

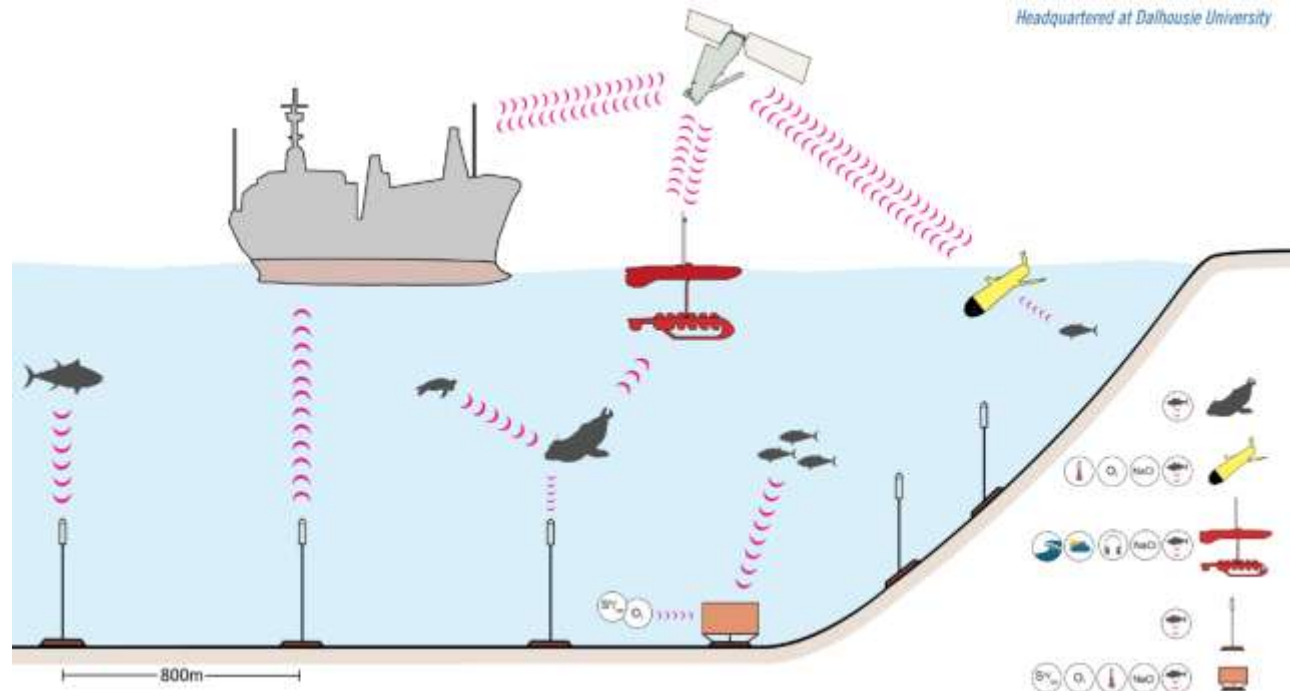
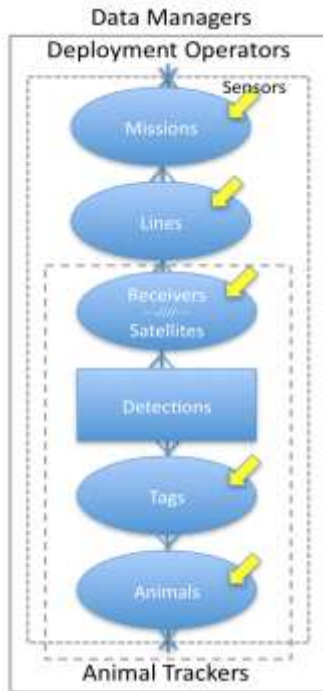


# OTN's OECD Report Card

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[Global.OceanTrack.org](http://Global.OceanTrack.org)

# What is Ocean Tracking Network?



acoustic tags<sup>1</sup> and surgeries<sup>2</sup>



receivers<sup>1</sup> and mooring assemblies<sup>2</sup>



satellite tags<sup>3</sup>

Photo Credits: <sup>1</sup>[www.vemco.com](http://www.vemco.com) <sup>2</sup>[Global.OceanTrack.org/galleries](http://Global.OceanTrack.org/galleries) <sup>3</sup>[www.wildlifecomputers.com](http://www.wildlifecomputers.com)

*Since March 2010, OTN has acquired 29 million records on 28,000 tagged animals from 70 plus institutions in 13 countries .*

# What is OECD?



The 'ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD) Principles and Guidelines for Access to Research Data from Public Funding' was endorsed by the OECD Council on 14 December 2006 with the intention of facilitating optimal cost-effective access to digital research data from public funding.

# 13 OECD Principals

*A. Openness*

*B. Flexibility*

*C. Transparency*

*D. Legal conformity*

*E. Protection of intellectual property*

*F. Formal responsibility*

*G. Professionalism*

*H. Interoperability*

*I. Quality*

*J. Security*

*K. Efficiency*

*L. Accountability*

*M. Sustainability*

# What is OTN's OECD Report Card?

Following are 35 relevant points extracted from that document for the purpose of conducting a cursory assessment of OTN data management infrastructure against OECD principals and guidelines.

OECD Report Card Summary	
<p>The 'ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD) Principles and Guidelines for Access to Research Data from Public Funding' was endorsed by the facilitating optimal cost-effective access to digital research data from public funding. The full text of this document can be found at: <a href="http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/science-and-tech/data-from-public-funding_9789264034020-en-fr">http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/science-and-tech/data-from-public-funding_9789264034020-en-fr</a>. Relevant points were extracted from that document for the purpose of conducting a cursory assessment of Ocean Tracking Net principals and guidelines. Following is a weighted score type summary individually scored report cards are included on subsequent sheets.</p>	
<p><b>Yellow - mix of full and partial compliance; orange - mix of partial and non compliance; red - non compliance</b></p>	
a. Openness	The data system is user-friendly, Internet-based and timely.
b. Flexibility	Accounts for changes in information technologies, characteristics of each research field and diversity of research systems.
c. Transparency	Documentation on data and conditions of use are available on Internet.
	Applies existing data management standards.
	Communicates among data archives and data producing institutions.
d. Legal conformity	Effectively deals with trade secrets, intellectual property rights and protection of or endangered species.
e. Protection of Intellectual property	Delayed and or partial release of data allows primary participants to fully exploit the research data without unnecessarily shutting off access.
	Facilitates access to restricted data for public research and or other public-interest purposes.
f. Formal Responsibility	Has rules and regulations, regarding the responsibilities of the various parties involved in data-related activities.
	Research data sharing arrangements are negotiated at the initial proposal stage.
	Variations in the origin or type of data are taken into consideration when establishing data access arrangements.
	Research institutions and government organisations have been identified to ensure formal long-term sustainability of the infrastructure required for data access.
	Mutual trust between researchers, and trust between researchers, their institutions and other organizations is encouraged.
	Initial data-producing researchers / institutions are rewarded with temporary exclusive use of the data.

# OTN Report to CODATA 2012 ...

- Developed policies covering responsibilities of various parties involved in data-related activities
- Negotiated data sharing arrangements at initial proposal stage
- Rewarded initial contributors with temporary exclusive use of data
- Developed a secure and easy to use Internet systems
- Is explicit about standards and promotes / adopts most advanced practices

# Highlights from OTN's 2012 Strategic Review

# Openness...

- *Openness means access on equal terms for the international research community at the lowest possible cost...*
  - Since inception, OTN staff have worked with technology services professionals at the Dalhousie computer centre to develop and operate a open-source and user-friendly Internet-based system.
  - Early offerings included a web mapping services (WMS) based Google Earth flyover showing all projects and stations. More recently (Nov 2012) full public access was granted on all discovery metadata (information about the data) and to station and mystery tag records.



# Formal Responsibility ...

- *Access arrangements should promote explicit, formal institutional practices, such as the development of rules and regulations, regarding the responsibilities of the various parties involved in data-related activities...*
  - OTN's public data policy document has been vetted through the national and international partners and is referenced in all collaboration agreements.
  - Data management clause(s) are therefore only included in collaboration agreements in case where the formal public policy is unworkable.

# Quality ...

- *Research institutions and professional associations should develop appropriate practices with respect to the citations of data and the recording of citations in indexes ...*
  - OTN discovery metadata records include preformed standardized data citations, thus enabling anyone accessing or using OTN data to easily give proper attribution to all of the data providers and to OTN.

# Security ...

- *Specific attention should be devoted to supporting the use of techniques and instruments to guarantee the integrity and security of research data...*
  - Project data are stored in controlled access data folders/schemes. The relevant principal investigator and or data managers therefore control access to these folders by other OTN members.

# Security ...

- *With regard to guaranteeing the integrity of a data set, every effort should be made to ensure the completeness of data and absence of errors...*
  - OTN and various manufactures have implemented procedures whereby collaborators can authorize to manufacturers to provide equipment specifications metadata directly to OTN as part of their routine shipping practices.

# Sustainability ...

- *Taking administrative responsibility for the measures to guarantee permanent access to data that have been determined to require long-term retention...*
  - All Unrestricted Data held by OTN will be *routinely copied to an International Oceanographic Data Exchange (IODE) / Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) recognized facility such as the Department of Fisheries and Ocean Canada for long term archiving* and reported to international biodiversity facilities such as the Ocean Biogeographic Information System ([www.iobis.org](http://www.iobis.org)) and Global Biodiversity Information Facility ([www.gbif.org](http://www.gbif.org)).

# New Challenges

## 2011 Canadian Research Data Summit

- all data from public funded research to be made openly available in a timely as a condition of funding
- time limited exceptions sought by OTN include:
  - not reporting location information on endangered species as a means of protecting them from illegal harvest,
  - protecting the thesis data for Highly Qualified Personnel who are in training.

