



Fishing Methods Work Group Meeting #3

May 13, 2026 | Meeting Summary

The Fishing Methods Data Work Group is one of two Work Groups supporting ROSA's Data Governance Program in 2025. This Work Group is focused on data collection from survey methods similar to fishing gear, including bottom trawl, gillnet, trap/pot, scallop dredge, and clam dredge.

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

Meeting Summary

The group reconvened to recap its progress to date and confirm its core recommendations: publishing fisheries-related data to the Ocean Biodiversity Information System (OBIS) and organizing data using Darwin Core (DwC) to maximize discovery and reusability. Members noted widespread regional support for this approach, and ROSA reported that it remains in regular contact with the NOAA Science Centers, ACCSP, and BOEM, all of whom have been supportive with no competing recommendations.

Discussion then turned to the practical challenge of getting data, both old and new, into OBIS. Members with experience piloting this transition, noted that OBIS is built around presence/absence data and requires real translation work to accommodate trawl survey data structures. It was emphasized that this is not a quick task, and that groups will need dedicated support: an actual person to serve as an interpreter/translator, along with guides, tool tips, and shared libraries, since most participants are expert data collectors rather than data scientists or engineers. Tools discussed included the LinkML library used to map pot

survey data to Darwin Core, and Ecological Metadata Language (EML) for descriptive metadata.

Members also discussed complementary standardization efforts in other communities, including the animal telemetry community's build-out of the MATOS database (which has seen substantial growth in detections logged over time) and ongoing work to bring bottom trawl oceanographic data into MARACOOS. Support for standardization through ERDDAP and ACCSP was expressed and raised a broader question about offshore wind data ownership, specifically, whether industry might be willing to at least publish descriptive metadata to OBIS, citing the seafloor data repository as an example of shifting industry norms around data sharing.

Next steps

1. Track groups planning to mobilize data into OBIS
2. Members to continue experimenting and potentially convene 1:1 with each other (and Steve Formel from Intertidal Agency) to work through mappings and naming conventions
3. Explore a 1–2 day OBIS mobilization workshop and/or standing office hours to support the transition
4. Develop 1–2 "success stories" of data mobilization to OBIS, to demonstrate the value of these recommendations to the ROSA community