

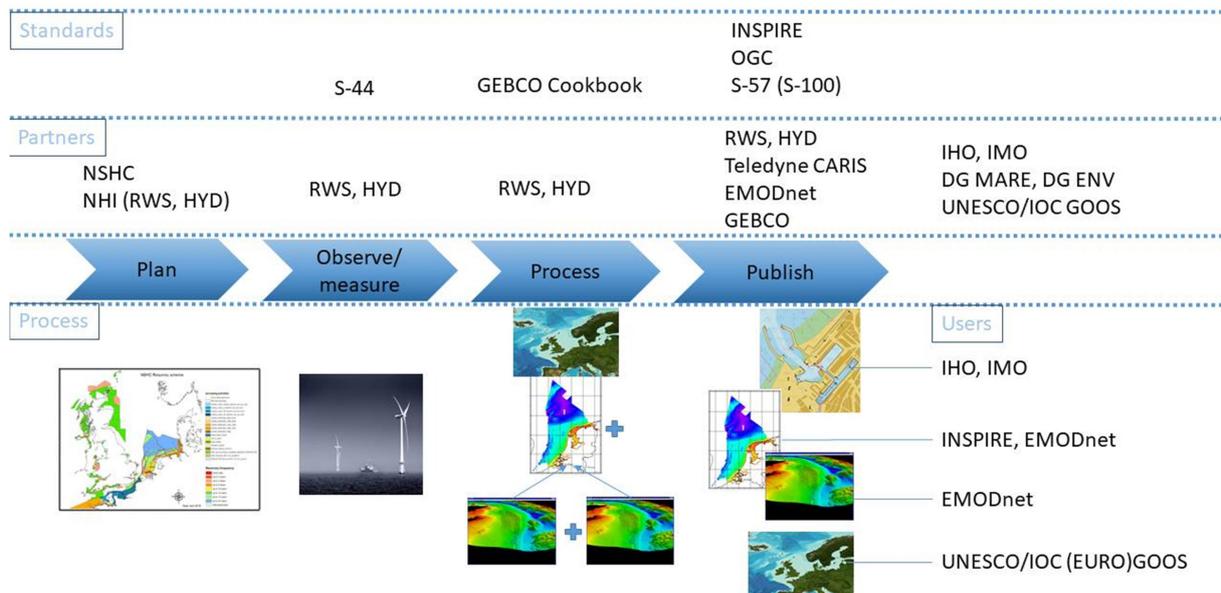
Making sense of seabed data re-use to increase societal value using the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework to describe the process from planning to distribution to multiple users. A journey from the perspective of a Hydrographic Office.

The need for overview over and insight in ocean observations, is growing at different levels. The need for seabed data in particular is expressed at the global (GOOS, Seabed2030/GEBCO), European (EMODnet, INSPIRE, MFSD), regional (Regional Hydrographic Commissions) and national level in the Netherlands. Recently DG MARE addressed this issue in the initiative ‘Ocean observation – sharing responsibilities’, referring to ocean observation as essential for the knowledge base of the European Green Deal.

Because of the high costs involved in ocean observation and the ever increasing demand for ocean data around SDG14, climate change and Maritime Spatial Planning (e.g. for planning of Renewable Energy at sea) an attempt is made from the perspective of the Dutch Hydrographic Office to draw the picture about seabed observations using the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework. This framework was developed under the UN-GGIM, aimed at a common approach to reach the Sustainable Development Goals.

This journey to draw the picture about seabed mapping on the Dutch Continental Shelf, includes the planning process, as well as the process from ping (of the multi-beam echo sounder) to chart, the partners involved during the process, the end users and (data management) standards. These standards also provide insight in the semantics used within data silos and in the professional language used in the community involved.

This picture is meant to help (changes in) cooperation and to improve harmonization. In this way partners can discuss joining data collection efforts for different purposes at different scales.



The picture immediately invoked positive response when shared with some colleagues from other departments, including suggestion for additions to the picture. The insight in the value chain gives room for new discussions about overall efficiency, increasing quality along the value chain and new possible uses of the data. This response encouraged to share this approach with the wider Eurogoos community for inspiration and further enhancement.

The Integrated Geospatial Information Framework provides common denominators for the different aspects of marine data management and thus speeds up shared understanding between partners, connecting existing silos that exist in different disciplines and communities (policy, science and ongoing operations, like providing navigational charts for the purpose of safe navigation on a regular basis).

Community standards in themselves also help to bridge these gaps, as they provide a basis for on-the-fly translation to other standards, but also for explaining/referencing in metadata that is available for unforeseen online users. In this way metadata can help to assess the quality of the data by the end user, without direct communication with the data provider. This provides flexibility at the side of the end user, thus enabling re-use of data that was collected at sea.