

Requirements for MDIP DACs

Marine Data & Information Partnership (MDIP) Data Archiving Centres (DACs)

Introduction

One of the strands of activity under the aegis of the evolving Partnership is to agree on the requirements for Data Archiving Centres and then to identify a list of appropriate organisations that will fulfil this function in a coherent manner, as part of the future strategy for increasing the value and use of marine data in the UK. The 'Requirements' are designed as a simple check-list of characteristics which, taken together, will ensure a basic profile of adherence to (compliance with) best practice.

Requirements:

- adherence to eGIF and appropriate international principles
- data collection according to defined quality principles and accepted procedures
- quality assurance of the collected data
- databasing and banking with appropriate metadata standards
- auditable process for long term custodianship and updating of data sets, with appropriate disaster planning
- making datasets freely available wherever possible (not necessarily at zero cost)
- committed to raising awareness of the holdings
- committed to advising 3rd party organisations collecting similar types of data on procedures, and providing data-banking (warehousing) and curation facilities for such similar data from other sources
- committed to promoting the use of the data
- committed to, and focus on, customer service
- generally exhibiting evidence of expertise and a track record in the scientific area of the data
- committed to return of data holdings to originators, or lodging with an alternative and suitable repository, if the DAC becomes unsustainable

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