

The EMODnet Seabed Habitats mapping portal

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Introducing the EMODnet Seabed Habitats mapping portal.

The EMODnet Seabed Habitats mapping portal (www.emodnet-seabedhabitats.eu) provides a permanent single access point to freely view and download marine habitat data and maps from across Europe. EMODnet (European Marine Observation and Data Network) is a data initiative funded by the European Commission, aimed at assembling fragmented resources and providing easy access to quality-assured and harmonised marine data, through its online portals. There are seven other portals within the EMODnet initiative covering all marine data types from bathymetry to human activities.

The presentation will provide an overview of the main contents and services provided by the portal, and will include user cases and planned activities by the EMODnet Seabed Habitats consortium.

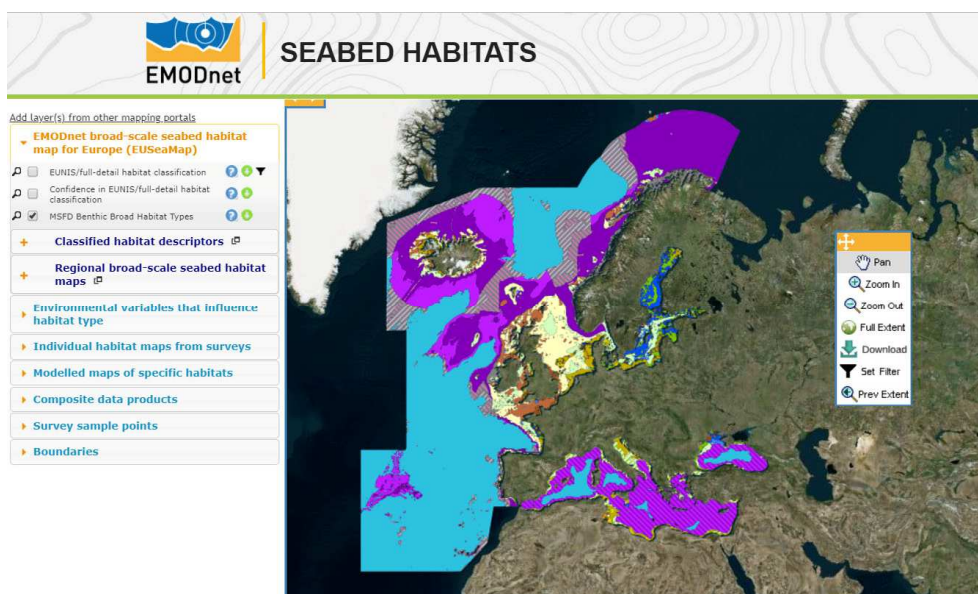


Figure 1: A screenshot of the EMODnet Seabed Habitats mapping portal displaying EUSeaMap, a broad-scale seabed habitats map covering all European seas, available for public download.

Contents of the EMODnet Seabed Habitats portal include:

- The EMODnet broad-scale seabed habitat map for Europe (called EUSeaMap) – A predictive habitat map derived from physical data, covering over 23 million km² of European seas, including North East Atlantic waters from Norway and Iceland to the Azores and Canary Islands.
- Marine physical data layers – Datasets such as kinetic energy due to waves and currents at the seabed, bathymetry, substrate type and modelled biological zone, that can be used as predictor variables for seabed habitats, as used in making EUSeaMap.
- Detailed habitats maps from survey – A collection of habitat maps at various scales from marine surveys across Europe.

- OSPAR threatened and/or declining habitats – The portal is the official repository for data on OSPAR threatened and/or declining habitats in the North East Atlantic.
- Modelled maps of specific habitats – such as probability distributions of kelp beds along the coast of Norway.
- Confidence maps – all habitat maps also have associated confidence maps.

Accessing European habitat datasets.

The portal is fully interactive: users can view data as map layers, build a custom map, query the layers or filter per habitat. Information can also be downloaded in GIS format to be easily overlaid with other datasets. Using the Web Map Service, all layers can be accessed by personal desktop GIS applications or by other web mapping portals. The Portal uses the ICES metadata catalogue for storing metadata related to all the habitat maps and models.

Contribute your data.

Our active data collation is ongoing and we welcome contributions from any source (<https://emodnet-ingestion.eu/>). Over the coming years we will continue gathering habitat maps from surveys, collating outputs of habitat distribution models, and updating EUSeaMap. Importantly we are working to expand the collation of habitat point data and to implement, for the first time, a newly updated international standard data schema which will allow the submission of habitat/biotope point data to a recognised international database (Ocean Biogeographic Information System).