

# **The Blue Economy – Will a Marine Cadastre Lead to Developing a Blue Growth in the European Region - a Recent Study**

**Gordon Johnston (United Kingdom)**

## **SUMMARY**

There has been much written about the potential for our seas and oceans to offer opportunities of development and economic growth for the numerous stakeholders and local population. Since the political focus has been away from the oceans for decades it has been difficult to generate interest and investment in systems and technology that would offer sustained benefits. A possible obstacle is the activities are often reported in quite different categories such that evidence to support investment can be difficult to assemble.

Recent tragedies and environmental concerns have placed the oceans and seas back in the sights of nations and groups who wish to increase their knowledge and understanding. For nations hoping to develop their lands and seas the conventional wisdom is to develop land management and administration systems as these often underpin long term and sustained investments. How might this work for our oceans?

Recent work to assess the state of Marine Cadastre in Europe was undertaken in order to develop an understanding of how the states are potentially developing their marine areas for access, use and benefits. The picture is not too encouraging. Although Europe have relatively well developed coastlines it seems that the ocean areas are much less well developed. Marine Cadastre is not really in place across Europe so is there a need for such a Cadastre.

Diversity of activities is considered to be a key to enriching the ocean areas and the communities around them. However some initial base data is required to enable development and invest. Hydrographic data. Associated data for the seabed, habitat, currents and the flora and fauna are all considered useful data

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types.

Technology is a key driver and as the interest in the oceans increases so entrepreneurial effort will be required to harness new methods, techniques and inventions. Are we ready and can we adopt and implement these new methods?

One example is the development of a pilot programme to map areas of the North Atlantic. The deep water, remote locations and harsh environment all represent a challenge that equates to a high cost. A prime area of focus therefore has to be the reduction in cost, automation of collection and processing and it's distribution to the widest group of stakeholders as possible.

This presentation aims to promote discussion and provide some context as to how FIG could be a critical enabler in supporting the Blue Growth principle.

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