

National Charts on Ocean Observing and Monitoring

The European Ocean Observing System (EOOS) aims to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of national observation efforts of our ocean, seas and coastal waters. The Resource Forum within EOOS, chaired by JPI Oceans, moderates the strategic discussions for long-term resourcing of ocean observations. This entails to identify gaps in national ocean observing, to overcome organisational and regulatory barriers, and to ensure that nationally generated data reach databases in a harmonised way for widespread use and multiple reuse.

Ocean observing and monitoring in Europe is dominantly in the hands of countries and therefore follows different national approaches. Responsibilities are usually distributed among several national authorities and data flows vary significantly between them. The resulting incompatibilities within and between countries poses challenges for coordinating European ocean observing more efficiently, as attempted by EOOS. In addition, fragmented responsibilities and workflows make it difficult for individuals to maintain an overview over how ocean observing and monitoring is organised at national level, even in one's own country.

The National Charts are an outcome of the work of the EOOS Resource Forum. In 2022, the Resource Forum identified the incomplete knowledge of national ocean observing setups to be a fundamental obstacle for coordination efficiency, streamlining efforts and abatement of deficiencies. It was therefore agreed to collate information into National Charts on Ocean Observing and Monitoring, including the related downstream data flows. This ongoing work is led by JPI Oceans.

Building on the National Charts, the collations are intended as a robust basis to improve coordination, identify gaps, learn from other countries, and implement best practice approaches into national systems by recognising synergy potential in ocean observing. Ultimately this should aid to more efficiently coordinate policy and funding efforts towards a sustained European Ocean Observing System (as per the EOOS Roadmap 2023-2027) and cater data efficiently to databases as a central hub for the data and information gathered through national routines.