

Factsheet “What is the difference between MEDIN, UKDMOS and MERMAN?”

MEDIN is the Marine Environmental Data and Information Network.

- Set up in 2008 to improve access to UK marine data for **the entire marine community**, MEDIN has 14 sponsoring organisations and >50 partners.
- MEDIN operates through a **network of Data Archive Centres (DACs)**. DACs are UK organisations accredited by MEDIN as expert in archiving certain data types. For example, the Archive for Marine Species and Habitats Data (DASSH) is the MEDIN DAC for marine biodiversity data. A MEDIN DAC will provide archiving services for any organisation or individual who wishes to securely archive their data.
- The **MEDIN discovery metadata portal** describes the **marine data holdings of >600 UK organisations**. Our aim is to provide **direct online access to data** from metadata records. Currently, the MEDIN portal holds just under **15,000 metadata records of marine data sets** collected to answer a range of scientific, policy, conservation and commercial questions.



UKDMOS is the United Kingdom Directory of Marine Observing Systems and is a unique online searchable **database of marine monitoring conducted by UK organisations**. UKDMOS holds information on **over 270 UK monitoring programmes** and over 15,000 associated monitoring stations. It aims to fulfil the basic requirement to know **where, when and what is being monitored** in the marine environment around the UK. It is intended for use by the **UK Marine Monitoring and Assessment Strategy (UKMMAS)** community to facilitate:

- Policy makers and organisations in maintaining an overview of monitoring programmes for which they are responsible.
- Organisations to identify where resources may be better coordinated, for example, where additional samples may be taken on behalf of another organisation or where ship time may be shared.
- An analysis of whether data from UK monitoring programmes will be geographically and temporally sufficient to provide robust assessments of the marine environment for national and international legislation and objectives.



MEDIN manage, maintain and update UKDMOS.

MERMAN is the Marine Environment Monitoring and Assessment National database and holds UK data collected from eight UK organisations to fulfil the UK's mandatory monitoring requirements under the Oslo and Paris Convention (OSPAR) Joint Assessments and Monitoring Programme (JAMP). These data are collected under the **Clean Safe Seas Environmental Monitoring Programme (CSEMP)** and are used in support of European Commission (EC) directives and national assessments and supplied to EMODnet.

- MERMAN is funded by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Northern Ireland (DAERA), the Agri-Food Biosciences Institute Northern Ireland (AFBI) and Marine Scotland Science (MSS).
- There are approximately 1000 core stations, monitored to determine long-term trends around the UK's coastline. **Contaminants** are measured in **waters, sediments and biota** to assess their distribution and fate in the environment. Biological effects are also measured to determine the response of organisms to contaminants. Data are **quality assured** using internal and external programmes.
- The principal output from the coordinated monitoring is an annual submission of quality assured data to the **International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES)**.
- Metadata in the MEDIN portal describe data sets in MERMAN and records in UKDMOS describe the monitoring programmes collecting data in the MERMAN database.

MERMAN