Summary of S-3 EUROHAB stakeholder meeting, Exeter 10th May 2018.

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The frequency and magnitude of Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) and poor Water Quality are increasing globally, posing high risk to human health and shellfish industries. HABs cannot be eliminated or prevented but only monitored and predicted. With a wealth of satellite data available to observe the oceans and our coastal seas, this could greatly enhance the routine monitoring and detection of HABs and poor water quality. To this end the EU INTERREG-VA project S-3 EUROHAB producing a web based HAB and Water Quality alert system that uses both in situ and satellite data designed with marine managers and industry end users to improve their operations. A socio-economic survey of the cost of poor Water Quality and HABs and the benefit of using the web based alert system is also being conducted by the project.

On 10th May 2018, the S3-EUROHAB project held its first UK stakeholders meeting at Exeter Racecourse. The meeting attracted 26 stakeholders with representatives from local fish and shellfish companies (including Fowey Shellfish Company, Exe Estuary, Offshore Shellfish, Dart Estuary, SWFPO scallops, Westcountry Mussels, Exmouth Mussels, Limosa Shellfish, Scallop Fisherman Salcombe, River Teign Shellfish, Brixham Sea farms), Marine Policy makers (OSPAR ICG COBAM Pelagic Habitats Expert Group) the Food Standards Agency, DEFRA, CEFAS, the Environment Agency, IFCA, Environmental Health Officers, Port Authorities and local environmental charities and conservation groups. They were also joined by 13 project partners. The aim of the meeting was to encourage an open and candid discussion about the impacts of Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) on the UK South Coast shellfishery industry and to gain perspectives and opinion on the current HAB monitoring system and how it can be improved .

The meeting had two main objectives: The first was to map out both the ecological and socio-economic impacts of HAB events as perceived by the stakeholders. The local shell fishermen shared their experience of how HABs and poor water quality affect the production, harvest and sale of their produce. They also indicated how this may be prevented through access to appropriate satellite data that could act as an early warning to such events and that could improve their operations. The second objective was to discuss the current monitoring system for HABs in England, and to identify its strengths and weaknesses and ways in which it could potentially be improved. This provided vital feedback as to how the current system could be improved and of how the data products being developed by the S-3 EUROHAB project could help to compliment the current monitoring systems.

Following round table discussions about these two topics, the S3-EUROHAB project presented potential data products and visualisation tools that could potentially improve stakeholder operations and the design of the early warning HAB detection system. Through breakout discussion groups and a questionnaire, information of the type, location, resolution, format, tools and frequency of the data products that stakeholders require was collated. This information is being used to design and

roll out a draft version of the Harmful Algal Bloom and Water Quality web alert system, which will be released to the stakeholders. Future stakeholder meetings will gain feedback on the Web Alert System and how it can be improved to enhance the monitoring of HABs. The value of the SW UK shellfishery is €8.25M per yr, of which €2.9M is lost to HABs which could be saved by an alert system. Further details about the S3-EUROHAB EU INTERREG-VA project can be found at https://www.s3eurohab.eu/.

Plate 1. *S-3 EUROHAB team present the potential of using ocean colour satellite data to detect harmful algal blooms in the English Channel to stakeholders at the S-3 EUROHAB Exeter meeting.*

Plate 2. *Round table discussions with stakeholders at the S-3 EUROHAB Meeting, Exeter, UK.*