



AODN Data Policy

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Acknowledgement

This policy was developed using related data policies from other organisations, largely the Australian Antarctic Program Data Policy, 2010. As the AODN is not the custodian of any data, this policy has been adopted to suit the AODN. However, as both organisations deal with scientific marine data and with a number of identical issues, many aspects of the two policies are naturally similar.

Glossary of Terms

- ANDS – Australian National Data Service
- AODCJF – Australian Ocean Data Centre Joint Facility
- AODN – Australian Ocean Data Network
- AODN DO – Australian Ocean Data Network Development Office
- IMOS – Integrated Marine Observing System
- MCP – Marine Community Profile
- MEST – Metadata Entry and Search Tool

Contents

Acknowledgement.....	2
Glossary of Terms.....	2
The AODN Development Office and the AODN.....	3
What is the AODN?.....	3
What is the AODN Development Office?.....	3
AODN Data Policy.....	3
Policy Overview.....	4
Policy Rationale.....	4
AODN Data Management Facilities	4
Who owns AODN data?	5
What data is the AODN interested in?.....	6
Custodianship.....	6
Requirements to participate in the AODN.....	7
Metadata.....	8
Hosting data by exception	8
AODN Data Responsibilities	8
AODN participant data management responsibilities	9
Further information and guidelines.....	9

The AODN Development Office and the AODN

What is the AODN?

The vision of the AODN was articulated in 2005 by the Australian Ocean Data Centre Joint Facility (AODCJF), a joint venture between the six Commonwealth Agencies with primary responsibility for marine data. This was

“to put in place, by June 2011, an interoperable, online network of marine and coastal data resources, including data from the six AODCJF partner agencies, supported by standards-based metadata, which will serve data to support Australia's science, education, environmental management and policy needs: Australia's digital ocean commons.”

What is the AODN Development Office?

The AODN Office has been established with funds from the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research (DIISR) and the Australian National Data Service (ANDS). The AODN Office was formally established on the 1 July 2010. The objectives of the AODN Development Office are two-fold:

- to populate the AODN with publicly funded data and to make this accessible to as wide a community as possible;
- to encourage, and develop, the culture of data sharing across the marine science community of Australia.

AODN Data Policy

The AODN Development Office (AODN DO) was established in July 2010. It is hosted by the Integrated Marine Observing System (IMOS) eMarine Information Infrastructure Facility (eMII) at the University of Tasmania, Hobart. The aim of the AODN is to make as much marine data as possible – publicly funded as well as data from private industry and not-for-profit organisations – accessible and freely available over the internet. Whilst the AODN utilises much of the infrastructure that IMOS data management is built on, it is fundamentally different from IMOS in that it does not pay for the collection or delivery of data. Therefore, the AODN can only offer data providers a guide on how data should be managed and delivered for publication in the AODN.

The AODN is a program supported by the Australian Ocean Data Centre Joint Facility (AODCJF) (see <http://www.aodc.org.au/>).

Policy Overview

A condition of participation in the AODN is that all data provided to the program is unencumbered – in that is freely accessible at no charge to third parties. It is the role of the AODN DO to ensure that all data provided to the AODN is adequately documented with metadata and arrangements are made for data to be held by the custodian organisation or an alternate organisation for long term access.

The AODN encourages parties to use either ISO19115 Marine Community Profile metadata standard or an agreed alternate standard that can be crosswalked into the required format. The AODN prefers that all original metadata is stored with the custodian organisation or an agreed alternate organisation.

The AODN aims to be a federated system where data and metadata is stored with the originating organisation and harvested by the AODN metadata store (the AODN MEST). The AODN does not normally host third party datasets or metadata records, however, there may be exceptional circumstances where the AODN could seek hosting arrangements at an appropriate repository for required data and metadata.

All data made available to the AODN will be made publicly available – to facilitate this the AODN recommends that data is licensed through an appropriate Creative Commons licence. NB: all data made available to the AODN will also be made available through the Australian National Data Service portal – Research Data Australia.

Policy Rationale

The AODN was established to increase the discoverability, availability, access and re-use of marine data in the Australian marine region. It is widely understood and recognised that data has a great value beyond its original investment. However, it is often very difficult for parties that are not directly associated with a particular project of data collection to find particular datasets of interest – or to be aware that these data exist. The infrastructure that the AODN has established allows for third parties to discover, visualise and access the data provided to the AODN.

AODN Data Management Facilities

The AODN Development Office is the primary data management facility supporting the AODN. The AODN publishes marine data from a wide variety of organisations. The role of the AODN DO is to find data from agencies/organisations/ individuals that have the capacity of and interest in making their data publicly available and publish

relevant data to the AODN Portal. The AODN DO can provide assistance and advice in making data and metadata available; however, the AODN DO **is not responsible** for data curation, data accuracy, data storage or for creating metadata records for datasets on behalf of individuals.

The services, data and products available via the AODN can be found online at

<http://portal.aodn.org.au/webportal/>

The metadata store can be found at:

<http://mest.aodn.org.au/>

Who owns AODN data?

All data that is provided to the AODN is owned by the originator organisation. The AODN has no rights to the data and is only aiming to make others aware of the data and provide direct access to the underlying data. For this reason, the AODN prefers that data is provided under an open access licence – such as Creative Commons – attribution only licence (see <http://www.gilf.gov.au/attribution>) which specifies that :

You are free:

- **to Share** — to copy, distribute and transmit the work
- **to Remix** — to adapt the work

Under the following conditions:

Attribution. You must attribute the work in the manner specified by the author or licensor, but not in any way that suggests that they endorse you or your use of the work.

- For any re-use or distribution, you must make clear to others the licence terms of this work. The best way to do this is with a link to this web page.
- Any of the above conditions can be waived if you get permission from the copyright holder.
- Nothing in this licence impairs or restricts the author's moral rights.

Taken from the GILF website

There is a variety of other Creative Common licences available (see <http://www.gilf.gov.au>) that would allow for data to be shared but have different conditions specified.

Datasets that have some restrictions placed on them can be made available through the AODN portal. However, it is up to the data custodian to specify these restrictions in the metadata record associated with the relevant data. The AODN will not be responsible for limiting access to these data.

What data is the AODN interested in?

The AODN is interested in making all marine data electronically available through the AODN Portal.

The AODN exposes data in a wide variety of formats, as long as accompanied by the appropriate metadata. The AODN can accept data from any recognised propriety format. If you have data that you are interested in sharing, the AODN would be happy to enter into a discussion and provide assistance in making your data discoverable through the AODN Portal.

Custodianship

A data custodian is an individual that can provide information about the specific dataset to any interested party – i.e. someone who is familiar with how the data was generated and/or have a long-term interest in the data. Each metadata record relating to a particular dataset states who the custodian for each dataset is.

The AODN does not have the capacity to act as a data custodian – but can assist individuals in finding an appropriate hosting agency for long term data access and management.

It is the responsibility of the custodians to ensure that all their data is appropriately documented through a metadata record and that these data are then available in an appropriate format to be accessible through the AODN MEST. Custodians do **at any time** have the right to remove their data from the AODN.

The AODN specifies that data should be cited in any publication as requested by the data originator (and specified in the metadata record), acknowledging the data custodian as the authoritative source of the data. As the AODN aims to increase access to all data made available through the internet, data that is submitted to the AODN will be exposed to other relevant projects including the ANDS website - Research Data Australia <http://services.ands.org.au/home/orca/rda/> .

Requirements to participate in the AODN

As the AODN is focused on publishing third party data, it does not generate any original data itself. As stated previously, the AODN is interested in electronically accessible marine datasets that have well documented metadata records and that are curated by custodian organisations into the future. The AODN DO can provide assistance and guidelines to help organisations establish the types and systems that are required for participation in the AODN.

Initially when an organisation or group decide to publish their data through the AODN the Development Office will respond with a set of questions to help identify readiness to publish. For example ..

1. What data do you intend on placing in the AODN portal?

(Please list dataset name/ metadata name)

2. Is the metadata for these datasets in ISO19115 MCP format?

2.1 If not in ISO format, what format is it in and do you require assistance to create ISO compliant metadata?

2.2 Can you provide AODN with the URL to your metadata system?

3. Are these dataset/s covered by creative common licensing conditions?

3.1 If no, are these datasets available under some other public access licensing conditions? (please specify)

4. Are these data in WFS/WMS format?

4.1 If no, does you organization have the capacity to create data in these formats or will you require assistance?

5. Do you have a WMS server AODN can connect to?

The URL of your WMS server:

6. Who can the AODN contact if they have problems with harvesting the above data?

Name

Phone

email

Metadata

The AODN Portal harvests metadata records from external agencies and creating a metadata catalogue/store from which data can be visualised and/or downloaded into the AODN Portal. For this reason all data that is to be made available through the AODN Portal requires a well documented metadata record.

Metadata is descriptive data about data and is the primary mechanism for documenting data sets. Metadata can be used to describe all sorts of different types of data. The metadata standard that the AODN uses is the ISO19115 Marine Community Profile (MCP). More information about the MCP can be found at <http://www.aodc.org.au/index.php?id=37>.

The AODN uses the Geonetwork catalogue MEST (<http://mest.aodn.org.au/>) and can assist interested parties in establishing their own instance of this catalogue so that their data can be accessed by the AODN.

The ISO standard that is used by the marine community is supported by the broader Australian spatial data community.

Hosting data by exception

As the AODN functions by harvesting metadata from external organisations, it is not appropriate for the AODN to host data. Exceptions will be made to assist organisations short-term while they develop their own systems or are working toward developing their own hosting arrangement. The AODN will assist agencies who are unable to store their own data and metadata but are interested in making their data publicly available. In the first instance, the AODN will seek to utilise the AODCJF agencies who have demonstrated their technical capability to host data and make it available to the AODN.

AODN Data Responsibilities

The AODN will ensure that:

- Marine data from a variety of organisations and individuals is made publicly available at no cost through the AODN Portal;
- Metadata records from all participants are available for public searching;
- It maintains best practice in relation to the systems that it uses; and
- It provides appropriate guidelines and tools and assistance for participants.

AODN participant data management responsibilities

Organisations or individuals participating in the AODN will ensure that they:

- Comply with all aspects of the AODN data policy;
- Contact the AODN DO with any issues regarding their participation in the AODN;
- Develop and store appropriate metadata records to comply with AODN requirements;
- Manage and curate their data in a way that will allow for long term public access to the data being made available to the AODN;
- Make data available under Creative Commons licence conditions; and
- Adopt the norm of citing data used in their research by linking to metadata in their peer reviewed publications.

Further information and guidelines

The AODN will publish further information and guidelines that will assist the community to participate in the AODN. These will all be made available via the AODN website (www.aodn.org.au).

CONTACT DETAILS:

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University of Tasmania
Private Bag 21
Hobart TAS 7001
Australia

E: info@aodn.org.au

Ph: +61 3 6226 2904

APPENDIX – Websites of Interest:

- <http://portal.aodn.org.au/webportal/>
- <http://www.imos.org.au/>
- <http://www.aodc.org.au/>
- <http://www.andc.org.au/>

Links to the AODCJF partner agencies web sites:

- [Australian Institute of Marine Science \(AIMS\)](#). The Australian Institute of Marine Science is Australia's leading tropical marine science research agency.
- [Australian Antarctic Division \(AAD\)](#). The AAD leads Australia's Antarctic Program to ensure Australia's Antarctic interests are advanced. AAD hosts the Australian Antarctic Data Centre.
- [Bureau of Meteorology \(BOM\)](#). The Bureau of Meteorology is the National Meteorological Authority for Australia
- [CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric Research \(CMAR\)](#). The CMAR encompasses the assessment of atmospheric and earth systems and the prediction of climate, weather and ocean processes; and research to integrate coastal management. CMAR also manages the Marine National Facility Ocean Research Vessel Southern Surveyor.
- [Geoscience Australia \(GA\)](#). GA is Australia's national geoscience research information agency.
- [Directorate of Oceanography and Meteorology](#). The role of the Royal Australian Navy's Directorate of Oceanography and Meteorology is to collect, manage and distribute meteorological and oceanographic data to support the ADF.