

Forum for Operational Oceanography

Data Sharing Working Group

Terms of Reference

Background

The Australian Forum for Operational Oceanography aims to foster collaboration between the FOO pillars (Marine Industries, R&D Providers, Service Providers and Government Agencies) to align itself with the National Innovation and Science Agenda, and emphasise the importance of operational oceanography to sustain and enhance the social, economic and environmental benefits of Australia's marine estate.

The Data Sharing Working Group (DSWG) was proposed following the second FOO event in 2017 to provide input to the FOO Steering Committee on issues relating to enhancing the opportunities for data sharing between the FOO pillars and encouraging best practice in marine data management, important activities contributing to the Priority Areas for FOO.

Here, data is defined as in-situ or remotely sensed observations or products, or model output, of physics, biogeochemistry or biology. Data also includes the metadata to describe these data.

Role

It is expected that the Data Sharing Working Group will provide advice and guidance relating to best-practice in marine data management, information infrastructure, data licencing agreements and data sharing approaches. Specific activities are likely to include:

- Sharing advice on best practice for marine data management to enable better use and re-use of data collections;
- Working with partners to explore opportunities for making data collections discoverable and, with appropriate licencing agreements, accessible;
- Exploring ways partner data collections can be integrated into national collections hosted by the Australian Ocean Data Network (AODN);
- Identifying data products which could contribute to improving operational activities in the Australian jurisdiction and enable improved reporting on relevant indices; and
- Acting as liaisons to the broader community through presentations at meetings and conferences.

Advice and guidance on other matters may be sought as appropriate, and the DSWG may comment on other matters as they relate to oceanographic operations.

Structure and Membership

The DSWG is to be comprised of members from all pillars of FOO. Membership is open to any person affiliated with a FOO pillar; interested in data management and data sharing; and willing to contribute an appropriate level of effort towards FOO activities. Prospective members can nominate themselves for membership by contacting the current Group Chair (to be appointed). Appointment of members is made at discretion of the current Chair.

Group members are expected to provide representation of both their own expertise as well as their communities, and can nominate substitutes as needed to participate in meetings.

The group will meet on a regular basis by teleconference, approximately 4 times per year, in weeks preceding FOO Steering Committee meetings. The group will have a face-to-face meeting at each FOO event. One-on-one discussions between AODN and any partner can take place at any time.

Membership is revisited at each FOO event. The Chair is appointed by the FOO steering committee, and reconsidered at each FOO event.