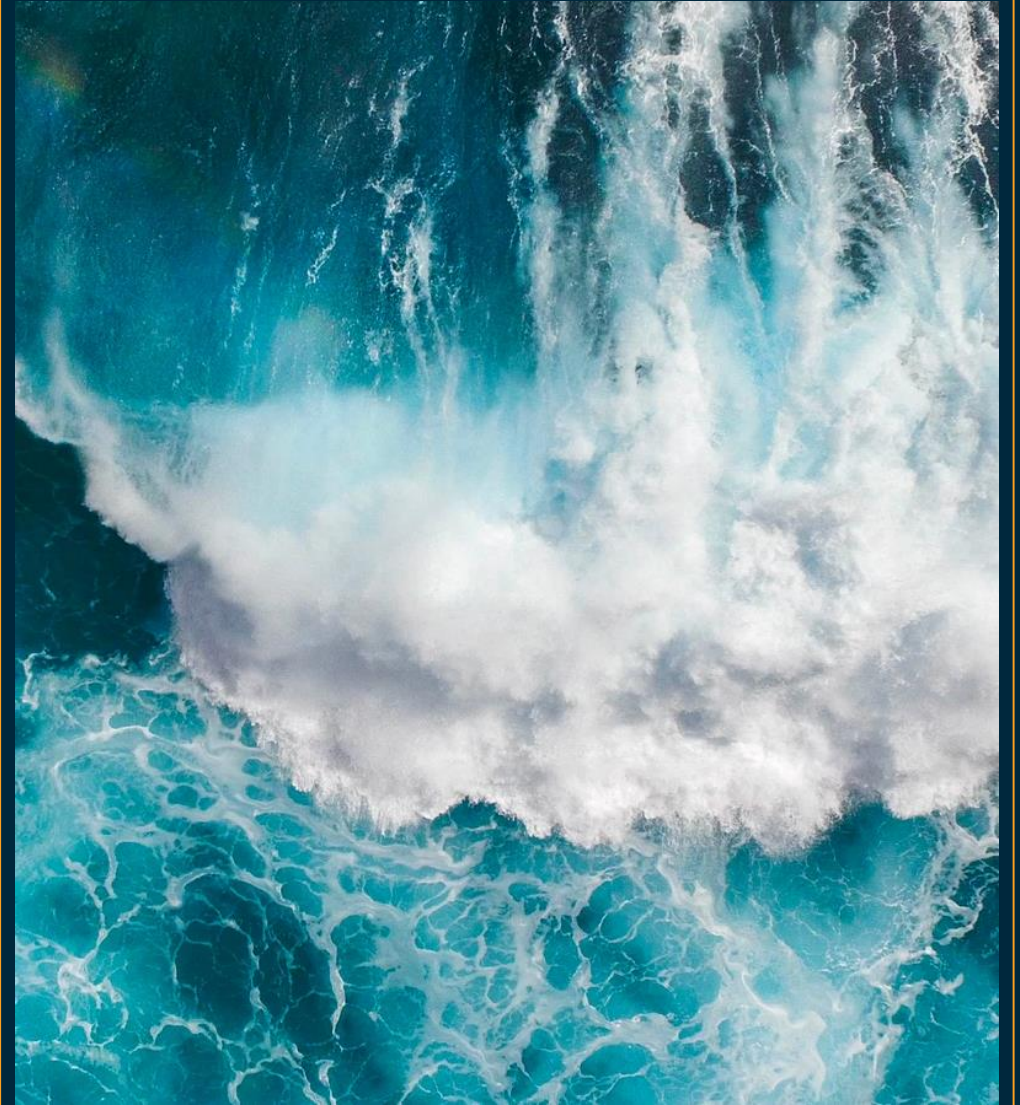


# The Role of Marine Data in Enabling a Sustainable Blue Economy

Harriet Baldwin – Marine Insights Manager  
The Crown Estate

24<sup>th</sup> April 2024



# Agenda

- Introduction to The Crown Estate
- Introduction to The Crown Estate: Strategic Objectives
- Introduction to The Crown Estate: Marine
- A sustainable blue economy
- Marine Data and Evidence at The Crown Estate
- The Marine Data Exchange
- The Marine Data Exchange and MEDIN
- Data to delivery
- International sustainability
- Marine Data Exchange Impact



Dating back more than 260 years, The Crown Estate is a unique business with a diverse portfolio that stretches across England, Wales and Northern Ireland



### **Established by The Crown Estate Act of 1961**

As an independent commercial business with accountability to Parliament.



### **Return our net revenue profit to the Treasury**

For the benefit of the nation's finances, with £3bn generated in the last 10 years.



### **Active owners and managers of land and seabed**

We are one of the UK's largest landowners, with some of the nation's most remarkable places and spaces. We seek to leverage our scale and convening power to make a meaningful difference.



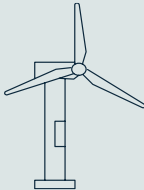

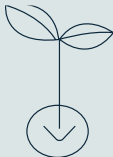


### **Guided by a compelling purpose**

To create lasting and shared prosperity for the nation








### **Delivering an ambitious strategy**

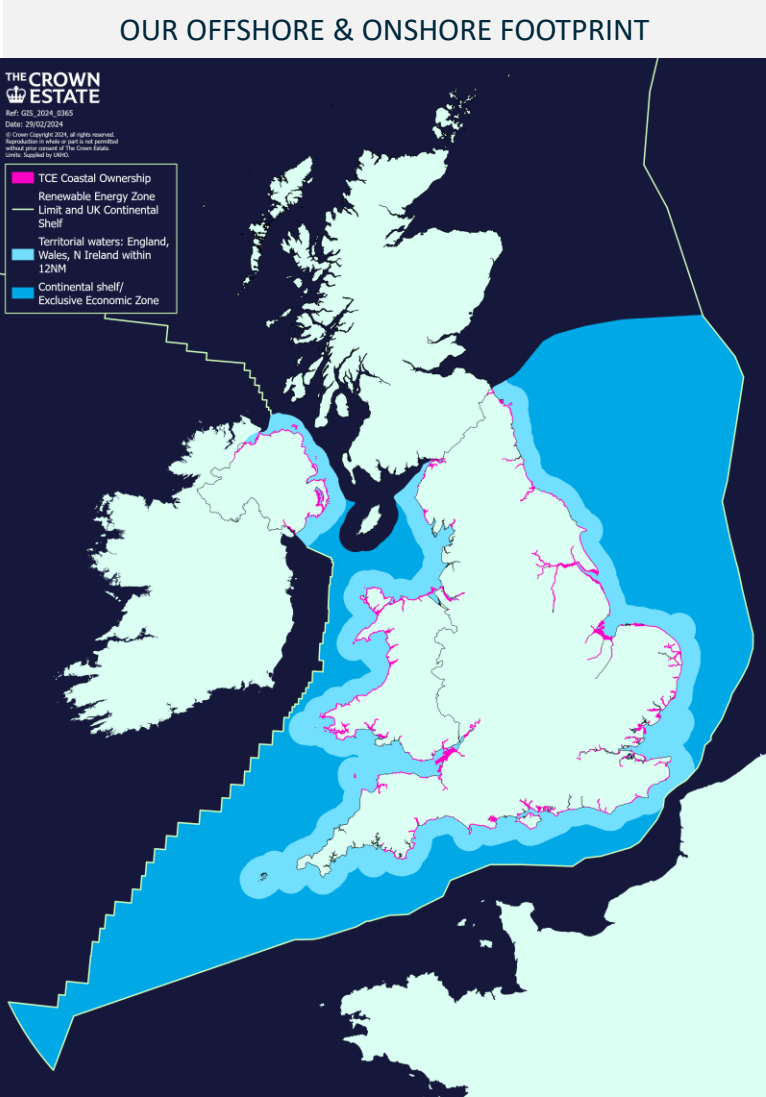
Guided by our purpose and informed by major trends impacting our business, we seek to create broad financial, environmental and social value for our stakeholders, customers and the nation.

|                          |  |   |   |  |                              |
|--------------------------|--|---|---|--|------------------------------|
| Our Purpose              | To create lasting and shared prosperity for the nation   |   |   |  |                              |
| Our distinct attributes  | Long term view   | Independence and simplicity of role   | Power to convene and catalyse   | Our ownership  | Trusted brand and reputation |
| National Needs           | Energy Security and Net Zero agendas   |   | Economic growth & productivity  | Growing pressure on urban centres  | Biodiversity loss            |
| Our Strategic Objectives |  Being a leader in supporting the UK towards a net zero carbon and energy-secure future |  Helping create inclusive communities and supporting equality, economic growth and productivity |  Taking a leading role in stewarding the UK’s natural environment and biodiversity |  Responsibly generating value and financial returns for the country |                              |
| Enabled Value            |    |   |   |  |                              |
| Business Drivers         | Safety First   | Digital & Data  | Sustainability  | Customer   |                              |

# As custodian of the marine environment, TCE leads sustainable development to protect the seabed while creating lasting value

## OUR PAN-SECTORAL VIEW INCL. HABITAT

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <br><b>Energy</b><br>Offshore wind<br>Energy conversion<br>Marine energy | <br><b>Storage</b><br>CCUS<br>Hydrogen<br>Natural gas                      |
| <br><b>Infrastructure</b><br>Power & Telco<br>Cables<br>Pipelines        | <br><b>Minerals</b><br>Reclamation<br>Aggregate dredging<br>Marine mining  |
| <br><b>Coastal</b><br>Ports and harbours<br>Aquaculture<br>Leisure       | <br><b>Habitats</b><br>Habitat creation<br>Biodiversity<br>Nature recovery |



- ### OUR CAPABILITIES
- ✓ Our deep expertise and experience (incl. multi-sector knowledge, data and spatial insight)
  - ✓ Our ability to look across sectors (e.g. energy, minerals, nature) balancing competing and complementary demands
  - ✓ Requirement and purpose to protect while delivering greatest value for the nation
  - ✓ Statutory independence and our ability to take an objective long-term view
  - ✓ Our power to convene and partner with others to bring the marine vision to life



# What is a sustainable blue economy?

= Unlocking the potential of our seabed, sea and coastline to support the nation's transition to a resilient, sustainable and decarbonised future.

Which means....

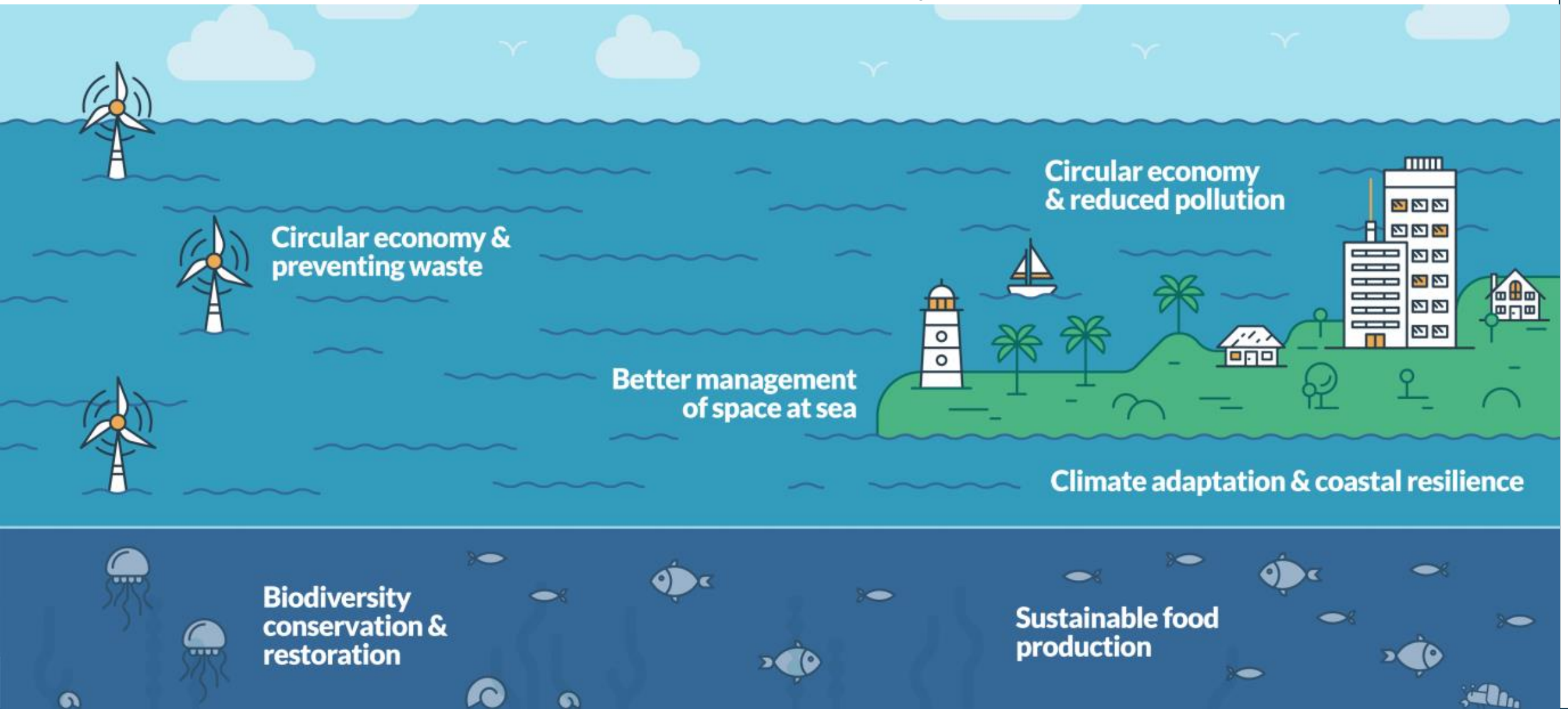
- Enabling the roll out of renewable energies & infrastructure

## **WHILST**

- Maintaining the rich biodiversity of our seas...
- And supporting inclusive communities <3
- And driving economic growth

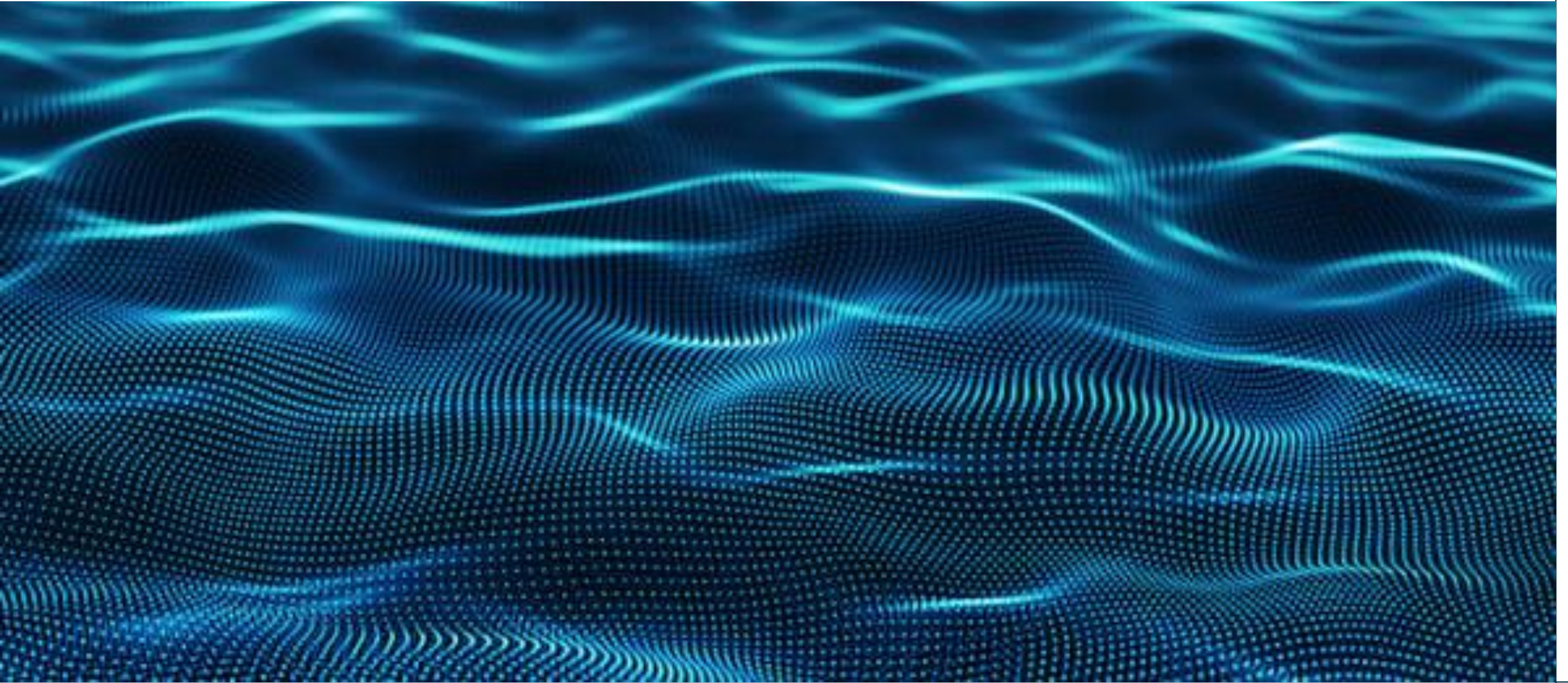


# How do we deliver a sustainable blue economy?





Through DATA!





# Our role in data:

We have been proactively investing in world-leading marine data and evidence for over 20 years.

We do this in collaboration with others to drive positive change and to promote innovative and sustainable ways in how we collect, share and use data.



**DELIVERING RESEARCH AND  
EVIDENCE PROJECTS THAT  
DRIVE CHANGE**

**Marine**   
**Data Exchange**

**PROVIDING THE WORLD'S  
LARGEST RESOURCE OF MARINE  
INDUSTRY SURVEY DATA,  
RESEARCH AND EVIDENCE.**

AWARD WINNING SPATIAL  
PLANNING SYSTEMS – WHOLE OF  
SEABED PROGRAMME

OFFSHORE WIND EVIDENCE +  
KNOWLEDGE HUB

ENABLING BETTER DATA  
OUTCOMES THROUGH  
COLLABORATION  
+ PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE DATA  
COLLECTION



What are you looking for?

Name, Location, Theme, Development...



PREVIOUS 01 — 06 NEXT

# Welcome to the Marine Data Exchange

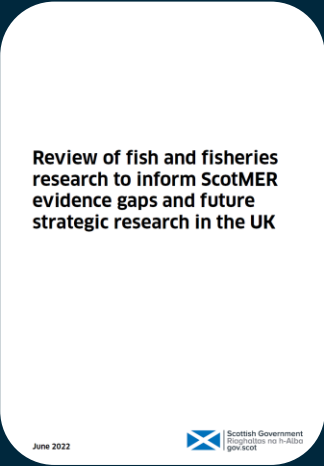
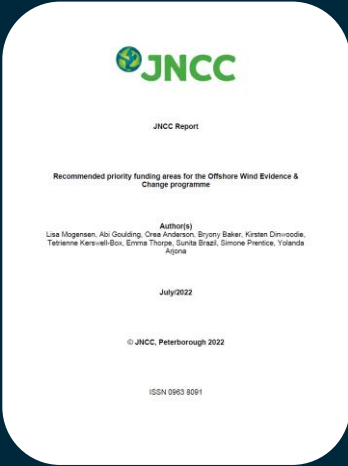
The Marine Data Exchange is a world-leading collection off offshore marine industry data and evidence.

[Explore the data](#)



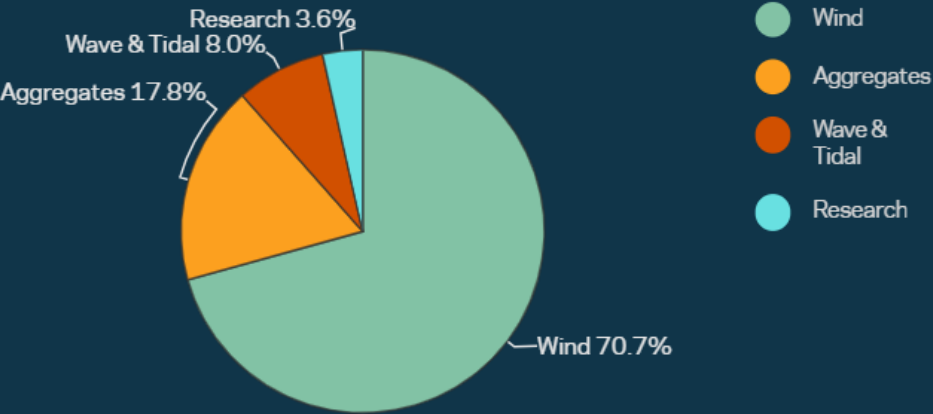


# The Data



## Data Holding by Industry

Percentage composition of MDE survey holding by industry (Jan 2024)



## MDE in Numbers



2929

Number of Series



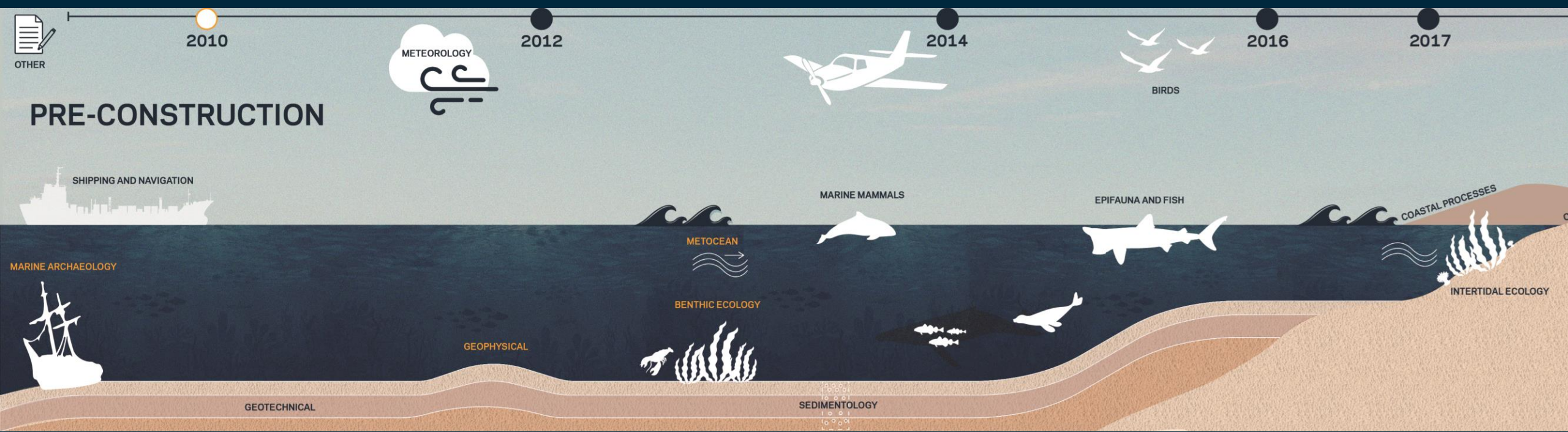
268

Terabytes of Data



5200

Users (2023-2024)





# How do we work with MEDIN?

- Work with industry to develop and promote FAIR data.
- Flexible yet consistent; adapting with the industry .



**FINDABLE** The new MDE website, and the continued use of MEDIN Discovery Metadata mean that industry data on the MDE can be found via two sites. Plans are in place to begin to feed the data in EMODnet, and further improve search functionality.

**ACCESSIBLE** The new MDE website offers improved accessibility, and some datasets are being ingested into EMODnet. In the short term, development of the key resources and new content tools will make data even more accessible for a diverse range of users.

**INTEROPERABLE** Industry data on the MDE is in different formats and fragmentary in its nature. However, steps are being made to improve this, with work being done to start to standardise geotechnical data, while data cracking tools are giving us the ability to extract data and store it in more userfriendly formats.

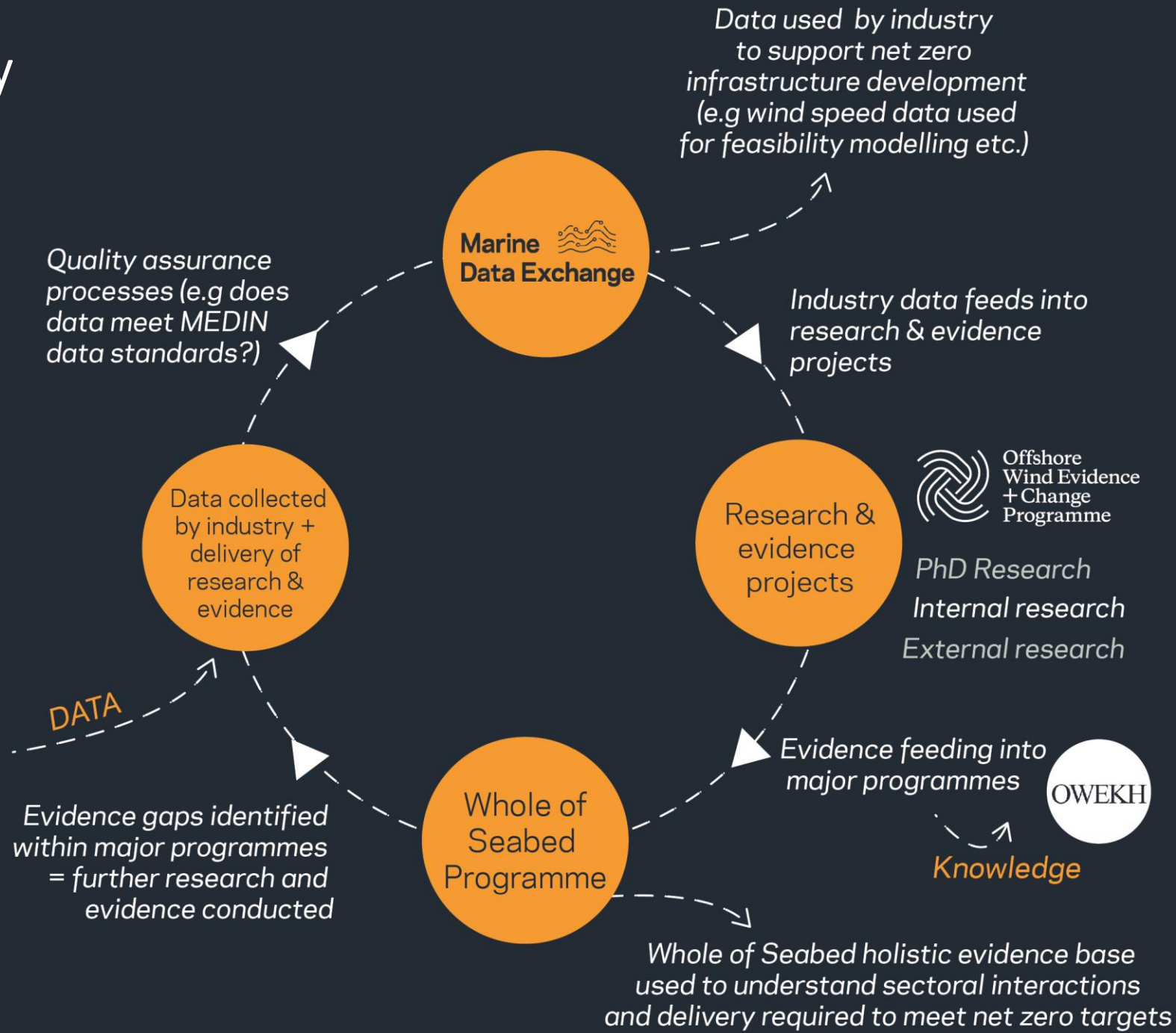
**REUSABLE** The MDE implements the MEDIN data standards to ensure all data uploaded is as reusable as possible. Improving industry attitudes to providing data to the MDE has also aided the acquisition of historical data.

# How is the data used to drive a sustainable blue economy?





# Data to Delivery





# International Sustainability



*Join us for this satellite event!*

## **How to harness private sector data to boost ocean science and drive a sustainable ocean economy - guidelines and benefits**

*Thursday 11 April 2024, 13:15 - 14:50, Baltic Sea Room, CCIB*



**2021  
2030** United Nations Decade  
of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development



## **Challenge 9**

**Skills, knowledge and technology for all**

Ensure comprehensive capacity development and equitable access to data, information, knowledge and technology across all aspects of ocean science and for all stakeholders.

# Impact of Data and Evidence



- Lessons learned and existing data used in feasibility modelling
- Free access = drives innovation
- Collect once use many times = reduced surveying = reduced carbon footprint
- Data used to close evidence gaps = promotes more sustainable and considered practices = reduced consenting risk = streamlines net zero delivery



Thank you for  
listening!





# Questions?

*Underwater Photographer of the Year, 2024  
British Waters Living Together category, winner*

*Photographer: Kirsty Andrews  
Image caption: Bottled Blenny  
Country taken: UK  
Location: Fal River, Cornwall*





Additional Slides



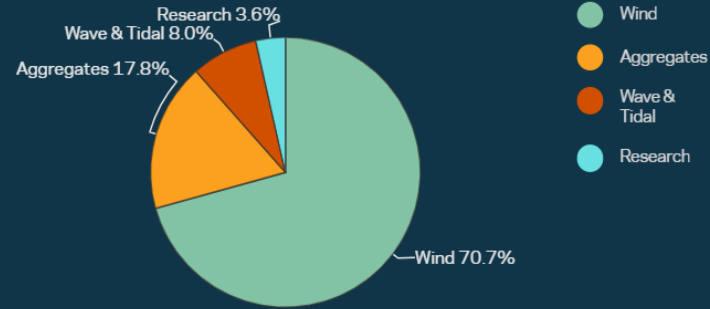
# Marine Data Exchange

A world-leading collection of offshore marine industry data

By making the wealth of data collected by offshore industries freely available through the [Marine Data Exchange](#), we give offshore projects in the UK a valuable head start, helping those involved to make informed, evidence-based decisions.

## Data Holding by Industry

Percentage composition of MDE survey holding by industry (Jan 2024)



## MDE in Numbers



2929

Number of Series



268

Terabytes of Data

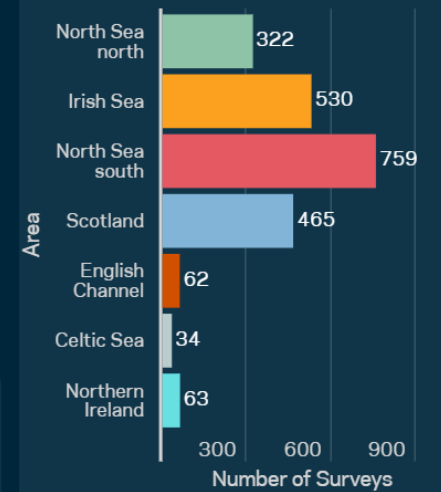


5200

Users (2023-2024)

## Surveys by Area

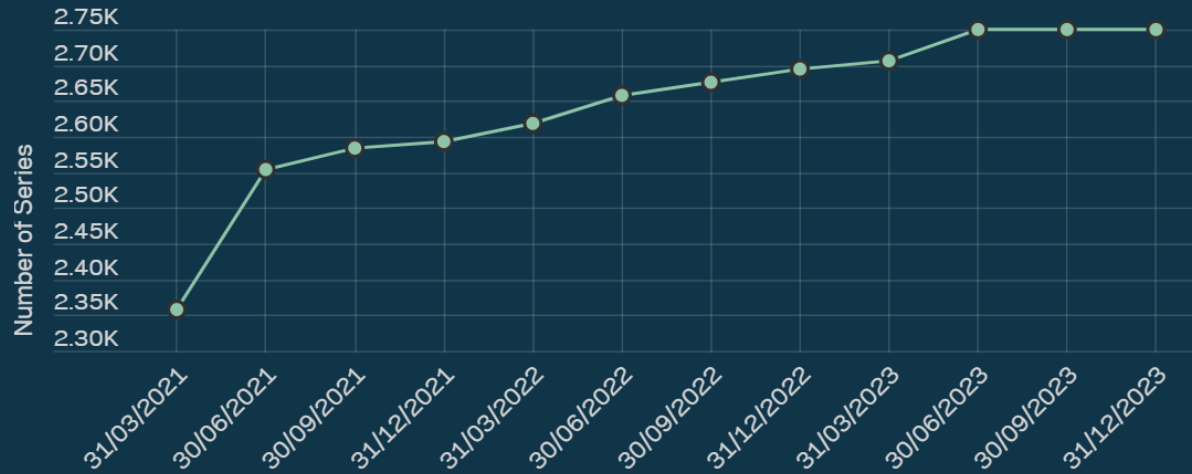
Number of surveys by collection area (Jan 2024)



## Growth of data holding over time

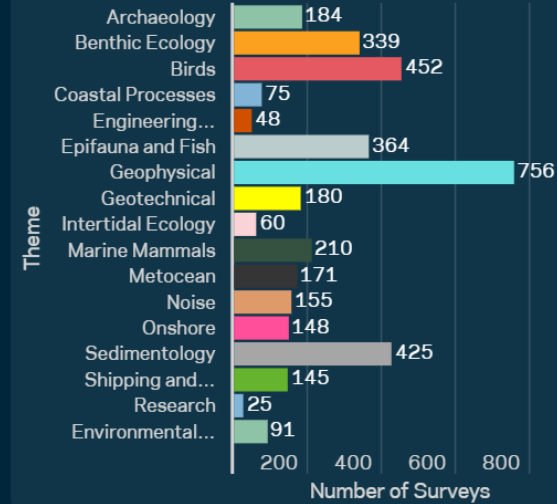
Number of Series added to the MDE over time, including non-public datasets (Jan 2024)

The graph begins in May 2021 at over 2000 Series, as this is when the MDE moved to the new site, or "new-look" MDE. See the [MDE History](#) for more details.



## Data Holding by Theme

Number of Series (Surveys) by Theme (Jan 2024)



## The MDE Team

From marine biologists and geospatial specialists, to software engineers and web designers, learn more about the [MDE Team](#).





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# OWEKH



Our mission is to support the consenting process for offshore wind projects by providing a sector-wide online portal supporting a single point of access to data and information including the **latest guidance and best practice documents**.

The portal and the governance associated with it will collectively connect stakeholders across the industry and facilitate the assimilation of data and information into knowledge tools (**guidance or statements of understanding**).

This coordinated approach will support impact assessments and consenting decisions by providing consistent and clear direction to **support rapid high-quality consenting**.

Our goal is to support sustained and accelerated **sustainable growth** in generation of offshore wind energy.

## OWEKH

[Home](#)

## External Resources

Here you will find links to websites and data portals that contain useful information relating to consenting and other marine data and information.

## Key Data Portals

Key data portals collaborating with OWEKH.

**Marine Data Exchange**

### Marine Data Exchange (MDE)

The MDE holds the world's largest database of marine industry survey data, research and evidence and contains over 200 terabytes of survey data collected throughout the lifecycle of offshore projects in Finland, Wales and Northern

**MEDIN**  
marine environmental data & information network

### MEDIN

The MEDIN data portal contains information about 17380 marine datasets from over 600 UK organisations.

## Technical Topic Groups

Groups of experts focusing on an individual specialist topic area, collaborating to identify, curate and create effective practical guidance.

Search by topic, tag or keyword



owekh

[OWEKH Home](#)

[Profile](#)

[Notifications](#)

## Profile

Manage your OWEKH profile details below.

User name

harriet.baldwin@thecrownestate.co.uk

Email

harriet.baldwin@thecrownestate.co.uk

Full name

Harriet Baldwin

Organisation

The Crown Estate

Job Title

Marine Insights Manager (Whole of Seabed Programme)

☐ I am happy to be contacted about new updates to OWEKH.

[Save](#)







[Cancel](#)

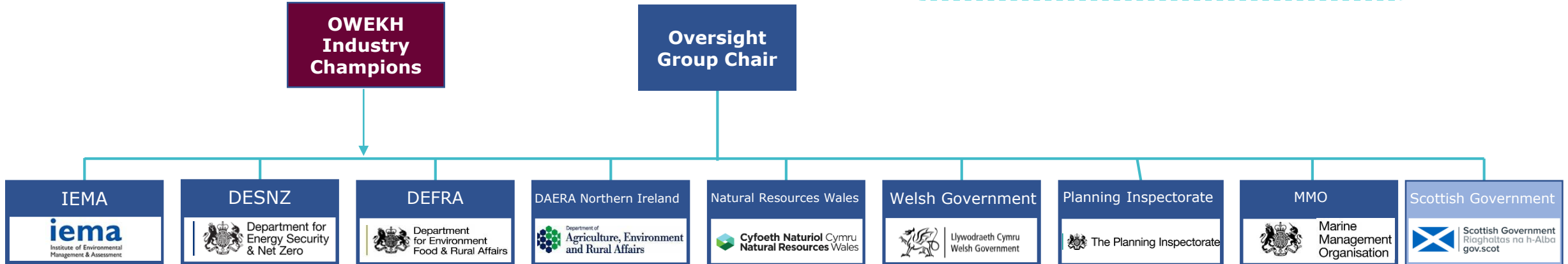
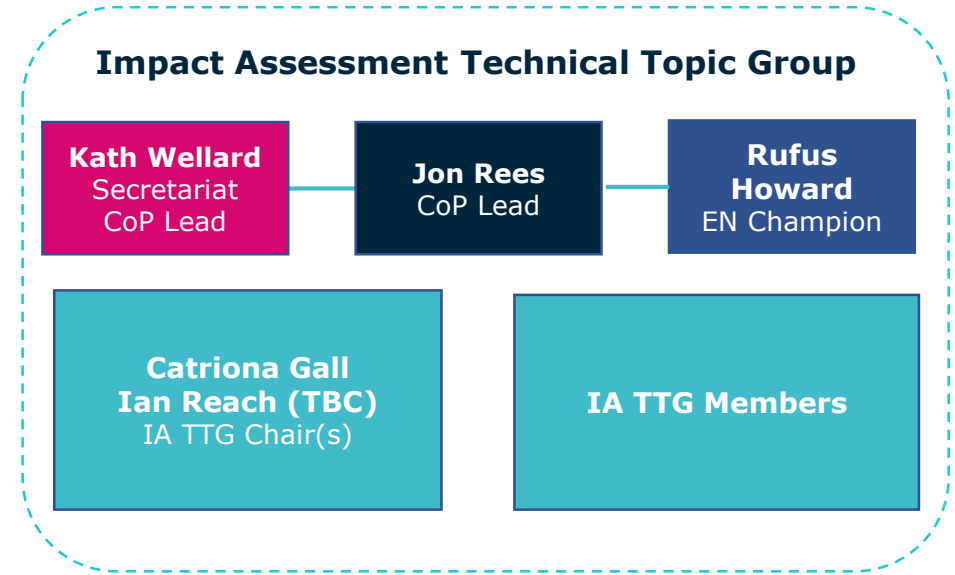
[Delete Account](#)

OWEKH launched Jan 10<sup>th</sup>!





-  The Crown Estate
-  AtkinsRéalis
-  Industry Champions
-  IA TTG
-  Oversight Group
-  Oversight Group (Pending)



Advisory