

REGIONAL COORDINATION OF FISHING GEAR SURVEY DATA

ROSA recommends that fisheries monitoring & research data collected through the use of traditional fishing gears (e.g., otter trawls, beam trawls, gillnet/trammel nets, pots/traps, & dredges) be:

Best & Preferred

1. Published to the **Ocean Biodiversity Information System (OBIS)**. Data should follow the OBIS requirements for data structure & format, & include descriptive metadata that meets or exceeds the minimum metadata requirements in the ROSA Data Governance Guidance. Go to the OBIS manual for steps on how to do this.
2. Shared within **one year** of the last date of collection.

At Minimum

Publish metadata records per OBIS Manual EML guidance in advance of complete datasets.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR FISHING GEAR SURVEY DATA IN OBIS

- **Record absences, not just catches.** Species surveyed for but not caught at a tow/set should be recorded as explicit absence records.
- **Document sampling effort.** Swept area, tow duration, gear type, & mesh size should be captured so catch data can be standardized/compared across surveys.
- **Distinguish survey series.** Data from different vessels, gear, or stratification designs should be identifiable as distinct series so they aren't naively pooled.
- **Flag raw vs. standardized values.** Metadata should state whether reported catch is as observed or adjusted (e.g., scaled to distance towed).



OFFSHORE WIND MONITORING DATA USE CASE

Federal permitting requires offshore wind developers to survey fish & invertebrate communities to establish baseline conditions/track change over time.

BOEM guidelines include:

- At least two years of pre-construction data
- Across all four seasons, with
- Post-construction monitoring in project-specific RODs & COP conditions.

State agencies may add further requirements through their own permits.

When standardized & well-documented, these surveys can extend the reach of long-running federal & state fisheries monitoring, but only if the data are formatted, documented, & shared in ways that make them usable across projects.

HELPFUL LINKS

- **OBIS Manual**
 - Data Publication & Sharing: manual.obis.org/data_publication.html
 - DwC Terms: manual.obis.org/darwin_core.html
- **WoRMS Taxon Match tool**
 - marinespecies.org/aphia.php?p=match