Tethys Knowledge Management System
Peer Review Report 2014

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August 2014

1 Introduction

In Q3 of FY2014, PNNL solicited peer reviews of Tethys and Annex IV from the 12 Annex IV country analysts and several other MHK and offshore wind professionals. In total, 11 peer review forms were received from six annex IV country analysts (US, Canada, Spain, Japan, Portugal, Ireland, and UK) and other MHK and offshore wind researchers (table 1). All feedback was organized in a comment matrix and has been addressed, noted, or included in the PNNL developer backlog for future work on the *Tethys* knowledge base. A summary of the feedback is provided below; the complete comment matrix is included as Appendix A at the end of this report. A total of 108 comments were compiled from the 11 completed forms and organized according to the most relevant corresponding topics. Within each of the below sections, the initial paragraph summarizes the reviewer comments which is followed by a paragraph addressing responses to the comments.

Table 1. List of peer reviewers of Tethys and Annex IV in FY14

Name	Organization	Focus	Country
Alicia Gorton	PNNL	MHK	US
Lisa Isaacman	FERN	MHK	Canada
Daisuke Kitazawa	University of Tokyo	MHK	Japan
Teresa Simas	WavEC	MHK	Portugal
Juan Bald	AZTI-Tecnalia	MHK	Spain
Anne Marie O'Hagan	University College Cork	MHK	Ireland
Tom Clements	Aquatera	MHK	UK
Hermione Wood	Aquatera	MHK	UK
Jim Lanard	OffshoreWindDevCo	OSW	US
Kim Hatfield	NOAA	OSW	US
Hans Buser	Nateco AG	OSW	Switzerland

2 Home Page

We received several suggestions for improvements to the Tethys homepage. One suggestion included a featured links banner located across the top of the page as opposed to down the side. Another asserted the home page should include two clearly identifiable icons; one for uploading information and the second for viewing the database. The addition of material such as including a section for relevant press releases, increased presence of MHK, and a link to the most recent and upcoming online workshops were also suggested by reviewers.

The comments have prompted several updates to the Tethys home page. We have added some material to "what is MHK?"; however augmenting this material with photos is a challenge because of sensitivities regarding the perception of promoting specific devices. We've also added a link within the crawling announcement to notify users of last online workshop. The development of a news RSS feed will help inform users about news and relevant press releases. To distinguish between uploading and viewing information, as one reviewer suggested, we are exploring the idea of making a more prominent link for the knowledge base within the homepage.

3 Tethys Content

Feedback regarding Tethys content was primarily centered on suggestions to add specific journal articles, reports, and NEPA documents. One reviewer noted that some of the information was incorrect and/or out of date and suggested including a date indicating when information was posted. With regard to the map viewer, reviewers noted the incorrect spatial location of specific projects (e.g. Torr Head) on the map viewer as well as some projects that weren't represented (e.g. Digby Neck, Cape Breton).

In response to these comments, we have updated specific material, added suggested documents, and corrected spatial coordinates. We will also be following up with Annex IV analysts to obtain additional material as well as conducting our own searches for suggested material.

3.1 Knowledge Base

The comments pertaining to the Knowledge Base section of Tethys were varied. The following comments were provided:

- Ecosystem and food chain/web should be added to the list of receptors. This comment was based on the need for evaluating impacts to biota and to broader scales.
- There seemed to be some confusion and difficulty with navigating within and understanding the layout of the knowledge base.
- The difference between resources in the Tethys and Annex IV collections was unclear.
- Difficulty selecting multiple "Technology Types" and whether the knowledge base filtered results accordingly.
- "Current Search" should be more prominent so that users can more readily review the search criteria.
- Technical difficulties were reported by one reviewer when using the Knowledge Base, which included slow load time as well as several crashes of the webpage.
- Other reviewers expressed varying degrees of difficulty navigating within and understanding the layout of this particular section. One reviewer was unclear on the difference between resources in the Tethys and Annex IV collections. Another had difficulty when selecting multiple "Technology Types" and was unsure if the Knowledge Base filtered results according to the selections that were made. It was suggested by one reviewer that the "Current Search" be more prominent so that the user can more readily review the search criteria. Technical difficulties were reported by one reviewer when using the Knowledge Base, which included slow load time as well as several crashes of the webpage.

3.2 Map Viewer

We collected 14 different map viewer comments from seven reviewers. For the detailed list of these comments we refer the reader to Appendix A. Here we summarize our responses to the comments which convey changes that we've implements or pursue in the future.

- We are exploring options for reworking the map viewing clusters as well as reviewing how to best reword the text in the legend and intro to make the map viewer more user friendly.
- Planned sites will at least be added to the metadata forms.
- Incorrect placement of markers have been fixed.
- The map viewer is limited to displaying geotagged content and may therefore appear to be askew from content available at other Tethys locations. We've added an explanation for this in the FAQ and map explanation sections.
- Developers are looking into adjusting the window display for viewing map contents.
- Adding a feature for filtering when performing map zoom options has been added to the development backlog.

3.3 Data and Observations

One reviewer suggested overall improvements to the "Data and Observations" section. Specific examples included segregating information according to academic and research institutions, technologic developers, NGOs, etc.

PNNL will contact the reviewer to discuss the specifics of this comment to determine how best to incorporate.

3.4 Risk Analyses and Models

It was suggested that the "Risk Analyses and Models" section include a link to the Marine Scotland approach to complement the current data pertaining to North America.

This comment was noted, and a document was added to Tethys.

4 Connections

Several reviewers suggested adding links to groups with relevancy to Tethys. These included: the ICES Study Group, the Working Group on Marine Renewables, and the EU Ocean Energy Forum. One reviewer asked for clarity on the distinction between "Institutions" and "Tethys Community" within the "Connections" platform.

In response to these comments, we will create an “Organizations” table which includes links to various working groups with a list of tagged content. Institutions will be renamed as “expertise” and manually updated. Tethys community is anyone who chooses to be listed via user profiles.

4.1 Expert Connections

Reviewers had a number of questions and subsequent suggestions for streamlining, what was originally, the “Institutions” section within Tethys. Two reviewers noted universities were the only groups within the “Institutions” section, but there are many other institutions that conduct important research that should be included. Similarly, another comment suggested all relevant institutions be included in the same section, but one should be able to distinguish the type of institution (e.g. stakeholder, regulator, consultant). One reviewer suggested navigation among institutions would be better suited via geo-location tools. It was also suggested that filters be added to allow sorting (e.g. A-Z) of the Experts lists. Finally, one reviewer suggested expanding the “Institutions” section to include emerging markets, project developers, regulators, marine service providers, and test sites. The evolution of this section would encompass stakeholders and research communities and could be supplemented by providing multiple contacts from each institution as well as bios of community members.

These comments were helpful and have prompted us to incorporate several changes:

- We’ve divided the “Institutions” section into “Expertise” and “Tethys Community” and expanded coverage to include more entities/institutions.
- The suggestion pertaining to geo-referencing institutions was noted and we intend to implement something along these lines at a later date.
- We have added a task to the development backlog to explore options for filtering Expert Connections.
- With regard to the final comment summarized in the paragraph above, we are attempting to increase the list of community members and facilitate engagement via our “Expertise” list.
- Test sites will be captured and incorporated as Annex IV sites.

4.2 Databases

One reviewer suggested the European Marine Observation and Data Network Human Activities database was relevant to Tethys, and another suggested the relevance of the COWRIE database.

As a result of these comments, the suggested databases have been added.

4.3 Regulation Frameworks

Many reviewers noted the information found in “Regulation Frameworks” appeared to be incorrect and/or out of date. One reviewer noted that OES Annex I may be generating material relevant to the content in “Regulation Frameworks” and that Tethys may be able to cross reference where appropriate.

Two reviewers offered to provide updated information for their respective countries and one suggested reviewing SOWFIA D 4.5 for new and relevant material. As one reviewer suggested, this section could be improved by adding information on consenting, particularly on EIA requirements for different countries. Additional suggestions for improvement included allowing users to explore national, regional, and international regulations as well as a general comment advocating for more uniformity in the presentation of material.

We will request country analysts supplement the information which appears to be out-of-date. Information regarding EIA requirements will be specifically requested from each analyst. As suggested, we will review SOWFIA D 4.5 for OES countries not involved in Annex IV. We will explore options for creating more uniformity. However, including regulatory information at a regional scale would be too difficult to be maintained within the Tethys platform.

5 Broadcasts

5.1 Tethys Blast

Two reviewers reported issues pertaining to the Tethys Blast. One could not access the June issue using the links, but the July issue seemed to be fine. The second reviewer was unable to subscribe.

We are exploring the cause for one reviewer's difficulty with subscribing. In the meantime, the reviewer has been manually subscribed. With regard to the inaccessible links, the system is designed to keep statistics on link usage and erroneously tried to redirect behind the PNNL firewall.

6 Blog

Several reviewers suggested that email notifications would be helpful to remind blog followers that new content has been posted. Details pertaining to these suggested email notifications included brief descriptions of the new content and Tethys updates as well as new, notable documents. To distinguish the Tethys blog from other resources such as Tidal Today, one reviewer advocated for focused discussions and/or reviews of current environmental research. Additional suggestions included creating an open forum to attract a broader audience. This could be facilitated by allowing others to contribute to and comment on blog posts. Finally, one reviewer suggested improvements to the aesthetic nature of the blog.

Notifications of blog updates will be included in the Tethys Blast – a new, bi-weekly email sent out to subscribers. With regard to increasing participation within the blogging community, we hope to elicit greater involvement from others in the future. The remaining comments have been acknowledged and will be considered to the extent possible during future editing/restructuring of Tethys.

7 User Profiles

One reviewer inquired as to whether a Tethys user must create an account to access content and suggested that perhaps the site may be used to a greater extent if an account was not required. Another reviewer found that creating an account was simple, but encountered some problems when attempting to reset a forgotten password. A third reviewer had a difficult time creating an account that resulted in extended waiting periods to remedy issues associated with inadvertently entering incorrect user information.

Accounts are not required to view the content on Tethys. However, an account is necessary to participate in certain functions such as commenting/rating and viewing the Tethys Community. We noted there were some system glitches with sending emails (e.g. for forgotten passwords). Once fixed, the procedure should not encounter the issues identified. We are testing a method that requires email validation and have made some changes that now permits immediate log-in access once registered.

7.1 Commenting

The ability to comment on papers elicited mixed responses from the reviewers. Some were in favor of the ability to provide comments, asserting the usefulness as a means to ensure the quality of the material, especially for materials that have not been peer-reviewed (e.g. gray literature). One reviewer suggested this feature was useful, but suggested that we provide language to motivate users to submit ratings and comments. Other reviewers were concerned that allowing users to rate material would cause confusion if disagreements and conflicting statements were posted, and may ultimately result in a feature that doesn't actually provide benefit. Another reviewer suggested commenting and rating features may create opportunity for bias. Several suggestions were made with regard to alternatives. One reviewer suggested discussions take place in a different forum space – such as LinkedIn. Another suggested alternative to an open forum of ratings and comments was to create opportunities to directly engage the authors of the resources through an open dialog process.

We are aware of benefits and pitfalls associated with commenting. To ensure users aren't abusing the commenting privilege, only approved comments will be visible, unless we mark a user as verified. Verification of a user occurs if they are known, have a credible background, or have submitted several valid posts. We will develop a commenting feed to go in the footer which will show the five most recent comments and have a ling to view more, if available. Rating summaries are available at the top of each page and commenting is always at the bottom of pages for all documents and blog articles. We are creating a guide for users wanting to know more about commenting. We are also examining the suggestion of allowing users to engage authors through an open dialog.

8 Metadata

It was suggested by one reviewer that metadata forms be more accessible with direct links found on the homepage. Additionally, within the metadata forms, a navigation bar that would allow a user to directly access and jump to a particular section would be helpful – this is especially relevant on longer forms. One reviewer noted that some Ireland projects sites were missing, and offered to submit relevant forms. Another reviewer suggested adding a current research project database (i.e. who is doing what).

Based on the metadata reviewer comments we have added links to metadata forms on the home page. As for updating the metadata forms with navigation bar link, this task has been added to the development backlog and will be addressed at a later date. With regard to adding current research, there are already forms which address current research, but we have struggled to keep these up-to-date. It seems people are either reluctant to share or, more often, do not have the time.

8.1 Project Sites

One reviewer suggested the need to add a field for the date when information was posted and/or last updated. In addition, a field for project and/or device manager may be necessary as these two may not necessarily be the same.

There are now two fields: one for device developer and another for technology developer. Furthermore, as suggested, we have added a field to indicate when information was last updated.

9 General

We received many review comments that had general applicability to the overall structure and function of Tethys.

- One reviewer provided several comments that suggested greater outreach with and across the Tethys community. Specific suggestions included having country analysts to engage with the public to promote Tethys access, and to strengthen the capacity of Tethys to share information about stakeholders, researchers, and regulators.
- Two reviewers noted that besides MHK data, Tethys appeared to lack data specific to other forms of marine renewable energy.
- Using Tethys as a means to connect with other relevant online sources was mentioned by two reviewers. These reviewers suggested a combination of resources that may contain relevance to Tethys at both broad and narrow scales.
- One reviewer inquired as to whether other agencies, institutions, and labs promote Tethys through their websites and social media platforms.
- For those which may be visually impaired, one reviewer inquired about the availability of an audio function.

- It was unclear to one reviewer if bats should be included as a stressor in the knowledge base.
- One reviewer suggested informing users of the magnitude (kb or mb) of attached files.
- As a result of initial difficulties navigating and understanding the Tethys site, one reviewer suggested creating a quick video or users guide.

The following address our responses to the above summarized comments:

- We agree that engaging the public is a worthy endeavor and would like to discuss this during the next Annex IV meeting. In terms of strengthening our communication and interaction with the existing Tethys community, the Tethys Blasts are helping to maintain communication and we are currently working to strengthen associations between user profiles and documents that may be associated with these users.
- Tethys will be supplemented with data relevant to other forms of marine renewable energy as it becomes available. Specifically, the addition of WREN will include more data on OSW.
- External links are found in a few locations within Tethys. We have a website "document type" that is searchable through the knowledge base. We are also looking into creating a suggestion box on the home page. Additionally, we will create a new view for all institutions available on Tethys which will be located under Connections.
- We will attempt to engage other agencies and institutions for the purpose of promoting Tethys from their websites and/or social media platforms.
- We will check on the availability of adding audio features for visually impaired.
- Studies have shown that bats fly many miles offshore, and may therefore have relevance to marine renewable energy. Within Tethys, bats have been listed as a receptor separate from marine mammals and birds.
- We plan to add information specific to file size which will be located in the info box.
- To alleviate confusion when navigating the site, we've created a Tips for Tethys page available under the help column. We are also exploring the idea of creating a helpful video.

9.1 New Features

Several reviewers contributed ideas for new features to Tethys that may help to engage users and provide opportunities for better functionality. One reviewer offered that a compilation of funding and job opportunities pertaining to environmental topics related with MHK would be of particular interest. Providing information for upcoming events on MHK environmental issues would also be relevant. Specifics include events such as conferences and meetings which are planned within the next year or so. Other ideas include adding a message board which may facilitate greater interaction among users and a section within Tethys that highlights "key players" involved in activities such as regulation, research, and funding.

We intend to use social media to a greater extent as well as user profile networking to inform users about topics such as relevant funding and job opportunities. Additionally, it is our hope that social media can also be used to facilitate interactions and discussions among users in the same way a message board

would. An interactive calendar will be added to Tethys which will highlight upcoming events (i.e. conferences and meetings). Finally, regarding the comment on “key players”, many of these would fall within the “Expertise” section of Tethys. In the future, we plan to expand this section to include additional industries and agencies.

9.2 External Links

When selecting external links, one reviewer became “lost” and was unclear as to whether they had been taken to another website or was still within Tethys.

To remedy this situation we will attempt to force all external links to open in a new tab and add a symbol after the link to designate external from internal links.

9.3 Social Media

As with the Comments topic described in the preceding sections, the topic of social media seemed to generate mixed responses among reviewers. Many of the reviewers were in favor of using social media tools. Reviewers felt social media was particularly relevant for sharing new information, interacting with other users, and engaging comments/reviews. Two reviewers asserted that email alerts would be preferable to social media for the purposes of notification of new content, features, information, etc. Another reviewer acknowledged the benefits of using social media, but also warned of the setbacks which included misleading information via open forums and commenting. This reviewer also suggested a Tethys newsletter which highlights new and relevant material would be helpful. To increase engagement, one reviewer suggested the use of hashtags. Finally, one reviewer shared similar desires to explore the use of social media as a communication tool and suggested conducting a survey of the Tethys community to find out what, if an, social media they currently use or would consider using.

The intent of social media is to attract users to the Tethys site where they can find additional tools and information. As such, we feel that the majority of commenting should occur on Tethys. In an effort to engage more participation via social media platforms, we will attempt the use of hashtags. Lastly, the Tethys Blast is a new bi-weekly newsletter that will be emailed to subscribers and will provide updates on new information.

Appendix A –

Summary of all comments received

LOCATION	COMMENT	REVIEWER	RESPONSE	SUBJECT AREA
Blog	Usually I do not use the *Tethys* blog? Sending the information by email list will be helpful for us (but it is difficult to communicate mutually in this case).	Daisuke Kitazawa	Tethys Blasts address this.	MHK
	The blog is a great example of something that needs to be promoted via social media; whenever a new blog is posted it could be shared through twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn etc. in order to gain a wider audience. Specialist guest authors could be brought in to write some in order to attract more usage from the Tethys and Annex IV community. The blog should be able to be subscribed to (email or RSS feeds) in order to keep people who want to read it updated on new posts.	Hermoine Wood	The existing Tethys Blast sends email updates for new blog posts, but we will add text to allow users to subscribe directly from the blog page. We hope to have guest writers involved soon, and appreciate suggestions for writers.	MHK
	Related to both social media and blogs, perhaps an ICYMI email from time to time would be helpful to remind people about Tethys and what's new at the site, especially for documents that aren't easily found via other means of internet research.	Jim Lanard	Tethys Blasts address this.	OSW
	Similar to my comment in 6 b above, I think the users should be notified when a blog has been submitted and a one-line description of its content so as to help inform the user about whether he or she wants to open the link you provide to the newly submitted blog.	Jim Lanard	Tethys Blasts address this.	OSW
	Send an e-mail to the Tethys community when new contributions to the blog are done.	Juan Bald	Tethys Blasts address this.	MHK

LOCATION	COMMENT	REVIEWER	RESPONSE	SUBJECT AREA
Blog	I use the site mainly as a library resource that specifically supports my work needs in reviewing proposed projects. The site also allows me to remain abreast of developing information and activities related to marine renewable energy and specifically offshore wind. The blog helps highlight new happenings and draws attention to them. I am uncertain what other audiences (outside regulators, developers and researchers) might find the site useful and therefore it is challenging to think of changes or improvements that would attract more users.	Kim Hatfield	Comment noted.	OSW
	Possibly. However, there are already many such resources e.g. Tidal Today. It may be more attractive if it focused on discussions or reviews of current environmental research.	Lisa Isaacman	Comment Noted.	MHK
	Last post on BLOG – 8th August 2013 – Could blogging rights be opened up to a wider audience? To increase the number of blogs and increase discussion on the blog site? Could a facility to comment on blogs be provided (Assuming some form of filter).	Tom Clements	We hope to get more involvement from others in the future. Also trying to get consistent post every 2 weeks.	MHK
	The blog needs to be made more attractive to the reader. At the moment it is very unappealing to look at.	Tom Clements	Comment noted.	MHK
Commenting	I don't see the need for rating on any of the material included. I think in some cases this could lead to problems if/where people disagree with something stated etc. I would prefer if Tethys just included the documents and any option to comment left to separate Discussion Fora such as on LinkedIn where it seems to work quite well. This could also increase the use / uptake of social media as an outreach tool…	Anne Marie O'Hagan	We want to keep the commenting on Tethys. Social media is meant to point to Tethys.	MHK

LOCATION	COMMENT	REVIEWER	RESPONSE	SUBJECT AREA
Commenting	It is useful however all comments should be monitored as inappropriate comments could be made. It may be useful to have a summary of the overall rating (similar to Amazon.com) for the content (this may already be included but as the content has not been reviewed to date may not be showing.	Hermoine Wood	Only approved comments will show, unless we mark a user as verified. Users are verified if they are known, have a credible background, or submit several valid posts. A summary of the rating is available at the top of each page when rated.	MHK
	This is a nice touch, but I think you need to motivate users to add their ratings and comments. I'm sure there's language that could increase number of ratings/comments for the individual content. I know for energy efficiency, peer "competition" works; that is, electric utilities tell customers that "their neighbor across the street uses X kWh per month less than you" and then encourages that customer to try to use less. Maybe something like, "Be the first to comment to advise your peers on your views of this document" Or, if comments have been submitted, "See what your peers have said and let them and others know whether you agree or disagree. And why."	Jim Lanard	Good idea, comment noted. Developing a feed for recent comments to appear in the footer on the home page.	OSW
	I have not tried to comment. While comments may be beneficial, bias always is a factor. I rarely review comments, instead prefer to review and consider information myself and discuss with colleagues or subject matter experts.	Kim Hatfield	Comment noted.	OSW

LOCATION	COMMENT	REVIEWER	RESPONSE	SUBJECT AREA
Commenting	Commenting is an interesting idea, but I'm not sure the Tethys/Annex IV professional community would take the time to use this function. Rating, if used, may create discord and I'm not sure provides any constructive value. They may however be interested in asking questions or opening a dialogue with the authors of the resources.	Lisa Isaacman	Thank you, we are still examining how to use this resource.	MHK
	I think data / information quality is a key element for people keep using a database especially a database that provides metadata or raw data. The possibility given to the user to rate or comment is a good way to ensure good quality information is provided in the database (especially gray literature which is not peer-reviewed as scientific journals). However I think it's not clear how can a user rate or comment on a document provided in the Tethys website.	Teresa Simas	We will develop a commenting feed to go in the footer. It will show the 5 most recent comments and have a link to view more.	MHK
	I think commenting is very useful if it is used correctly, however I can't find anywhere that will let me comment on anything.	Tom Clements	Commenting is always at the bottom of pages, on all "documents" and blog articles. Plans to create a guide for Tethys are underway.	MHK
Connections	Also under 'Connections', it would be good to have a link to the newly established EU Ocean Energy Forum (http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/policy/ocean_energy/forum/index_en.htm) which will have more relevant information as it progresses.	Anne Marie O'Hagan	We will create an "Organizations" table which includes links to working groups with a list of tagged content.	MHK

LOCATION	COMMENT	REVIEWER	RESPONSE	SUBJECT AREA
Connections	Under 'Connections' it might be wise to have links to the ICES Study Group (http://www.ices.dk/community/groups/Pages/SGWTE.aspx) and new Working Group on Marine Renewables (http://www.ices.dk/community/groups/Pages/WGMRE.aspx)? The latter had its inaugural meeting at the end of March so the first report won't be available for a month or two but again I think that is important to make these links visible.	Anne Marie O'Hagan	We will create an "Organizations" table which includes links to working groups with a list of tagged content.	MHK
	Under the 'Connections' tab, what is the difference between 'Institutions' and 'Tethys Community'?	Anne Marie O'Hagan	Institutions will be renamed as "expertise" and manually updated. Tethys Community is anyone who wants to be listed.	MHK
Content	At the following site, the Torr Head pointer is located inland – it should be on the coast, approx. 8 km north of Cushendun but it's not on the Google maps 'base map', which isn't very good!	Anne Marie O'Hagan	The Coordinates have been corrected. Cushendun shows on the base map if you zoom in close enough.	MHK
	Neither UCC or HMRC are developers in Galway Bay – we were merely project partners but Ocean Energy Ltd. Is the company/developer.	Anne Marie	Changed, please reflect this on the Annex IV form updates.	MHK
	In our case, we are now trying to review each paper with some colleagues in Japan.	Daisuke Kitazawa	Thank you, we can add any relevant papers you submit.	MHK
	There is not much information relating to Fish Aggregating Devices (FAD).	Hermoine Wood	We will search for these more. Next year we also hope to add a filter for "specific interactions", where we can list exact interactions such as FADs.	MHK
	European documents - both general government funded and project-specific.	Jim Lanard	Noted, we are currently looking in these locations.	OSW

LOCATION	COMMENT	REVIEWER	RESPONSE	SUBJECT AREA
Content	Links to BOEM-related offshore wind documents: i) Environmental Assessments, Findings of No Significant Impacts (FONSI), Programmatic EIS for offshore wind off Atlantic Coast; ii) Virginia, I understand that Dominion Resources filed a GAP (General Activities Plan) that is a well-done document that would cover environmental issues; iii) Others that BOEM would recommend.	Jim Lanard	These sources were searched and will continue to be searched for new document releases.	OSW
	Suggested additions: i) Cape Wind EIS, with leads to key environmental sections; ii) RI Ocean Special Area Management Plan (RI OSAMP); iii) New Jersey Baseline Environmental Study; iv) Studies conducted by State of New York, possibly by NYSERDA; v) Offshore wind research by the State of Maryland (and maybe Massachusetts).	Jim Lanard	Many of these were already on Tethys, a few were added, and several sources were searched and will continue to be searched for new document releases.	OSW
	Add: Galparsoro, I., P. Liria, I. Legorburu, J. Bald, G. Chust, P. Ruiz-Minguela, G. Pérez, J. Marqués, Y. Torre-Enciso, M. González y A. Borja, 2012. A Marine Spatial Planning approach to select suitable areas for installing wave energy converters on the Basque continental shelf (Bay of Biscay). Coastal Management, 40: 1-9.	Juan Bald	Added: http://tethys.pnnl.gov/publications/marine-spatial-planning-approach-select-suitable-areas-installing-wave-energy	MHK
	The map viewer is an interesting way to visually present the resources. I like that sites are lumped together by region. However, some sites are notably missing (e.g. Digby Neck and Cape Breton sites in Nova Scotia)	Lisa Isaacman	Thank you for pointing this out. We will follow up with the Annex IV rep.	MHK
	Add: Shields, M. A., Payne, A. I. L. (Editors), 2014. Marine Renewable Energy Technology and Environmental Interactions. Springer. http://www.springer.com/environment/aquatic+sciences/book/978-94-017-8001-8	Teresa Simas	Added: http://tethys.pnnl.gov/publications/marine-renewable-energy-technology-and-environmental-interactions	MHK

LOCATION	COMMENT	REVIEWER	RESPONSE	SUBJECT AREA
Content	Add: The risk-based approach description document from Marine Scotland - Survey Deploy and Monitor approach: http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/Licensing/marine/Applications/SDM	Teresa Simas	Added: http://tethys.pnnl.gov/publications/survey-deploy-and-monitor-licensing-policy-guidance	MHK
	Some of the information is not updated; especially regarding devices information and national related information (e.g. regulatory context). I think it would be important to include the date of the information posting.	Teresa Simas	Added a field for last updated.	MHK
Data and Observations	The data and observations section could be improved – it could be broken down into academic /research institutions - technology developers - NGOs – consultant input – environmental organisations such as Marine Scotland / – SOFIA – etc.	Tom Clements	We will contact Aquatera for specific ideas.	MHK
Databases	In the section "Conections→Databases" I miss the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODNET)-Human Activities database: http://www.emodnet-humanactivities.eu/index.php. Among other human activities, the database covers the ocean energy developments in European coastal and marine waters.	Juan Bald	Added.	MHK
Expert Connections	In general I miss the opportunity to filter or to sort (*A-Z or Z-A*) within a column.	Hans Buser	A task was added for the development team to fix this.	OSW
	When there is already a tab opened (here it was Aalborg University) and you select another expert, then the focus will stay on the table and is not moving to the additional tab (here Bangor University).	Hans Buser	This is a browser setting. Try right clicking and selecting "open in a new tab".	OSW

LOCATION	COMMENT	REVIEWER	RESPONSE	SUBJECT AREA
Expert Connections	In my opinion it would be better to have an unique “Institutions” or “Tethys community” section with all the relevant institutions and, same than in the “Conections→Tethys Community” section, be able to discriminate depending on the partnership to different categories (Consultant, environmental stakeholder, regulator, etc).	Juan Bald	Dividing into Expertise and Tethys community.	MHK
	In the section “Conections→Institutions, why only university institutions? What is the reason to separate University Institutions from the rest of the environmental research institutions (most of them included in the “Conections→Tethys Community” section).	Juan Bald	We plan to rename to "expertise" and expand outside of universities.	MHK
	I like that there is a list of experts and a list of databases maintained by other organizations and what they contain. I think this is useful, but is not easily found on the website. I only came across it during my review of the website; otherwise I wouldn’t have known it was there.	Lisa Isaacman	We will write a blog post outlining how best to use Tethys.	MHK
	There is only reference to universities but there are other institutions that conduct important research around the world that should be included e.g.: Marine Scotland (http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/marineenergy/mre), WavEC Offshore Renewables	Teresa Simas	Dividing into Expertise and Tethys community.	MHK

LOCATION	COMMENT	REVIEWER	RESPONSE	SUBJECT AREA
Expert Connections	Institution network should be expanded beyond Europe and America and Scandinavia to incorporate emerging markets, it could also be updated to include project developers, regulators, marine service providers and test sites such as EMEC / Wavehub / NAREC. This would see the tab evolve into a stakeholder and research community network rather than a list of academic institutions – institutions should be encouraged to provide multiple contacts and bios to cover all aspects of research or expertise to encourage knowledge exchange.	Tom Clements	Acknowledged, we are trying to do this with our "expertise" list. Test sites should be captured as Annex IV sites.	MHK
	Institutions may be easier to navigate if geo located.	Tom Clements	Noted, we plan to implement something along these lines at a later point.	MHK
External Links	Is this still Tethys? Or are I'm lost in the www? I'm lost. Tethys is gone. It would be better to open an additional Tab.	Hans Buser	We will try to force all external links to open in a new tab and add a symbol after the link to designate external links as opposed to internal links.	OSW
FAQ	Typo identified on "What is a stressor and receptor?"	Hans Buser	Fixed.	OSW
General	Do other agencies/institutions/labs promote Tethys through their website or through social media? Do they have links to the page through their site?	Alicia Gorton	We will try to be more active promoting to other websites.	MHK

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General	I don't see the COWRIE database listed anywhere. Admittedly this has now been subsumed into The Crown Estate website (http://www.thecrownestate.co.uk/energy-infrastructure/downloads/cowrie/) but anyone from Europe would still Google COWRIE first in my opinion. This has a wealth of resources on EMF, birds, fish etc. but is limited to offshore wind… presumably not a disqualifying factor?	Anne Marie O'Hagan	Agreed, COWRIE has good material, much of which is already on Tethys. I added a link in the databases section.	MHK
	I think there should be a page of useful links somewhere in the database – these would not necessarily have to be directly related e.g. this site on noise isn't specific to MHK but could be a useful starting point for some people: http://www.dosits.org/ I realise this could be an infinite exercise! My suggestion therefore would be to do it thematically and perhaps have a suggestion box where users can suggest sites on specific topics that they have found useful.	Anne Marie O'Hagan	We have a website "document type" that is searchable through the knowledge base. DOSITS has been added: http://tethys.pnnl.gov/publications/discovery-sound-sea. We are also looking into creating a suggestion box on the home page.	MHK
	It would be useful to know how large attached files are (kb or mb).	Hermoine Wood	Great idea, we will add this to the info box.	MHK
	I can and did search the site for specific info but my first instinct was that this was a complicated site to use. After spending some time at the site, I concluded that it was easier to use than I first thought. If, however, users don't have patience, they could move from the site before realizing that it is user friendly. I wonder whether offering a quick video "Users Guide to Tethys" would be helpful. Your website advisors could tell you whether people would click on a user's guide video.	Jim Lanard	We have created a Tips for Tethys page available under the help column. We are looking into creating a helpful video.	OSW

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General	My sense was that there was more on MHK than on offshore wind, including, of course, Annex IV (which should be more specifically identified as an MHK doc). This sense on my part could be based on the fact that I ended up accessing MHK with fewer clicks on the mouse than the number of clicks I needed to find offshore wind info.	Jim Lanard	This skew should be reduced with the addition of WREN material - the Annex IV equivalent for OSW.	OSW
	A promoting action from each country analyst to encourage the interested public to enter in the Tethys community is crucial.	Juan Bald	Agreed, we can discuss this in the next Annex IV meeting.	MHK
	A regular communication to the community by e-mail of news, updates, blog contributions, webinars, etc, to show that the database is alive could be interesting.	Juan Bald	Tethys Blasts address this.	MHK
	I would strengthen the capacity of the database to provide information about community members (stakeholders, researchers, regulators, etc), that is, the development of a community database. In the same manner that we can find information about reports, articles, etc., related with the environmental effects of MHK and OSW technology, it could be interesting to develop the opportunity to find information about stakeholders, researchers, promoters, regulators, etc, related with the environmental effects of MHK and OSW technology (in a geographical base or also depending on several search criteria, such as, country, expertise, research interest, etc). If people see that belonging to Tethys could be a good showcase to show is expertise, work, research, etc., or to establish connection with other researchers, stakeholders, etc., maybe this could encourage the usage of the database.	Juan Bald	We are working on developing better ties between user profiles and the documents hosted in Tethys. This will allow users to showcase their work better. The difficult part has been getting users to sign up.	MHK

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General	In my opinion to consider bats as a stressor in the Tethys knowledge base is unnecessary. Are there bats in the marine environment?	Juan Bald	Studies show that bats fly many miles offshore, so there are researchers that study this. Since bats cannot be classified as marine mammals or birds, they have become their own receptor.	MHK
	Missing in-situ monitoring of floating offshore wind and more general effects from all forms of marine renewable energy specific to the conditions found off the west coast of the US. The environment in the eastern pacific is significant different than conditions found off the east coast of the US or in Europe. The under-representation is due to the lack of availability not a limitation of the Tethys site.	Kim Hatfield	Noted, we will keep an eye out for this material in the future.	OSW
	This service is very useful in my daily work and for increasing my knowledge about various marine renewable energy topics, specifically off shore wind. I would encourage continued linking to other existing or planned services (Oregon State University) that house project specific or subject matter data.	Kim Hatfield	We will create a new view for all institutions available on Tethys, under connections.	OSW
	Should there be an audio function to the page for partially sighted?	Tom Clements	We need to check with IT about this.	MHK
Home Page	Add a small section for "MHK/OSW in the News". This can include press releases from government agencies and releases from universities and institutions.	Alicia Gorton	We are currently developing a news RSS feed that should do this.	MHK
	Where is the renewable energy? And additionally, I suggest not forgetting the people working with the technology or living in the environment.	Hans Buser	We have to avoid too many devices because we don't want to promote one technology over another.	OSW

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Home Page	A link to last online workshop should be available on the home page and a click to invite button should exist so people can sign up to the next one.	Tom Clements	A link is available in the crawling announcement; users can now sign up as well.	MHK
	Featured Links banner style across the across the top of the page rather than down the side – refreshed regularly.	Tom Clements	Comment noted.	MHK
	Home page needs more MHK presence – presently it has no pictures of any devices.	Tom Clements	Added some to "What is MHK?" Selecting devices is a challenge because of sensitivity promoting one device.	MHK
	The home page should have 2 clearly identifiable icons – one for uploading information and one for viewing the data base. This would direct the user to the 2 key functions of the site. It makes the home page self-explanatory and alleviates the necessity for the user to navigate the tool bars.	Tom Clements	We will be the only ones uploading information, but we are looking into making a more prominent knowledge base link.	MHK
Knowledge Base	At Knowledge Base under Tethys Content section, I had a hard time working within Technology Type when choosing Stressor and or Receptor. Specifically, I wasn't sure how to drop one selection (e.g., Marine Mammals) to add another (e.g., Birds). When I first tried to switch from Marine Mammals to Birds, filters for both selections seemed to be applied. Then, somehow, I was able to drop Marine Mammals and just add Birds. So maybe switching from one Receptor (or Stressor) to another could be a bit more intuitive.	Jim Lanard	Thank you, we will look into making this more prominent. Tips for Tethys may help.	OSW

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Knowledge Base	I think “Current Search” could be made a bit more prominent so that it’s easier to see the search criteria selected by the user. That is, I didn’t immediately see the Current Search location on the right hand side of the screen. I think Current Search would be better placed where the “Tethys Map View” button is.	Jim Lanard	Good comment, we are developing a means to make this more prominent.	OSW
	What is the difference between resources in the Tethys and Annex IV collections in the knowledge base? Seems unnecessary to separate.	Lisa Isaacman	Thanks, we will remove this filter.	MHK
	However during the process I noticed that the pages took some time to be loaded and the website crashed some times (this doesn’t happen with other webpages so I suppose this is not due to the internet signal).	Teresa Simas	Need to follow up and diagnose.	MHK
	The fields are quite well covered. However, in the receptors (in the search filters column of the knowledge base page) I will add ecosystem and food chain /web; this is related with the artificial reef effect of the installed submerged structures. There is a need to integrate the knowledge we are assimilating from the impacts / changes on the different ecosystem components – e.g. benthos, fish, birds, marine mammals – to understand how they are potentially interfering with the ecosystem balance as whole. There is some good work ongoing for offshore wind which is already referred on Tethys.	Teresa Simas	Good suggestion, we will add an "ecosystem" receptor.	MHK
Map Viewer	It might be beneficial to have stressor and receptor filters so that users can visually see where data is spatially available for certain stressors and receptors.	Alicia Gorton	Comment acknowledged.	MHK

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Map Viewer	I find the blue 'cluster' symbol confusing as, to me, it is not immediately clear what the number relates to… I assumed it referred to the number of reports on that site/project but on checking a few locations I now realise that it relates to the number of entries for that site/project and not necessarily documents. I feel a number relating to documents available would be more useful.	Anne Marie O'Hagan	We will be thinking about reworking the map viewer clusters. We are also looking at rewording the text in the legend and intro.	MHK
	I think it would be important to have planned sites highlighted in a different colour so people can clearly distinguish between planned, in operation and completed for example.	Anne Marie O'Hagan	Great idea, we will at least add to metadata forms.	MHK
	The Google base map does not contain the exact place names for many Irish places which could confuse/mislead users. Is it possible to manually insert tags with the associated place name? Would this be helpful to non-national users?	Anne Marie O'Hagan	Names appear as you zoom in closer on the map.	MHK
	Bubbles at the same locations – different results on different scales: e.g. between France/Belgium and England.	Hans Buser	This is how the map is supposed to operate. This is clustering to prevent clutter.	OSW
	Would be nice to enable filtering when you were zoomed in and to stay focused on the zoomed map.	Hans Buser	Agreed, a task for this has been added to the development backlog.	OSW
	The map viewer page has some of the markers for Project Site Annex IV in the wrong place, for example: 1) Kyle Rhea Tidal Stream Array should be on the west coast of Scotland; however is found in the North Sea, south of Norway. 2) Farr Point Wave Array should be located off the north coast of Scotland, however is also found in the North Sea, south of Norway. After further searching I have found that many of the Project Site Annex IV markers are in the wrong locations.	Hermoine Wood	Thank you for flagging this. A negative was forgotten on several recently-added project sites. These have been corrected.	MHK

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Map Viewer	The Map Viewer page is too limited for my interests. I would prefer a map with much more detail that would allow me to click on each individual offshore wind farm. And when clicking on a specific project there would be links to key reports and research related to it.	Jim Lanard	The map provides links to more details, including reports and research. Simply click on the bubble and then the title of the work you are interested in.	OSW
	For instance, know we can see 48 "Research study Annex IV" items in the Tethys knowledge base whilst these items are 27 in the Map Viewer. This is some discrepancy between both search platforms.	Juan Bald	This is because the Map Viewer can only show geotagged content. I added this to the FAQ and map explanation for clarity.	MHK
	If the vocation of the database is to gather international information, the category "U.S. Permitting Sites (blue bubbles)" in the Map Viewer is too focused in a specific country.	Juan Bald	Comment noted.	MHK
	In my opinion, the discriminating or searching criteria from Tethys knowledge base and Map viewer should be the same (Content type, collection, technology type, stressor and receptor). The Map viewer should allow us to see the knowledge base information in a geographic basis increasing the visual way to identify projects and studies on a global scale. So, I would suggest to unify the information gathered by the Knowledge Base and the Map Viewer using the same discriminating criteria of the knowledge base.	Juan Bald	Comment noted.	MHK
	Could be redesigned as a rotating globe - google earth style, user could then spin globe to navigate to project locations etc.	Tom Clements	This feature is not supported with our current mapping software.	MHK
	On the map viewer page, when you click on a "cluster" it is quite annoying that you only have a very small window to view the content. There is a lot of space to the sides of this window that is going unused, maybe this space could be used to make the viewer window more user friendly.	Tom Clements	Thanks for flagging this, the developers are looking into fixing this.	MHK
	When hovering over an icon, project bio could be more detailed and pictures could be added to assist immediate understanding or grab user interest.	Tom Clements	Comment noted.	MHK

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Metadata Forms	Missing some Ireland project sites. Anne Marie will send in forms.	Anne Marie O'Hagan	Thank you, we can add the forms as they are sent in.	MHK
	Add a current research project database – i.e. who is doing what.	Lisa Isaacman	We already have metadata forms for current research, but have struggled to keep it up to date because people are either reluctant to share or do not have the time.	MHK
	I think the metadata forms need to be more accessible. It's not straight forward to find them at the moment, maybe a direct link to the forms from the homepage.	Tom Clements	Added links to the home page.	MHK
	On the meta data forms it would be good to have a navigation bar that could take you straight to the section you are interested in. This isn't really an issue in the forms that have less information on them but is very relevant for the longer forms.	Tom Clements	Good suggestion, added a task for this in the development backlog.	MHK
New Feature	For someone like me, who is fairly new to renewable energy, perhaps a "Key Players" section could be included. This section would list all the major government/commercial/university players in renewable energy regulations, funding, research, etc. A description of each agency/office could be provided, along with how they contribute to promoting either MHK or offshore wind energies. There could be a federal section (DOE, BOEM, WWOTO, EERE, NOAA, etc), a private section (major companies that develop systems or are doing major research), a university section (list of projects and outcomes), and a national lab section (PNNL, Sandia, etc). I think it would be really useful to see how the different players interact and how they are all related to funding sources, etc.	Alicia Gorton	Key Players will be the "expertise" section. Plan to expand the industries/agencies lists in the future.	MHK

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New Feature	Has the idea of a message board ever been discussed? Once the site gets more visibility and user traffic, users may begin commenting more on the blog posts and may want to start a discussion on a message board regarding: certain papers, documents, press releases, or if someone is looking for a specific data source, etc.	Alicia Gorton	We have social media sites and will add a SharePoint site for OSW soon.	MHK
	Another functionality that could be interesting to create in the Tethys database would be a compilation on funding and job opportunities on environmental topics related with MHK.	Teresa Simas	We want to use social media more, and user profile networking. Eventually a linked external site.	MHK
	It would be interesting to add future events (those that are planned for the next year or so; e.g. ICOE2014 http://www.icoe2014canada.org/; All-Energy 2014 http://www.all-energy.co.uk/) on MHK environmental issues (or related), a short description could be added to inform about the environmental sections in each of the events. In addition, other events such as workshops going on as part of research projects in Europe (as part of the dissemination work package that a EU funded project has to have) could be interesting to list as well.	Teresa Simas	We will be adding an interactive calendar.	MHK
Project Sites	Add a field for project (or device) manager. Developer and device manager may not always be the same.	Teresa Simas	There are now two fields: one for device developer and other for technology developer.	MHK
	Add a field to include the date when the information has been posted or last time it has been updated (or both)	Teresa Simas	Added a field for last updated.	MHK

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Regulation Frameworks	At Regulation Frameworks, the information for Ireland is incorrect and I did not provide it but I am willing to correct and update it if you so wish. I also think the information for the UK, Germany, Spain and Portugal are not wholly accurate either. I realise this picture changes relatively quickly so it may just be a matter of updating the content. Andrea, as I mentioned to you in Scotland there may be some new work under Annex I beginning on this soon so a cross-reference to that work could be included under the Regulation section, should it materialise (I will keep you informed!).	Anne Marie O'Hagan	Country analysts will be asked for updates. Please keep us updated on the Annex I information.	MHK
	I would improve the section on consenting particularly on EIA requirements for different countries. This information is very difficult to find in some countries since dedicating consenting is not yet available.	Teresa Simas	We will specifically request this information from analysts/delegates.	MHK
	It is very outdated in the Portuguese case. I will provide new information. For other European countries SOWFIA D 4.5 report (see SOWFIA website) provides a detailed description of the consenting process for several European countries	Teresa Simas	Country analysts will be asked for updates. We will look at SOWFIA D 4.5 report for OES countries not involved in Annex IV.	MHK
	Significant additional work could be put into the Regulation Framework section to bring it up to speed and ensure it is a useful and up to date platform for users to explore national, regional and international regulations. Some form of uniformity in presentation may allow the user to gain a quicker and more relevant understanding of the licensing and consenting process in each nation.	Tom Clements	Country analysts will be asked for updates. Regulations at a regional level would be too difficult to maintain. We will look into providing more uniformity.	MHK

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Risk Analyses and Models	Under the 'Tethys Content' tab and Risk Analyses and Models section I think a link to the Marine Scotland approach to risk management should be included (perhaps to balance the North American slant!). The document can be found here: http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/Licensing/marine/Applications/SDM	Anne Marie O'Hagan	Document added to the Risk Analyses and Models section. Thanks for helping correct the slant!	MHK
Social Media	I favour the use of LinkedIn for comments on documents etc. and I think Twitter could be a useful mechanism to provide short information on new additions to Tethys.	Anne Marie O'Hagan	Social media is meant to drive to Tethys, but the focus is on Tethys; commenting should remain there.	MHK
	I do not still see the social media, but it will be helpful especially if the information on monitoring project in the actual sea is updated.	Daisuke Kitazawa	Comment noted.	MHK
	I think Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter are very effective tools for outreach; they could all be used in order to highlight the most recent information that is uploaded to the Tethys database and also any news articles relating to relevant subjects. In regards to Facebook and Twitter appropriate hash tags should be used in order to effectively engage a wider audience rather than just having the information. Currently the following for all social media Tethys sites is very low.	Hermoine Wood	We are always looking for suggestions to improve involvement in social media. We will give hash tags a try.	MHK
	Seriously, I think better than social media would be email alerts that notify users that new content has been added to sections the user has identified as being of interest.	Jim Lanard	Tethys Blasts address this.	OSW
	To those that are not users of these social media it could be useful to send an e-mail when new features, information, update or blog contributions are done.	Juan Bald	Tethys Blasts address this.	MHK

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Social Media	I have also been exploring the possibility of social media as a communication tool for scientists and researchers. I think it would be valuable to conduct a broad survey of the Tethys community to find out what, if any, social media they currently use or would consider using. Many people don't use/wouldn't use Facebook or Twitter. I'm not sure how LinkedIn would be used by the Tethys community. It seems to be mostly used by business professionals to advertise themselves. I don't know many researchers/scientists who are on it.	Lisa Isaacman	Comment noted.	MHK
	I think these tools are very important as interactive tools allowing people to comment and rate on existing information and released news. They are also important because they allow people to express opinions and this is important to contribute to feel the pulse of the sector. However the disadvantage is to have misleading information released through these tools. I think it was important to have a "newsletter" kind of periodic publication from Tethys, with an editorial letter, trying to summarise and highlight new and relevant information released or loaded in all these platforms.	Teresa Simas	Tethys Blasts address this.	MHK
Tethys Blast	I could not subscribe. It lasts too long to receive an answer of your server.	Hans Buser	We will look into why this is happening. In the meantime, you have been manually subscribed.	OSW

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Tethys Blast	The June Tethys blast links were a dead end for me but July links seem to work fine - may be a non-issue now and was most likely an end user system issue.	Kim Hatfield	The system meant to keep statistics on link usage and erroneously tried to redirect behind the PNNL firewall. This has been corrected.	OSW
User Profiles	In terms of how that functionality could be improved would it be possible to log on as a guest or must an actual account be created? The option of not having to create an account could entice more people?!	Anne Marie O'Hagan	Accounts are not required to see view the site, only to participate in certain functions, like commenting/rating and viewing the Tethys Community.	MHK
	It was very difficult to create an account. I accidentally typed in my email address incorrectly and wasn't allowed to immediately correct my mistake; instead I had to wait for three hours. This means that is it not user friendly as when mistakes occur they should be easily remedied rather than having long recovery periods. The time which it states how long you are required wait is in seconds rather than minutes and hours which is not very helpful. 24 hours after this initial problem I still was unable to create an account.	Hermoine Wood	We were testing a method that requires email validation, but it clearly has been causing problems. We removed this, so now you immediately log in when you register.	MHK
	It is easy to create an account but I forgot my password and nothing happened after doing the procedure indicated in the site (I didn't receive any e-mail) for password recovery or change.	Teresa Simas	There were some glitches with the system sending out emails. Once fixed, the procedure should work better.	MHK