

**Subject: Invitation Biological and Ecological Traits of marine species Workshop**Background & General Outline

Within the framework of the European Marine Observation and Data Network, EMODnet, a series of workshops dealing with Biological and Ecological Traits have been organised

These workshops resulted in the setup and installation of a data network integrating data and information of marine traits. How this initiative developed, the rationale behind the work carried out and the prioritisation of 10 core traits and the work to extract existing information and develop a global database of marine species traits, linked to the taxonomic backbone provided by the World Register of Marine Species (WoRMS) has been published at <https://peerj.com/articles/1201/>

Since 2010 four workshops on marine biological and ecological traits have been organised within the framework of EMODnet Biology. Over 40 different participants from more than 20 organisations participated in these workshops, discussing the rationale, the prioritization and the methodology to reach the common goal of a standardized database of marine biological traits. <http://www.emodnet-biology.eu/project/workshops>

We now organise a follow up workshop to 1) present the latest activities that have been achieved since last workshop (June 2015) 2) discuss the presentation and launch and of the website [www.marinespecies.org/traits](http://www.marinespecies.org/traits) 3) further discuss and identify scientific use cases including workflows that combine trait, taxonomic and biogeographic data including workflow applications built on the LifeWatch VRE (E-Infrastructure).

Programme and practicalities

The workshop will take place in Oostende, Belgium 17<sup>th</sup> June 2016 (one day workshop). The workshop is organised by EMODnet biology and by Lifewatch Flanders and is organised back to back with the annual WoRMS Steering Committee meeting.

Date: Friday 17 June 2016 - Location: Innovocean Site, Oostende - Belgium

Morning: Plenary presentation +discussion (chair: Dan Lear, MBA)

09.00 – 09.15 Introduction (Simon Claus)

09.15 – 10.30 Overview activities 2015-2016

- Data collection and data management: overview past activities (Leen Vandepitte & Sofie Vranken, VLIZ) (30 min)
- Trait Vocabulary (Harvey Tyler Walters, MBA) (20 min)
- Presentation website and launch (Simon Claus, VLIZ) (20 min)

10.30 -11.00: Coffee break

11.00 -11.25: Key-note presentation: Beyond data collation: Incorporating biological traits in biodiversity research (Tom Webb, Univ. Sheffield)

11.25 -11.45: Use- case: Relationship between nematode size diversity, structural diversity, sediment characteristics and a pulsed food supply (Jan Vanaverbeke, ODNatuur)

11.45 – 12.00: Poster Presentation: ENVThes – the environmental 'dictionary' for LTER Europe (Barbara Magagna, EAA)

12.00- 12.30: Lifewatch taxonomic backbone web service development and workflow applications using trait data (Klaas Deneudt, VLIZ)

12.30 – 13.30 Lunch

13.30 – 15.00: Breakout groups

- Group 1: data structure, data sources, data priorities
- Group 2: web services, use cases, , workflows

15.00 – 15.30 Coffee break

15.30 – 16.30: Final session: feedback breakouts, plenary discussion on governance and funding opportunities, actions

16.30 End of meeting – beer reception

On behalf of the EMODNET Biological Coordination Board,  
Dan Lear, Leen Vandepitte, Simon Claus  
Organizing Committee