DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Title:	Guidelines for downloading Copernicus marine data from Earth observation satellites
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Status:	Draft
Description:	This document provides a comprehensive guide on downloading Copernicus marine data
Publisher:	Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie (IZSVe)
Date:	12/11/2024
Version:	1.0
Language:	En
Relation:	WOAH Project "Strengthening capacity on aquatic animal health and epidemiological surveillance"

REVISIONS HISTORY

Changes to this document are coordinated by IZSVe

Date	Author	Туре
22/07/2024	Matteo Mazzucato	Contents review. Styles minor changes.
21/08/2024	Mirco Cazzaro	First Sistematic Review
22/08/2024	Rodrigo Macario	Last update
28/08/2024	Mirco Cazzaro	Second Sistematic Review
06/09/2024	Rodrigo Macario	Last update
12/11/2024	Nicola Ferrè	General revision

Guidelines for downloading Copernicus marine data from Earth observation satellites Working draft 1.0 – November 2024

Preface

The "Guidelines for Downloading Copernicus Marine Data from Earth Observation Satellites" provide a stepby-step approach to accessing and utilizing critical data within GIS projects that support aquaculture animal health. Leveraging the Copernicus marine environment monitoring service is essential for two primary applications in these projects: first, as a dynamic background map, providing essential geographical and environmental context for the project area; and second, as a comprehensive source of bio-chemical and physical information. In this latter context, Copernicus Marine Data can be used to develop spatial analysis and mathematical models that describe aquaculture distribution, forecast disease spread or support other application where marine biochemical and physical parameters can influence the animal health.

Incorporating Copernicus data into aquaculture health GIS project contributes to understanding the "environmental" impacts on animal health. The guidelines in this document offer technical and practical insights, ensuring users can seamlessly integrate Copernicus Marine Data into their analytical workflows to support informed decision-making in aquaculture health management.

Copernicus Marine Data

In aquatic animal health GIS projects, Copernicus Marine Data provides a series of biochemical and physical datasets that represent marine conditions. Key types of data include:

Sea Surface Temperature (SST): SST data is essential for assessing optimal environmental conditions for aquaculture species, monitoring stress from temperature fluctuations, and identifying temperature-related disease risks.

Chlorophyll concentration: this data offers information about the phytoplankton, which is used to indicate algal bloom occurrences and primary productivity. High chlorophyll levels can impact water quality and may be linked to health issues in certain aquatic species.

Salinity: salinity levels affect species tolerance and distribution, and variations can influence disease spread. This data is crucial for spatial analysis in aquaculture health projects, especially for species sensitive to salinity changes.

Currents and water circulation patterns: data on currents aids in tracking the potential spread of pathogens and pollutants, assisting models that predict the dispersion of diseases and environmental impacts.

Dissolved oxygen: oxygen level are critical for aquatic animal health because they influence species viability and susceptibility to diseases. Monitoring dissolved oxygen supports early warnings for low-oxygen events, which may increase stress and mortality risks.

Nutrients: High nutrient concentrations (e.g., nitrates, phosphates) can lead to eutrophication, harmful algal blooms, and degraded water quality. Nutrient data helps assess the suitability of areas for aquaculture and identify potential environmental stressors.

Copernicus Marine Data Store

The Copernicus Marine Service is a component of the Copernicus Program, the European Union's Earth observation and monitoring initiative. Its goal is to provide readily accessible information to enhance maritime services and address issues related to the marine environment, maritime safety, and resources. The service delivers a variety of data and products related to seas and oceans, with datasets in the Copernicus Marine Data Store sourced from numerical models, satellite data, and in-situ observations.



To access and download data from the Copernicus Marine Data Store, you must be a registered user. Visit <u>https://data.marine.copernicus.eu/register</u>, complete the registration form and click the "Register" button to finalize your free profile registration.

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	Register or Log in ⑦ Any questions? Send us a	note through the	chat!							R

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email and you must set your password before logging in to the Copernicus platform.

Data format:

The data format used by the platform is NetCDF (Network Common Data Form), the default format for Copernicus data. NetCDF facilitates the efficient creation, access, and dissemination of array-oriented scientific data and is widely recognized as a standard for the exchange of scientific information. More information on the NetCDF file format is available <u>here</u>.

12/11/2024

Downloading Copernicus Marine data

The initial step is to download the NetCDF file. Begin by selecting a Copernicus Marine data access endpoint that fits your needs. For example, to incorporate the **Global Ocean Physics Analysis and Forecast** into your QGIS project, visit the Copernicus Marine Data website at <u>https://data.marine.copernicus.eu/products</u>.

Browse the website to locate the specific dataset you are interested in. Click on the 'Download data' option to initiate the download of the NetCDF file, as illustrated in the images below.



At this stage, you can select the desired dataset and variables. Once chosen, click on the "Download" button, as shown in the images below.

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Now, you can open your downloaded marine data in QGIS and utilize it for various GIS purposes, as illustrated in the image below.



Example of Copernicus Marine data in a QGIS project.

Working with Copernicus Marine Data through Open Geospatial Consortium

Web services and web-based Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) enable users to execute standard functionality over the Web. Similar to how a browser accesses a website via its URL, a Web Service API uses its URL endpoint along with predefined parameters.

When a user makes an API call, the web server performs background calculations and sends the results back to the user via standard web (HTTP) response. Access to satellite data in GIS projects can be simplified using the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) APIs.

To begin, establish a WMTS connection. Visit the Copernicus Marine Data Store (CMDS) at https://data.marine.copernicus.eu/prod4ucts, select the desired product, and click the download button.



You will be redirected to the Data Access tab on the product information page.

Find the dataset of interest and locate the WMTS column.

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DOCUMENTATION	 Files: The fastest graphical approach to get original files (FTP-like). For a progran Toolbox: CLI or Python API. 	mming approach, prefer the 0	Copernicus Ma	arine			
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Hover over the WMTS link and copy the URL:

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Next, paste the copied URL into your QGIS project. In the QGIS desktop application, open the Data Source

Manager 🥵 and go to the WMS/WMTS section.

Click on the "New" button to create a WMTS connection.

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Enter a name for your connection and paste the copied URL into the appropriate field. Click "OK" to save your connection.

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Then, click on the "Connect" button to establish the connection.

Select the desired layer by choosing it and then clicking on the "Add" button.

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At this point, a pop-up window will appear, prompting you to select the appropriate elevation value. After making your choice, click "OK" to confirm. You have successfully imported a WMTS layer into your QGIS project, as shown in the image below:



Example of Copernicus Marine data in a QGIS project.