Peter Harrison
Chair, OTN Council

OTN Governance
Tracks local-to-global movements and survival of ocean animals using acoustic/satellite telemetry, and their environmental correlates; advancing ocean governance strategies.
OTN: Global science through common visions/PARTNERSHIPS

• Shared global acoustic telemetry infrastructure
• Data partnerships w/ global community of telemetry users (acoustic, satellite, etc.)
• Science: 425+ researchers, >>students, 19 countries
• Project and system of UN’s Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS)
OTN: financing
Phase I: ends April 1st, 2017

- CFI: $30 million
- NSERC: $10 million
- (SSHRC: $300K)

- Estimated international leveraging: ~$128 million (and growing)
OTN governance challenges

- Dalhousie project (ownership)
- Global responsibility (stakeholders)
- Seek independent governance (Council)
- Need international science coordination
- Need to fuse infrastructure and science needs/excellence
- National and international data management: *major part* of OTN’s mandate
OTN governance: roles and responsibilities

Dalhousie Board

Owner of OTN platform assets

Ultimate accountability

OTN Council

Operations of international OTN platform

Stewardship of the research, outcomes and impacts
OTN governance

OTN Liaison Cttee (as needed)

Dalhousie Board

OTN Council

Intl. Data Mgmt.

ISAC

SAC

Executive Director

Scientific Director
OTN strategic plan

- Replaced the “plan” of the original grant
- Evolved through broad consultation of OTN stakeholders
- Incorporated an International Science plan
- Addressed risk management
- Tailored and scaled governance, to meet identified governance challenges
- 5 year specifics, with 20 year vision
- Created the structures in place now
OTN key documents

• Strategic Plan
  – Enabling research excellence
  – Deriving benefits for Canada
  – Enabling international benefits

• Management Plan
  – priorities for delivering the OTN Strategic Plan 2013-2018
  – flexible and evolving tool; updated as necessary

• Communications Plan

• Annual Reports
OTN: Benefits for Marine Management

• Sustainable fisheries management
• Development of ecosystem approaches to fisheries management/Marine Protected Areas
• Policy development for managing highly migratory species
• Endangered species management
• Cross-border partnerships for ocean management
Implementing OTN: What we have learned (I)

- Early difficulties require effective early action: (e.g. harmonizing procedures to meet the needs of differing funding agencies/timing of funding/management and personnel challenges)
- “Owners” response: informed by experts advice of J.Halliwell
- New governance structure: “outside” advice critical to success
- Need to allocate funds to governance up-front
Implementing OTN: What we have learned (II)

- Financial and operational risk management is an ongoing challenge (e.g. equipment deployment problems; partner issues)
- Need for flexibility/rapid decision-making
- Reliance on accomplished and effective personnel – especially PI/ED/Project Manager
- Careful attention to building a team culture and pushing decision making authority down the chain