

# **COPERNICUS MARINE FOR OUTERMOST AND MARITIME REGIONS**

Horta (Faial - Azores - Portugal) | June 6 and 7, 2019

MOI Contract Ref. 121-MC-RUTW-OR-CMEMS

## **Event Report**

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## Event Details

### Event Title

Copernicus Marine for Outermost and Maritime Regions

### Dates

June 6 and 7, 2019

### Venue

Sociedade Amor da Pátria | Horta – Faial – Azores - Portugal

### Organizing entities

- Mercator Ocean International (contracting entity)
- Azores Regional Government - Associação RAEGE Açores (contracted entity) / Azores Mission Structure for Space, Regional Secretariat for the Sea, Science and Technology
- NEREUS – Network of Regions Using Space Technologies (contracted entity)

### Associated Entities

- Azores Regional Government - Directorate for European Affairs
- Collectivity of Saint Martin | Presidency of CP-RUP (Conférence des Présidents des Régions Ultra-périphériques)

### Participants

A total of 64 people was engaged with the event, of which 7 via videoconference due to several flight cancellations and delays:

- 32 male / 32 female

Of the 57 people that were physically present at the event:

- 12 were organization/speakers/High-level representatives
- 45 were participants (of which 6 were representing Outermost Regions in the round table):
  - 43 people attended the first day
  - 27 attended the second day
  - 25 people attended both days

A full list of participants is provided in **Annex 1**.

## Background/Objectives

This event was designed to meet the interests of outermost maritime regions with regards to the Copernicus Marine Service data and information, providing discussion themes relevant to all maritime sectors/activities. The way it was structured meant to allow for public authorities to i) share issues regarding their maritime activities (water quality monitoring, aquaculture and fisheries management, renewable energy farm implementation, EU Directive and UN Sustainable Development Goal monitoring, etc.), ii) share expectations about the potential of Copernicus in this regard, iii) assess public authorities' experience/needs/priorities in terms of marine data and information with regards to the Copernicus Marine Service, iv) present Copernicus Marine Service experts and users to address those issues with existing examples and known solutions and v) put into practice some of the existing examples and known solutions within 3 marine hands-on technical training sessions.

## Approach

The Event was planned and organized in close collaboration between Mercator Ocean International, Azores Regional Government and NEREUS.

English was the official language of the event and online EN <> FR, ES and PT simultaneous translation services, accessible via smartphone, were contracted to Interprefy.

A webpage of the event - <http://marine.copernicus.eu/cmems4or/> - was launched in late February together with the public announcement of the "save the date". The Organizing Entities sent out official invitations by regular mail to high-level representatives of relevant regional, national and European institutions. Additionally, e-mail invitations were sent out to the mailing lists of the Organizing and Associated Entities. Social networks, such as Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn were used to disseminate the event. The dissemination timeline used was the one established in Annex 2 to the contract.

An online questionnaire was sent out in April to all registered participants to assess their Copernicus user level as well as the most relevant topics to be approached in the training session on day 2 of the event.

One representative of each Outermost Region nominated by their respective region, in coordination with the CPRUP, was invited to participate in the roundtable chaired by CP-RUP and NEREUS, held on the morning of the first day of the event.

Experts in Copernicus Marine Data/Services applications, both from Mercator Ocean International and other companies and/or research institutions, were invited to provide information and training on Copernicus Marine Service in the afternoon of day 1 and morning of day 2 of the event.

A cocktail dinner on day 1 as well as coffee-breaks and lunches on both days were offered to all participants.

The Event Program is provided in **Annex 2**.

A photographic record of some moments of the event is provided in **Annex 3**.

## Main Findings and Conclusions

The Day1 morning round table was the opportunity for outermost regions' representatives to share issues they are facing regarding their maritime activities, and to assess their experience, needs and priorities in terms of marine data and information with regards to the Copernicus Marine Service. The discussion confirmed the outcomes of the pre-event survey with respect to the topics with high-relevance for regional communities and outermost regions. Science&Climate, Water Quality and Marine Conservation & Policies were identified as priority topics prior the event via the online consultation.

In their round table' introductory statements and throughout the debate most participants highlighted the importance of natural hazards/disasters and water quality/marine pollution, referred to fisheries and aquaculture as key pillars of their regional economies and mentioning the need for more information for weather forecast as priority.

Participating outermost and maritime regions had very different maturity levels in using space based services and products for maritime challenges. Some regions had already gained considerable experience and realized best practices, while other regions have little experience. Cooperation between regions, e.g. with support from project financing opportunities, might prove to be a good opportunity to develop skills and experience in the less experienced regions with the help of the more experienced ones. The event has allowed for the establishment of a contacts network to pursue such opportunities, learn about the Framework Partnership Agreement on Copernicus Uptake as well as to challenge all regions to get involved with the Copernicus Relays and Academy networks as possible ways to capitalize their efforts in incorporating Copernicus data/services in everyday life. Working together with all stakeholders, from the private and public sector, was also underlined during this round table.

The presentations by Mercator Ocean International stressed that the Copernicus Marine Service disposes of vast data sets that can address a broad range of maritime challenges. However, the global data sets need to be adapted to the specific needs of different structural/geographical areas and regions and specific situations (e.g. natural disasters). To do this, a broad range of competences and skills along the whole value chain and at different levels of the public administration are needed. For this, training, awareness raising and dialogue are vital to a better understanding of needs and the development of the necessary know-how. In this context the role of the Copernicus Marine Service intermediate users (i.e. users of the Copernicus Marine Service with local expertise and know-how, that develop local solutions using Copernicus data for end users) was underlined, as illustrated during Day1's afternoon, where private sector and academic intermediate users presented local solutions based on Copernicus Marine data: 1) ocean climate and forecast (Hidromod and Deltares); 2) water quality (CLS and Planetek); and 3) marine conservations and policies (Ecoqua Institute).

The Day2 hands-on training session showcased how to download and use the Copernicus Marine Service data and which products are available. The audience was impressed by the hands-on presentation by Mercator Ocean International and by the wealth of data-sets. However several regional representatives highlighted that in order to really exploit this source of information optimally and in a smart way, broader awareness raising and training/education would be

necessary at the level of the public administration. Raising awareness and developing/building the necessary skills and competences were considered as core by the majority to start working for higher uptake and exploitation of marine services and data. Copernicus Relays and Academy networks can play a key role in helping to bridge knowledge/experience with Copernicus data/services towards local and regional public authorities in outermost regions.

Limited human and financial resources were referred as common across small regions and posing difficulty to the adoption of innovative technologies and applications. In this context, interregional cooperation was highlighted as an important way of pooling resources and competences and mobilizing regions, stressing the complementarity between outermost and maritime regions. Examples were given of fruitful interregional cooperation and knowledge/information sharing between NEREUS member regions with different maturity and specialisation levels.

The need to look into regional strategies (e.g. Smart Specialization Strategies – S3) and incorporate the use of space-based data and information, namely through the adoption of Copernicus Marine Service data and/or applications, was also identified as a potential area of inter-regional cooperation between regions with different levels of expertise.

Considering the contribution of all outermost regions' contributions, the general needs identified were:

- Awareness raising
- Training and education of public officers
- Intermediate user level with local expertise
- Interregional cooperation
- Expertise exchange between regions
- Collaboration at sectoral levels

Considering the challenges concerning marine/maritime affairs, the following needs were identified as the most striking:

#### Guadeloupe

- Natural disasters
- Invasive species (e.g. *Sargassum* spp.)
- Pesticides affecting traditional fishery techniques

#### Martinique:

- Fishing and illegal fishing with other islands
- Aquaculture
- Ports modernization
- Water quality
- Employment
- *Sargassum* spp. with impact on environment, tourism, fisheries, etc.
- Ship wrecks

#### Saint Martin:

- Climate change
- *Sargassum* spp.

- Jobs and blue economy

#### Madeira

- Natural disasters
- Fisheries and aquaculture
- Maritime Spatial Planning
- Sports

#### Azores:

- Maritime Spatial Planning

#### Canary Islands

- Renewable marine energy

#### La Réunion

- Maritime Spatial Planning
- Energy resources

To conclude, the event was a real opportunity for outermost regions to share issues they are facing regarding their maritime activities and to get Copernicus Maritime Service' representatives' attention on their level of expertise, needs and priorities in terms of marine data and information. The role of intermediate users was underlined as a key link in the value chain, where value can be added to Copernicus ocean data with local information and expertise. Awareness raising and training/education were also identified as crucial for public administration officers dealing with technical matters concerning marine and maritime affairs. Copernicus Relays and Academy networks have been pointed out as an important way for regions to keep informed/updated on Copernicus, its developments and applications, and interregional cooperation supported by existing funding (e.g. Horizon 2020/Europa, or via the Framework Partnership Agreement for Copernicus Uptake) as a powerful strategy to level expertise on Copernicus use across small regions.

## Annex 1: List of Participants

	First name	Last name	Company
Organization / Speakers	Celia	AZEVEDO	Azores Government
	Francisco	WALLENSTEIN-MACEDO	Azores Government
	Laurence	CROSNIER	Mercator Ocean International
	Roya	AYAZI	NEREUS
	Rudya	LAKE	Collectivity of Saint-Martin
	Véronique	ABADIE	Mercator Ocean International
	Cecilia	DONATI	Mercator Ocean International
	Fabrice	MESSAL	Mercator Ocean International
Invited Speakers	Anastasia	SARELLI	PLANETEK
	Andrej	ABRAMIC	Ecoaqua Institute
	João	RODRIGUES	HIDROMOD
	Lorinc	MESZAROS	Deltares
	Marion	SUTTON	CLS
Political Reps.	Gui	MENEZES	Azores Government
	Philippe	MOUCHARD	Collectivity of Saint-Martin
European Institutions	Dinka	DINKOVA	European Commission - DG GROW
	Katherine	FOURNIER-LEROUX	European Commission - DG REGIO
	Piero	MESSINA	European Space Agency
	Zoi	KONSTANTINOU	European Commission - DG MARE
Round Table	Ana	MARTINS	Azores University
	Bruno	PEREIRA	Madeira Government
	Cyrielle	CUIRASSIER	Guadeloupe Region
	Martial	HALLEY	Collectivity of Saint-Martin
	Mayvis	GIBUS	Martinique Region
	Salvador	SUÁREZ	Canary Islands Institute of Technology
Participants	Ruddy	BLONBOU	Guadeloupe Region
	Rui	CALDEIRA	Oceanic Observatory of Madeira
	Willy	PICHEGRAIN	Association Martinique Course au Large
	Adrachi	VELOU	Mayotte Region
	Alejandro	GARCIA	University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria
	Alice	COLOMBO	Guyana Region
	Bernardo	ARAÚJO	Madeira Government
	Carla	DAMASO	Azores Sea Observatory
	Carla	MELO	Simbiente Açores
	Carlos	VENTURA SOARES	Portuguese Hydrographic Institute
	Catharina	PIEPER	n.a.
	Clara	LOUREIRO	Azores University
	Cláudia	VIEGAS	Azores University
	Deborah	SHINODA	Azores University
	Elie	TOUZÉ	Collectivity of Saint-Martin
	Elliott	HAZEN	NOAA



	First name	Last name	Company
Participants (cont.)	Filipe	MARTINS	Simbiente Açores
	Filipe	PORTEIRO	Azores Government
	François	BOULLAY	Regional Council of La Réunion
	Gorika	IVANOVIC	Interprefy
	Inês	GOMES	Azores Government
	Joaquim	PAIS-BARBOSA	Porto Lusófona University
	Joaquin	BRITO	AIR Centre
	Jorge	FILIFE	Azores Government
	Jose	MACEDO	Azores Government
	Marco	SANTOS	Azores Government
	Maria	PENTZEL	Azores University
	Marta	VERGÍLIO	Azores University
	Martina	ROSA	Azores Government
	Octávio	SILVA	Azores Government
	Paulo	SILVA	Horta Harbour Administration
	Paulo	MIRANDA	Azores Government
	Pierre	TESSIER	SEAS-OI (La Réunion)
	Sara	SANTOS	Azores Government
	Sergi	PÉREZ-JORGE	Azores University
	Susana	BRASIL	Azores Government
	Susana	DAMIÃO	Azores Government
	Susana	GARCIA	Portuguese Institute for the Sea and Atmosphere
	Victoria	NAKOURA GONZÁLEZ	Canarias Government

## Annex 2: Event Programme

### DAY 1 - JUNE 6

#### 10.30 Opening session: Setting the scene at Policy and Political level

- **Roya Ayazi**, Secretary General, [NEREUS](#)
- **Philippe Mouchard**, on behalf of the President of the Conference of Presidents of the Outermost Regions, President of the [Collectivity of Saint-Martin](#), Conference of Presidents (CP –RUP)
- **Gui Menezes**, Secretary for the Sea Science and Technology for the [Regional Government of the Azores](#)

#### 10:45 The view of the European Institutions

- **Dinka Dinkova**, Deputy Head of Unit, Space Data for Societal Challenges and Growth, Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, European Commission – Videoconference
- **Zoi Konstantinou**, Policy Officer, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, European Commission – Videoconference
- **Katherine Fournier-Leroux**, Policy Officer, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission – Videoconference
- **Piero Messina**, Head of Strategy Department, European Space Agency – Videoconference

#### 11.30 Coffee Break

#### 11.45 Round table: Outermost Regions' needs & challenges

Representatives of Outermost Regions sharing issues regarding maritime activities and expectations about the potential of Copernicus in this regard - CHAIRS: **Rudya Lake**, Policy Officer for European Affairs of Saint Martin, representing the Conference of Presidents of the Outermost Regions and **Roya Ayazi**, Secretary General of Network of European Regions Using Space Technologies ([NEREUS](#))

- **Ana Martins**, Assistant Professor at the Oceanography and Fisheries Department of [Azores University](#) - **AZORES**
- **Salvador Suárez García**, Head of Department of Renewables Energies of the Research and Technological Development Department of the [Instituto Tecnológico de Canarias](#) (ITC) - **CANARY ISLANDS**
- **Cyrielle Cuirassier**, Representation of region Guadeloupe in Brussels - **GUADELOUPE**
- **Bruno Pereira**, Director of European Affairs and External Cooperation, [Madeira Government](#) - **MADEIRA**
- **Mayvis Gibus**, Policy officer for EU affairs - **MARTINIQUE**
- **Adrachi Velou**, Policy officer for EU affairs - **MAYOTTE**
- **Pierre Tessier**, Director of [SEAS-OI](#) - Head of the GIS cell of the Réunion Region - **RÉUNION** (Video)

### 13.30 Lunch

### 14.15 How The Copernicus Marine Service can answer the regions' challenges and needs?

- Overview of the Copernicus Marine Service and summary of the morning session, **Cecilia Donati** | [Mercator Ocean International](#)

#### *Challenge 1: Ocean Climate and Forecast*

- The Copernicus Marine Service products in Ocean Climate and Forecast : the Ocean State Report and the Ocean Monitoring Indicators, **Laurence Crosnier** | [Mercator Ocean International](#)
- User Tailored Marine Weather Information Services, **João Rodrigues** | [Hidromod](#) - Videoconference
- Coastal Erosion, **Lorinc Meszaros** | [Deltares](#) - Videoconference
- Q&A

#### *Challenge 2: Water Quality*

- The Copernicus Marine Service Ocean in support to water quality challenges: Harmful algae blooms, aquaculture, oil spill response, **Laurence Crosnier** | [Mercator Ocean International](#)
- The SARGASSUM project, **Marion Sutton** | [CLS France](#) - Videoconference
- Q&A

### 16.40 Coffee Break

#### *Challenge 3: Marine Conservations and Policies*

- The Copernicus Marine Service Ocean in support to MSFD, **Laurence Crosnier** | [Mercator Ocean International](#)
- Q&A

### 18.00 Wrap Up and Conclusion

### 18.30 Cocktail dinner

## DAY 2 - JUNE 7

### 9.00 Training workshop: Plenary session

- Copernicus Marine for Maritime Spatial Planning: The PlasMAR project , **Andrej Abramic** | [Ecoaqu Institute](#), University Las Palmas de Gran Canaria
- The CMEMS User Uptake project: example of water quality monitoring in the Mediterranean sea, **Anastasia Sarelli** | [Planetek](#)
- CMEMS Service Desk Introduction, **Fabrice Messal** | [Mercator Ocean International](#)
- Overview of the Global Model products, **Fabrice Messal** | [Mercator Ocean International](#)
- Overview of the Wave Observation products, **Fabrice Messal** | [Mercator Ocean International](#)
- Overview of the Sea Level products, **Fabrice Messal** | [Mercator Ocean International](#)

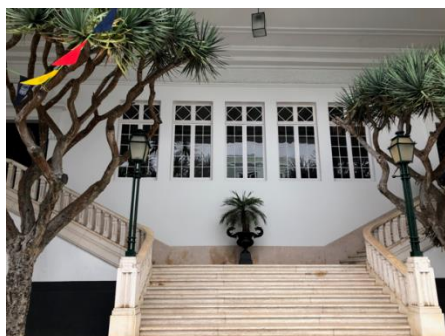
## 11.00 Coffee Break

## 11.30 Training workshop: Practical session

- Practical Sessions by Service Desk CMEMS, **Fabrice Messal** | [Mercator Ocean International](#)
- How to register and browse in the catalogue, **Fabrice Messal** | [Mercator Ocean International](#)
- How to extract, visualize and download data, **Fabrice Messal** | [Mercator Ocean International](#)

## 13.00 Lunch and end of the day

## Annex 3: Photographic Record of the Event



## Annex 4: Event Presentations

All slides presentations are available from <https://atlas.mercator-ocean.fr/s/LDx2T9k8JdapsNF>