



Australian Ocean Data Network

Newsletter #2, October 2010

Welcome to the second AODN newsletter, there is much to tell! We are adopting a new style layout, and we hope you like it. In the newsletter, we aim to keep you up to date with all developments of the AODN.

Director's Desk

The first newsletter stated that the AODN Development Office is co-hosted to June 2011 with the eMarine Information Infrastructure facility (eMII) of the Integrated Marine Observing System (IMOS) at the University of Tasmania. Last year's Education Investment Fund (EIF) award of \$52m to IMOS as part of the Government's Super Science Initiative extends IMOS from June 2011 to June 2013. This has provided the **opportunity for longer term thinking about the AODN**. An offer from UTAS / IMOS to continue hosting the AODN Development Office to June 2013 was proposed by Tim Moltmann (IMOS Director) and accepted by the Australian Ocean Data Centre Joint Facility (AODC-JF) Board on 5 August; this was ratified by the IMOS Advisory Board at their meeting on 10 September. We are now developing a joint plan for eMII and the AODN Development Office out to June 2013. This will provide a roadmap for a more sustainable AODN in the future, and we will be engaging with the National Plan for Environmental Information in this process. More news on this in the next newsletter.

As you can see from the activities described later in the newsletter, a concerted effort is being made to raise the profile of the AODN in the consciousness of the Australian marine community. The idea of the AODN is being well received, and those we have engaged with have given an enthusiastic "YES" to sharing their data and supporting the idea of "**publicly funded data, publicly available**".

AODN encompasses all marine data, ocean and coastal, physical, biological, and biogeochemical. Two recent workshops, one at the Sydney Institute of Marine Science (SIMS) and one at the "Coast to Coast" conference, enthusiastically supported the publishing of coastal data through the AODN. This has been followed by the commitment of the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy capability "Terrestrial Ecosystems Research Network" (TERN) to publish its coastal data through the AODN. These are just some of the recent developments.

The general trend to share data and make it publicly available has recently been accelerated by the announcement from the Australian Government Attorney-General's Department on 7 October 2010 that all Australian Government agencies subject to the Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997 (FMA Act) should licence their Public Sector Information (PSI) under **Creative Commons BY licence** as the default licence type and only adopt more restrictive licenses after a process of "due diligence and on a case-by-case basis". This should result in marine data from AODC-JF agencies Australian Antarctic Division, Bureau of Meteorology, Geoscience Australia, and Royal Australian Navy being licensed in this way. In fact, it is the aspiration for the AODN in general to publish data under this licence arrangement. Exciting times ahead for the AODN!

Roger Proctor

Progress on Current Projects

Population of AODN by the six AODC-JF Agencies

All agencies are in the process of making datasets available. Particular effort at the moment is being put into interoperable Conductivity-Temperature-Depth (CTD) datasets from the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS), the Australian Antarctic Division (AAD), and CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric Research (CMAR). It is expected that we will learn a great deal from the experience of delivering interoperable datasets from multiple institutions using the same observing technology.

Establishment of a Western Australian Ocean Data Network (WAODN)

Two recent workshops on coastal observing (in Sydney and Adelaide) have highlighted the need to vastly improve access to and use of available data in the coastal zone and to use common data standards. The establishment of a WAODN is a pilot of a “State portal” approach that is intended to move us forward in these areas, taking advantage of the existence of the Western Australian node of IMOS (WAIMOS), the bid to extend the Western Australian Marine Science Institute (WAMSI), some significant WA legacy datasets, existing partnerships with the interactive Virtual Environments Centre (iVEC, WA hub of supercomputing) and the Western Australian Satellite Technology and Applications Consortium (WASTAC), and strong demand for improved information to support decisions around planned developments in the WA region.

Publication of Data from National Research Vessels

This project (funded by the Australian National Data Service, ANDS) is aimed at automating the real-time publication of underway data from the Marine National Facility (RV *Southern Surveyor*, photo) and the Antarctic research and supply vessel (RSV *Aurora Australis*). See <http://imos.org.au/rtunderway.html>



Photo: RV *Southern Surveyor*

Establishment of a bio-optical Database for Australian waters

This IMOS-funded project is aimed at improving ocean colour remote sensing in Australian waters by ensuring that appropriate quality in-situ observations are being made available to the international groups (e.g. NASA) developing the products used by our community. A questionnaire is being sent to known holders of bio-optical data in order to assess the type, quantity and quality of data available.

Marine Biodiversity Hubs (CERF and NERP)

It has been agreed that, subject to approval of its proposal, the new National Environmental Research Program (NERP) Hub will make its data discoverable and accessible through the AODN. Work has also started to obtain access to datasets from the current Commonwealth Environment Research Facilities (CERF) Hub. The CERF Hub has agreed to provide datasets to the Atlas of Living Australia (ALA), and AODN will work with this activity to avoid any duplication of effort. Australian “spatially referenced marine life data” is also going into the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS), and CERF, ALA, OBIS and AODN will work together on this front. ALA has an “Australian terrestrial and marine focus”, OBIS a “global marine focus”, and AODN a “national marine focus”, so there is overlap and differentiation.

Outreach & Communications

Recent Dissemination Activities

The AODN Development Office (AODN-DO) has attended a number of meetings and conferences to represent and promote the AODN:

- **4 August 2010:** IMOS Director Tim Moltmann and eMII / AODN Director Roger Proctor attended a data discussion meeting at the Victorian Environmental Protection Authority (EPA)
- **6 August 2010:** Tim Moltmann gave a talk about IMOS and AODN at a workshop on “A National Approach to Coastal Observation” at the Sydney Institute of Marine Science (SIMS); the workshop was co-hosted by IMOS.
See <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/research/Coastalobservation.htm>
- **12 August 2010:** AODN-DO Data Facilitator Andrew Walsh promoted AODN at the ANDS Data Commons Boot Camp in Canberra
- **16 September 2010:** Roger Proctor gave the keynote talk “WA Node of the AODN” at the fourth annual data management symposium “Turning Data into Knowledge: Marine Data Management in WA” in the Australian Resources Research Centre, Perth; the symposium was hosted by the WALIS Marine Group, iVEC, WAMSI, and WASTAC
- **20-22 September 2010:** AODN-DO Manager Patrick Gorringer presented at the “Coast to Coast” conference in Adelaide, and AODN-DO team members participated in the workshop “Do we Need a Coastal Observatory?”
- **7 October 2010:** ANDS / AODN-DO eData Analyst Alicja Mosbauer had a video-hookup to present the AODN to ANDS

Upcoming Opportunities for AODN

- **4 November 2010:** eMII Deputy Director Kate Roberts will present at the ANDS-funded workshop “Saying What You Mean: Developing Controlled Vocabulary Services for Australian Research” in Canberra
- **5 November 2010:** Kate Roberts will give an AODN talk at the Geoscience Australia workshop “Standards Based Information Sharing Networks”, also attended by AODN-DO Programmer / Webmaster Pauline Mak
See <http://www.spatial.gov.au/News+and+Events/Events/103.aspx>
- **8-12 November 2010:** IMOS / eMII and AODN will be well represented at “eResearch Australasia 2010: 21st Century Research – Where Computing Meets Data” at Queensland’s Gold Coast. AODN-DO will participate in the workshop “Realising the Full Potential of Scientific Data in the 21st Century” as well as presenting talks and posters in the main sessions. IMOS / AODN-DO will also have a joint exhibition booth during the conference, so please come and see us!
See <http://www.eresearch.edu.au/>
- **7-10 December 2010:** AODN will be presented at the “IEEE e-Science 2010 Conference” in Brisbane. Early Bird registrations end 31 October 2010!
See <http://www.escience2010.org/>

Community Engagement

Discussion Meetings

AODN DO aims to get involved in smaller scale **meetings of the Australian marine community** with potentially major outcomes, for instance:

- **10-11 November 2010:** Patrick Gorringer will participate in the “Wave Buoy User Group Meeting” in Brisbane with one subject for discussion being the central repository for all wave data
- **1 December 2010:** Tim Moltmann will meet the Victorian Marine Science Consortium and discuss how marine scientists in Victoria can better engage with the AODN

User Feedback

Marine Information Officer Luke Edwards in Perth (IMOS / iVEC / WAMSI / Curtin University) organised and facilitated an **interactive feedback session** as part of the “Turning Data into Knowledge” marine data management seminar on 16 September 2010. Wireless response devices (<http://www.keepad.com/turningpoint.php>) were handed to the 78 participants of the session who responded to 21 multiple choice style questions by key press, and resulting plots were immediately included in the presentation slide (see figure to right) and displayed on the auditorium screen. AODN-DO Outreach Officer Wiebke Ebeling had contributed more than half of these questions, aimed at collecting feedback on desirable options and settings of the AODN Web Portal. The session was very well received, such that we will extend this idea to running a survey (10 questions) in the AODN booth at the eResearch conference.

The data format / service I use most regularly for work is:

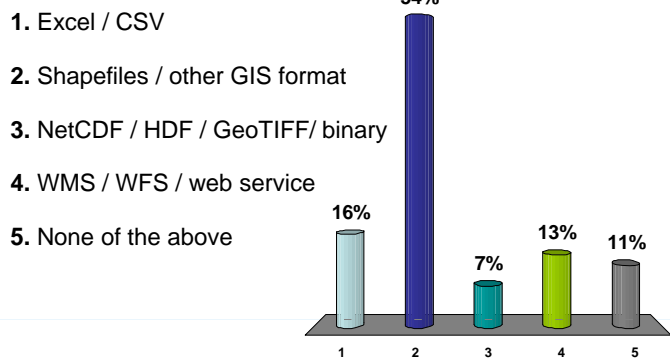


Figure: Example of an interactive user feedback plot

We would also like to invite readers of our Newsletter to provide their feedback and help us build a better service for AODN users by completing our survey online:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PKM7NX6>

The survey is completely anonymous, with no registration required or IP address recorded, and all responses are pooled immediately. Once responses have added up to a substantial sample size, the AODN-DO will include the analysis in the Newsletter for our readers to follow up on their feedback to us.

In due time, once the Portal is populated with the six Commonwealth agencies’ datasets, the AODN-DO will also establish a Portal User Reference Group consisting of data managers, scientists, government employees, and non-professional users of the AODN Web Portal to collect feedback on the level of user-friendliness and degree of comprehensive data delivery to further improve the uptake of the AODN as an online resource in the marine community.

Education & Office News

Scientists in Schools

The AODN-DO is in contact with CSIRO Education (Tasmania) to **establish a partnership** with a science, maths or IT teacher at a High School or College as part of the “Scientists in Schools” (SiS) program. SiS partners can freely choose the level and extent of the interaction and are invited to regular networking sessions to plan and discuss their outreach activities. Involvement of the AODN-DO could be linked to Australian Science Curriculum K-12 subjects “Water and Water Management / Climate Change” (section 5.2.3) and “Digital Technologies” (section 6.5) with possible activities being:

- school seminars, possibly with “junior” Data User Workshop
- in-person or email mentoring of students or teachers on marine science related topics
- professional development for science / IT teaching or library staff

In reaching out to this young audience, we will have a twofold opportunity: to inspire the next generation of oceanographers, marine biologists, and physical modellers and raise awareness of the modern culture of data-sharing and the importance of standards and interoperability. No doubt the teachers will be in favour of good data management!

Staff Updates

On 9 August 2010, **Matias Bonet Fullana** from Spain joined the eMII team and AODN-DO for Specialist Software Support. His background in operational oceanography will aid the processing of real-time data, and in particular his expertise with RAMADDA (**R**epository for **A**rchiving, **M**anaging, and **A**ccessing **D**iverse **D**ata: <http://motherlode.ucar.edu/repository/>) will facilitate the management of the diversity of data the AODN expects to handle.

Important Contacts for the AODN Development Office

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AODN website: <http://www.imos.org.au/aodn.html>

AODN Web Portal: <http://portal.aodn.org.au>

Comments on the newsletter, its style or content are welcome!

Please send them to info@aodn.org.au

The AODN-DO is hosted by IMOS at the University of Tasmania in Hobart and funded by the Australian Government's Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research (DIISR) and the Australian National Data Service (ANDS).

This AODN Newsletter was compiled by AODN-DO Director Dr Roger Proctor, AODN-DO Outreach Officer Dr Wiebke Ebeling, and the IMOS / eMII / AODN-DO team members.

