

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(of UNESCO)
Twentieth Session of the IOC Committee on International Oceanographic Data
and Information Exchange (IODE-XX)
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Ocean Tracking Network

Robert M. Branton, Dalhousie University, Halifax Canada

Summary of the document

A short description of the Ocean Tracking Network (OTN), its metadata/data issues and a proposal for how IODE could assist OTN.

Appendices:

A. www.oceantrackingnetwork.org

B. www.marinebiodiversity.ca/OTN/policies

DRAFT TEXT FOR INCLUSION IN THE SUMMARY REPORT

The Ocean Tracking Network (OTN) is a pilot project of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) and is headquartered at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Canada. It is a biologically driven ocean observing system organized into 14 regions that has so far deployed 2 receiver lines (Halifax Canada, Perth Australia). OTN is scheduled to deploy a further 28 receiver lines by 2013. Oceanographic variables are measured by sensors on tagged animals and other oceanographic instruments and transmitted to lines of receivers on the ocean floor and/or robotic submarines (gliders) patrolling oceanic areas of interest. Next-generation receivers will "daisy-chain" data to satellites and or cabled "ocean observatories" connected to shore stations to provide near real time data.

OTN is committed to making the world's ocean tracking metadata and data freely accessible without charge by the broader scientific community as well as to respecting the intellectual property rights of its providers. Collaborators will submit oceanographic observations directly (in real time if feasible) to International Ocean Exchange (IODE) National Oceanographic Data Centres (NODC) for quality control and integration into international data flows. Animal behaviour data will be submitted to the data centre at Dalhousie where it is assembled into integrated tracks and linked to available oceanographic data. Although behaviour data from non-OTN sources may be temporarily restricted, all OTN data will be described using International Standards Organization (ISO) Marine Community Profile (MCP) standards to facilitate global discovery and eventually be reported to international biodiversity facilities such as the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS). Unrestricted data will also be routinely copied to an IODE designated repository such as the Integrated Science Data Management (ISDM) Branch of the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) for integration with other IOC programs and for long term archiving. All individuals using OTN data will be expected to provide formal attribution to OTN and its providers as well as to inform OTN of uses being made.

OTN is seeking IODE assistance to achieve best practices in a number of ways, including: a) creating an Ocean Expert designation for ocean tracking specialists, b) advising on proper and effective use of existing IODE and ISO standards and formats, c) formulating new standards and formats where they currently do not exist d) preparing of best practices procedures and protocols manuals and e) accepting OTN data into IODE designated repository(s).

DRAFT ITEMS FOR THE 2009-2011 WORK PLAN AND BUDGET

[provide, in tabular form, the action items that should be included in the work plan and budget:]

<i>Action item description</i>	<i>To be implemented by [name]</i>	<i>Deadline date</i>	<i>Requested from UNESCO RP</i>	<i>Requested from other sources</i>
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DRAFT RESOLUTION OR RECOMMENDATION

[provide draft resolutions or recommendations – use format used in previous sessions of the committee]