



# Joint Cetacean Data Programme

From scoping to launch  
(and everything in between...)

Nikki Taylor

Senior Marine Species Advisor, JNCC | JCDP Working Group Chair





# (What is the JCDP?)

## JCDP Vision

Promote and facilitate cetacean data **standardisation** and maximise value through **collation** and enabling of universal **access**

## Aims

- Agree and adopt a Data Standard
- International platform to host cetacean survey datasets and metadata
- Facilitate access to quality data
- Provision of open access data products

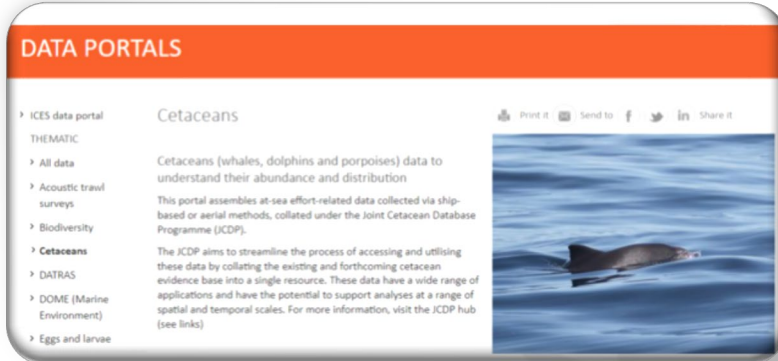
Current focus on **effort-related, ship or aerial observer/digital data**

**JCDP launched in June 2022**



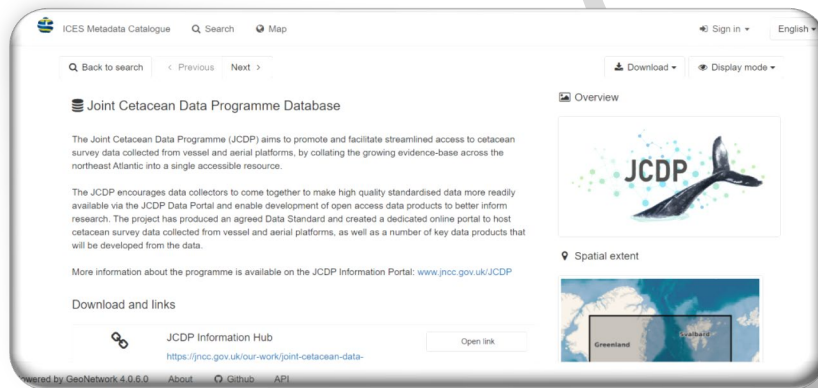
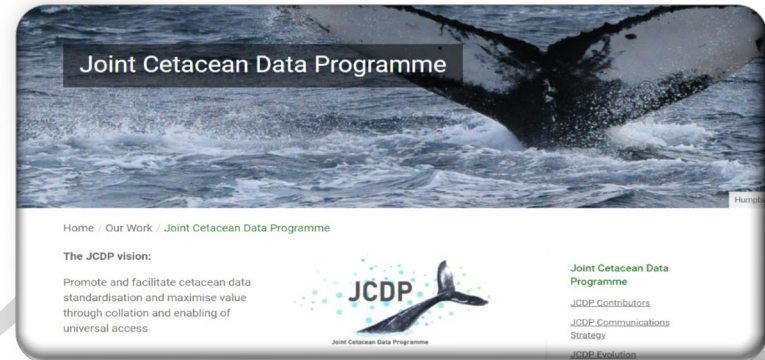


# JCDP Platform



**JCDP Data Portal**  
[www.cetaceans.ices.dk](http://www.cetaceans.ices.dk)

**JCDP Information Hub**  
[www.JNCC.gov.uk/JCDP](http://www.JNCC.gov.uk/JCDP)



**Metadata Catalogue**  
[gis.ices.dk/geonetwork](http://gis.ices.dk/geonetwork)





# Why bother?



## Doing the groundwork...

- What is the need – why collate the data?
  - If we created the JCDP, who would use it and what for?
- Identify users and data needs
  - Clear understanding of what the end product needs to be/do
- Established vision
  - Helped to define the rest of the JCDP development and keep us on track
- Clear objectives
  - Setting boundaries and scope to manage the development
  - There can always be a phase two!
- Communicate
  - The JCDP is a great resource...if people know about it!





# Defining the specification

JCDP took a user story approach to development

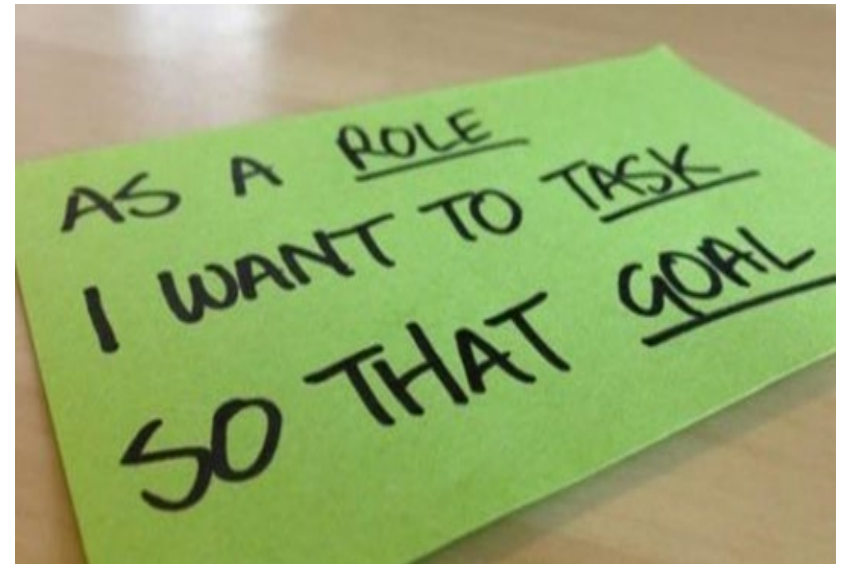
- Bring stakeholders together
- Define all user stories
- Prioritise (MVP)
- Underpin development

E.g.

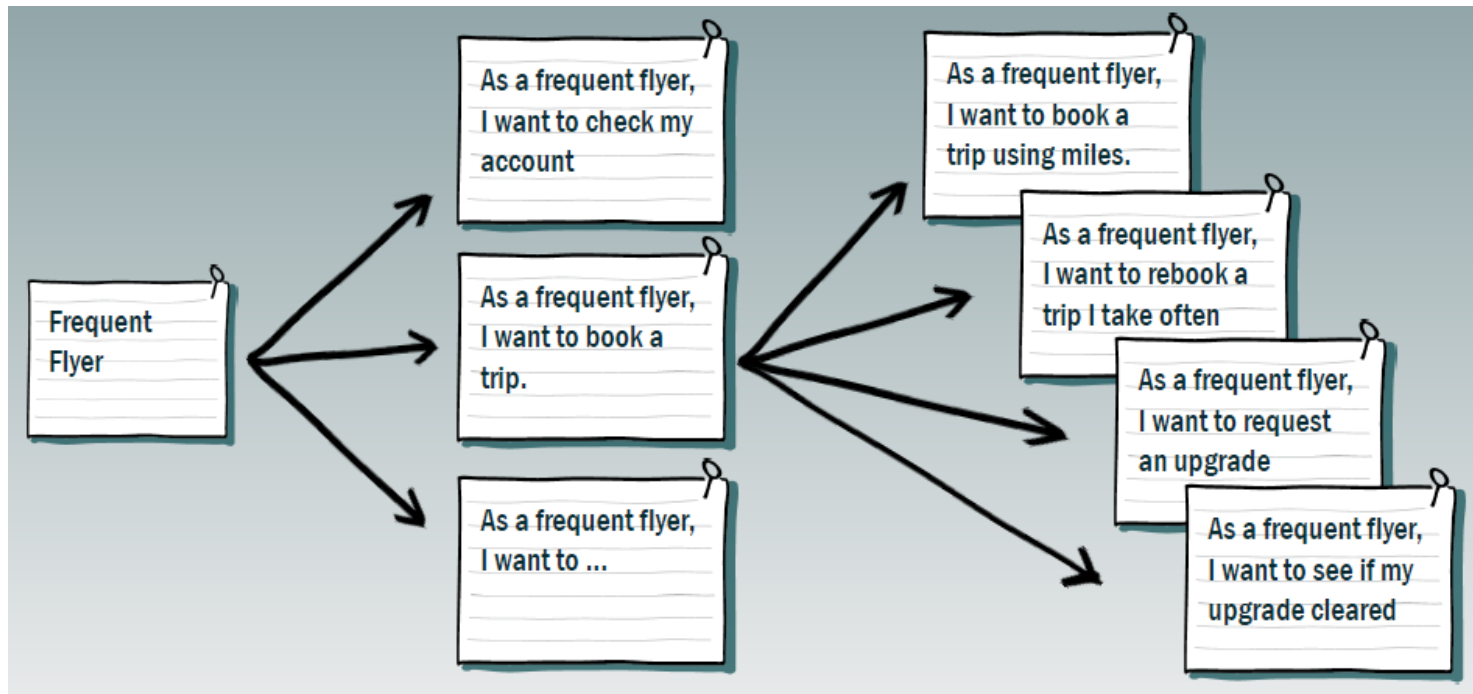
AS A user of the strandings database

I **WANT TO** filter and download cause of death information across Europe

SO THAT I can explore trends at European level



# Defining the specification



Collating the user stories created a framework for development





# Scoping – hosting the JCDP

## Review of existing options:

- **OBIS** - Ocean Biogeographic Information System
- **ICES** - International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
- **EMODnet** - European Marine Observation and Data Network
- **MEDIN and DAC** Marine Environmental and Data Information Network and Data Archive Centres
- **ECMC** - European Cetacean Monitoring Coalition
- **TCE** - The Crown Estate
- **Marine Recorder**
- **ESAS** - European Seabirds at Sea
- **MERP** – Marine Ecosystems Research Programme

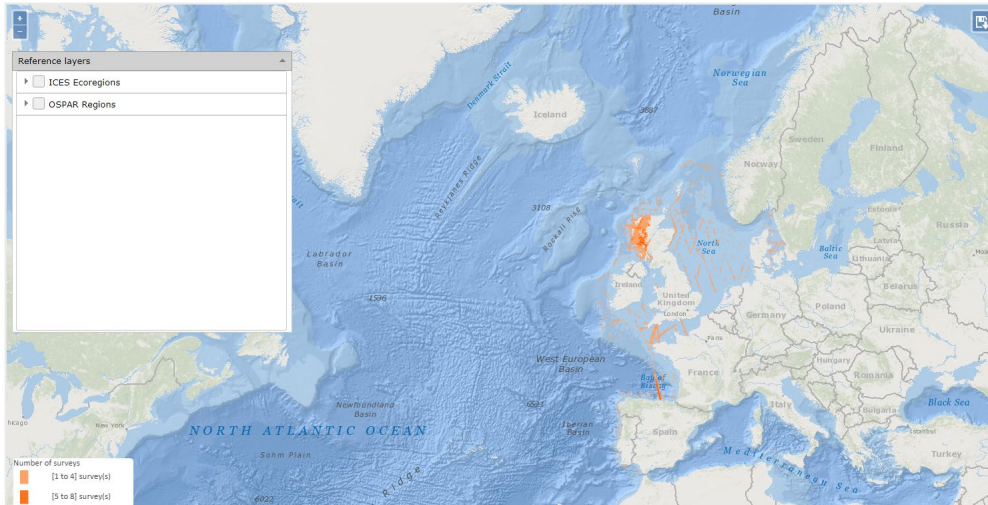




# Scoping – data types, geographic scope

## CETACEANS - EFFORT AND SIGHTINGS

Map view - inventory of the cetaceans database sightings and effort. This tool can be used to filter data to download



- User stories told us NE Atlantic was the starting geographic scale
- Resolution: data are gridded in the map view (compromise)
- Data access: open access? On request? (JCDP = both)
- Open access data products to be developed







# Standardising data

## The need:

- Development of expertise and data quality
- Suitability of data for analyses
- Simplify the data ingestion process
- Compatibility of datasets for combined use

## Some of the obstacles:

- Long-term data projects with defined protocols
- Variety in data collection methods and protocols within methods
- Variety in data capture and storage
- Vocabulary



(Agreement doesn't necessarily come easy!)





# QA and validation

## Data standard:

- Core fields
- Common vocabulary
- Enable simpler automated validation

## Who's responsible?

- Agreement that QA starts with the data collector
- Processes integrated into the JCDP upload to further QA and validate (setting validation rules is an ongoing process)
- Some responsibility still lies with the user
- Metadata is key





# Funding

- JCDP development was funded by Defra in the UK, managed by JNCC
- May have been better to have collaborative funding on a wider scale to get wider buy in earlier on (strandings is already doing this)
- No ongoing funding – JCDP now governed by an ICES working group
- Further resource needs will need to be identified based on need
- ICES will maintain the database as part of their Data Centre responsibilities
- **Need a long-term plan**





# Success measures

- Metrics identified to review JCDP success
  - Google analytics
  - Number of outputs using JCDP data
  - Data download
  - Number of data providers
  - Number of surveys uploaded
- Useful engagement tool





# Thanks



[www.jncc.gov.uk/JCDP](http://www.jncc.gov.uk/JCDP)



[marinemammals@jncc.gov.uk](mailto:marinemammals@jncc.gov.uk)



[@CetaceanData](https://twitter.com/CetaceanData)



Subscribe to JCDP email updates

