

Summary of discussion during the “Data Suppliers” splinter session 11th November 2013.

Background and experience of MEDIN

The group consisted of representatives from Government Statutory Agencies, Environmental Consultants, Data Archive Centres and other NGOs. Experiences of MEDIN were mixed within the group. Partners from the Statutory Agencies had direct experience of supplying data to MEDIN Data Archive Centres but others did not. Most people present had experience of creating MEDIN metadata and had attended metadata workshops.

Comments

Centrica have developed in house scripts to help them populate metadata records more quickly. They can now do it cheaper than their contractors and highlighted an ongoing lack of awareness of MEDIN within contractors which needs to be addressed. There was agreement long term archive was needed and a community benefit but in general was seen as an additional cost to consultancies and industries. Longer term benefits needed to be outlined and industry gain access to data in Medin format.

Communication and advertising MEDIN was seen as a key area that needed to be developed.

The group thought it would be desirable for MEDIN standard metadata to be created within as many software packages as possible. A starting list would be ArcGIS, MapInfo, Caris, QGIS and GeoNetwork.

Representative from Natural England pointed out how MEDIN DACs were invaluable to their organisation as they cannot afford to store their own [data](#)^[JP1].

A possible duplication of effort was noted when environmental consultants supply their data to the Crown Estate but also get asked to supply it to UKHO/MCA. It may perhaps work better for consultants to send to UKHO first and UKHO send it on to the Crown Estate.

There was a suggestion that there should be ongoing help for MEDIN data guidelines in a similar way to the metadata helpdesk. There will be three workshops in the new year focused on helping users with the MEDIN data guidelines.

The data guidelines must be well publicised (ie beyond just the MEDIN newsletter). Marine Ripple Effect, Twitter were mentioned.

It was noted that the website and portal are still not intuitive to use. It was noted the Web site contained a lot of information but it remained impenetrable. Work was needed on developing quick access.

Ultimate goal would be for data collection to data archive to be a machine to machine transfer with the statutory agencies grabbing the data on the way through.

Some members of the group felt that the suite of MEDIN reference layers should be included on the portal. It was also noted that there were existing examples of data on the portal where a shape file would be much more useful.