MEDIN – The Hub for UK Marine Data

Clare F Postlethwaite, Marine Environmental Data and Information Network - MEDIN (UK),
cfpo@bodc.ac.uk
Lesley Rickards, Marine Environmental Data and Information Network - MEDIN (UK), ljr@bodc.ac.uk
Gaynor Evans, Marine Environmental Data and Information Network - MEDIN (UK), gaev@bodc.ac.uk

Marine science and marine management decisions are underpinned by good quality data. Marine data are assets that can be reused many times to, for example: supplement new measurements; provide temporal or geographical context; monitor environmental change; or make decisions about where and how commercial or recreational activities should take place. Marine data are collected by a plethora of organisations for a range of reasons including academic research, environmental monitoring, defence and commercial activities. As long as any limitations with such data are fully understood, these data are potentially reusable. There are over 200 holders of marine data in the UK so it has traditionally been difficult for the marine community to make full use of the UK marine data assets. The Marine Environmental Data and Information Network (MEDIN) has been working with both public and private organisations to make it easier to share UK marine data and to ensure that data are well documented and securely archived. To do this, MEDIN has provided:

- A network of 7 accredited Data Archive Centres to ensure long term curation of a wide range of marine data.

- A single portal to search the data holdings of the Data Archive Centres, as well as those held my several other public and private sector organisations.

- A marine specific discovery metadata standard.

- A range of guidelines to identify the metadata needs of different data types.

MEDIN has significantly increased access to UK marine data by promoting best practice, influencing the release of terabytes of marine industry data, providing marine metadata standards as well as a single hub to search the data collected by hundreds of disparate organisations. However, there are still challenges ahead. In particular MEDIN are looking to make more data directly downloadable from the metadata - "2 clicks to data"; engage with more private sector partners; and improve the functionality of the MEDIN search portal.