

**CIESM Congress Session : Coastal observation tools**  
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*Moderator's Synthesis*

The session had only 3 presentations, one focussing on the data assimilation through the Emodnet data portal, one on improving a biogeochemical model with processes that differ in the coastal zone from the open ocean and the third analysing the effect of ship wakes on erosion with the help of historical data. Besides the concrete scientific content, the three presentations focused on data handling more than data acquisition.

The discussion showed that a central data portal as access point for observation data is helpful and that efforts should be continued to include data from the whole Mediterranean Sea in Emodnet if possible or an alternative portal. Standardization and quality control is important though. Even though it is a requirement for the data providers, some errors become first visible when combing the data e.g. on basin scale. The example of chlorophyll modelling showed that a combination of methods is often necessary, because all methods (e.g. direct measurement, satellite image and model) have their uncertainties. The third example was an example that also historical data sources need to be accessed to estimate the extent of changes if the causing processes are not yet understood. From the GIS side, all levels of data handling are relevant, from pure mapping, to using GIS similar to a model, and participatory mapping, which is becoming increasingly popular, on the one hand because it is relatively cheap, on the other hand, because it gives access to local knowledge.

The session only shows a small fraction of tools and methods used. Many of the talks in other sessions were based on new tools, methods or challenges with acquiring the relevant level of data and information.

