Diving into data: unique portal delivers insights for managing Australia's seafloor habitats

Imagine making time-critical decisions to manage vital seafloor habitats when you have little or no readily available information about them.

Now marine managers can dive into Seamap Australia, a one-stop data portal with the information they need to make evidence-based decisions to better manage and protect these precious habitats.

first-of-its-kind resource brings seafloor habitat maps and contextual data together in a single interactive web-based mapping platform and provides data summaries and analytics to support marine management (IMAS) spatial analyst and Seamap project leader, Associate Professor Vanessa Lucieer.

 Examples of its marine management uses include identifying habitat types that are particularly vulnerable to marine pests moving in, creating inventories of marine assets to identify where especially rare or ecologically important habitats occur, and conducting environmental impact assessments before approving developments such as for oil and gas.

Seamap is underpinned by a seafloor habitat classification scheme that enables a nationally consistent

he portal and classification scheme create a marine decision support tool to help

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