

# ICES DATA PORTAL - a single entry point to marine knowledge

## A single entry point

The ICES data portal ([ecosystemdata.ices.dk](http://ecosystemdata.ices.dk)) is designed as a single entry point to marine data managed by ICES. By providing better access to marine data derived from observations, as well as surveys or samples from all the georeferenced databases that coexist in ICES, all users benefit. All data in the portal are easy to search and download without the need of a login. The ICES data policy ensures open access and the acknowledgement of data contributors. This is intended to stimulate innovation, encourage coordinated, cross-cutting activities within marine science in order to improve our understanding of both the marine environment and the behaviour of the sea.

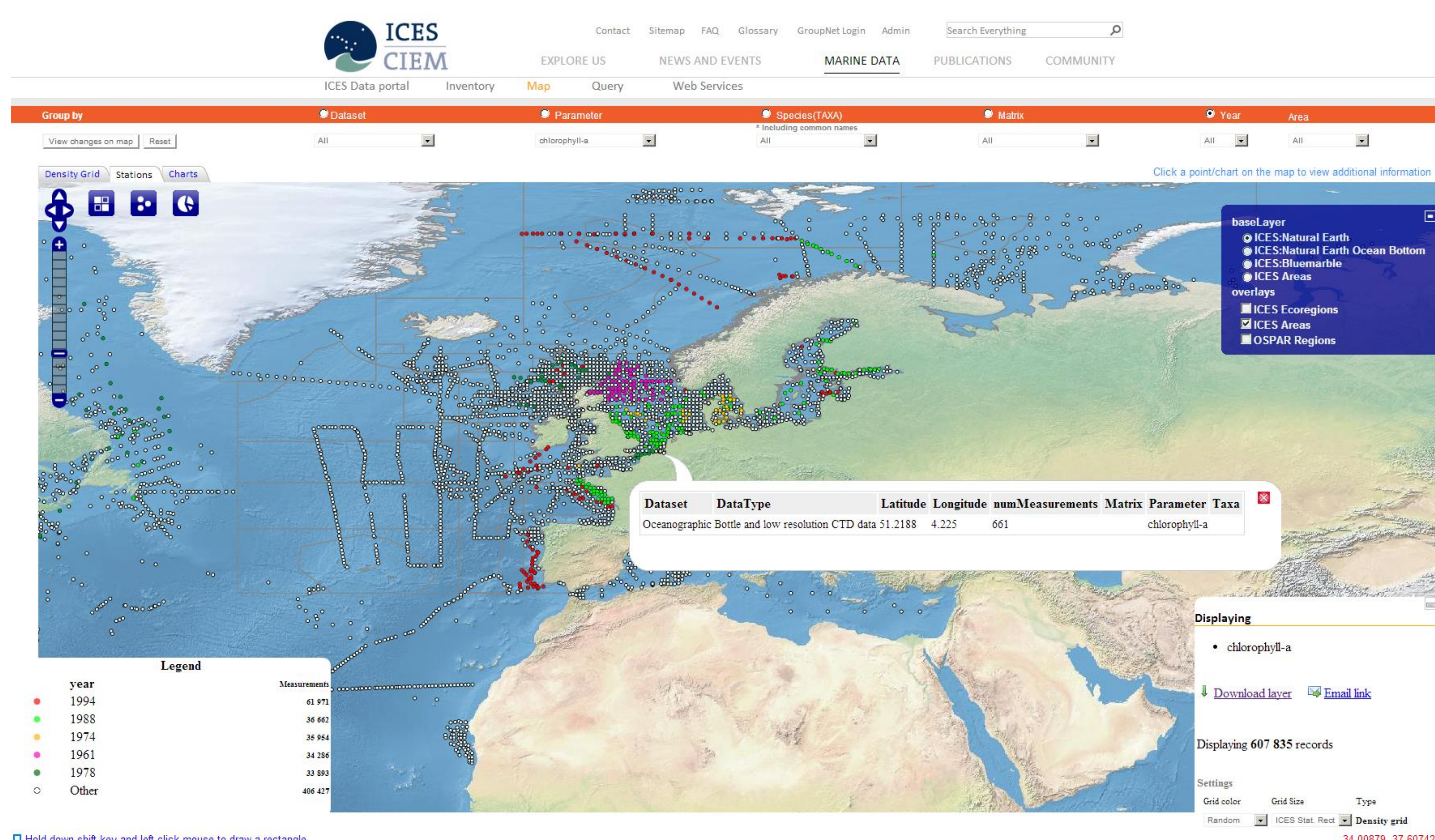
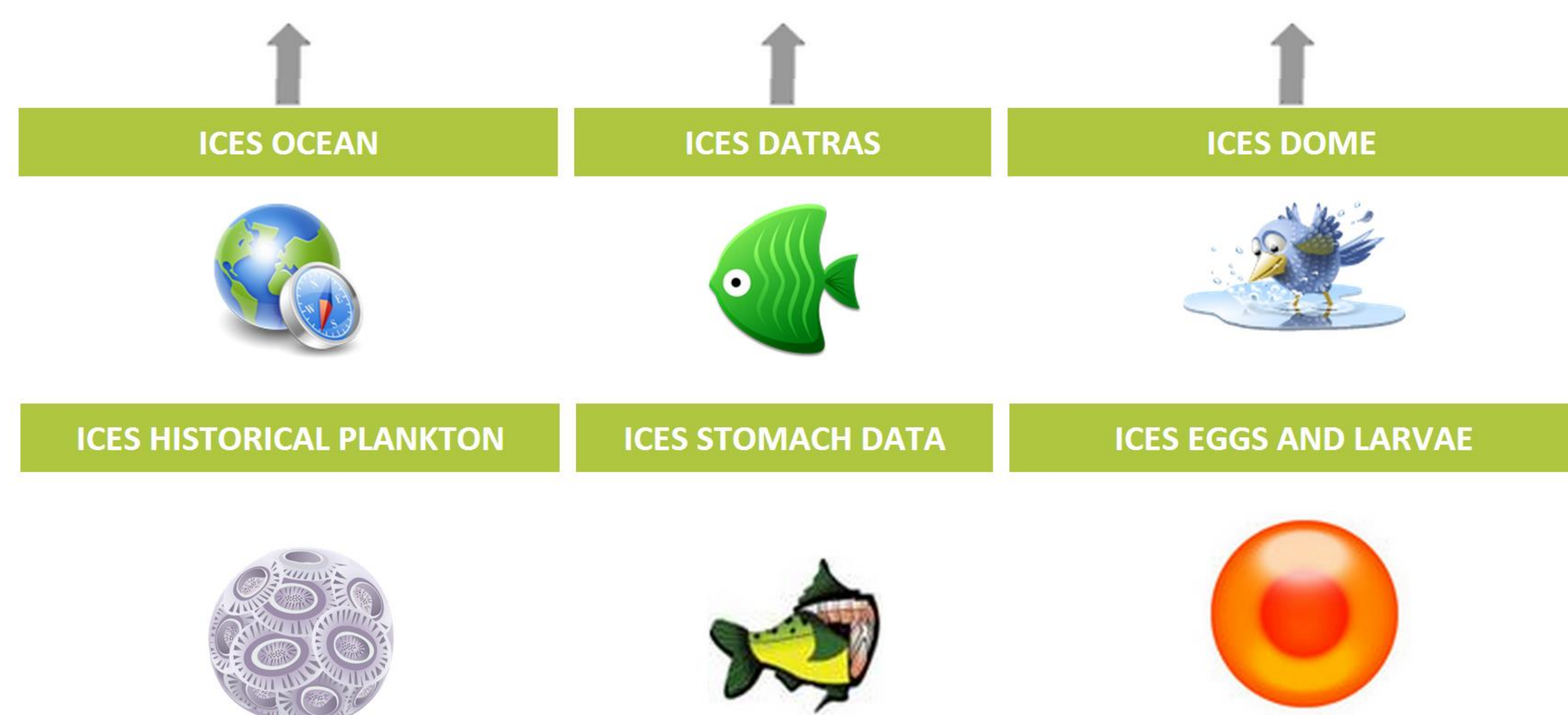


Fig. 1: ICES Data portal map displaying the measurements of chlorophyll-a per station

## ICES Datasets

Dataset	Measurements	No of years
Biological community	692 213	34
Contaminants and biological effects	9 547 688	37
Eggs And Larvae	996 282	91
Fish predation (stomach contents)	1 149 608	12
Fish trawl survey	5 641 799	49
ICES Historical Plankton	318 319	11
Oceanographic	245 470 249	122



## Why build a single entry point for the ICES network and marine community?

The data portal makes it easier to know what kind of data ICES manages and from when and where the data come from, as well as to get a regional or sub-regional overview across a data theme. Datasets become more coherent when they can be compared with others. ICES portal facilitates this and allows scientific assessments to use one or more datasets. This makes data more consistent, allowing for better international coordination to identify data gaps and to promote harmonization of methods and terms.

## Disparate datasets harmonized in the same portal

One of the biggest tasks was to design a single home for all the marine data without losing the granularity that primary data offers. Data are assembled from disparate datasets and collated in the ICES data portal from distinct source databases.

## Underpinning marine science

The purpose of building the ICES data portal and making data available is to provide better tools to aid research in environmental assessments, marine ecosystem study and marine spatial planning.