



Image Data Work Group Meeting #2

May 13, 2025 | Meeting Summary

The Image Data Work Group is one of two Work Groups supporting ROSA's Data Governance Program in 2025. The Image Data Work Group is focused on all image data (video and still) from any source.

Work Group Goals

- Where should ROSA recommend people publish fisheries-related data?
- How should data be organized to maximize discovery and reusability?
- What else can ROSA do to support data governance for this data type?

Potential topics for recommendations

- Documentation (including metadata)
- Metadata standards and recommended repositories
- How to organize and structure datasets within a 'project'
- Any other specific info to be included (i.e. special fields, tags)
- Catalog of experimental designs used
- How to be good data managers for our future selves
- How to preserve and publish data to answer regional or cumulative impact questions

The meeting began with a discussion of FathomNet as a way to publish and share images from research and monitoring programs (not just analyze images). There was discussion of the other AI-assisted tools/software the participants already use in their workflows, and a reluctance to change existing workflows. However, these other tools/software don't appear to provide for image publishing, sharing, and archiving at NCEI (as does FathomNet).

Participants briefly revisited the discussion of whether there are regional research questions that can be answered by fuller analysis of images (e.g. counting all species vs. only counting one target species). Concern was expressed about whether this effort at standardization to support regional analysis would require researchers to change the names of their data fields.

Discussion then moved to how data use agreements can better support data sharing. The drafting and amending of these agreements brought up concern about the time it takes to go through the required reviews and revisions to amend an agreement. Suggestions were made that being able to address risks (perceived or actual) of sharing data up front would help smooth the process.

Potential opportunities for ROSA to support:

- Provide guidance on metadata and workflows for images/video that would better enable reuse
- Provide guidance on assessing potential risks associated with sharing data