

The Global Ocean Observing System  
[www.goosocean.org](http://www.goosocean.org)

# The Global Ocean Observing System for Marine Life

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***Co-chair, GOOS Biology and Ecosystem Panel***

OceanPredict Science Team Meeting  
November 2023

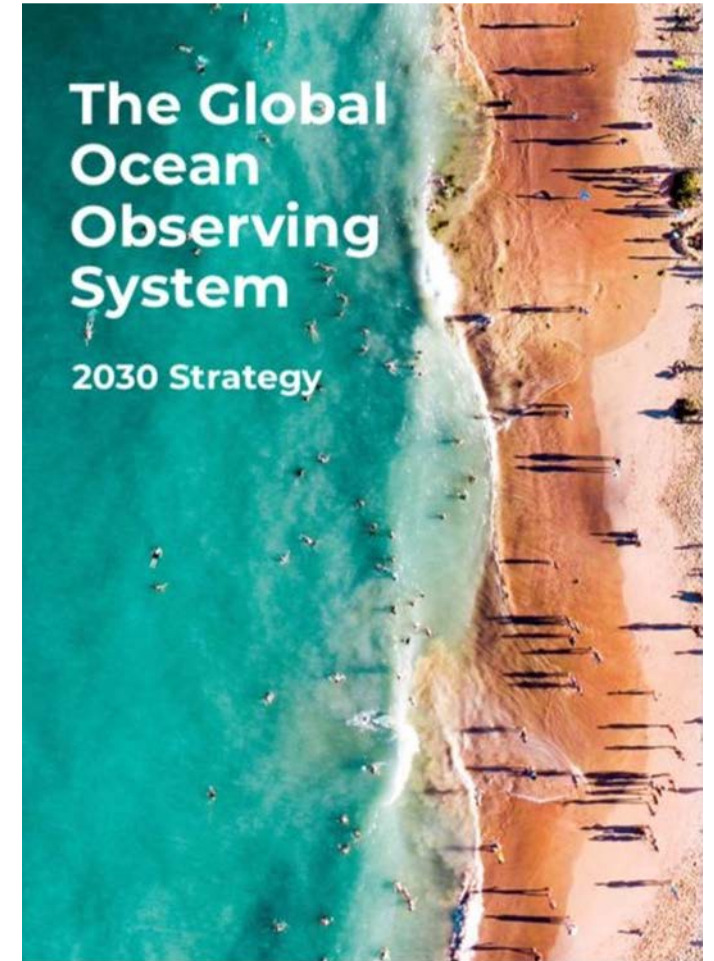


# Biology and the Global Ocean Observing System

VISION: Develop a truly global ocean observing system that delivers the essential information needed for sustainable development, safety, wellbeing and prosperity.

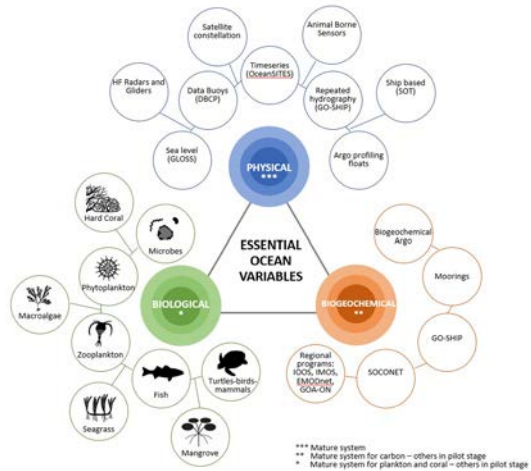
Recognizes need to integrate biology and ecosystem observations across observation systems for delivery into:

- ocean forecasting
- ocean predictions
- ocean assessments
- global agreements
- whole of system management





### What to observe

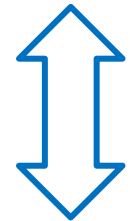
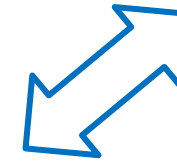
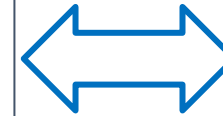
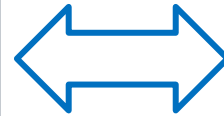


- Specification sheets
- Key variables
- Secondary variables
- Phenomena

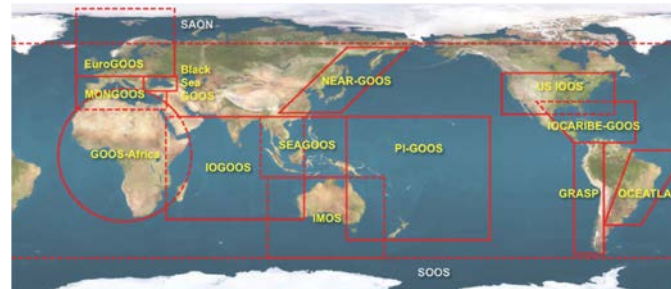
### How to observe



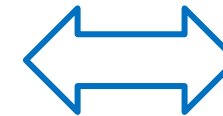
### Connecting/ sharing observations



### Regional alliance of observation systems



### Ocean data/ information products



# Biology and Ecosystem Essential Ocean Variables (EOVs)

Focus: defining and supporting data collection, development of ocean practices, building connected networks, increasing availability

## FUNCTIONAL GROUPS

Diversity and Biomass

Distribution and Abundance



Microbes

Phytoplankton

Zooplankton

Benthic  
invertebrates

Fish

Turtle

Bird

Mammal

## HABITAT STATE: cover and composition



Hard Coral

Macroalgae

Seagrass

Mangrove

+ Ocean Sound  
+ Ocean Color  
(cross-panel EOVs)



# Work of the Panel: PEGASuS

## Key findings

Identified 203 active, long-term ( $\geq 5$  years old), programs that systematically sampled  $\geq 1$  of the BioEco EOVs.

- 7% of the ocean surface had an active monitoring program
  - Programs sampling seagrass, mangroves, hard corals and macroalgae existed in 6% of the global coastal zone
- 53% contributed data into a repository, aggregator, or other data serving tool
- 66% had publicly accessible data; 34% restricted data access
- 95% used SOPs, yet only 10% shared SOPs
- 67% conducted capacity development/tech transfer

Satterthwaite et al. (2021) *Frontiers in Marine Science* 8:737416

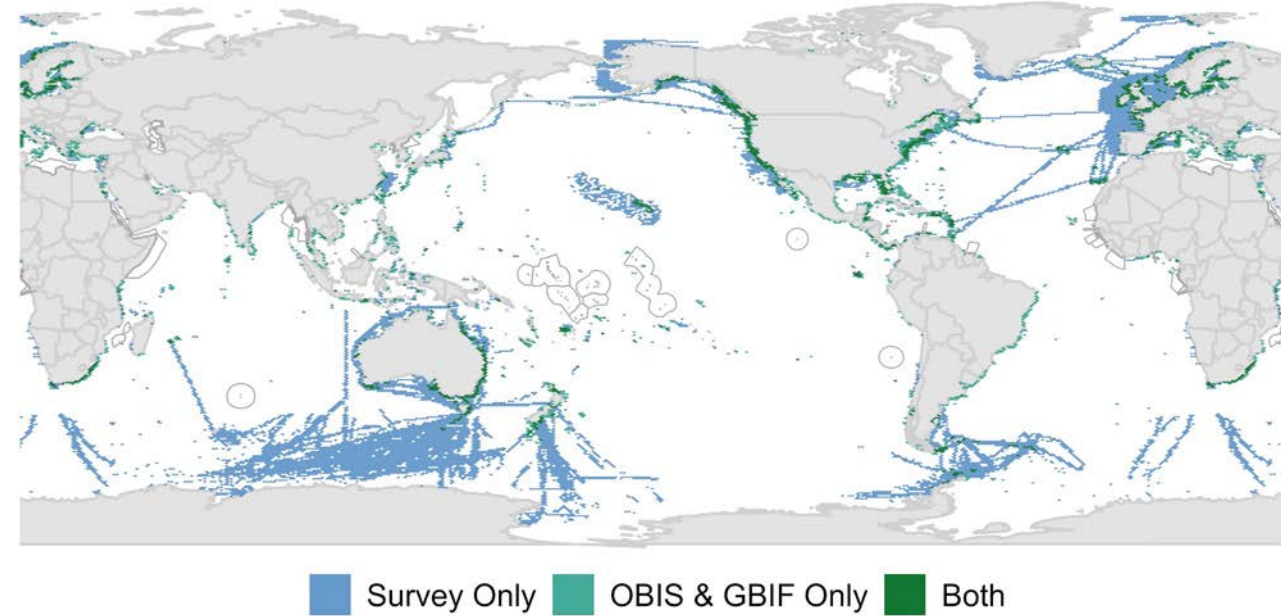


Figure 1: Spatial coverage of known active, long-term biological observations globally

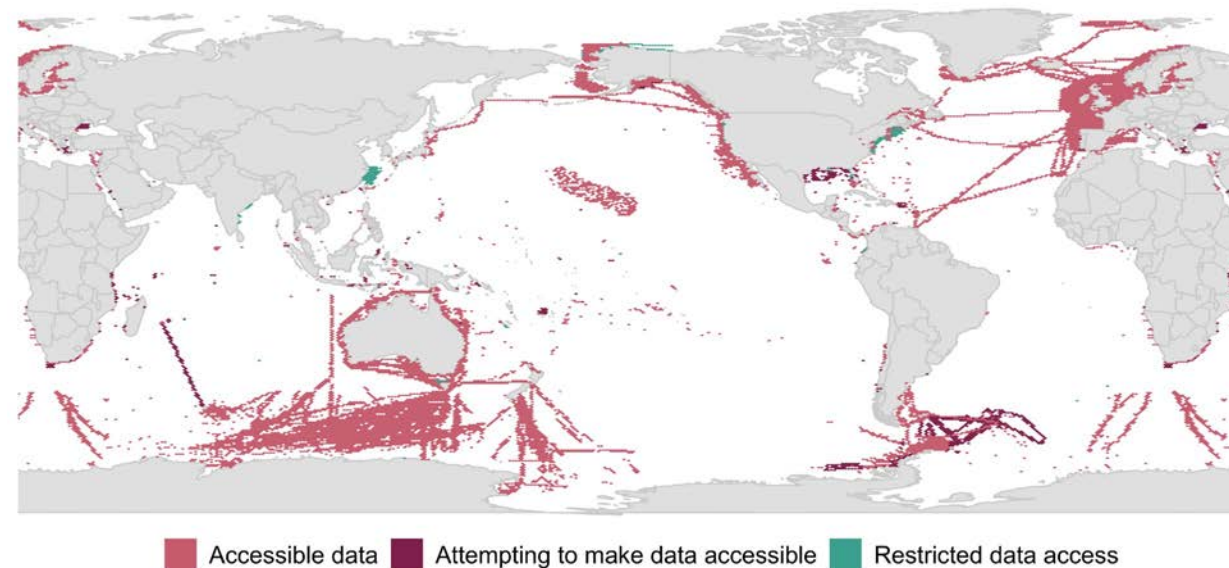
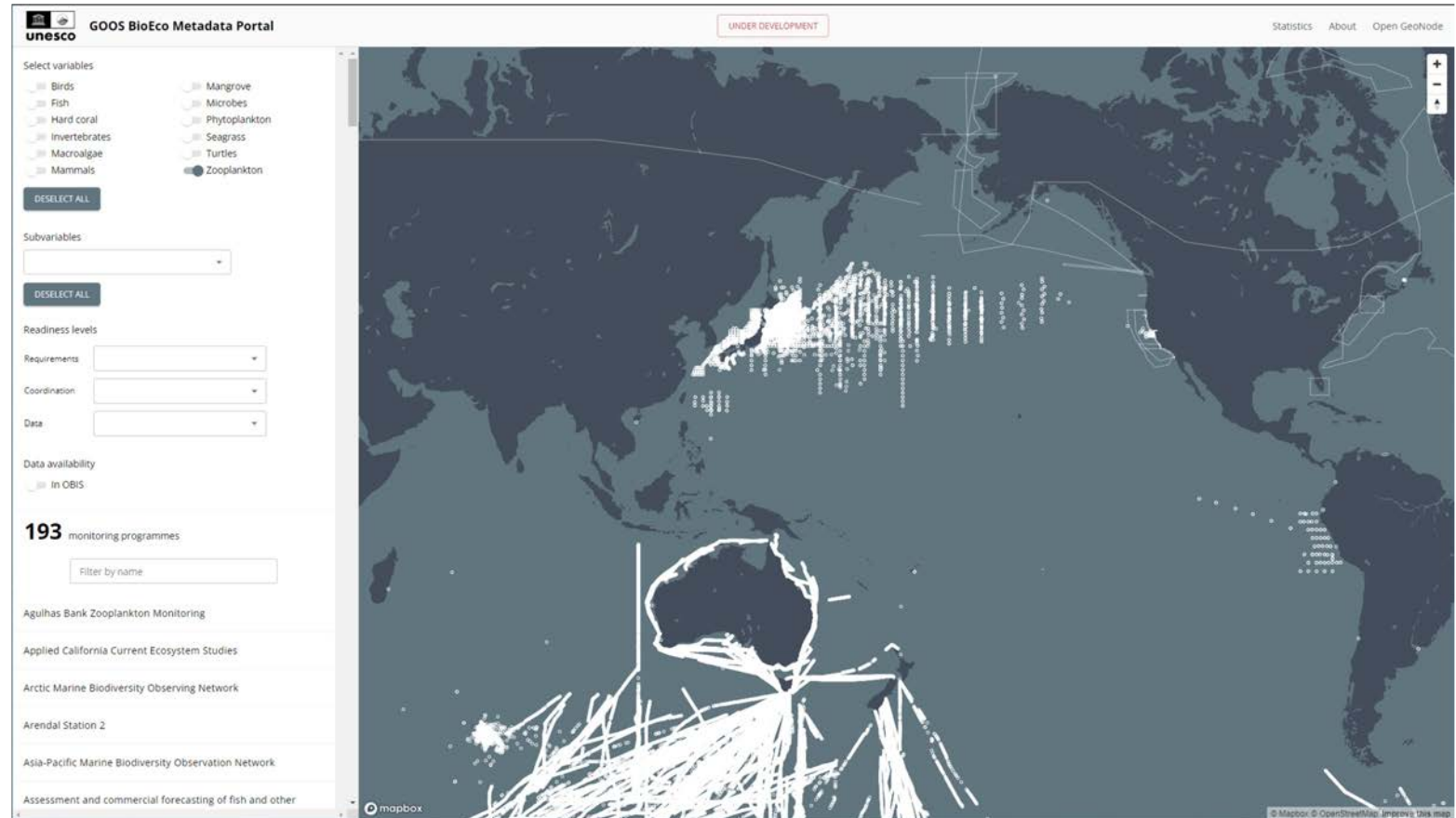


Figure 2: Accessibility of data for the various programs identified

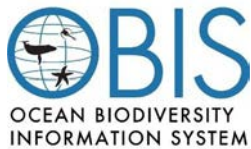
# GOOS BioEco Portal: <https://bioeco.goosocean.org/>

- Provides open access metadata and information on global ocean observations and monitoring programs involving biological and ecosystem EOVs
- Aims to provide insight into the current and historical state and trends of ocean observation
- Currently holds metadata of **579** globally distributed active monitoring programs
- Integration of EOV sub-variables and EBVs is in development
- Data/ metadata is extractable for storytelling purposes regarding the state of global ocean observation



# The key 'biodiversity' questions for science and society

What **changes** are occurring?  
What are the **impacts** of these changes?  
Is **recovery** from these changes possible?



HIGH LEVEL PANEL for  
A SUSTAINABLE  
OCEAN ECONOMY



## CHALLENGES

- Safe ▪ Sustainable & Productive
- Transparent & Accessible ▪
- Clean ▪ Healthy & Resilient ▪

Predicted

**OCEAN**



2021 United Nations Decade  
2030 of Ocean Science  
for Sustainable Development





# Programmes/projects involving BioEco Panel members and the IPO

## Pegasus/ Future Earth

Designing the observing system for the world's ocean – from microbes to whales



Establishing the Foundation for the Global Observing System for Marine Life

## Regional Coordination

GOOS Regional Alliance

G7 FSOI

EU Horizon projects:  
Eurosea, MarcoBolo  
BioEcoOcean

## SCOR

- Needs and requirements – observations, data, infrastructure, interoperability
- Capabilities, gaps and needs
- Impact and delivery – scientific, societal, policy

## Ocean Decade

Ocean Practices for the Decade

Ocean Predict  
DITTO

Programmes  
2030

2050







# Strategic Alliances



## GEO BON/MBON - GOOS BioEco - OBIS Partnership

Building a globally coherent, consistent and coordinated sustained global ocean observing system to assess the state of the ocean's biological resources and ecosystems

REQUIREMENTS

- Focus on sustained observations
- Bring selected EOVs from selected to mature
- Link with platforms and observing systems of GOOS and GRAs

OBSERVATIONS

**MBON**

Marine Biodiversity Observation Network

- R&D focus
- Bring EOVs from concept to pilot
- Assist with the establishment of national and regional BONs

DATA & PRODUCTS

**OBIS**

Ocean Biogeographic Information System

- Open data sharing
- Data integration
- Data quality control
- Data harmonization
- Tools for data exploration, visualization and analysis
- Training

PRODUCTS, INDICATORS, ASSESSMENTS

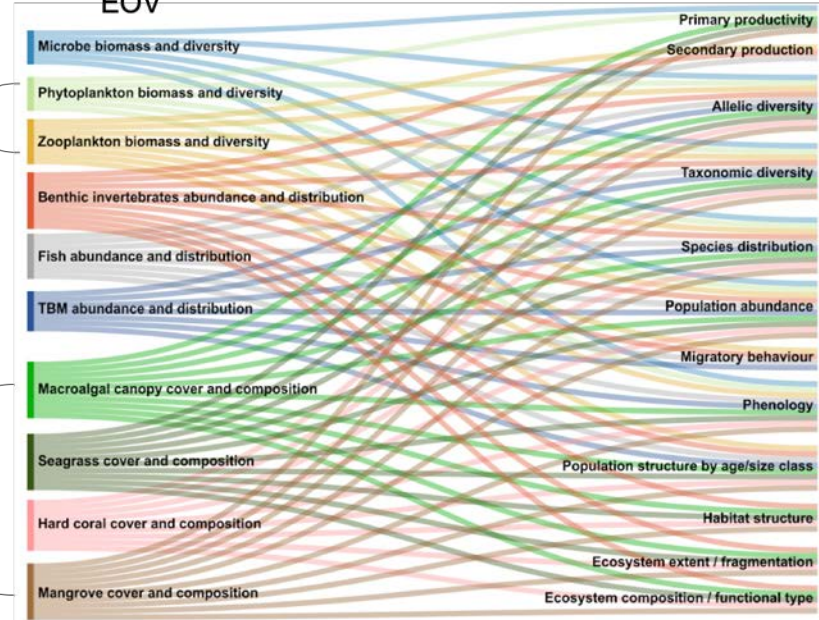
ECV

Plankton

Marine Habitats

EOV

EBV



<http://obis.org/2016/12/15/goosgeobonobis/>

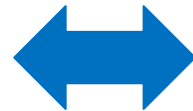


2021-2030 United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development



ACCELERATE transfer of marine technology, training and education

Connecting/ sharing observations



**GBIF** Global Biodiversity Information Facility







If we are to achieve useful predictions of the ocean we need to think about the whole of the system

# What can we do together?

## OceanPredict strategic objectives

### Building the ocean prediction capacity of the future

- moving beyond statistical correlations with physical variables to end to end integrated modelling
- developing integrated forecasting products

### Strengthening engagement with the international ocean science community

- moving from “uptake” to “integrate”: co-design and co-development of modelling and forecasting products with observing systems to include marine life

### Co-design and co-develop ocean prediction and ocean observing systems

- working with national agencies to move towards observation systems that fully support whole of system integrated modelling of the ocean

### Increasing Ocean prediction societal impact

- expanding the concept of multidisciplinary to include biology (beyond ocean colour)



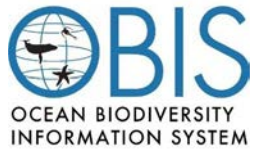


# What can we do together?

## OceanPredict and the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development



Interoperability and accessibility of data and data products

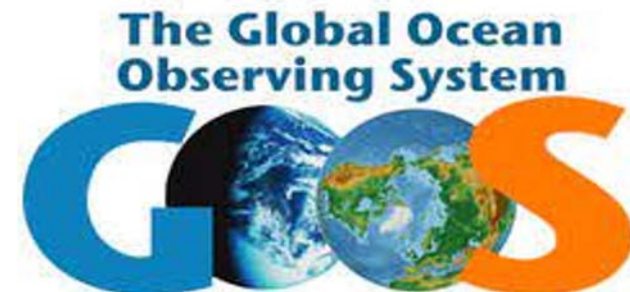
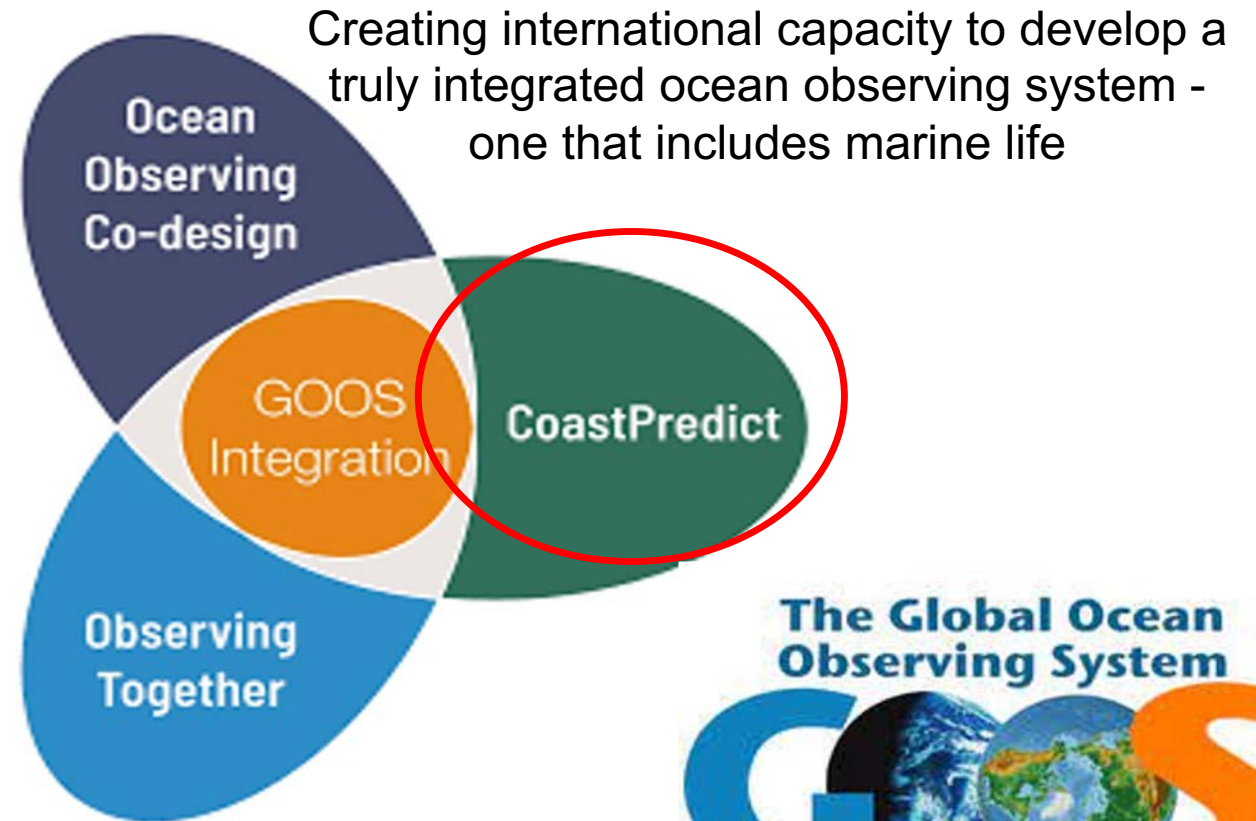


Leveraging deployments to expand biological observations

Expansion of forecasting products to include biology



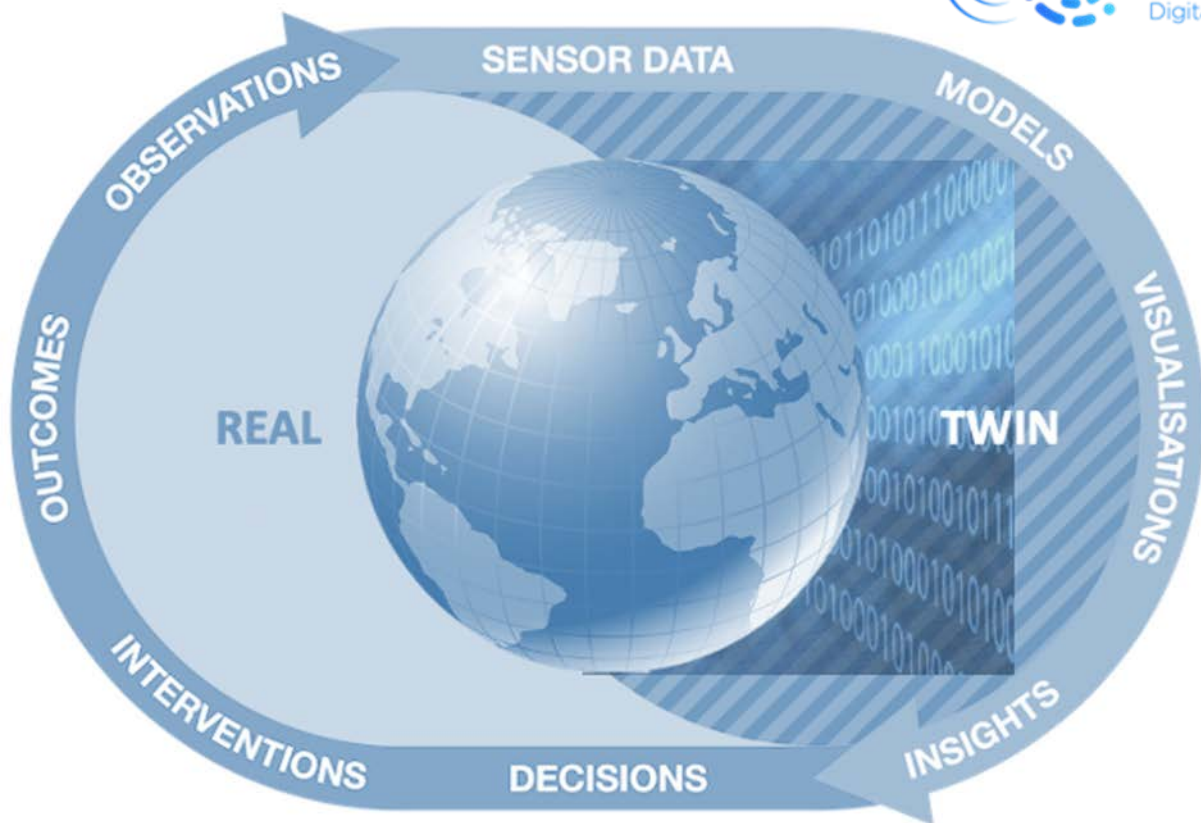
Connecting ocean observers with the communities they serve to improve accessibility to observations





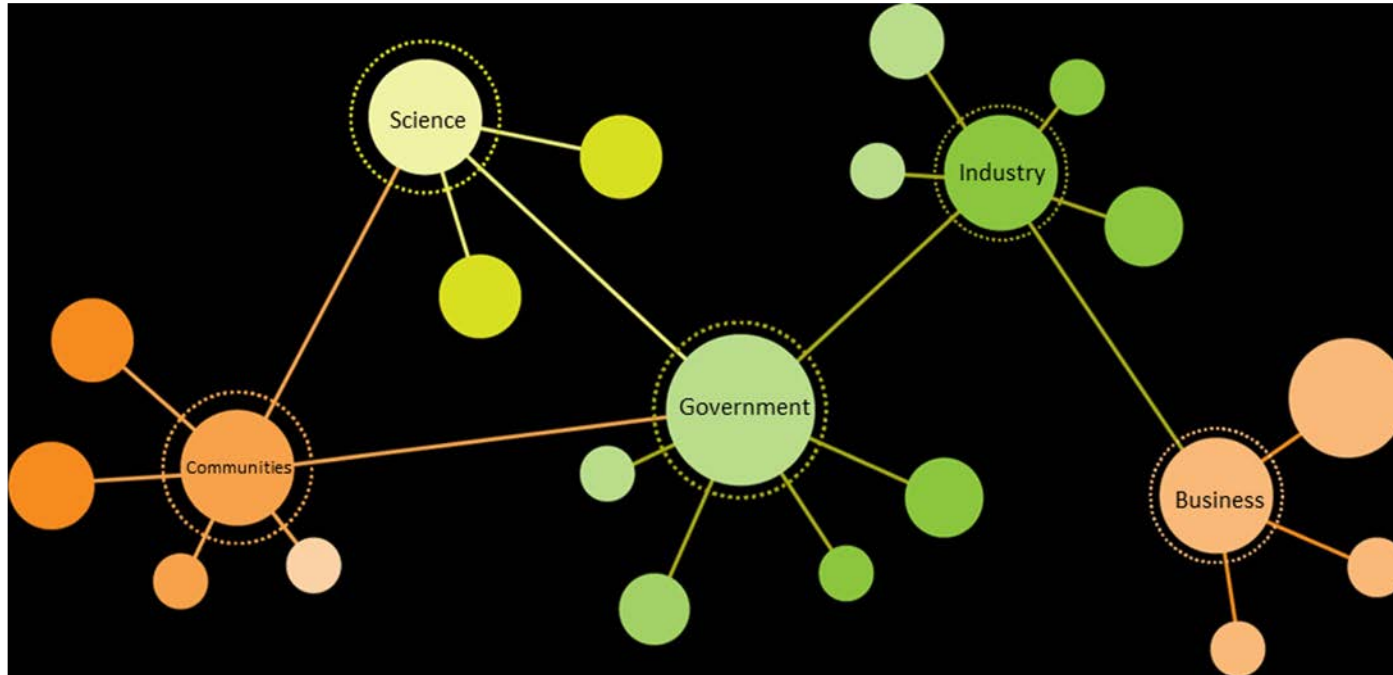
# What can we do together?

OceanPredict and the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development



nEXOS

# Thankyou!



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