

Workshop Report

Marine SDI, INSPIRE and the EU Marine Directive

Monday, 4 September, 1400-1730h

Report by co-presenters

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- Attendees at the workshop included those involved directly in implementing INSPIRE in their organisations and/or implementing the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD).
- None were yet involved in implementing the Maritime Spatial Planning Directive, mainly because marine spatial plans for the Directive are not required (legally) to be ready until 2021.
- The main consensus, regarding marine-related information needed for MSFD reporting, was that much (most?) of the data needed was not yet available in INSPIRE harmonized and interoperable format. This was not surprising since much of the data needed falls under themes in Annexes II & III, for which INSPIRE compliance is not needed until 2020/2021 and some of the coastal/marine Member States indicate that they will have difficulty meeting that deadline.
- The presentation relating to marine cadastre in Europe as part of an EU marine SDI and supporting implementation of the marine Directives generated several questions and much discussion. The EU Marine Cadastre Status Report published in 2016 showed that there are no fully specified and implemented marine cadastres in EU Member States and separate investigation shows that few countries globally have implemented marine cadastre. There was general agreement that if properly specified and populated marine cadastre systems existed in Europe, implementation of the Maritime Spatial Planning Directive would be more efficient and implementation of reporting under MSFD would be facilitated.
- Participants agreed that it would be useful to proceed with an initiative to develop an EU marine cadastre data model and/or schema that could use INSPIRE harmonized (Annex I, II and III) data once it was available. The target timeframe is for such a model/schema to be available by the time that maritime spatial plans are required, i.e. 2021.