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Issue 23

This Month...

Two new MEDIN accredited DACs: fisheries and marine historic environment data.

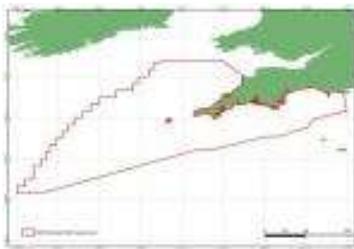


CEFAS and Marine Scotland have been accredited as a combined MEDIN Data Archive Centre (FishDAC) for fish, shellfish, fisheries and related samples data. The Archaeology Data Service (ADS) has been accredited for historic environment data.

[more »](#)

South West Peninsula Historic Seascape Characterisation Project

by Charles Johns



The Historic Environment projects team of Cornwall Council has been commissioned by English Heritage to characterise the historic seascape around the South West Peninsula and adjacent inshore and offshore waters.

[more »](#)

Marine Species of the British Isles and Adjacent Seas (MSBIAS)



Application providing a list of species that are likely to be found in the marine waters around the British Isles and adjacent seas. If used widely this list, which includes a taxon search and download facility, will improve the ability to exchange species data between applications.

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News

BODC Numerical model data portal Providing search, visualisation and data download mechanisms for numerical model data.

Marine Conservation Zones: Consultation on proposals for designation in 2013 The consultation seeks views on proposals for the designation of Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) in English inshore and English and Welsh offshore waters.

Scottish Marine Protected Areas scheme to be unveiled Scotland (along with the rest of the UK) has designated a number of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).

Two new MEDIN accredited DACs: fisheries and marine historic environment data.

FishDAC



The Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (**CEFAS**) and **Marine Scotland** have been accredited as a combined MEDIN Data Archive Centre (DAC) for fish, shellfish, fisheries and related samples data. This combined data archive centre is called FishDAC.

data held

The data available are predominantly marine but cover both migratory species and transitional waters as well. Data from England, Wales and Scotland are currently available, with data from Northern Ireland to be added in due course.

FishDAC has prioritised EU-mandated fish surveys that are part of established series. It contains data collected by UK research vessels on the most recent international bottom trawl surveys, covering significant geographical areas, species and environments. Other data sets currently available include fish stomach record contents and nursery and spawning area data (including GIS layers).

Future additions to FishDAC will include other research surveys; market sampling and observer schemes; data gleaned from physical samples such as otoliths, scales and plankton; aquaculture and other related environmental data.

For further information about FishDAC, **contact** CEFAS or Marine Scotland, or visit <http://www.cefas.defra.gov.uk/publications-and-data/fishdac.aspx> and <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/science/MSInteractive/Themes/fishdac> for fisheries data from England & Wales and Scotland respectively.

Archaeology Data Service (ADS)



The **Archaeology Data Service** supports research, learning and teaching with freely available, high-quality, dependable digital resources. It does this by promoting and disseminating a broad range of digital data in archaeology and preserving it for the long term. The ADS promotes good practice in the use of digital data in archaeology, provides technical advice to the research community and supports the deployment of digital technologies. ADS is one of the MEDIN DACs for historic environment data.

data held

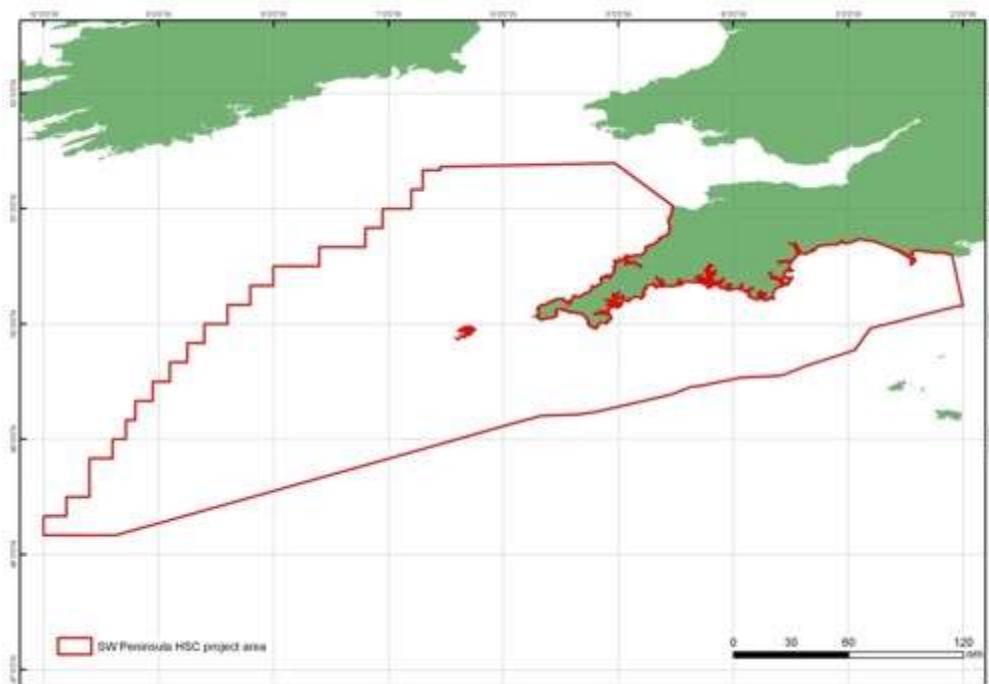
The ADS collects data sets within the area broadly defined as Archaeology and the Historic Environment, including the material culture aspects of Ancient History and Classics. The ADS does not limit its collections policy according to any particular theme. Consultation with the user community indicates a broad range of research and teaching interests across all aspects of cultural history.

Further information and contact details, visit
http://www.oceannet.org/data_submission/ads/.

South West Peninsula Historic Seascapes Characterisation Project

by Charles Johns

The Historic Environment projects team of Cornwall Council has been commissioned by English Heritage to characterise the historic seascapes around the South West Peninsula and adjacent inshore and offshore waters. The study area extends from Hartland Point on the north coast of Devon to the Isle of Purbeck in Dorset. The project is due to be completed in August 2013.



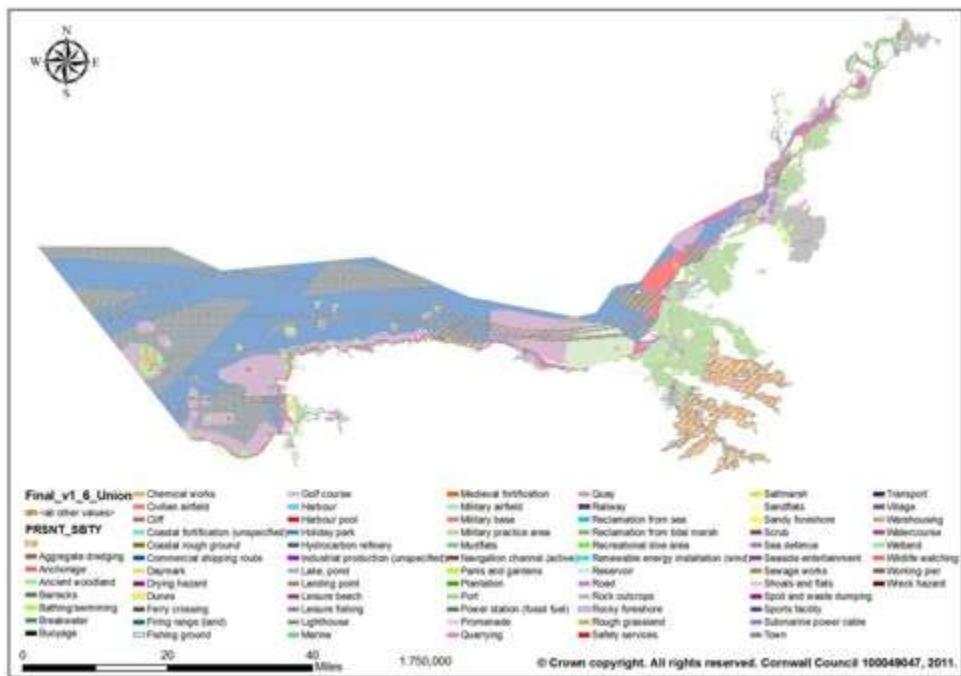
The South West Peninsula HSC project area

Historic Seascapes Characterisation (HSC) assesses, identifies and maps areas of our coastal and marine landscape whose present maritime character has been shaped by similar cultural processes: the effects on the present, everywhere, of people's activity through time, guided by changing needs, desires and perceptions, and expressed through their interaction with natural processes.

A nationally-applicable approach to HSC was published in March 2008 following a rigorous programme of development and testing. Subsequent implementation through a series of projects, of which this project is one, is building a national HSC database to support English Heritage's contributions to strategic level coastal and marine management and planning.

As the UK's new marine planning system begins to address the considerable and increasing pressures affecting our coasts and seas, HSC will support and inform the sustainable management of change with its understanding of the cultural influences and perceptions of the marine and maritime environment.

For those along the coast too, working at a local level to ensure a sustainable seascape and landscape for the future, HSC allows us to enrich our perspectives of our familiar parts of the coast and sea.



Bristol Channel and Severn Estuary sea surface and coastal HSC types

The South West Peninsula HSC project will analyse modern and historic charts, maps and documents to interpret marine and maritime historic character, identifying recurrent 'Character Types' within a Geographic Information System (GIS). The GIS database will support a breadth of queries on the cultural character of the seas off the South West peninsula and will be linked to Character-Type descriptions written from both national and regional perspectives in a readily accessible style and structure.

This project will contribute to the national HSC database for England and will be integrated with the completed HSCs for adjacent areas. The project will also review actual and potential applications for HSC in the project area, with special reference to its roles for heritage protection and a breadth of planning and other contexts.

For further information on the project please contact:

Charlie Johns at **Cornwall Council**

Marine Species of the British Isles and Adjacent Seas (MSBIAS)

Introduction

Many applications require a list of species that are likely to be found in the marine waters around the British Isles and adjacent seas. This list can be used for this purpose and furthermore if used widely will improve the ability to exchange species data between applications. The marine area covered by this list is shown below. The boundaries given in the map are recognized not to represent true boundaries of species distributions however does allow operational use of a taxon list.

To download the full list, carry out a [search](#) and then click 'download results' in the results window.

This list is a subset of taxa registered in the World Register of Marine Species ([WoRMS](#)) that was identified through data holdings of the applications [Marine Recorder](#) and [Unicorn](#) and collated under the project 'Pan-European Species directories Infrastructure ([PESI](#))'

The taxonomic list used in Marine Recorder was derived from the following: [Howson, C.M. & Picton, B.E.\(eds\) 1997. The species directory of the marine fauna and flora of the British Isles and surrounding seas. Ulster Museum and The Marine Conservation Society, Belfast and Ross-on-Wye.](#) Which itself was the result of a comprehensive literature review.



Feedback and Updates

Please contact the most appropriate of the below to

- add a new species to MSBIAS by completing the template downloaded [here](#).
- tag species that already exist in WoRMS as being found in this study area
 1. If you use Marine Recorder please contact JNCC at Lynn Heeley@jncc.gov.uk
 2. If you use UNICORN please contact Thomson Ecology at software@thomsonecology.com
 3. If you are a NERC centre or collaborative centre please contact The British Oceanographic Data Centre – enquiries@bodc.ac.uk
 4. If you are working in coordination with The Marine Biological Association please contact dash.enquiries@mba.ac.uk
 5. The National Marine Biological Analytical Quality Control Scheme – kf2@sahfos.ac.uk
 6. For local record centres and the Natural History Museum please contact the most appropriate person available.

Secretarial support for the maintenance of this list is provided by the Marine Data and Information Network. For further information contact enquiries@oceannet.org

Citation

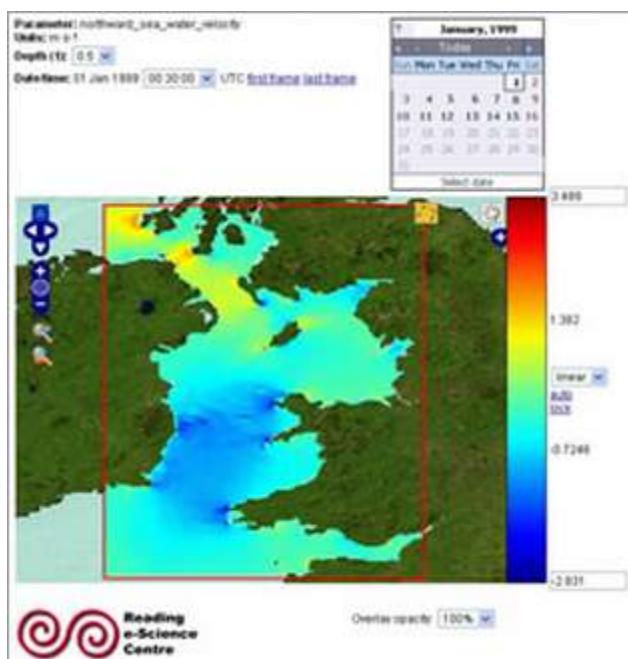
The UK Marine Environmental Data and Information Network (2011). The Marine Species of the British Isles and Adjacent Seas (MSBIAS): a checklist of species derived from the UNICORN and Marine Recorder applications. Available online at <http://www.marinespecies.org/msbias/>. Consulted on 2013-11-27.

Disclaimer

The Marine Environmental Data and Information Network maintains this Register, but is aware that it may be incomplete and may contain errors. MEDIN cannot be held responsible for any errors or misuse of the data contained in this Register.

News

Numerical model data portal



An illustration of the visualisation service ©

In line with our commitment to improve data access, BODC announce the launch of our [numerical model data portal](#). This provides searching, visualisation and data download mechanisms for numerical model data.

Initially the portal is populated with output from the Coastal Flooding by Extreme Events (CoFEE) project. As the data from more models become available they will be added to this portal.

Numerical models

Numerical models are mathematical simulations of environmental processes based on understandings gained from direct observations and/or theoretical analysis. They help scientists and managers to predict, understand and adapt to changes that may affect people and their environment.

More about the portal

The main features of the portal are

- An easy to use, anonymous interactive search — search for data prior to registration or log in. Search options include geographic area, date, data parameter, model and simulation.
- A visualisation service — this includes animations, cross-section plots and more. This functionality requires user registration and log in.
- 'Online shopping' — add model data to a basket and check out your request.
- File generation — Climate and Forecast (CF) netCDF files are prepared by subsetting on user criteria using OPeNDAP technology. For large volume requests or during busy periods data preparation may take a while. The file generator service emails the user when the data are ready for download.
- Request tracking and download service — 'my account' services allow users to track their request and return to download data at their convenience.

Acknowledgements

Special thanks are due to Jon Blower at the Reading e-Science Centre (ReSC) who kindly gave us his permission to incorporate his visualistion software as part of our numerical model data portal. We are also grateful to the British Atmospheric Data Centre (BADC) for their advice on aspects of this development.

Marine Conservation Zones: Consultation on proposals for designation in 2013

This consultation sought views on proposals for the designation of Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) in English inshore and English and Welsh offshore waters.

This consultation sought to engage with everyone who has an interest in the marine environment and coastal communities. It's the primary opportunity for people to have their say and influence the decisions on how many MCZs are designated, where they are designated and for what features.

Information and comments submitted will be used to inform the decision on which sites will be designated in the first tranche in 2013. Information gathered at this stage will also be used as part of the decision-making process for designation of sites in later tranches.

Documents can be downloaded from:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/marine-conservation-zones-consultation-on-proposals-for-designation-in-2013>

Scottish Marine Protected Areas scheme to be unveiled

Between 25 July and 13 November 2013, Marine Scotland held a public consultation on 'Planning Scotland's Seas' covering the new Marine Protected Areas, marine planning, and the future of marine renewables. For more information please see our [MPA consultation web pages](#).

Background

Scotland (along with the rest of the UK) has designated a number of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) which include [Special Areas of Conservation](#) (SACs), [Special Protection Areas](#) (SPAs), [Sites of Special Scientific Interest](#) (SSSIs) and [Ramsar sites](#). The term "MPA" can be used for several different types of protected areas within the marine environment.

The [Marine \(Scotland\) Act](#) has established a new power for Marine Protected Areas in the seas around Scotland, to recognise features of national importance and meet international commitments for developing a network of MPAs. This complements the MPA power introduced through the Marine and Coastal Access Act for offshore waters around Scotland.

Why have new MPAs?

MPAs are an important mechanism for protecting Scotland's seas. They are one way of helping us to achieve the Government's vision of '*clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas*'. Scotland has international commitments to establish an ecologically coherent network of MPAs

under [OSPAR](#) and the [World Summit on Sustainable Development](#). Together with existing [Natura sites](#), the new MPA power will help Scotland to meet these commitments. A network of well-managed MPAs will, alongside other management measures, underpin our future use of the seas around Scotland.

What will MPAs do?

The Act allows for three different types of MPAs to be set up:

- Nature Conservation MPAs
- Demonstration and Research MPAs
- Historic MPAs

Nature Conservation MPAs will protect important marine habitats and wildlife, geology and geomorphology whilst Historic MPAs will protect features of cultural importance such as shipwrecks and submerged landscapes. The Act also allows other people to put forward proposals for Nature Conservation and Demonstration and Research MPAs.

What is Scottish Natural Heritage's role?

Through the [Scottish MPA Project](#) we will provide guidance and technical advice to [Marine Scotland](#) on Nature Conservation MPAs. This will include advice on the selection of Nature Conservation MPAs, how the conservation objectives of an MPA may be achieved and ways to avoid damaging a protected feature. In some cases we will also provide advice on Demonstration and Research MPAs. It will then be for Scottish Ministers to decide which sites to designate as MPAs and how they will be managed.

On 1st November 2012, SNH and JNCC submitted formal advice to Marine Scotland on the selection of Nature Conservation MPAs and the development of an ecologically coherent network.

Further information

More information on Scotland's important marine habitats and wildlife is available under [coasts and seas](#) and [Priority Marine Features](#).