

***Interactive comment on “An ECOOP web portal for visualising and comparing distributed coastal oceanography model and in-situ data” by A. L. Gemmell et al.***

**A. L. Gemmell et al.**

a.l.gemmell@reading.ac.uk

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Thank you for your review.

COMMENT: The paper describes technologies used at the web portal of the ECOOP project for displaying and comparison of model and in-situ marine data. The described portal deals with one of important problems of environmental sciences - comparison of in-situ and model data from disparate sources. It helps not only to validate model predictions against in-situ observations but also to identify erroneous data from observation platforms. It is important that portal is based on using international standards (OGC web services) to facilitate greater interoperability and reusability in compliance

with requirements of the INSPIRE directive.

The paper is within the scope of the journal. The title of the paper reflects the contents of the paper; the abstract provide a concise and complete summary; the overall presentation is well structured and clear.

It is strange that authors do not provide the web address of the portal described in the paper. This is not the main ECOOP portal [www.ecoop.eu](http://www.ecoop.eu) but some another one (perhaps that's why authors titled the paper "An ECOOP web portal."). After searching Internet I found one portal at [http://lovejoy.nercessc.ac.uk:8080/ncWMS\\_Ecoop\\_Ecosystem/godiva2.html?menu=ecoopobs](http://lovejoy.nercessc.ac.uk:8080/ncWMS_Ecoop_Ecosystem/godiva2.html?menu=ecoopobs), which possesses the functionality described in the paper. However this web site is instable: there are periods when it is not accessible or some of its data providers are not accessible. Nevertheless, I could manage to make sure that functionality of the portal corresponds to that one described in the paper, though not all examples could be reproduced. In any case I advice to include the web address of the portal in the paper text.

RESPONSE: The situation here is not that the portal itself is unstable, but that the data feeds which are viewable in the portal are unstable. Unfortunately as the ECOOP project has now finished we cannot guarantee the continuation of these data feeds. Indeed, a number of them have already ended. However, we agree that it would be beneficial to provide a link to the portal, and we have now done so in the section on the web portal (3.2). In order that users of the portal are aware of the situation we have added some information to the portal to explain to arriving users that some data feeds are no longer running due to the ending of the ECOOP project. We have also added links from the portal to this paper, as well as presentations made at conferences, one of which includes a movie of the portal in action.

COMMENT: Proposed technical corrections Page 190, Line 11: Replace "the user" with "a user".

RESPONSE: We feel that the phrase "the user" reads better than "a user", so we

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Discussion Paper



propose to stick with it how it is. I.e. we are referring to some hypothetical user.

COMMENT: Page 194, Line 5: The link to SEPRISE description at Coriolis web site is not valid anymore, so it should be replaced with a valid one, for example with "http://www.seprise.eu/content/content.asp?menu=0090000\_000000\_000000".

RESPONSE: In order to avoid a long URL we have changed the SEPRISE link text to say "see the 'about SEPRISE' link at http://www.seprise.eu".

COMMENT: Page 198, Line 18: Replace "after request" with "after requests".

RESPONSE: This has been changed as suggested.

COMMENT: Page 200, Line 10: Replace "is sea" with "in sea".

RESPONSE: This has been changed as suggested.

COMMENT: Page 202, Line 17: Replace "Science" with "Strategy".

RESPONSE: This has been changed as suggested.

COMMENT: [continued from above comment regarding Page 202, Line 17] ...The sentence "Other initiatives, such as the European Marine Strategy Framework Directive can only be achieved by extending web technology to monitoring larger geographical, pan-European scales" is not correct on my mind, because: a) the directive it not being achieved - it is being implemented; b) "extending web technology to monitoring" sounds unclear if technology is not specified. Generally speaking, web technology is already extended to all scales of monitoring (weather forecasts, SST and Chl-a images etc).

RESPONSE: It is correct that the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) is being implemented. We have changed the sentence in the paper in order to better capture the important role that, in our opinion, web portals like the one described here, could play in helping MSFD achieve its targets. The new sentence reads "Other initiatives, such as the European Marine Strategy Framework Directive are likely to benefit from

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incorporating web technology, such as the web portal described here, as part of a wider set of monitoring tools required to establish a successful environmental monitoring programme. It is important that these tools use standards to guarantee interoperability of different national components at larger pan-European scales."

COMMENT: Page 204, Line 4: Replace "Oceans" with "Ocean".

RESPONSE: Throughout the referred web page (<http://www.opengeospatial.org/projects/initiatives/oceansie>) the authors do tend to use the phrase "Oceans IE" rather than "Ocean IE" (e.g. in many places in the "description" paragraph, so we propose to keep it plural in our paper.

COMMENT: Page 204, Line 26: Add "." at the end of sentence.

RESPONSE: This has been changed as suggested.

COMMENT: Page 214: The explanation to Fig. 5 refers to the "black rectangle on the right of the timeseries plot" and to the "red square" on the map, however these objects are missing on the figure.

RESPONSE: This has been changed as suggested.

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Interactive comment on Ocean Sci. Discuss., 8, 189, 2011.

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