MEDIN -The Hub for UK Marine Data
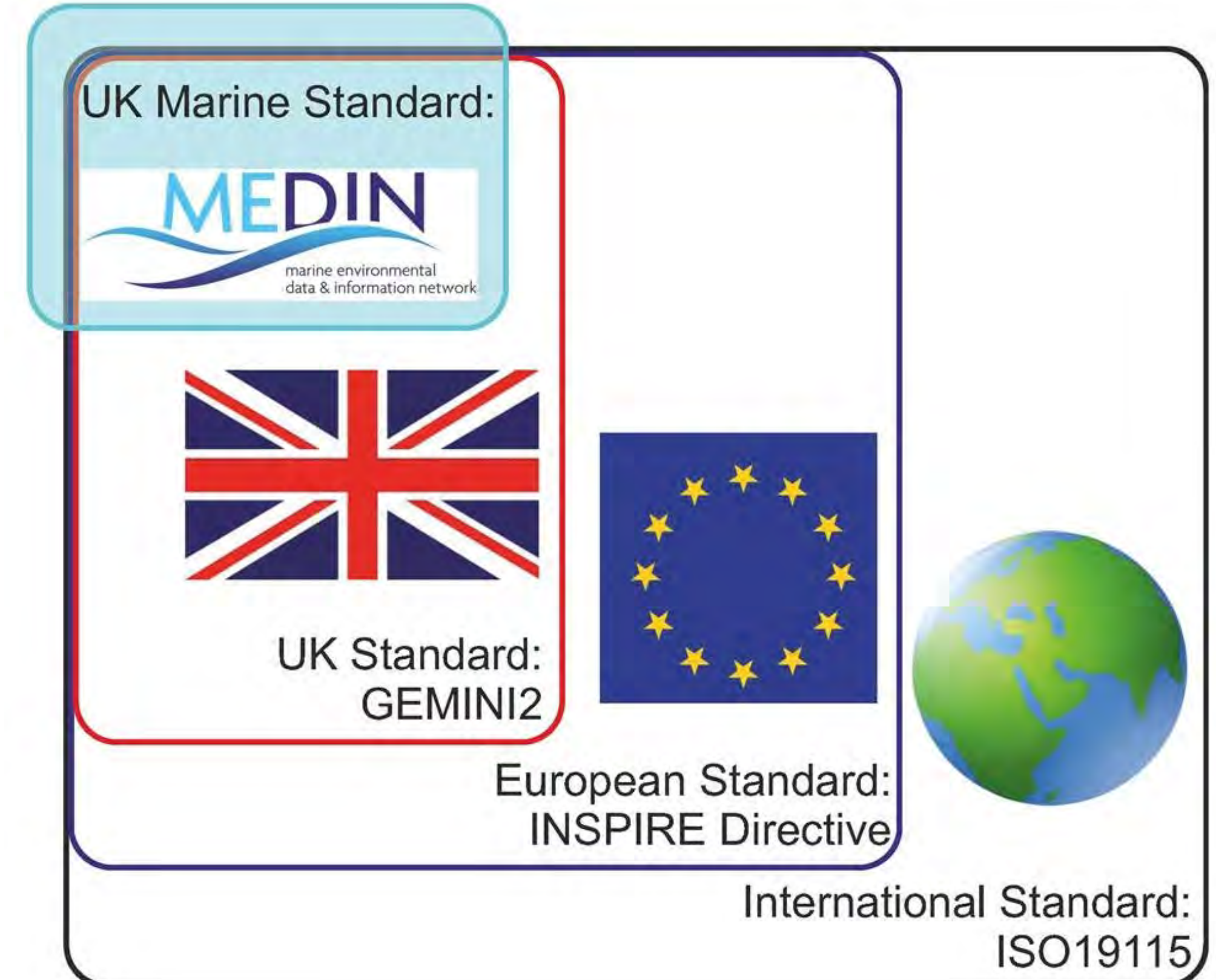
marine environmental data & information network

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Abstract

Marine science and marine management decisions are underpinned by good quality data. Marine data are assets that can be reused many times and 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 all 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.
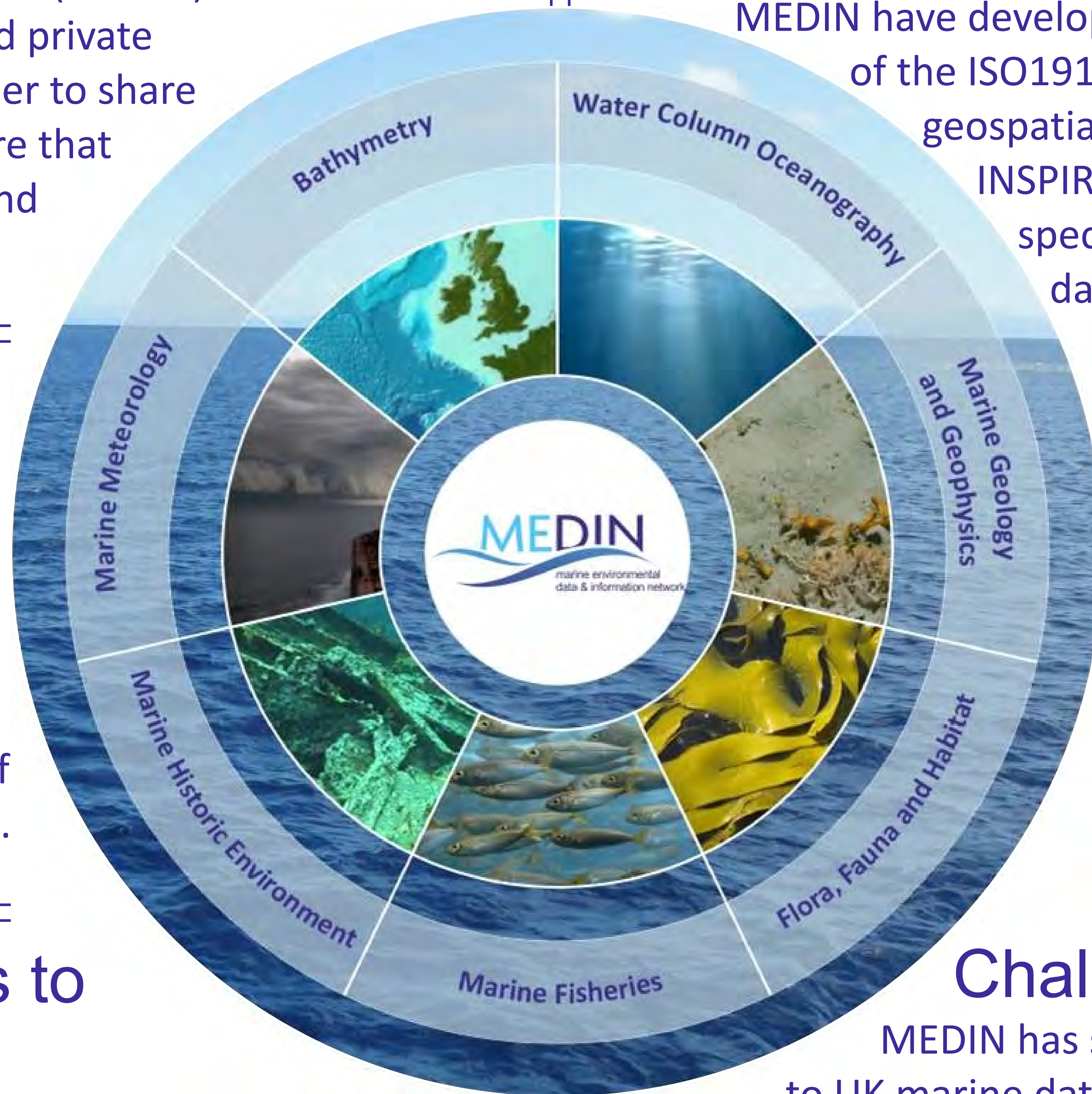
Marine Standard

UK Marine Standard:

MEDIN marine environmental data & information network

UK Standard: GEMINI2

European Standard: INSPIRE Directive

International Standard: ISO19115

MEDIN have developed a marine specific profile of the ISO19115 metadata standard for geospatial data. It complies with INSPIRE and promotes using marine specific terminology to describe datasets.

MEDIN provides:

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 over 200 UK organisations.

Increased access to marine data

The MEDIN portal now describes over 10,000 UK marine datasets (figure 1a), from all regions of the UK. This is a massive increase from 2010 when the portal first went live (figure 1b).
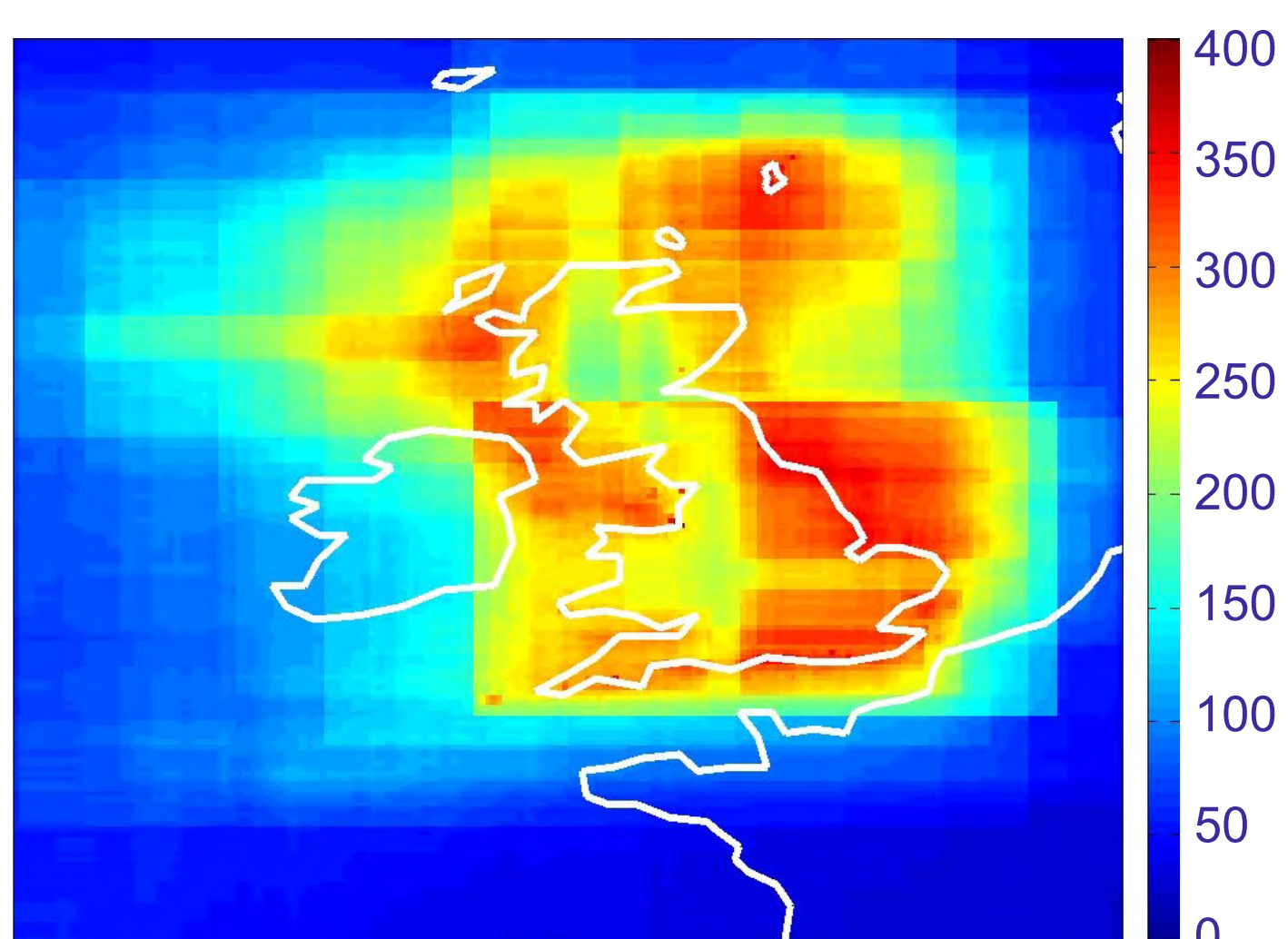
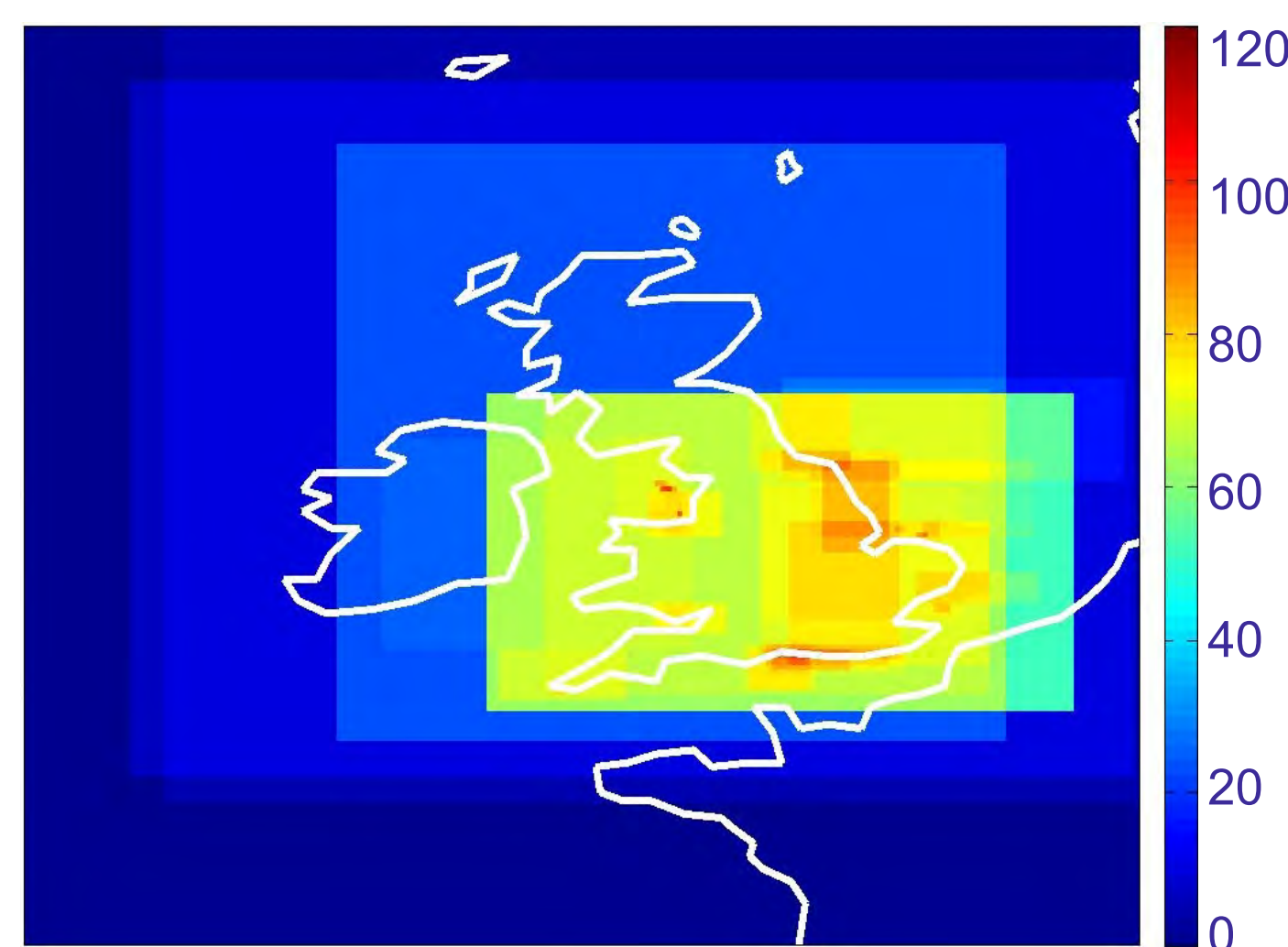*Figure 1a: Heat map of the datasets described in the MEDIN portal in 2016*

Figure 1b: Heat map of the datasets described in the MEDIN portal in 2010

Challenges

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.