



OTN Governance

Peter Harrison
Chair, OTN Council



What does OTN do?

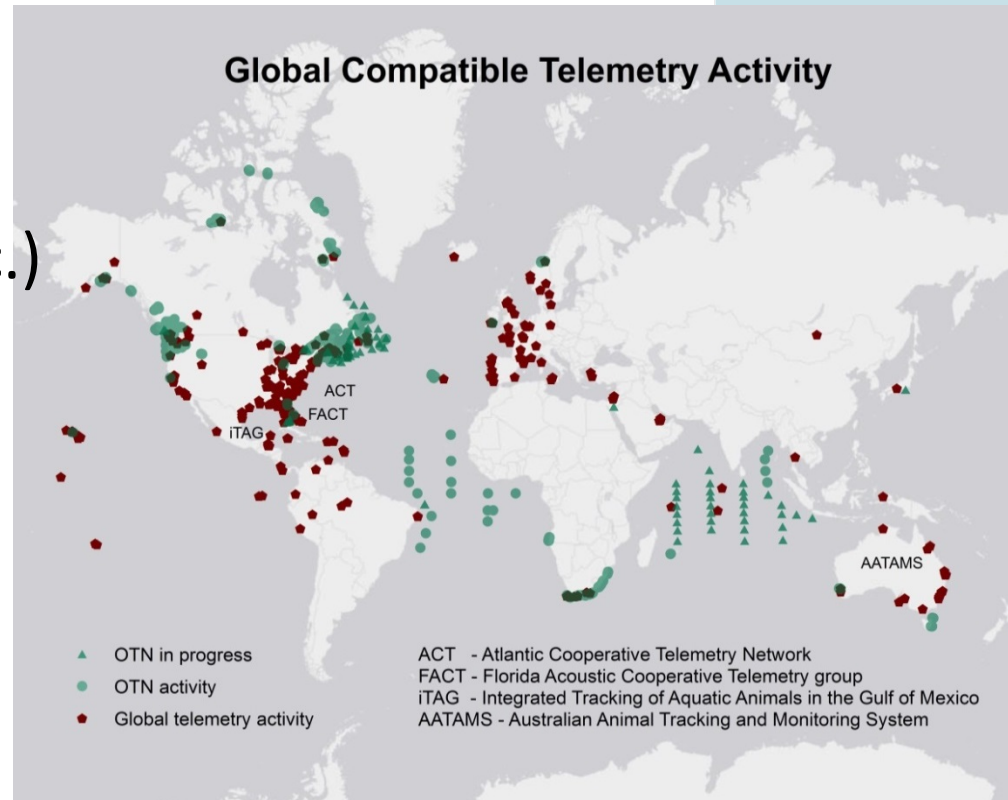
Tracks local-to-global movements and survival of ocean animals using acoustic/satellite telemetry, and their environmental correlates; advancing ocean governance strategies

Acoustic receiver unit tracking sturgeon in the Minas Passage, Canada

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



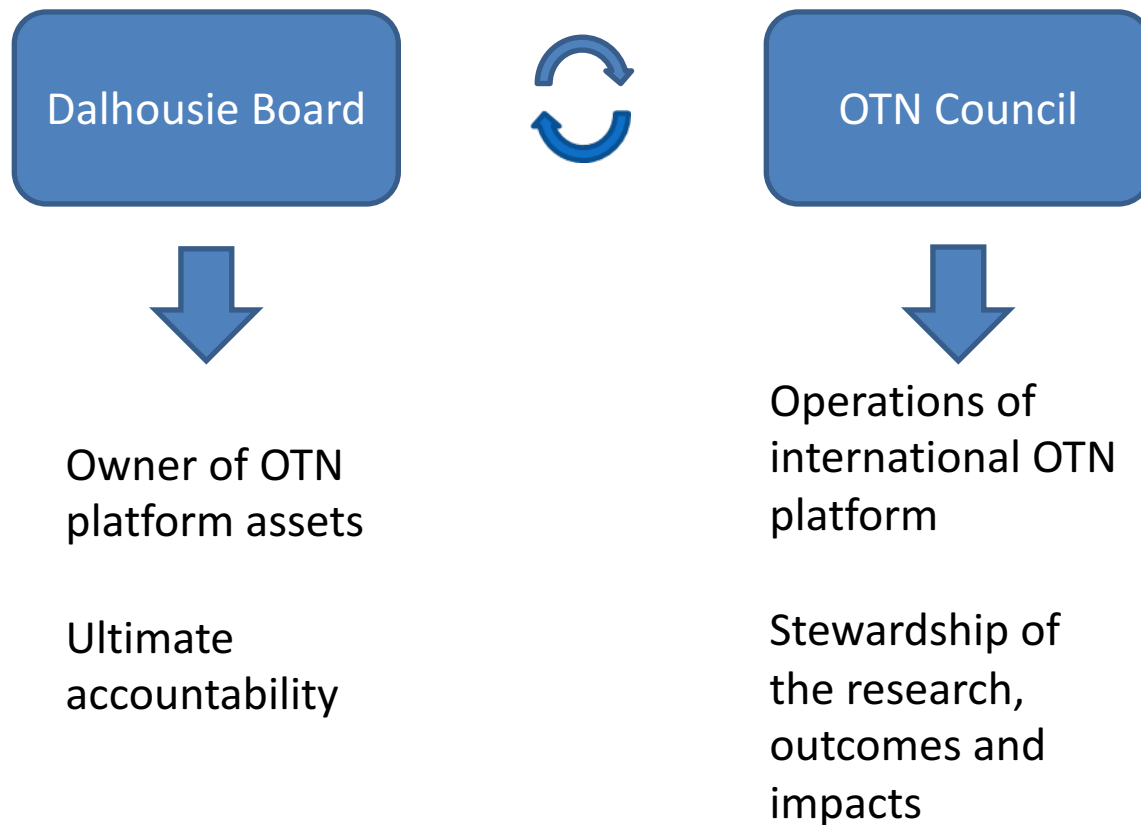
- CFI: \$30 million
- NSERC: \$10 million
- (SSHRCC: \$300K)
- Estimated international leveraging: ~\$128 million (and growing)

OTN governance challenges

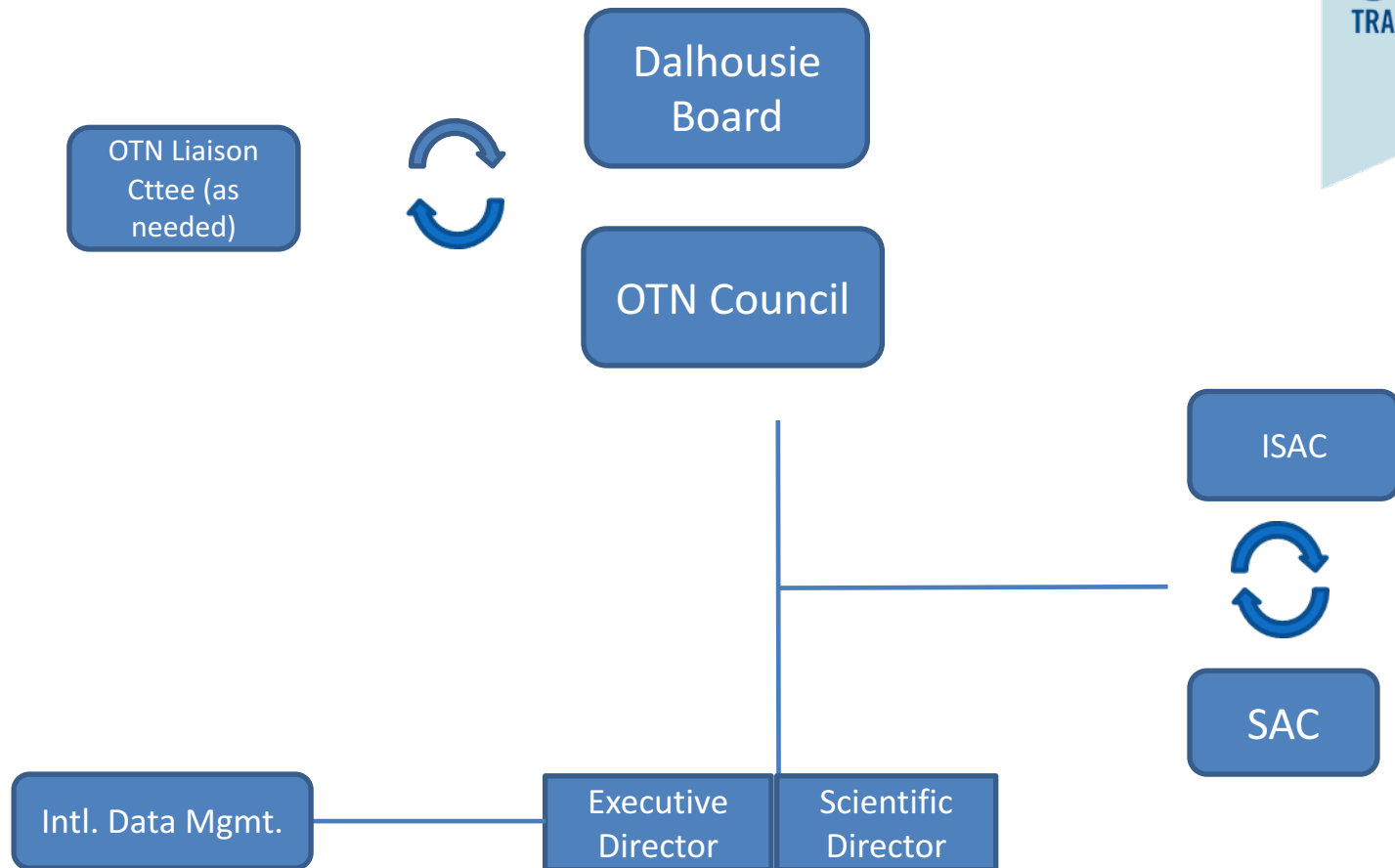


- Dalhousie project (ownership)
- Global responsibility (stakeholders)
- Seek independent governance (Council)
- Need international science coordination
- Need to fuse infrastructure and science needs/excellence
- National and international data management: *major part* of OTN's mandate

OTN governance: roles and responsibilities



OTN governance



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