Session 1 Event Summary

Exploring Data Exchange with the OSC and CIOOS

Monday, November 30th

The Ocean Data Connector Series is a collaborative partnership between the Canadian Integrated Ocean Observing System (CIOOS) and Canada's Ocean Supercluster (OSC) to explore how data sharing drives coastal and marine collaboration and innovation.

Session Overview

Session 1 brought together OSC members from across Canada to learn more about data exchange models, the value of open data, and the recently announced VITALITY project through informative presentations from the OSC and CIOOS. An interactive group activity gave everyone in attendance the chance to provide input on where their organization is situated on the "Data Spectrum" (between open access and fully restricted), considering factors that determine their organization's approach to data exchange. These factors were further explored in breakout groups that explored barriers and challenges to exchanging sensitive or restricted data.

Event Highlights

Presentation: *Data, Collaboration and the OSC (OSC)*

OSC's Ralph Eldridge (Indigenous Engagement Lead) began the Series with an inclusive land acknowledgement. Susan Hunt (Chief Technology Officer) and Melody Pardoe (Chief Engagement Officer) then provided an overview on the OSC's approach to data exchange, and the potential opportunities for creating a cross-sectoral data hub to drive industrial growth and positive economic impact in Canada.

- Data sharing is a powerful way for OSC project participants to advance their own operations and the greater oceans ecosystem, with the varying levels of complexity that result from cross-sectoral partnerships being considered in the development of the OSC's data strategy.
- Project participants will establish the terms defining their respective rights to own, use, or license data that is generated through project activities.
- Within this structure, is an opportunity to apply the OSC's cluster building framework to preserve and protect data but also facilitate access as much as possible without compromising commercial interests.
- The work of VITALITY will leverage CIOOS' infrastructure to develop a data registry, recommendations for a data trust, and data management training resources to increase national capacity and lower the cost of entry for commercial entities to utilize previously inaccessible data.
- Ultimately this will result in strong collaborations and cost savings through more efficient sharing of data.

Presentation: *Data Exchange and the Blue Economy: The Value of CIOOS to Industry (CIOOS)*

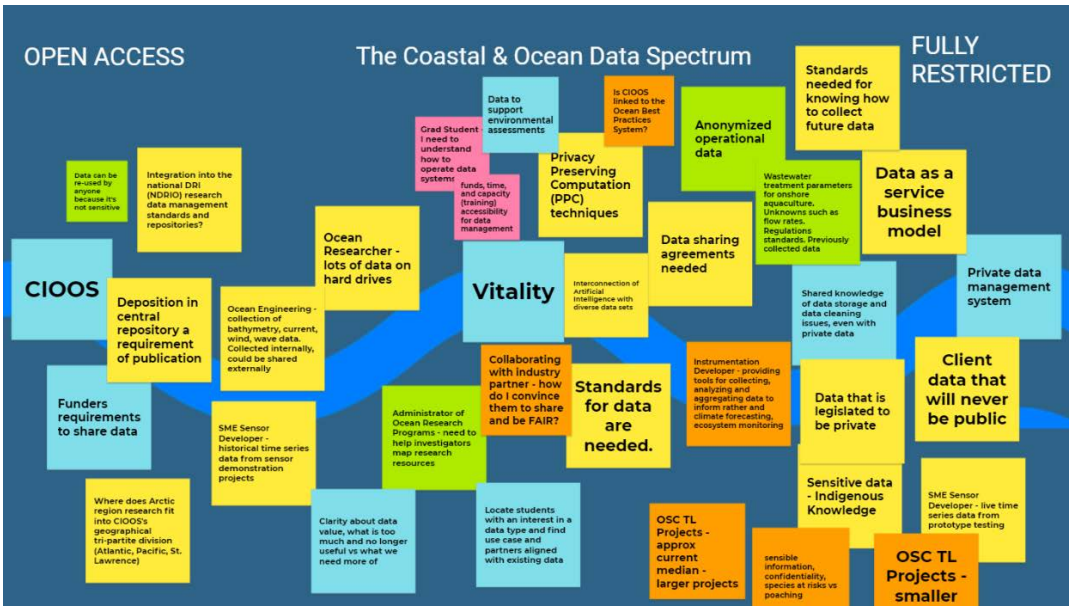
Lydia Ross (Engagement Specialist), Kelley Santos (Engagement Specialist), Scott Bruce (Ocean Data Specialist) and Jeff Cullis (Technical Director) with CIOOS Atlantic discussed the significance of the blue economy to Canada's ocean sectors and the potential for greater collaboration, innovation, and commercial growth through the power of open data. CIOOS' data platforms:

- Foster coordination and collaboration among diverse data contributors
- Improve access to bilingual coastal and ocean information for decision-making
- Enable discovery and access to coastal and ocean data that supports a variety of applied and theoretical research efforts to better understand, monitor, and manage activities in Canada's marine regions.

CIOOS' three Regional Associations, based in the Pacific, St. Lawrence and Atlantic, are working with their local coastal and oceanographic communities to promote collaboration across sectors and respond to data and information needs. Ways that both data users and contributors could engage with CIOOS were illustrated, along with a demonstration of the platform including the national and regional asset maps and data catalogues.

Key Takeaways: Data Spectrum Exercise and Breakout Discussions

- Diverse responses were provided across the spectrum that highlight a number of challenges and opportunities for data exchange identified by participants.
- Terms and conditions for data access and use are often determined by the end-clients that data companies are working for; therefore data companies have limited to no ability to engage directly with CIOOS and contribute data
- There is a need to increase public understanding of how ocean data collected by academia, government and industry is translated into public knowledge and critical services for decision-making. A better understanding of where this data is coming from and how it is being used, may result in greater support for data exchange.
- Projects are often multilayered involving multiple types of data from different sources, some of which can be made openly available and some of which is restricted. Varying levels of accessibility within projects make data exchange challenging.
- Interoperability across sectors is challenging. Harmonizing proprietary formats should be considered in VITALITY.
- Data accessibility is often determined by the source of funding: government and academic funding tends to be more open VS. industry owned data which tends to be associated with more complex levels of restriction.
- The 'Data as a Service' business model is gaining traction in other parts of the world and should be further explored for the Canadian ocean data landscape.
- Although the Data Spectrum exercise focused on accessibility, the responses indicate a number of additional areas for consideration in data exchange, including data management training and resources.



The completed Data Spectrum activity

Join us for the following sessions as we continue to explore opportunities for data exchange.

Visit Eventbrite for more info on the upcoming sessions!

https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/ocean-data-connector-3-part-series-tickets-128154390231

Reach out to info@cioosatlantic.ca for questions, or to sign-up to receive the VITALITY survey.