

# BLUE MISSION BANOS

Supporting the Mission  
Ocean Lighthouse in the  
Baltic and North Sea Basins

EU MISSIONS  
RESTORE OUR OCEAN & WATERS



## 3rd MISSION ARENA 26-27 November 2024 Amsterdam

### REGIONAL FOCUS ARENA 3

The Netherlands  
BELGIUM  
DENMARK | West  
GERMANY | West  
FRANCE | North



  
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**3rd MISSION ARENA**  
26-27 November 2024 | Amsterdam

# Demonstration of the Digital Twin of the Ocean and its capabilities

27 November, 16:00-17:45  
Hall 1 – The Plenary



# Agenda

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>16:00 – 16:05</b> | <b>Welcome</b>  |
| <b>16:05 – 16:15</b> | <b>Introduction to the Digital Twin of the Ocean and its infrastructure</b> |
| <b>16:15 – 16:30</b> | <b>Demonstration of the first pre-operational platform</b>                  |
| <b>16:30 – 16:45</b> | <b>DTO-BioFlow</b>  |
| <b>16:45 – 17:40</b> | <b>Interactive session with round table discussions</b>                     |

  
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# EDITO

# Digital Twin of the Ocean

27 November, 16:00-17:45  
Hall 1 – The Plenary





# Goal



The main aim of EDITO-Infra, the “EU Public Infrastructure for the European Digital Twin”, is to build the EU Public Infrastructure backbone for the **European Digital Twin of the Ocean (DTO)** by upgrading, combining and integrating key service components of the existing EU ocean observing, monitoring and data programmes **Copernicus Marine Service** and the **European Marine Observation and Data Network** into a single digital framework





# European Digital Twin of the Ocean

A leap in ocean knowledge  
and sustainable action





# EDITO – Facilitate

- the scientist work
  - **Limit data transfer** as datasets become bigger (spatial, temporal dimension) **higher resolution**
  - **Simplify** high-performance computing (**HPC**) accessibility

Enable **effective data subsets** and **near-data computing**

- the contribution to the ocean science
  - **Improve FAIRness (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable)** of data and processes
  - **Easily involve more parties** instead of identified institutes

Offer **efficient tools** in an **open and collaborative platform**

# FAIR - STAC



SpatioTemporal Asset Catalogs

The STAC specification is a common language to describe geospatial information, so it can more easily be worked with, indexed, and discovered.

Catalogue of parameters (CF, BODC, ..)



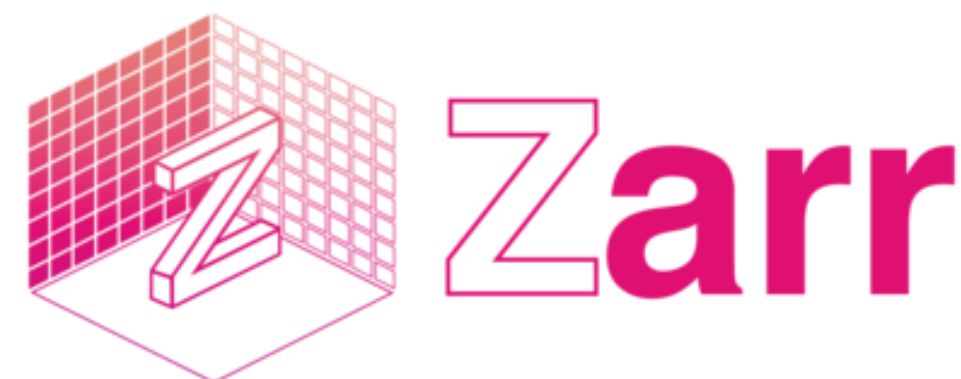


# Subsetting - ARCO

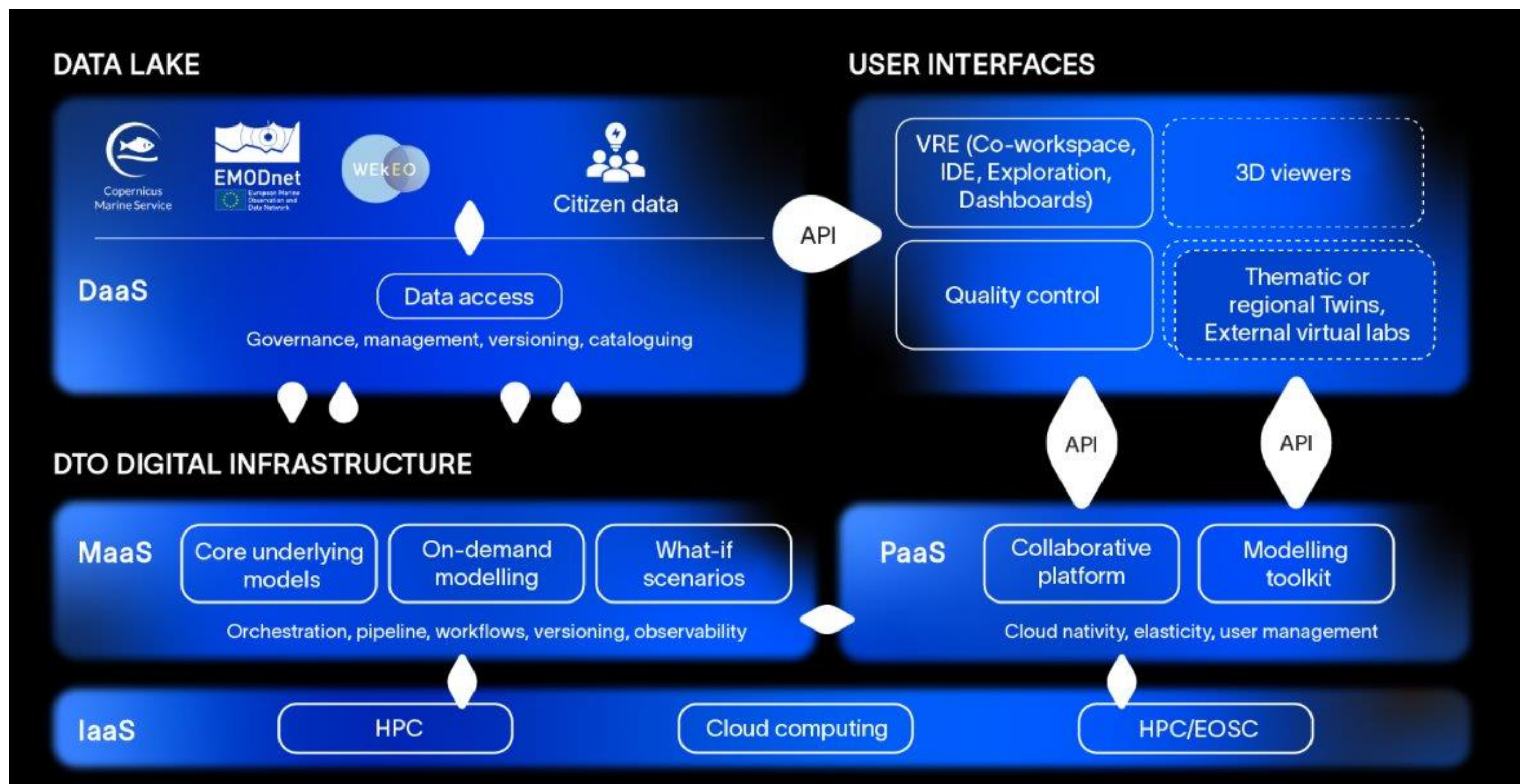
Analysis Ready and Cloud Optimized

(geo)Parquet – Vector datasets

(geo)Zarr – Raster datasets



# Components







# Offer

## The European Digital Twin Ocean Offer

### Explore

Use the Digital Twin Ocean platform



### Contribute

Add data & services to the Digital Twin Ocean platform

### Create

Build your external third-party services





# Applications



## Digital Twin Ocean Applications



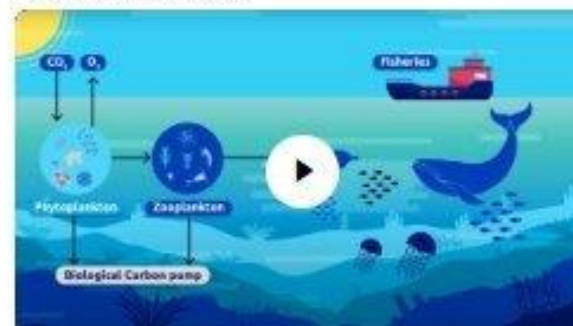
EU DTO application  
**to combat marine plastic pollution and safeguard  
marine environments**

Monitoring marine plastic, predicting its movement to support informed decisions and actions to curb marine plastic.



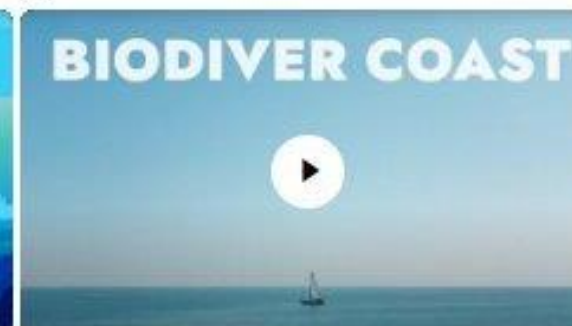
EU DTO application  
**to support nature-based solutions against coastal  
hazards**

Exploring the best way to use coastal vegetation such as seagrass to reduce coastal risks.



EU DTO - Blue Cloud 2025 application  
**An application to support marine biodiversity  
conservation**

Unravelling plankton dynamics to monitor and predict marine life movement in support of conservation efforts.



EU DTO - BIODIVER COAST application  
**Monitoring water quality in support of aquaculture  
and biodiversity restoration**

Monitoring and forecasting water quality for sustainable oyster aquaculture in the Bay of Galway, Ireland.



EU DTO - SOCIB application  
**Early warning system for extreme events**

Predicting mega-bursts in the western Mediterranean for managing risk and adaptation to a changing climate.



EU DTO - LISCOAST application  
**Assessing weather-related and socioeconomic  
impacts in coastal areas in present and future  
climates**

Large-scale sea-level and coastal assessment tool to quantify coastal hazard, exposure and vulnerability and assess consequent risks.



EU DTO - OLAMUR application  
**Supporting sustainable multi-use of marine  
environment**

Unravelling the potential of multi-use offshore wind energy and low trophic level aquaculture in the Baltic Sea.



EU DTO - ILIAD application  
**An immersive ocean for marine resource  
management**

3D ocean environment visualisations for marine applications and spatial planning based on video game technology.





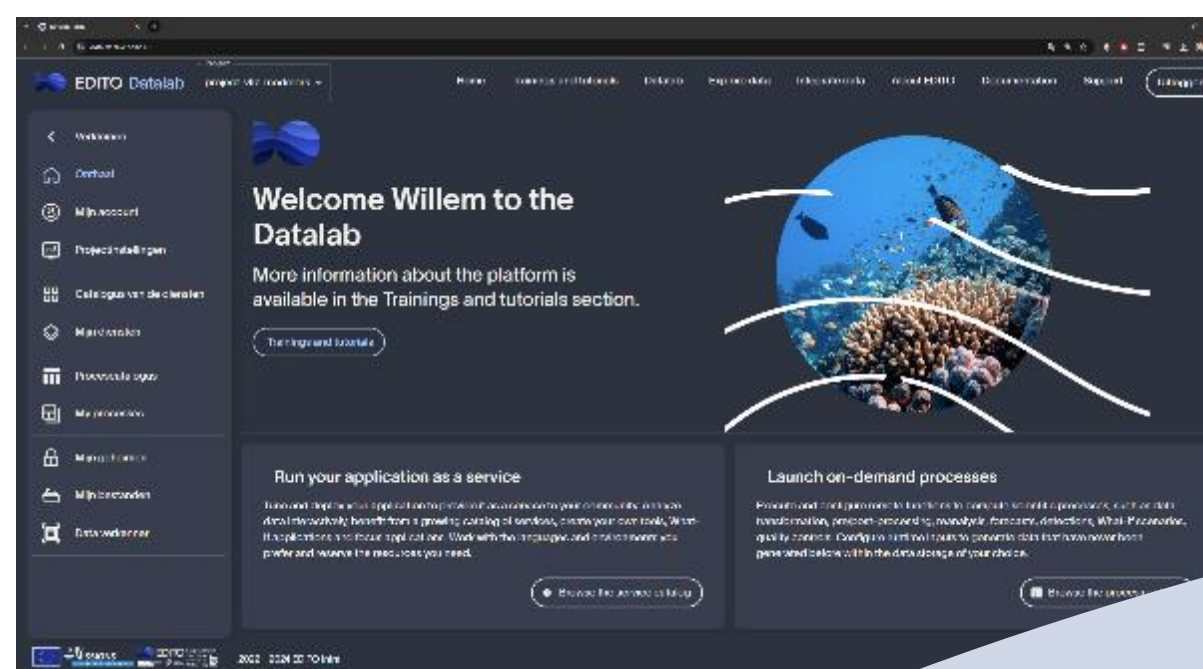
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# EDITO Demonstrator

## MAPPING HABITAT SUITABILITY

26 November, 16:00–17:45am  
Hall 1

# DEVELOPING IN EDITO



Deploy

Process

Access



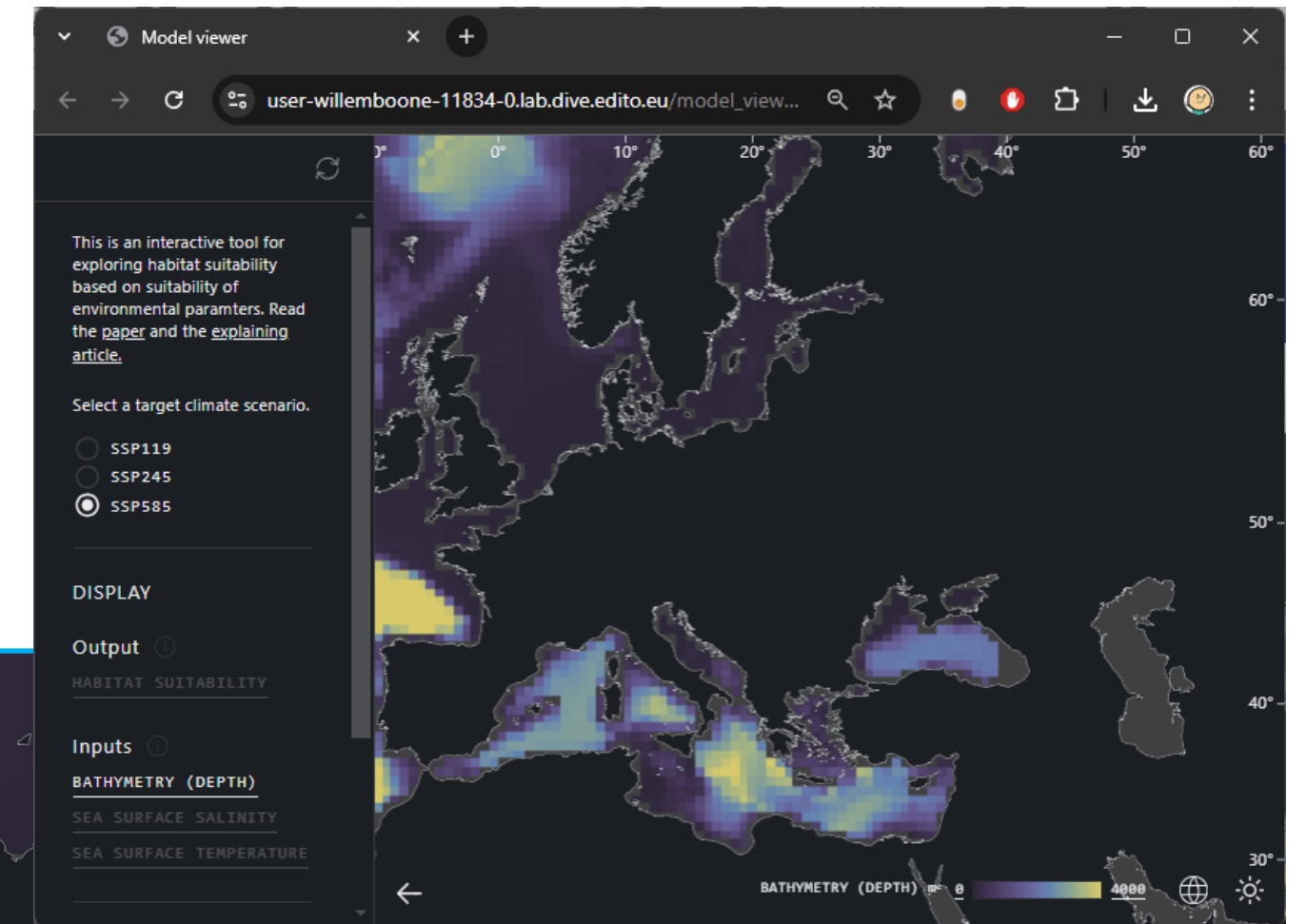
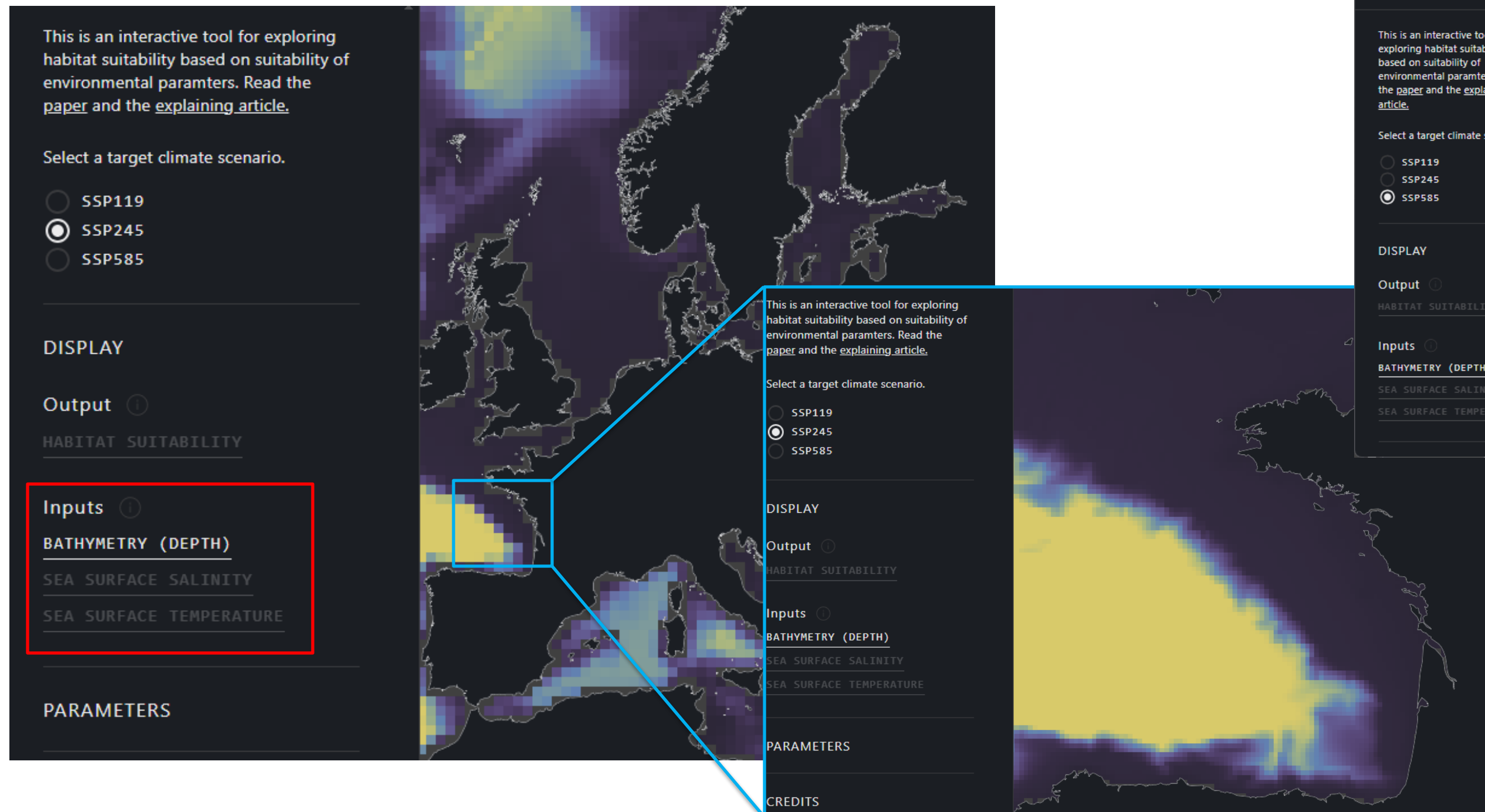


# OBJECTIVE



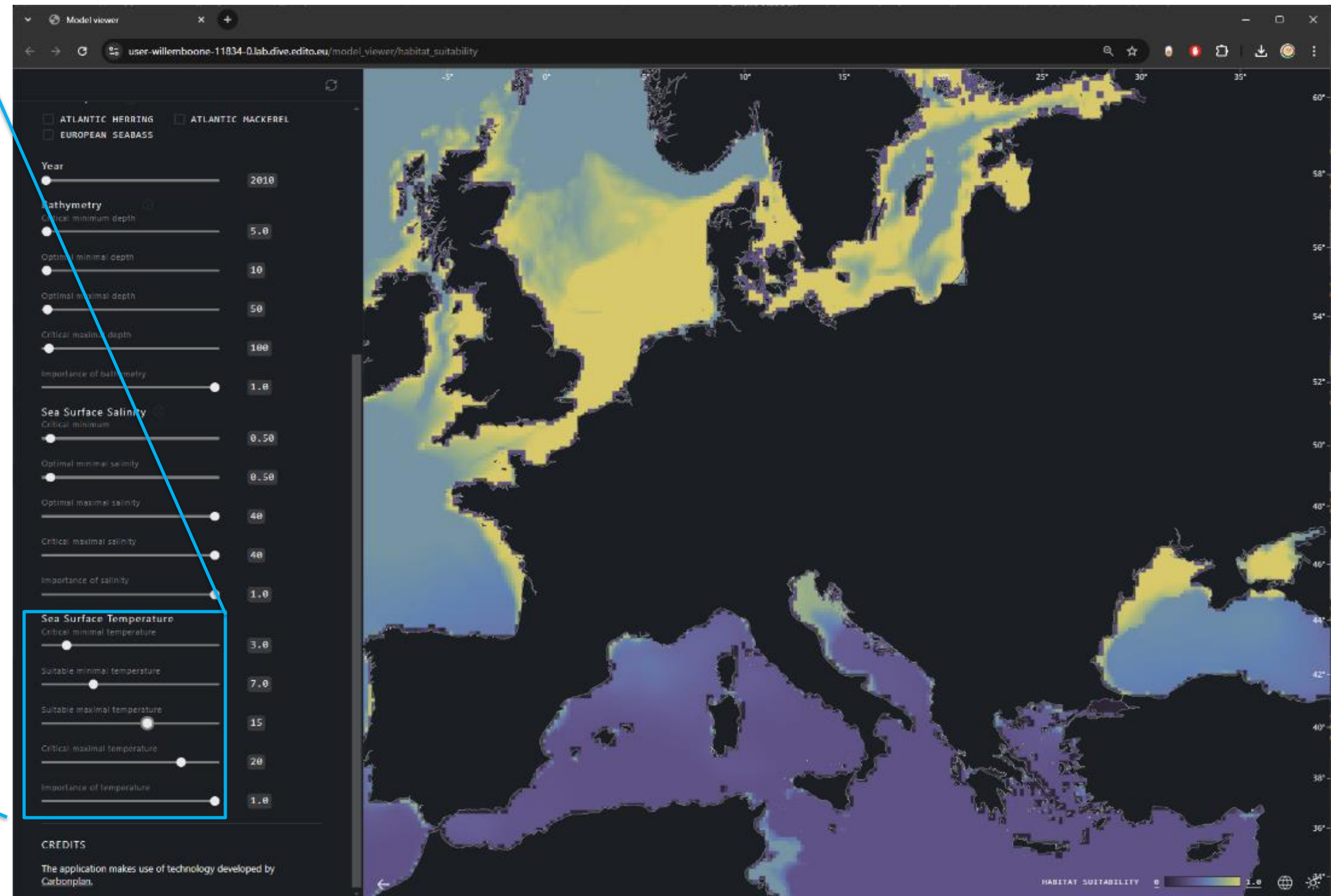
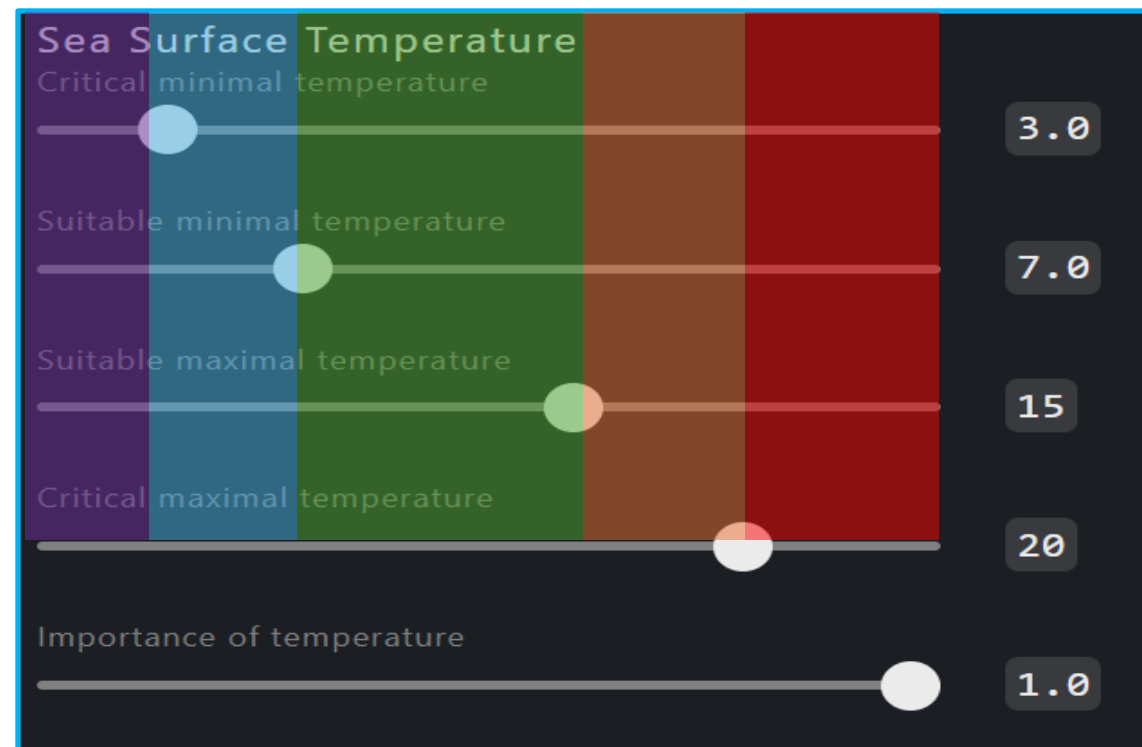


# ENVIRONMENTAL DATA

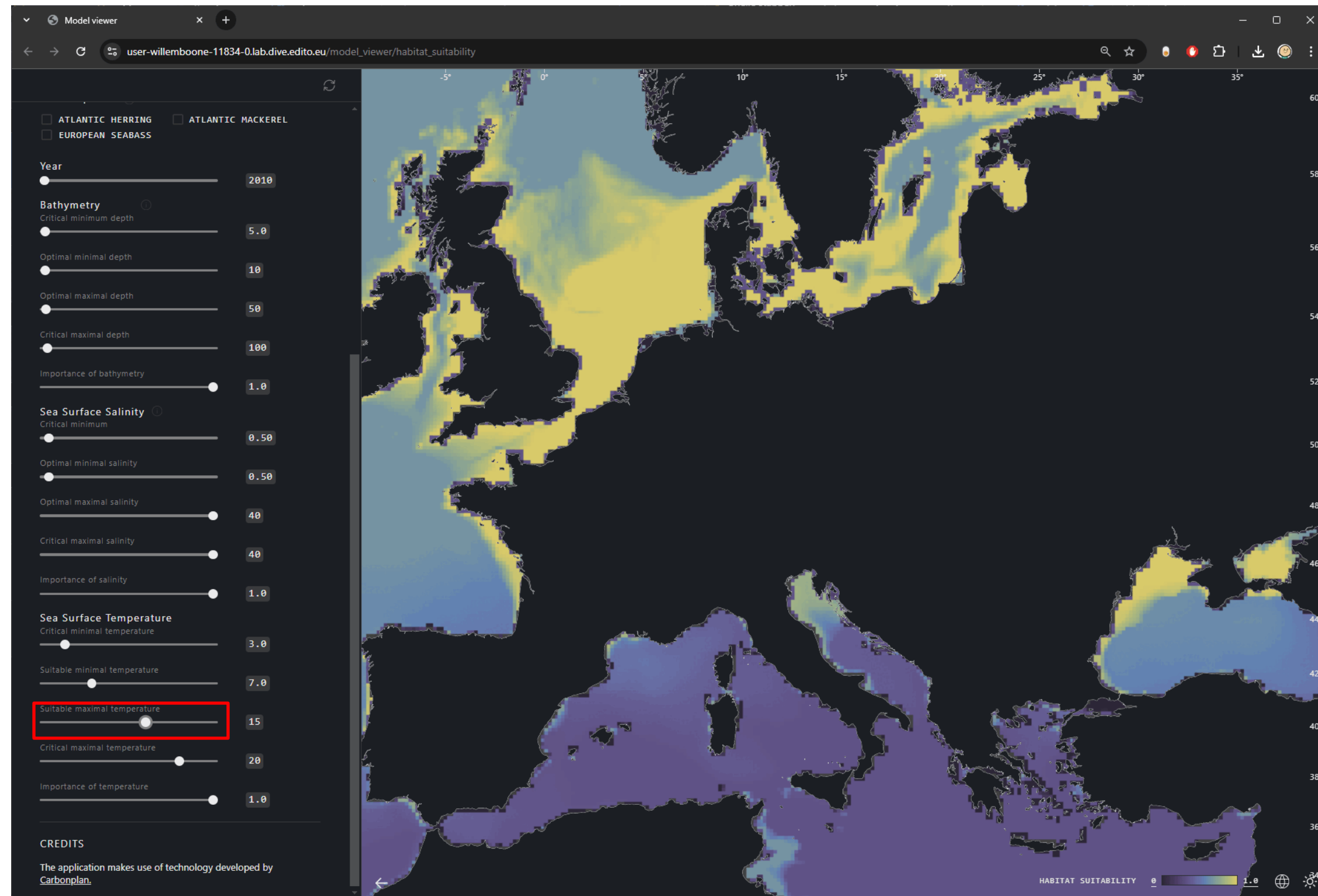




# MODEL SETTINGS

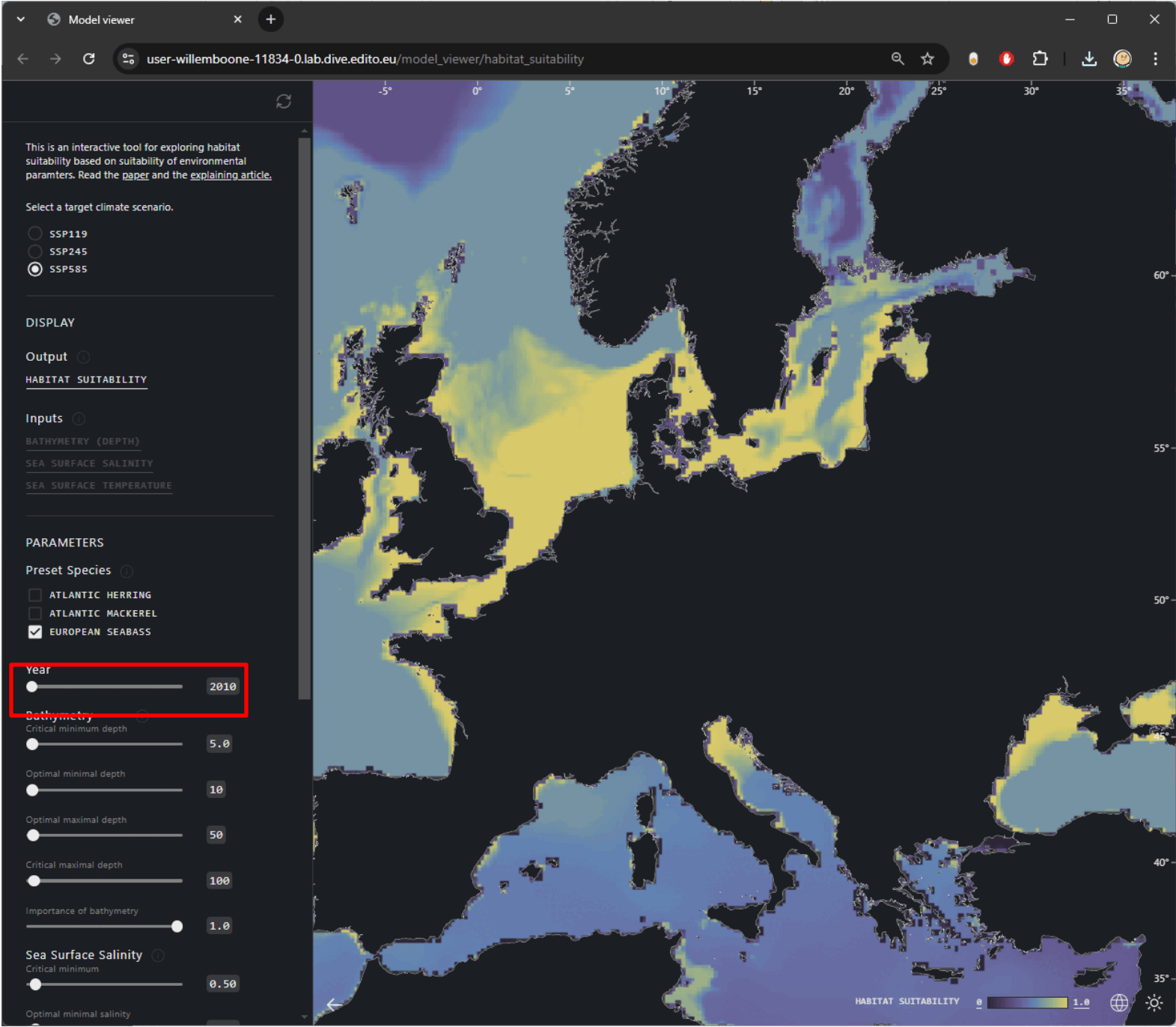
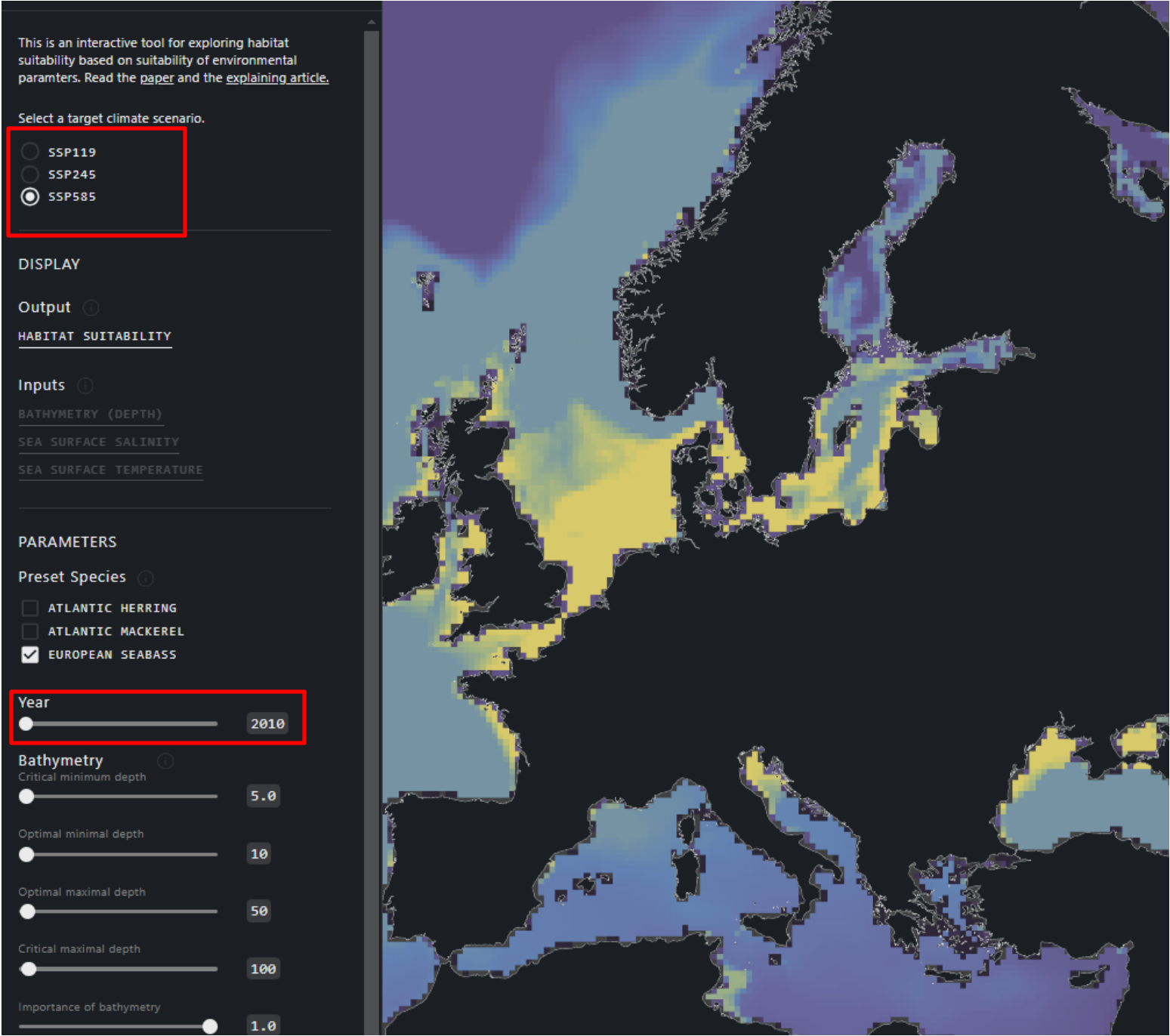


# REAL TIME SIMULATION





# TIME SERIES





# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION







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# DTO-BioFlow

**Integration of Marine Biodiversity monitoring  
data into the Digital Twin of the Ocean**

Klaas Deneudt - VLIZ

26 November, 16:00-17:45am

Hall 1 – The Plenary

# The Digital Twin of the Ocean



European  
Commission

## DIGITAL TWIN OCEAN

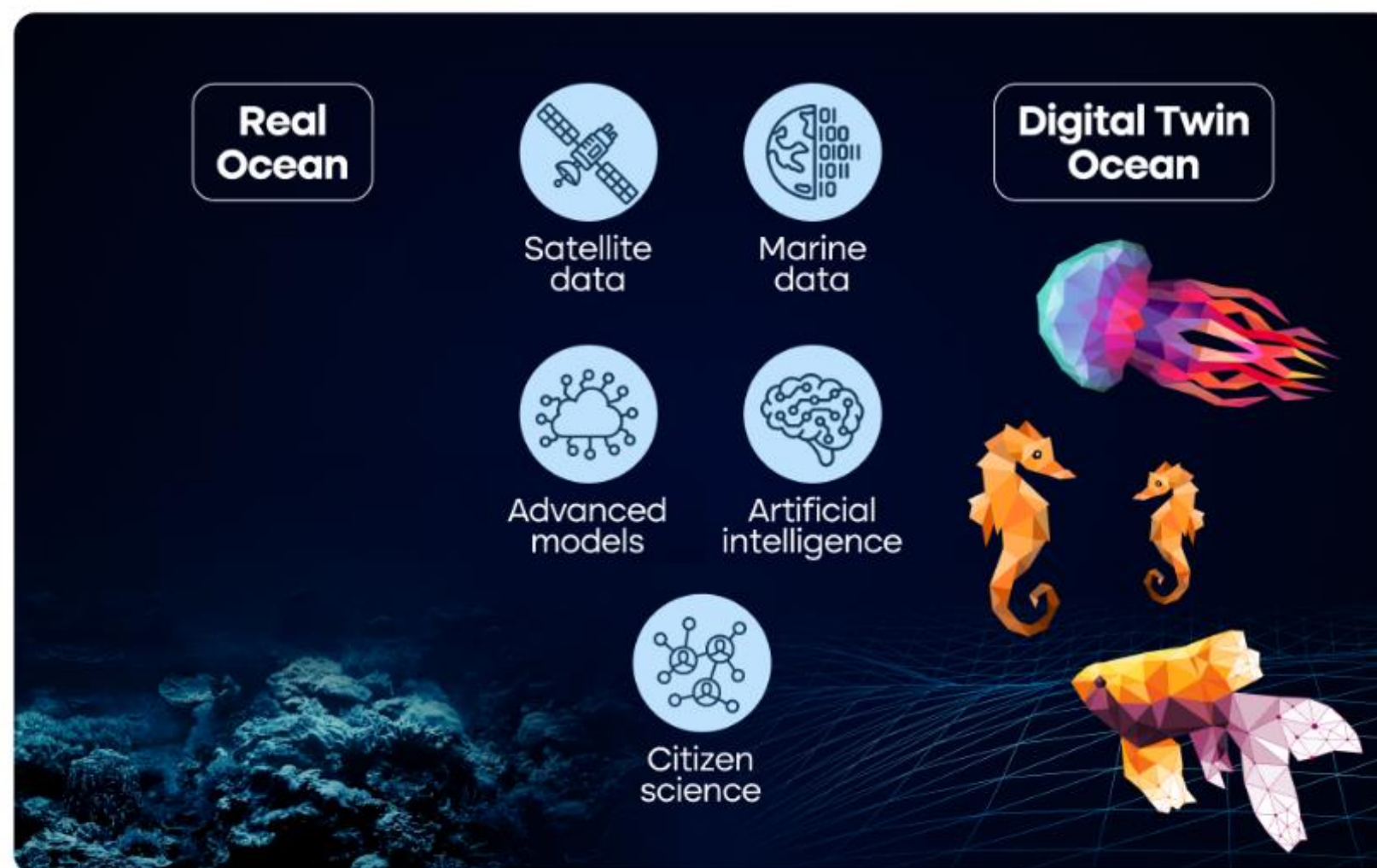
An interactive replica of the ocean for better decision-making

A digital space providing access to vast amounts of data, models, artificial intelligence and other tools, which will allow the replication of the properties and behaviours of marine systems, including ocean currents and waves, marine life and human activities, and their interactions, in and near the sea.



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## Better decision-making

By connecting data and models through tailor-made applications, scientists, marine experts, policymakers, entrepreneurs and user-driven applications can test different specific scenarios.



This allow  
us to



1. Better  
understand  
the ocean



2. Simulate  
alternative  
scenarios



3. Predict its  
response to  
changes



**4. Make the  
best informed  
decision**



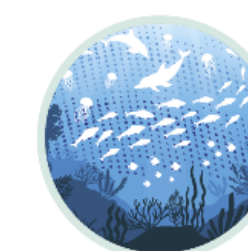
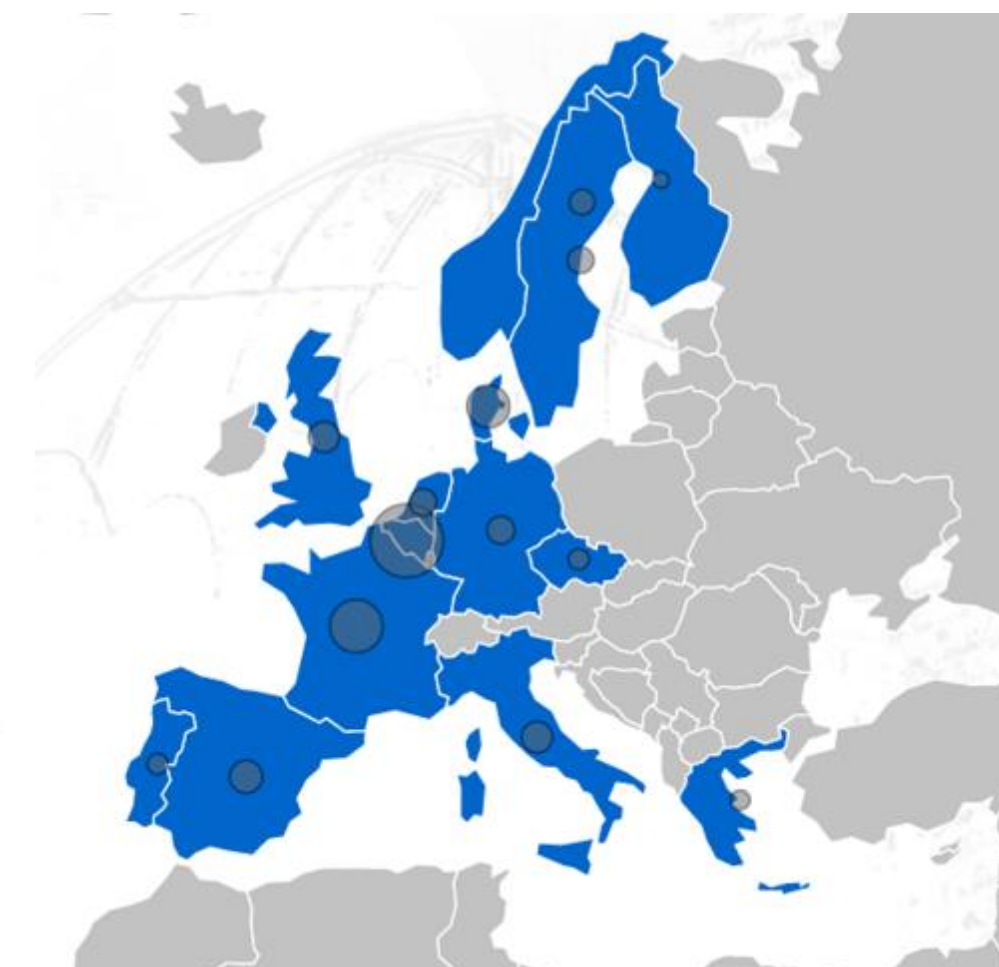
# The DTO BioFlow project

Integration of biodiversity monitoring data into the digital twin ocean

## OBJECTIVE:

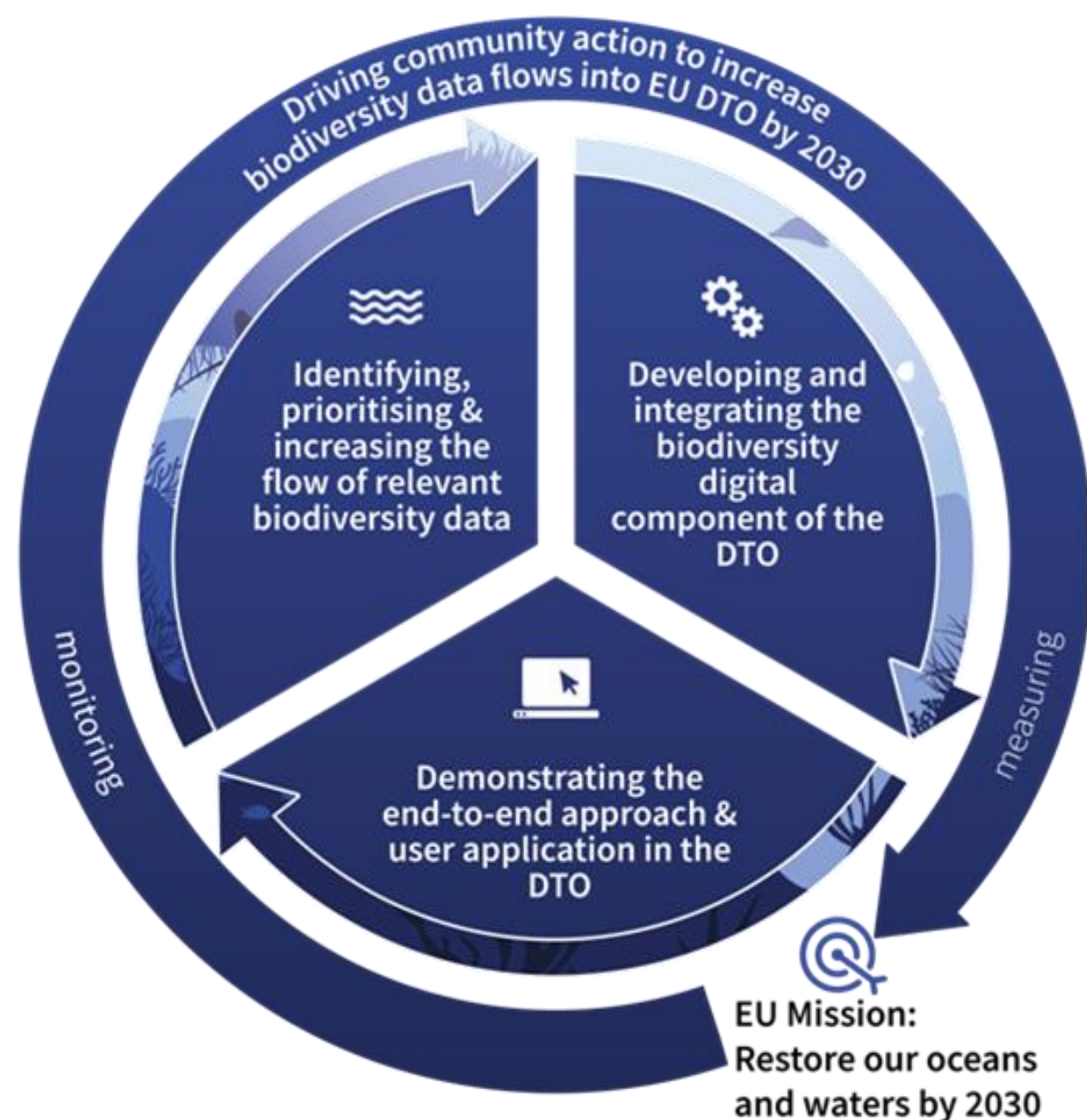
*DTO-BioFlow will unlock “sleeping” biodiversity data, enabling the sustained flow of these and new **biodiversity monitoring data** into the EU Digital Twin Ocean. It will create essential components for a digital replica of marine biological processes, transforming new and existing data flows into evidence-based knowledge.*

- ≡ HORIZON-MISS-2022-OCEAN-01-07
- ≡ **42** project months
- ≡ From **Sept 2023** until **Feb 2027**
- ≡ **€10.0 million** EC funding
- ≡ **32** participants
- ≡ **€1.0 million** FSTP grants

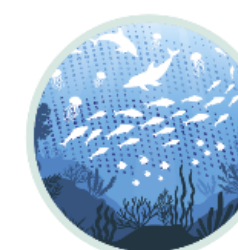


**DTO-BioFlow**  
Integration of biodiversity monitoring  
data into the Digital Twin Ocean

# OBJECTIVES

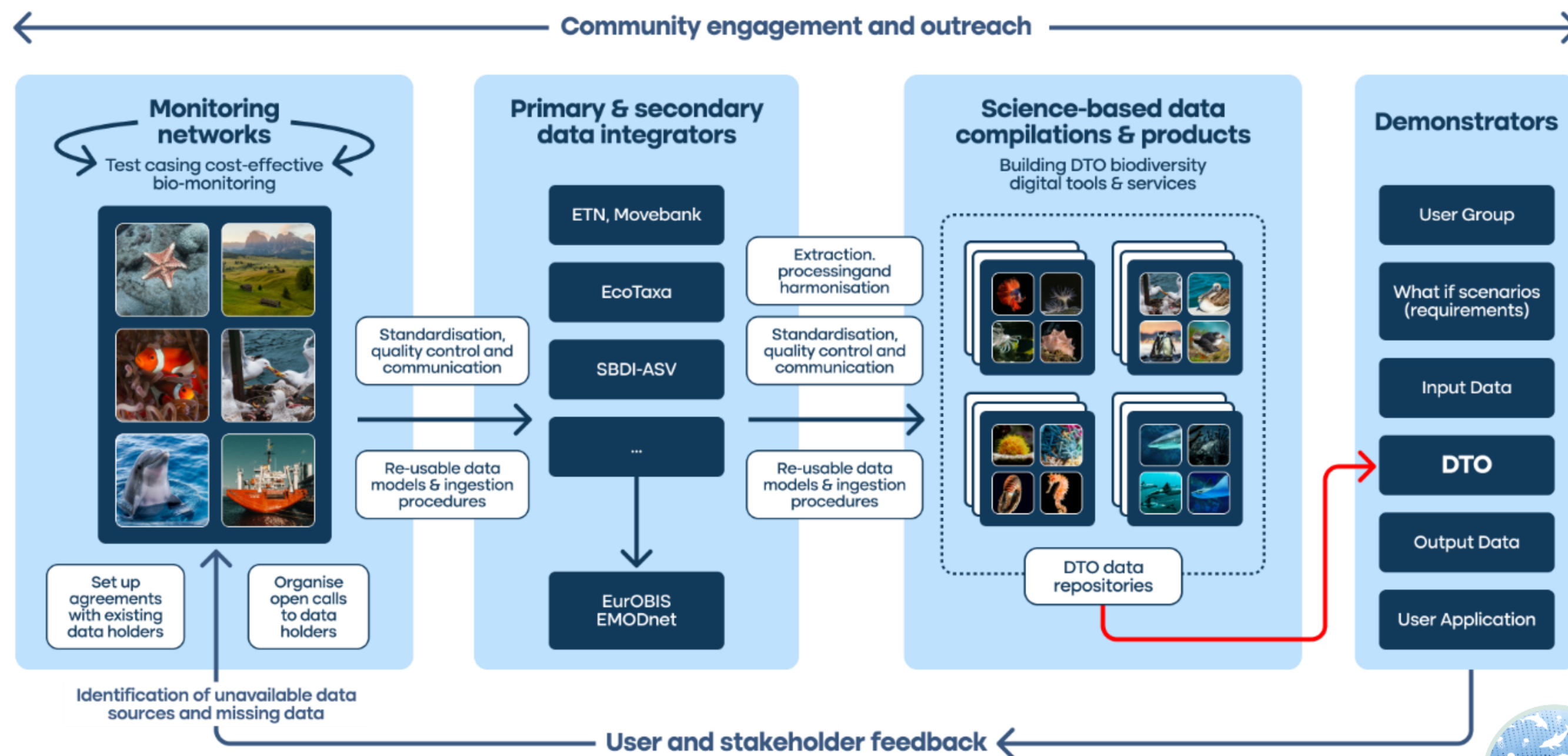


- **OO1: Increase the flow of relevant biodiversity data**, by assessing opportunities and unlocking current barriers to assimilation and ingestion.
- **OO2: Develop and integrate the biodiversity digital component** of the EU Digital Twin Ocean **ensuring sustainable data flows** after project end.
- **OO3: Demonstrate an end-to-end approach for biodiversity monitoring** based on the digital environment provided by EU DTO & data sources
- **OO4: Establish mechanisms to drive community action** towards increasing biodiversity data flows into EU DTO by 2030



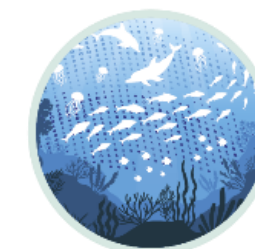
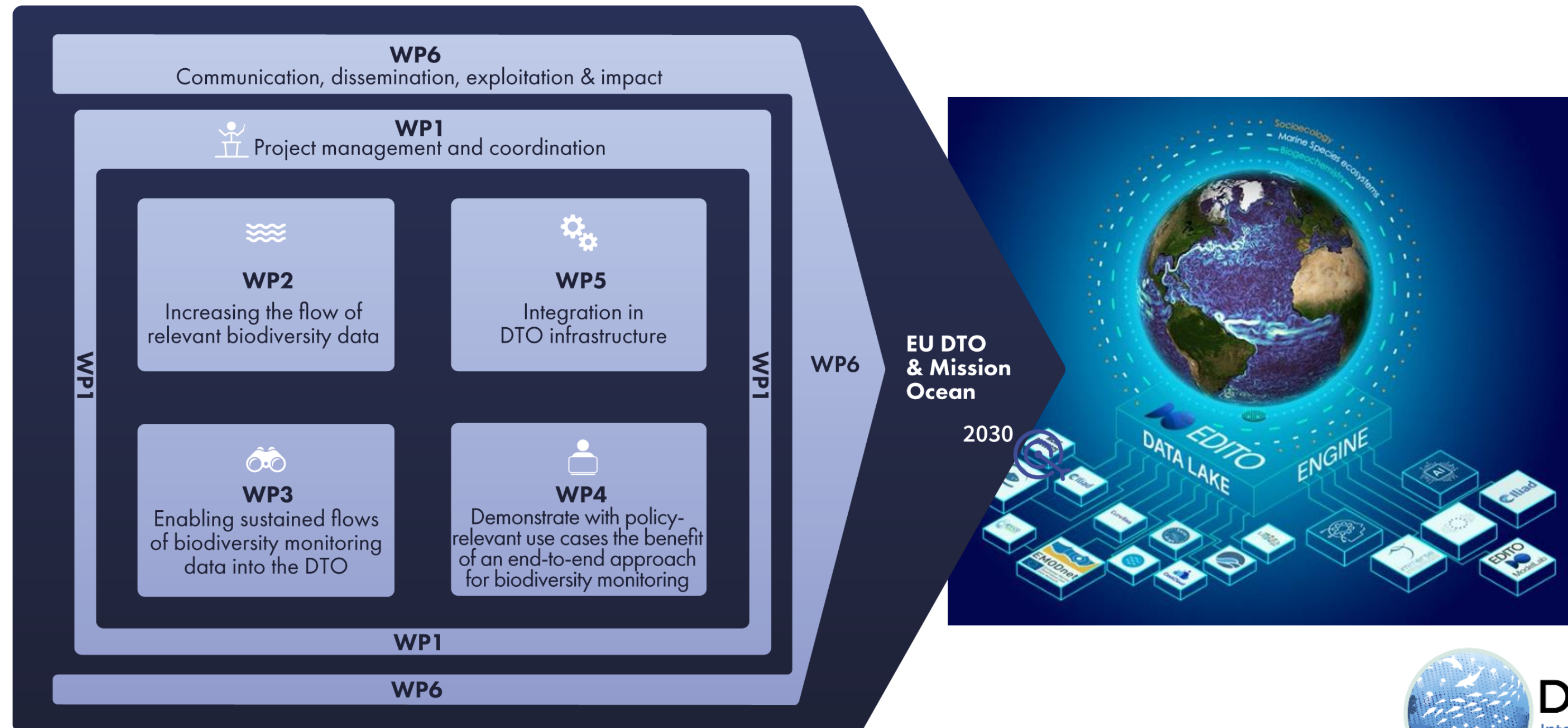


# METHODOLOGY AND WORKFLOW



**DTO-BioFlow**  
Integration of biodiversity monitoring data into the Digital Twin Ocean

# WORK PACKAGES

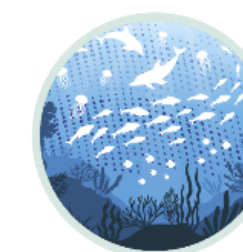
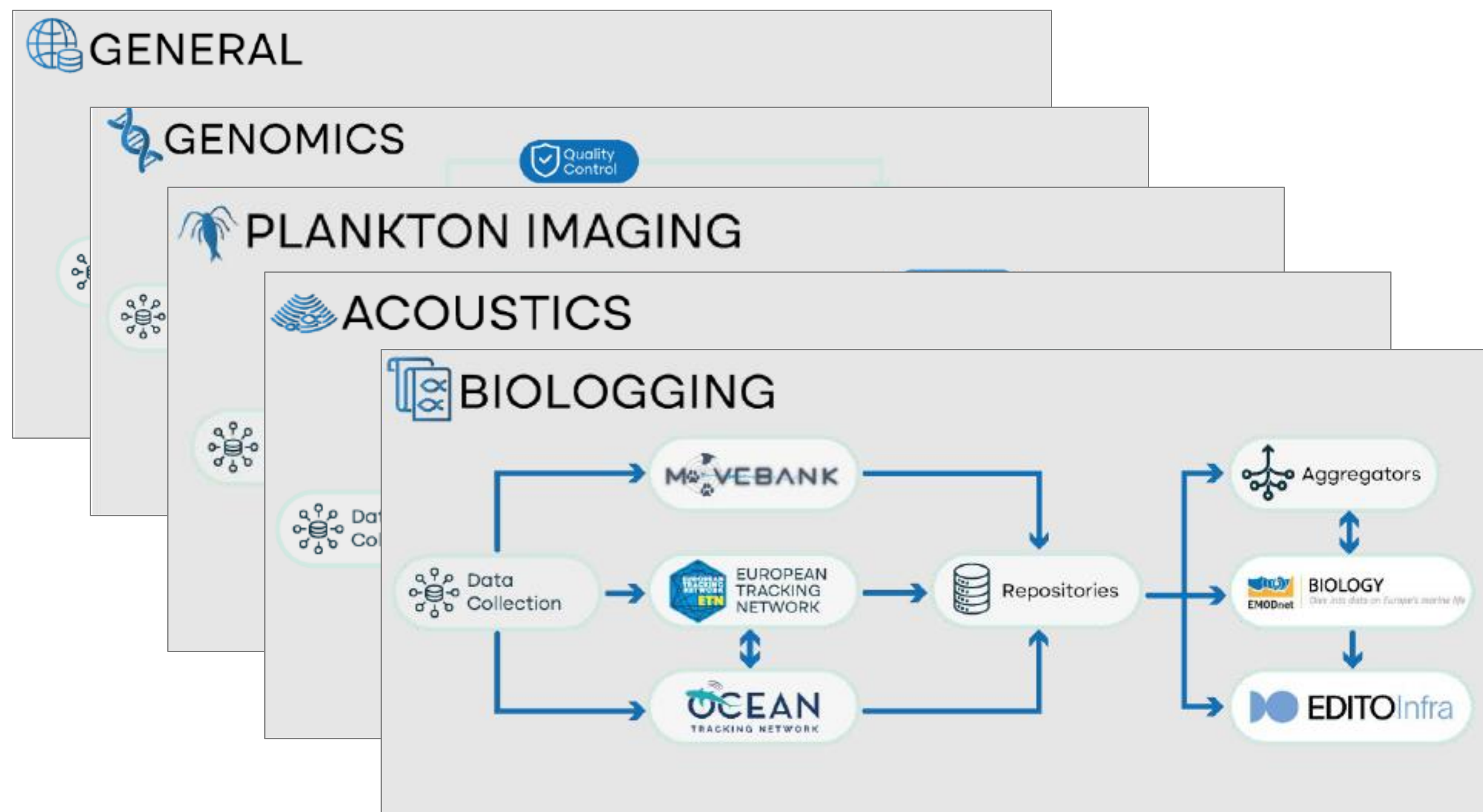


# DTO-BioFlow

Integration of biodiversity monitoring data into the Digital Twin Ocean



# BLUEPRINT







# DEMONSTRATION USE CASES



**invasive species  
management**



**adaptive offshore construction  
and energy harvesting**



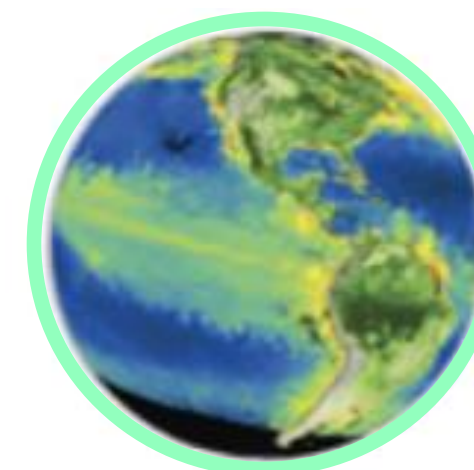
**assessment of  
Plankton diversity**



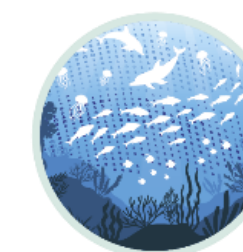
**spatial planning  
of sustainable mariculture**



**ecosystem based spatial planning  
and MPA management**



**ocean colour  
Seasonal forecasting**



**DTO-BioFlow**  
Integration of biodiversity monitoring  
data into the Digital Twin Ocean

# DEMONSTRATION USE CASES

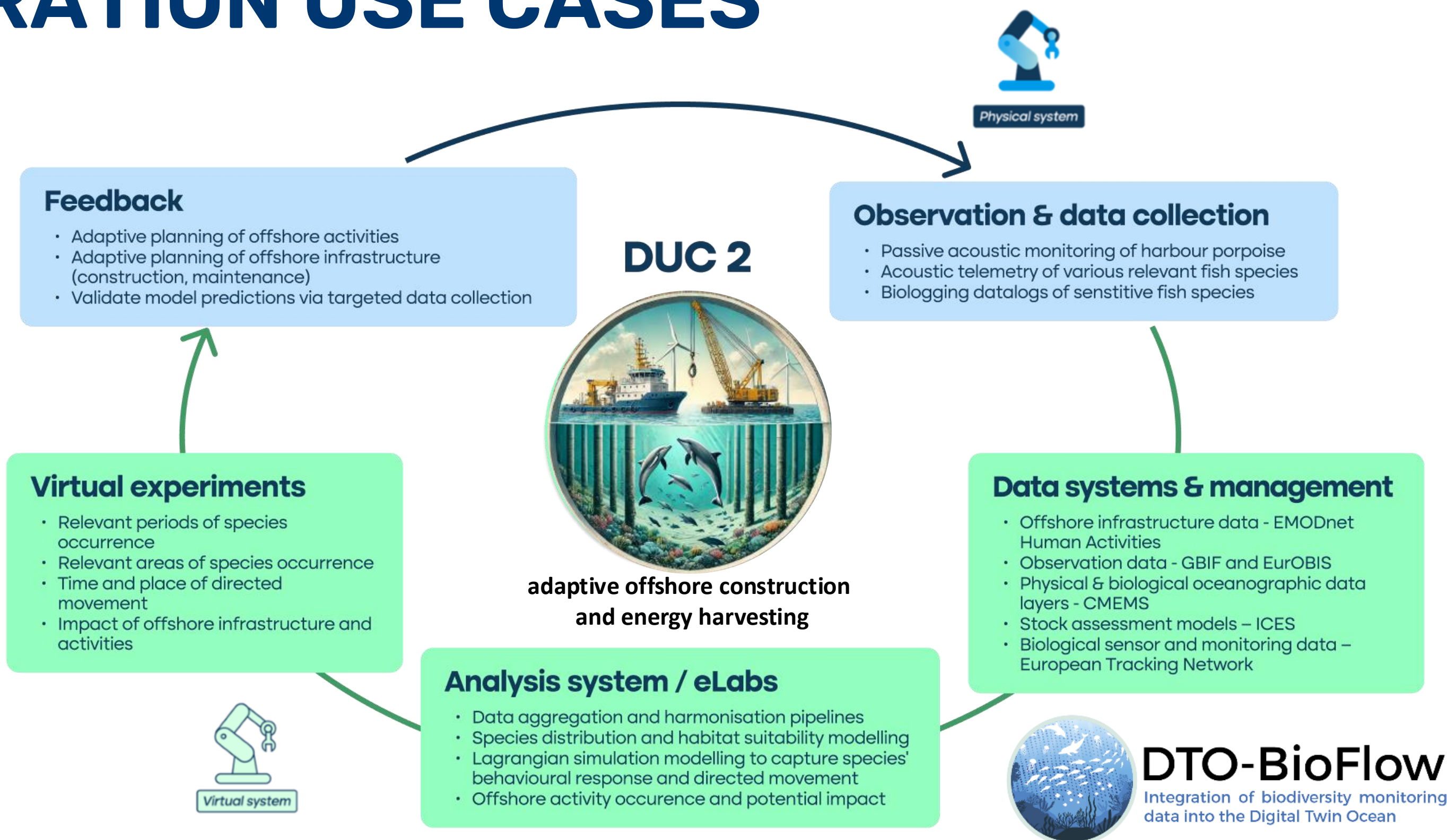
## Objectives:

To predict hotspots in space and time for relevant migratory marine species.

To link identified hotspots in space and time to offshore activities (e.g. construction of energy harvesting sites)

## Main stakeholders:

- Offshore industry companies
- Environmental impact assessors
- Marine spatial planners
- Maritime and Energy Regulators
- Environmental Agencies





# CALLS FOR DATA



**DTO-BioFlow**  
Integration of biodiversity monitoring data into the Digital Twin Ocean

Open calls

First call for marine biodiversity data holders

Call opening: October 2023

Call closing: January 2024


Closed!

Financial support







Funded by the European Union




**"Marine Megafauna Data for EU Digital Twin Ocean"**  
Beneficiary: Bangor University School of Ocean Sciences  
The purpose of the project is to make available for reuse previously inaccessible unique multidisciplinary data on marine megafauna in European seas. These biodiversity data have been collected by scientists, ocean scientists and members of the public for more than 20 years in observing programmes carried out by the UK Sea Watch Foundation (SWF) and its partners. Only a small proportion of the high value effort related data, primarily for cetaceans, held by SWF have been reported to ICES JCRP. [Read more](#)




**"Futurismo: linking whale watching tourism with cetacean research in the Azores"**  
Beneficiary: Futurismo Azores Adventure Portugal  
Whale watching has become one of the most important tourist activities in the Azores archipelago (Portugal). The number of commercial tours has increased over the years, providing therefore an increasing number of opportunities for cetacean data collection at sea. Futurismo Azores Adventure is one of the leading companies in the region and has been registering data during their trips consistently since 2005. Currently the existing data gathers more than 15000 sightings. [Read more](#)




**"KAIIROS - Zooplankton data from Arctic marine time-series to understand biodiversity dynamics"**  
Beneficiary: Institute of Polar Sciences, National Research Council (ISPC-NA)  
The Arctic is a climate change hot spot, with ocean warming, freshening, sea-ice decline, linked to changing atmospheric and terrestrial environments. These processes are imprints of identification a progressive propagation of the climate signal into the Arctic Ocean, significantly influencing climate, ecosystems, and marine food webs. In the Svalbard archipelago global warming is notably accelerated. In 2010, the first deployment of Mooring Origami (MO) in Kongsfjorden, Spitzbergen. [Read more](#)




**"Integration of southeastern Mediterranean long-term biodiversity data into EU-DTO"**  
Beneficiary: Israel Oceanographic and Limnological Research  
The Israel territorial waters and its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) are delimited by a rectangular polygon parallel to the shore and spans the depth range of 0-2000 m and an area of ~26,000 square km. In 2022, The Israel Oceanographic and Limnological Research (IOLR) opened a publicly available database, designated ISRAHAARD, which is aimed at including all the biotic data collected in the last ~100 years along the Mediterranean waters of Israel as well as selected adjacent interesting sites. [Read more](#)




**"Management and publication of Marine Characterisation Research Project data"**  
Beneficiary: Menter Mon  
The Marine Characterisation Research Project (MCRP), managed by Menter Mon, is an innovative research and development project which is collecting an extensive range of data on the marine environment in North West Wales. The focus is on understanding size of populations, seasonal distribution and fine-scale behaviour of marine life. [Read more](#)




**"Pipeline for biodiversity data from the British Oceanographic Data Centre (BODC) to the OBIS network and EMODnet."**  
Beneficiary: National Oceanography Centre  
While BODC is a key provider of physical, geophysical and biogeochemical data to EMODnet Physics, Bathymetry and Chemistry, we do not currently have the capacity to easily provide biodiversity data to EMODnet Biology. The reason for this is that the British Oceanographic Data Centre (BODC) format has never been integrated into BODC's basic workflow. BODC manages and ingests plankton and, to a lesser extent, benthos data, alongside environmental measurements, into its databases, but there. [Read more](#)



**"Managing and publishing biodiversity data from Nord University"**  
Beneficiary: Nord University  
Nord University initiated a standardised zooplankton annual time-series in 1995, now replicated in three fjords. More recently, a benthos time-series and two freshwater underwater videos have been established. Funding has also been obtained to develop automated image analysis (AI) of these samples. However, to date there is no organised system for biodiversity data management from data recording to archiving, which complicates data publication. The project would now have a post-doctoral fellow. [Read more](#)



**"Strandaanspoelsel (beach washup) Monitoring Project (SMP)"**  
Beneficiary: Stichting ANEMOON  
The SMP was started in 1997 to track changes in populations of organisms along the Dutch coastline and is carried out by volunteer observers (beachcombers). These observers visit a fixed SMP route (SMP-Route) along the beach once every two or four weeks at low tide at one of our fourteen SMP-locations along the Dutch shoreline. They register all washed-up organisms and/or their remains. These data are used to calculate trends and indicate changes in the species populations living. [Read more](#)



**"Plankton Imaging Data Flow: Establishing a European data flow for phyto- and microzooplankton data from automated AI-assisted imaging in flow analyses"**  
Beneficiary: Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute Sweden  
The absence of a standardised data format for automated classified image data from Imaging Flow Cytobots (IFCBs) in Europe has led to decentralised storage practices, with each partner within the European IFCB network managing their own datasets. For instance, the processed data from our own IFCB is housed on servers accessible exclusively to staff at the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI). We are aware of, and involved in, initiatives to create best practices for IFCB. [Read more](#)

Second Call coming up!

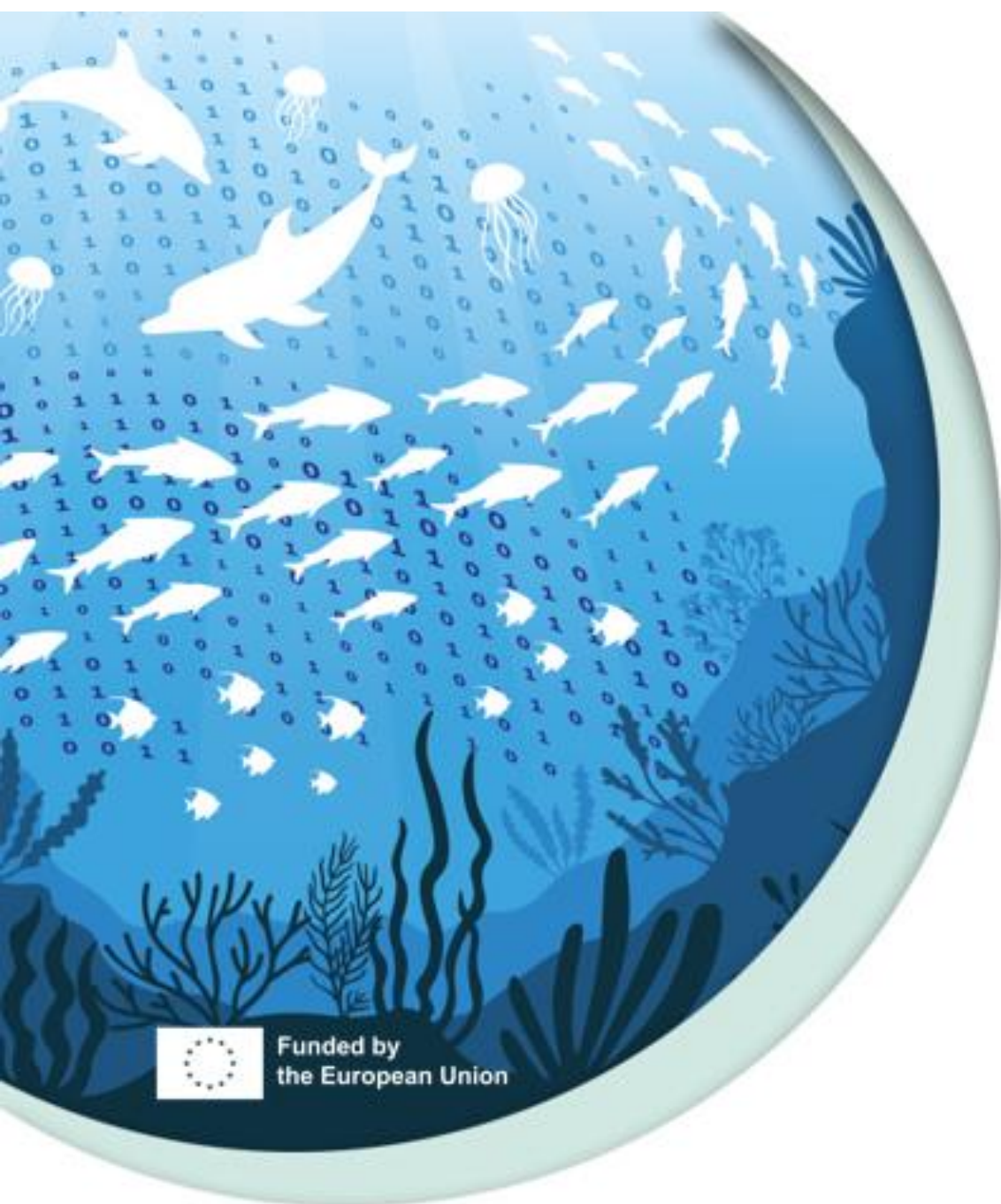


**DTO-BioFlow**  
Integration of biodiversity monitoring data into the Digital Twin Ocean





# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION



## DTO-BioFlow

Integration of biodiversity monitoring  
data into the Digital Twin Ocean

For any other questions please contact  
[info@dto-bioflow.eu](mailto:info@dto-bioflow.eu)

THANKS!



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# Interactive part

27 November, 16:00-17:45  
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# Practicalities

- There are 4 parts with different questions to be discussed
- Please use post-its to write your answers on and use the same colour for each question
- Time per question is indicated on the slide
- Questions? My colleagues and I are happy to help!



# 1. General

(5min think, 5min share, please use post-its)

- In which sector are you working? What is your background?
- In what context will you use the digital twin?

# 2. Development and integration of applications

(5min think, 10min share, please use post-its)

- Which (biological) models or applications would you like to see or use in the DT0?



# 3. Integration of more data and data lakes

(5min think, 10min share, please use post-its)

- Is there any specific biological data missing? Can this data be integrated through DT0-BioFlow?
- Is there any other data missing? How can we get this data integrated? Which approach would you suggest?

# 4. Importance of continuity and data pipelines

(5min think, 10min share, please use post-its)

- How can we include external entities? Are there any entities willing to contribute (on a voluntary basis), for their own benefit? Why, what data, for what application?