

## DASSH: where research and data meet

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### Looking Back.

Based at the historic Marine Biological Association (MBA) in Plymouth, the Data Archive for Marine Species and Habitats (DASSH) sits at the hub of marine science in the UK. In 2014 the MBA celebrated its 130th year, and in such an old organisation there are inevitably some very old datasets, the oldest dating back to 1813.

Originally these datasets came from a variety of sources. Some from academic research, but many from individual naturalists such as George Montagu who described many species in the Salcombe area of Devon in the late 18th and early 19th century.



Fig. 1: The MBA c. 1890 (MBA archive)

### The Here and Now.

Today, the data held at the MBA derive from a wider range of sources; from amateur marine biologists, thematic recording schemes, statutory monitoring, academic research, and industry and commercial organisations; they range in scale from individual species records to large interdisciplinary studies.

The role of DASSH is to resolve and publish these disparate datasets for marine science professionals to find, access and utilise. Ultimately improving our understanding of the ocean and its inhabitants, and to make planning and management decisions based on the best-available scientific evidence.

DASSH publishes data at a wide range of geographic scales. At the national level DASSH provides data to the UK National Biodiversity Network (NBN) and forms the biological node of the Marine Environmental Data and Information Network (MEDIN); also assisting their work in data standards. At the European and International level DASSH data feed into portals such as EMODnet Biology, EurOBIS and GBIF, and participates in EMBRC and ENVRI+.

### Moving Forward.

DASSH is currently working on a number of tools to automate data flow, discovery and reuse. The "DASSH autoDOI" tool will automatically assign Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) to datasets flowing through DASSH, while the new Drupal-based metadata editor for the MEDIN network will improve the user experience, and ensure high-quality metadata can be produced for the UK marine data community in a timely manner. Through our work on ENVRI+ we are involved in creating standards for non-spatial marine data, understanding the flow of data from peer-reviewed journals to EU data infrastructures, and the semantic interoperability of marine biodiversity data.

**The Talk.**

This talk will be split into two parts. Part one will focus on how DASSH processes datasets from highly heterogeneous sources and disseminates these data to a number of national and European data outlets. Part two will focus on the tools currently in development at DASSH to assist with data management, namely the new MEDIN metadata editor and autoDOI tool.