SEAWETRA, an INSPIRE compliant platform to support MSP for the conservation of the cetaceans in the Pelagos Sanctuary

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(Submission #335)

Abstract

The art. 8 of the Marine Spatial Planning Directive 2014/89/EU indicates that "Member States shall set up maritime spatial plans which identify the spatial and temporal distribution of relevant existing and future activities and uses in their marine waters, in order to contribute to the objectives set out in Article 5". The Directive lists a series of activities including fishing areas, maritime transport routes and traffic flows, nature and species conservation sites and protected areas, scientific research and tourism. To gather such geographical information inside a unique platform is a great challenge for environmental protection. However, nowadays, environmental stakeholders suffer the lack of such multi-disciplinary platforms. Moreover, the INSPIRE Directive 2007/2/EC clearly stats how geographic information should be organized in order to be easily understood, visualized and how data should be interoperable. In this context, SEAWETRA have been developed as a WebGIS platform dedicated to gather information useful for the conservation of the cetaceans protected by the Pelagos Sanctuary and by the ACCOBAMS. Cetaceans are bio-indicators of the marine ecosystem as umbrella species and are listed as descriptors for the Marine Strategy Framework Directive 2008/56/EC and for the EcAp Initiative of the UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention. The presentation will present the types of data that has been selected to feed SEAWETRA, some being static other being dynamic. The presentation will also show practical information to support the governance of the Member States. As dynamic data, SEAWETRA maps earth observation parameters and oceanographic models from the open-data service Copernicus with their relative metadata. For this purpose, the dynamic legend tool has been developed in order to allow the user to adapt the scale color in function of the data. SEAWETRA also maps data collected in situ to study cetaceans (linked to the species distribution theme). Data is visualized statically as point, track or grid (following the INSPIRE's geographic grid system) or dynamically allowing to filter per species or type of vessels. The platform allows also to visualize the Automatic Identification System data (AIS) provided by AISHub (for the transport network theme). Raw data (positions of vessels) can be displayed and used to draw the track polylines or traffic intensity grids. This was used to estimate the ferry corridors and their associated level of impact risk on cetaceans. The platform also includes protected site geometries and their relative information (compliant with INSPIRE).

Categories

Topic Area: *[1.8] Spatial planning (land – maritime)*
Abstract Type: *Oral Presentation*

Additional Fields

Comments: Marine Spatial Planning, Biodiversity, Good Environmental Status, Mediterranean Sea, Protected Sites