validate and export their metadata records.

The online version of the editor requires registration before use. By default, when registering for the UK Location Metadata Editor the first person to register for an organisation is recognised as the account owner and administrator for that organisation. They will then be able to set up others in their organisation to use it too.

Please note that the online version of the Metadata Editor is not designed for storage or publication of

metadata records, but for creating, editing, validation and export only. Once a metadata record is created it should be downloaded to your own system for secure storage.

Download

The Metadata Editor is will also be available on Monday 1 November as a downloadable configuration file for GeoNetwork v2.6.0. This provides the option to Data Providers and Publishers to create and maintain their own local instance of the Metadata Editor, rather than using the on-line version.

Please note that GeoNetwork is currently being upgraded to V2.6.1 (due for Launch early November). An update of the downloadable configuration file will be released mid November (subject to the GeoNetwork release), which will contain revisions to fit with the latest version.

This first version of the Metadata Editor includes a number of outstanding issues. It is anticipated that the majority of these will be addressed by GeoNetwork v2.6.1. The decision to release ahead of this new version of GeoNetwork is to allow Data Providers and Publishers to register and familiarise themselves with the Metadata Editor, start creation of metadata and engage with system suppliers and IT departments

Full details, including a list of outstanding issues, registration for the on-line version of the editor, and the opportunity for feedback can be found at the Discovery Metadata Service.

The Metadata Editor is not the only tool and its use is not mandated for creating compliant metadata records, Data Providers and Publishers may wish to use their own UK Location compliant tools.

More information can be found on the **UK Location website**.