Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership

Workshop to discuss feasibility and implementation of other additional activities

Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership

Milestone 162

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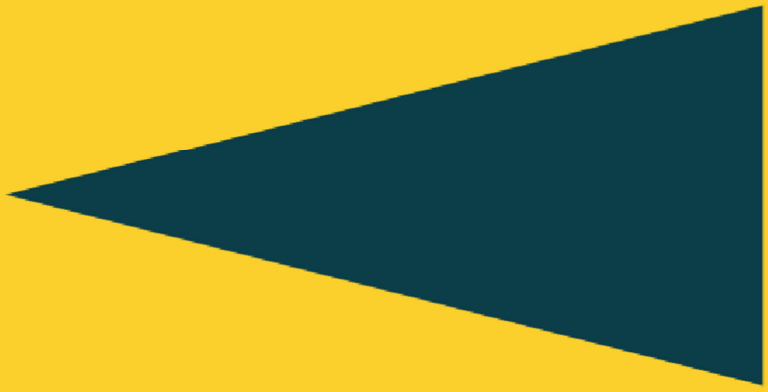

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

As a cooperation instrument under the 9th EU Research and Innovation Framework Programme, the Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership (“Partnership”) delivers innovative solutions to boost a sustainable, regenerative and resilient blue economy across European sea basins and the Atlantic Ocean. By bringing together more than 80 partners (governments, research, regional and public authorities, non-profit organisations) from 32 countries together with the European Commission, the Partnership promotes a holistic approach to ocean governance grounded in robust marine knowledge.

At the EU Ocean Days, President van der Leyen launched OceanEye to advance ocean observation for the implementation of the EU Ocean Pact. From ocean data collection to evidence-based decision-making, the marine knowledge value chain is a multi-stakeholder endeavour underpinning sustainable ocean planning and management for current and future generations.

Ocean observation is the foundation of all marine knowledge.
It provides critical data for weather forecasting,
climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies,
extreme events monitoring, civil security, maritime shipping, offshore energy,
fisheries and aquaculture, and increasingly defense and security.

EU Ocean Pact

In support of a fit-for-purpose European Ocean Observing System, the Partnership has proposed a pilot activity[1] to promote corporate data exchange. By catalysing the Partnership’s unique community of actors at the interface between science, business and policy, this additional activity targets the power of industry ocean data for a competitive and sustainable EU blue economy.

The following report describes the scoping exercise initiated by the task team to discuss feasibility and implementation, and focuses on an initial workshop in cooperation with the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. This scoping workshop contributed to set the scene on challenges and opportunities for corporate data exchange from the Partnership’s perspective. This report concludes with main takeaways feeding into the further development of the activity, from cross-sectoral mobilisation to policy needs.

[1] Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership, Deliverable 8.13 “Proposal for additional activities for cycle 3: Advancing corporate data exchange in support of a fit-for-purpose European Ocean Observing System” (December 2025)

2.0 SCOPING EXERCISE “SETTING THE SCENE”

To discuss the feasibility and implementation of this additional activity, several partner organizations have constituted a task team and initiated a scoping exercise to identify:

- *incentives and obstacles for the engagement of the private sector;*
- *policy recommendations to improve marine data governance across EU borders and sectors;*
- *meaningful pathways towards impact for a dedicated funded action by the Partnership.*

In order to develop a comprehensive understanding of opportunities and challenges, this scoping exercise addressed ten questions:

Data needs

1. *Which non-sensitive datasets should be prioritized for existing and future user needs?*
2. *Which blue economy sectors should be targeted for scaling corporate data exchange?*

Exchanging data

3. *What are the mechanisms to authorize sharing of ocean data collected by the private sector in Exclusive Economic Zones, current regulatory barriers alongside licensing and permitting within national ocean observing and monitoring systems, and what are best practices outside the EU (e.g. Marine Data Exchange in the UK, MAREANO in Norway)?*
4. *What are key priorities to foster standardization of industry marine data?*
5. *What are current and future data exchange models involving startups, investors, insurers?*
6. *Which specific incentives, use cases and success stories should be promoted to foster the engagement of the private sector, and what are business requirements to foster structured, secure and transparent cross-sectoral collaborative frameworks for FAIR data management and accessible data products towards systematic corporate data submissions and integration to EU marine knowledge services and the European Digital Twin of Ocean?*

Value of data

7. *What are the different perceptions of the value of data across policy, research, finance and business, and how to bridge them?*
8. *To which extend is open data limited by the geopolitical context?*
9. *What are approaches to marine data valuation, and how does marine data contribute to improve standardized ocean accounting?*
10. *To which extent can corporate data sharing strengthen interoperability between sustainability-related disclosure frameworks to support corporate governance and ocean stewardship?*

Besides literacy review, exploratory interviews and targeted mobilisation, the task team has led a series of internal workshops to structure this scoping phase. Reflecting the Partnership's co-design approach, these workshops engage relevant expertise from the private sector (SMEs, industry, European interest representatives), public authorities, researchers across disciplines, data managers, as well as cooperation partners (e.g. EMODnet) and relevant stakeholders.

The first workshop engaged the Decade Corporate Data Group and the Decade Coordination Office for Ocean Data Sharing. Beyond strengthening the Partnership's collaborative action with the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development ("Ocean Decade"), this initial workshop provided an overview of opportunities and challenges at stake in order to "set the scene" for this additional activity.

1st Scoping Workshop "Setting the Scene"

(online, 6th February 2026 from 9 to 10:30 am)

Introduction

Peter Burger, Ocean Decade Corporate Data Group, Fugro (20')

Adam Leadbetter, Decade Coordination Office for Ocean Data Sharing (20')

Exchange with the task team

Closing words

With Julie Olivier (FZJ), George Petihakis (HCMR), Helle Torp Christensen (DTU Aqua), Coco Koedooder (VLIZ), Alessandra Giorgetti (OGS), Jella Kandziora (JPI Oceans), Cappelletto Margherita (MUR)

3.0 BEST PRACTICE FROM THE DECADE CORPORATE DATA GROUP

Working for Fugro, a global geo-data specialist company, and under a partnership with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO seconded to the Decade Coordination Unit of the Ocean Decade, Peter Burger coordinates the Decade Corporate Data Group[2]. Established in 2023, this working group comprises leaders from companies representing diverse marine industries and focuses on developing frameworks and mechanisms to unlock privately-held ocean data for the benefit of science.

[2] Ocean Decade Corporate Data Group

Ocean data needs for sustainable development

Ocean data is the foundation of ocean science. Data gaps create significant challenges to manage marine resources sustainably. But beyond collecting more data, it is key to share existing data, thus “unlocking” their power in support of evidence-based decision-making for a healthy ocean.

Massive amounts of data produced by the blue economy

While public research is important, a massive amount of ocean data is currently collected by the private sector. Companies operating in the marine environment, such as offshore energy, constantly gather high-quality data for future projects and daily operations. This information has been treated as a “one-time-asset”, used for a specific task and then locked away in private archives or cloud servers – meaning that data remains inaccessible to the scientific community.

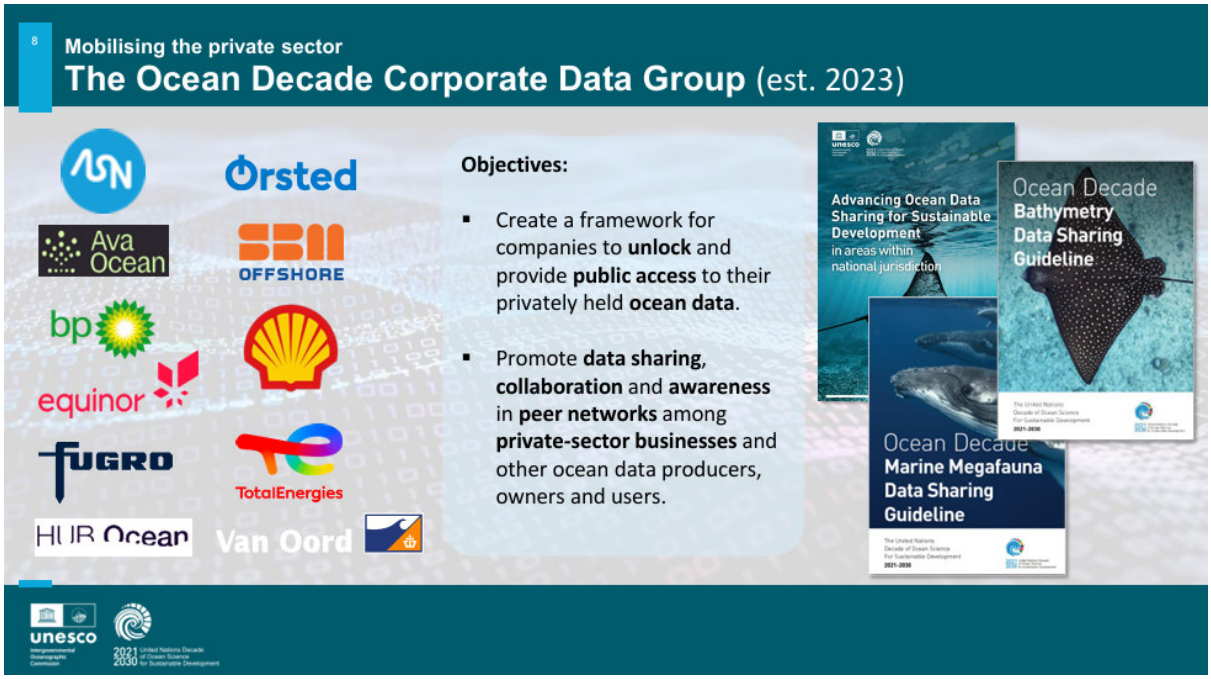
The scale of this “hidden” data is enormous. For instance, a single global geo-data company like Fugro operates around 50 vessels worldwide on any given day, all collecting vast amounts of subsea, seabed and water column information. Considering the growing number of private initiatives active at sea, the generated volume of data is staggering.

The challenge and the opportunity for a sustainable ocean lies in unlocking these archives. Transitioning to a culture of corporate data sharing would provide science with an unprecedented boost, filling critical gaps in mapping the global ocean without the need for additional, costly governmental expeditions.

Best practice: Decade Corporate Data Group

To turn the potential of private sector data into reality, Fugro initiated collaboration with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO which evolved into a partnership under the umbrella of the UN Ocean Decade. Co-chaired by Vidar Helgesen (Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO) and Mark Heine (CEO, Fugro), the Corporate Data Group brings together a diverse cross-section of global marine industries (energy, telecommunications, fisheries, marine contractors) in order to find practical ways to “unlock” ocean data and make this available for science.

Beyond developing data sharing guidelines, the working group addresses legal, competitive and security concerns, and engages in outreach activities. As an example, the Corporate Data Group developed a policy recommendation that was adopted in IOC Decision A 33/3.4.2 at the 33rd IOC Assembly in Paris in the summer of 2025. The decision urges Member States to work with industry, researchers, and data infrastructure partners to harmonise ocean data sharing practices by establishing national policies and including data sharing obligations in their licensing and permitting processes. By creating pathways for “easy transfer”, the group is transforming the private sector from a passive data holder into an active partner in global ocean management.



Success story on bathymetric data

Bathymetry is foundational to all ocean science and underpins every ocean-related challenge. The Corporate Data Group has supported the Seabed 2030 Initiative in their goal to map 100% of the ocean and integrate that data into the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO) by 2030. About 27% of the global seabed has been mapped, with an additional 15 to 20% already mapped but not yet available to GEBCO. Much of this mapping exists only in private sector archives.

Fugro has shared over 3 million km^2 of seabed mapping data with GEBCO[3] - an area roughly the size of India. This represents a significant contribution of high-value data to support science and ocean mapping efforts.

In an area offshore of Uruguay, the Corporate Data Group collaborated with a seismic company to reassess and reprocess their 3D seismic data. This effort allowed to extract 40,000 km of seabed mapping data. Importantly, this method enabled to generate high-quality bathymetry from 3D seismic surveys without compromising the proprietary or commercial value of the data.

Indeed, questions of sensitivity and national security often arise. Bathymetry measurements can have very high resolution. However, for the purposes of GEBCO, a resolution of 100 m or even 400 m is already highly valuable, meaning that the low resolution of shared data can still provide extremely useful datasets without touching proprietary or commercially sensitive information.

Data Sharing Guideline on Marine Megafauna

The Corporate Data Group also focused on marine megafauna data. Companies operating in the marine environment deploy technologies to observe marine mammals on their vessels in order

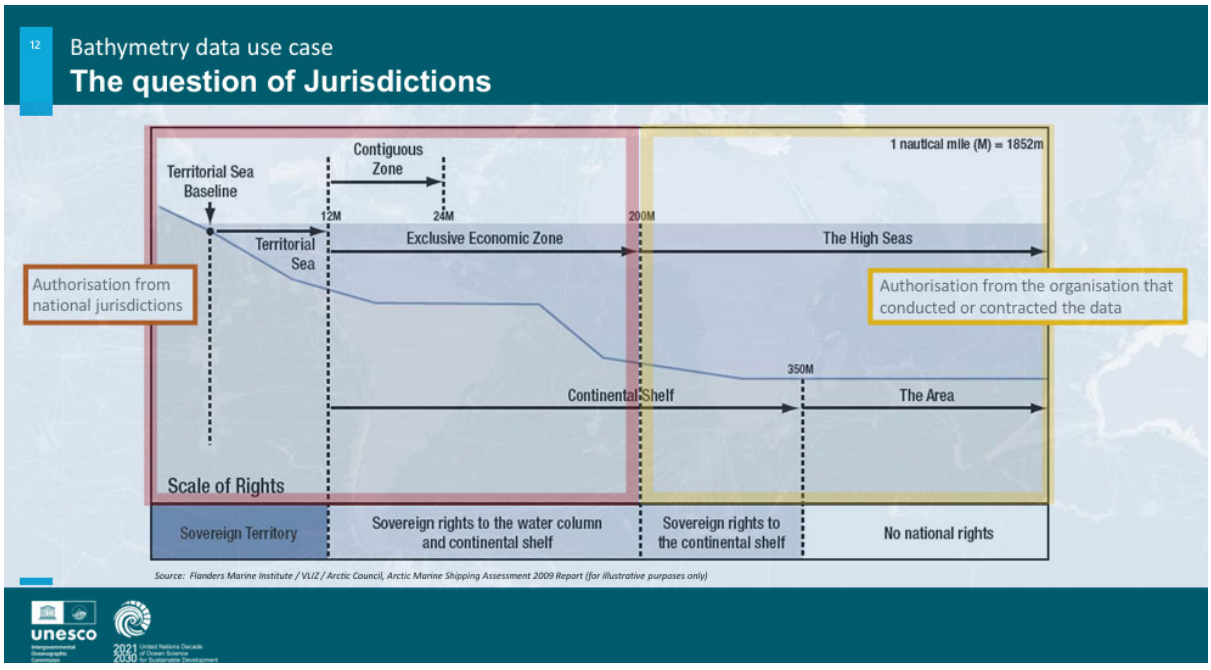
[3] Mapping a Better Ocean: The Ocean Decade and the Need for Open Data

to guide operations and avoid interference. Currently, the data collected is mostly used only in real time during operations and then archived, making it largely unavailable for scientific research.

This data could provide valuable insights into migratory routes, population densities, and other key aspects of marine mammal ecology. To address this, and following the example of the Bathymetry Data Sharing Guideline[4], the Corporate Data Group developed a Marine Megafauna Data Sharing Guideline[5]. Together with the bathymetry data sharing guideline, the goal of these short guidelines is to make data sharing straightforward for companies that might otherwise see it as complex or difficult. The Corporate Data Group plans to develop additional data sharing guidelines covering biodiversity, oceanographic data, and other areas.

Data ownership

When discussing data sharing, it is crucial to consider data ownership. Under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), data ownership and responsibility are guided by the allocation of jurisdiction and sovereign rights – granting coastal States authority over marine scientific research and data collected within their territorial sea and exclusive economic zone (EEZ), while affirming freedoms on the high seas and assigning States responsibility for activities under their control and for the protection of the marine environment. In practical terms, data sharing policies vary in national waters[6]. Some countries enable ocean data sharing more or less actively, and others impose barriers against sharing. Meanwhile, in international waters, the data sharing ecosystem is shaped by global policy frameworks. High seas are becoming increasingly important, and private sector companies collect many data there.



[4] Ocean Decade Bathymetry Data Sharing Guideline

[5] Ocean Decade Marine Megafauna Data Sharing Guideline

[6] Advancing ocean data sharing for sustainable development in areas within national jurisdiction

Mandatory data sharing for an enabling policy framework

The IOC Data Policy and Terms of Use[7] promote data sharing - but countries' practical approaches on national data sharing provisions may differ. To address this, the Corporate Data Group presented a policy recommendation at the 33rd Session of the IOC Assembly which was formally accepted by 152 Member States. The recommendation advocates for data sharing and encourages countries to include mandatory data sharing requirements in their offshore licensing agreements and permits. Besides, an IOC intersessional working group was established to develop use cases, identify best practices, and support the implementation of the policy recommendation.

Mobilization with targeted incentives

The Corporate Data Group invests in outreach towards a wide range of industry associations such as the International Maritime Contractors Association (IMCA), International Association of Oil & Gas Producers (IOGP) and the International Cable Protection Committee (ICPC). Many of these associations include sustainability and ocean stewardship in their missions, thus providing a natural entry point to discuss the value of data sharing. The Corporate Data Group emphasizes that companies have much to gain as data sharing is a low-cost, high-impact effort which:

- *Boosts confidence by building trust with stakeholders, investors, employees;*
- *Enhances operational efficiency (data sharing grow the loop-back of insights, improve modelling and forecasting tools, optimize operations and strengthen business models);*
- *Fuels innovation (more and better data inspires new ideas and technologies, leading to new opportunities);*
- *Improves environmental management (better data lead to effective strategies to manage and protect marine ecosystems and make marine industries sustainable);*
- *Engaging in data-sharing ecosystems positions companies for emerging global standards and reduces regulatory uncertainty.*

Besides "What's in it for me?" (see above), companies ask about acknowledgement and liabilities. These questions can be answered by referring to ongoing developments in finance towards recognizing data sharing as sustainable, and by referring to open data repositories (GEBCO, Seabed 2030, OBIS, IODE, ..) developing safe data sharing frameworks.

[7] IOC Data Policy and Terms of Use (2023) – IODE

4.0 EXPERTISE FROM THE DECADE COORDINATION OFFICE FOR OCEAN DATA SHARING

With a background as an environmental data manager, Adam Leadbetter leads the Decade Coordination Office for Ocean Data Sharing (DCO-ODS)[8], which supports the development of the capacity, findability, interoperability and re-usability of ocean data, information and knowledge within the framework of the Ocean Decade and beyond.

The science we need for the ocean we want

Together with the International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE) of IOC, the DCO-ODS shares the vision of a functioning, global, digital exchange of key ocean data by 2030. Even more importantly given recent geopolitical challenges, which can weaken ocean observing systems underpinning several Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 14 "Life Below Water", it is crucial to fill gaps in data collection – and not only oceanographic research centers but also the private sector can play a role.

Trust is key to unlocking corporate data

A key priority to engage the private sector is to foster trust. Michael Keenan, an Australian parliamentarian, was quoted in an OECD report saying, *"Trust is key to unlocking data."* Trust operates at multiple levels towards unlocking privately held ocean data sharing:

- *trust in the open data repositories (where to share the data?)*
- *trust in the data itself (what to share?)*
- *trust in the data sharing process (how is the data shared?)*

Creating trust requires shared and common interests, which is the foundation for developing Communities of Practice. The Corporate Data Group is a specific subset of this broader community, bridging the private sector and the scientific community. Trust goes both ways: for the private to be willing to share the data, and for the research to recognize that corporate data is trustworthy. To achieve this, the DCO-ODS focuses on guidance[9] and principles that make datasets reliable, transparent, and actionable, building confidence in both the process and the results.

Where should private sector data be shared?

[8] Ocean Data Sharing - Decade Coordination Office

[9] Explore Our Data Sharing Toolkit

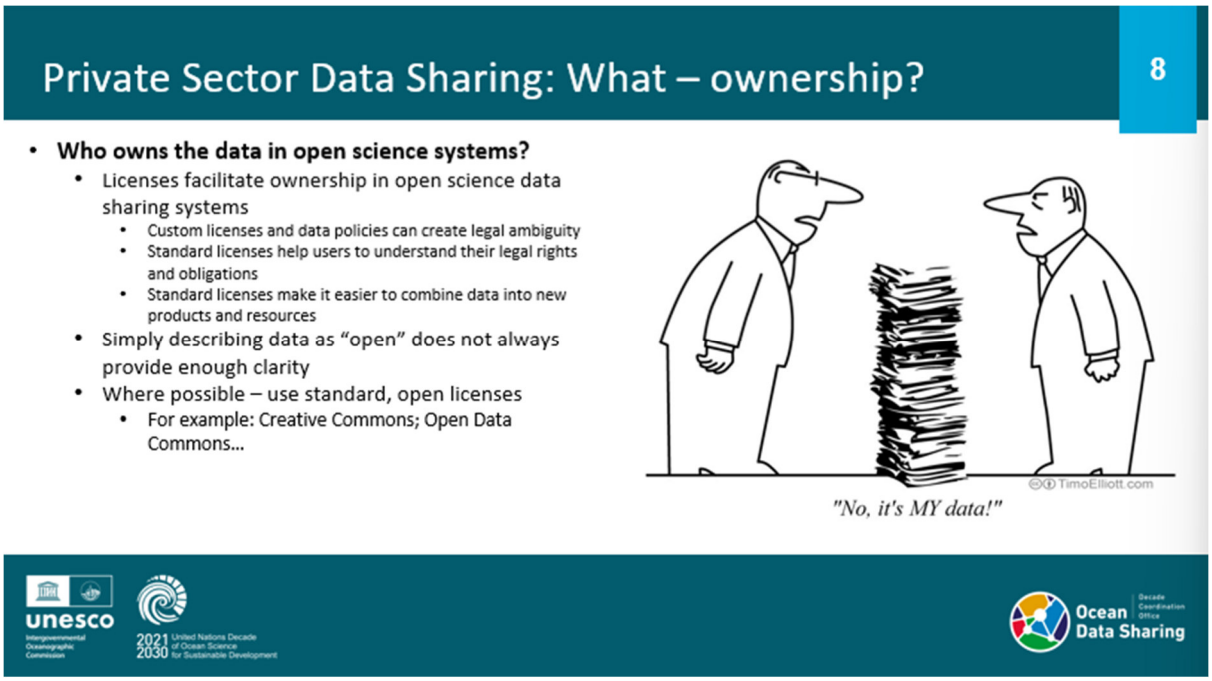
Trusted data-sharing infrastructures are crucial to ensure that data can be used on the long-term and add value to science and society. Sustainable data repositories should consider the full data lifecycle, involve multiple stakeholders, be supported by long-term funding, and be product- and service-focused. Examples at global, regional and national levels include the Ocean Biodiversity Information System (OBIS), the European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet) which builds on SeaDataNet infrastructure for a number of its themes, National Oceanographic Data Centers (NODCs), and the Marine Data Exchange (Crown Estate). Initiatives such as Seabed 2030 provide additional thematic repositories.

High-quality data for long-term value

Building trust in the data requires to capture provenance information (who took action to create, process and share the data?). The DCO-ODS helps the private sector understand what is required for data sharing and further application through the provision of specific information:

- *Technical metadata (structure and format of the data);*
- *Potentially contextual metadata (descriptive notes, measurement conditions, explanatory information);*
- *Legal metadata (licensing, disclaimers, and limitations);*
- *Reference information (statistical summaries, derived datasets, other insights).*

Providing complete metadata increases the reuse potential and long-term value of the data. At the same time, perfection should not block progress—datasets can be shared even if some information is missing, though this may limit their applications.



Licensing is critical. Standardized licenses clarify ownership, liability, and re-use rights. Custom licenses create legal ambiguity, while widely recognized licenses, such as Creative Commons, simplify integration into new products and systems, and build trust in repositories.

Process for corporate data sharing

To make sharing practical, the DCO-ODS has developed a simple four-step process[10]:

1. ***Plan**: Identify existing datasets for sharing or, for new operations, determine in advance where the data will be deposited. Early planning is ideal, even before data collection begins.*
2. ***Prepare**: Document data generation and management processes, including flowcharts. This builds trust by making processes transparent and highlighting areas for improvement.*
3. ***Share**: Submit data to the chosen repository along with all available metadata, including instrument details, processing steps, quality information, limitations, and licensing.*
4. ***Review**: Evaluate the shared data and the repository's processes. Provide feedback to improve efficiency and usability can considerably reduce the time length of the process (e.g. from 20 to 3 days). Efficient data sharing not only benefits external users but also enhances internal workflows.*

To support mainstreaming corporate data sharing, there are various ways of resourcing. For instance, Seabed 2030 is looking at an internship program to help companies prepare and submit their bathymetric data. Similar support is being explored with other repositories.

5.0 DISCUSSION RESULTS

Following the presentations, the task group engaged with the experts on a number of questions.

On the need to mind the business mindset

In research, we are used to thinking about credit and recognition for data sharing—data citation is an important metric for measuring the impact of our work, said Adam Leadbetter. "*However, working with the Corporate Data Group has made it clear for me that we need to think differently when it comes to corporate sector data sharing. The value, impact, and recognition metrics for companies are not the same as for research."*

On targeting priority datasets

From a scientific perspective, the Essential Ocean Variables (EOVs) provide guidance on priorities for monitoring and data collection, and can also help inform private sector data-sharing priorities.

[10] Ocean Data Sharing Process

However, the official specifications of these variables are quite complex. For example, temperature has detailed multi-page definitions outlining exactly what and how it should be measured. Overemphasizing strict adherence to EOV specifications can create a trade-off between standardization and inclusivity. When engaging with private sector companies, the approach needs to be simpler and practical: asking directly whether they collect temperature, salinity, or other key variables. Clear, straightforward communication is essential, because EOVs may not be used outside the scientific community. Besides, while EOVs are a useful starting point, they do not capture all the information needed for ocean management and research, such as bathymetric data.

On promoting success stories to raise awareness and build momentum

While industrial companies share data (e.g. Total Energies with biodiversity data into GBIF and bathymetric data, Equinor with biodiversity data, Van Oord with CTD and wave data, ..), they also serve as multipliers to mobilize broader private sector networks. Indeed, it is easier to engage with industry associations if member companies are already showcasing data sharing. Peter Burger also highlighted the importance of building internal momentum. At the start, you need to engage people and explain why data sharing matters. Once people see the value, enthusiasm spreads. During transit between projects or operations, for example, vessels can collect data they normally would not, thus promoting innovation, and gathering data efficiently using modern remote technologies without the cost of a full survey team. Remote solutions and creative approaches capture attention and generate interest internally. Momentum also extends to senior leadership. Engagement from the C-suite helps create a broader movement. The key is to demonstrate that sharing data can be low-cost and high-impact. Discussions can be challenging, but once people see the tangible benefits, motivation grows.

On cooperation with EMODnet

Alessandra Giorgetti (OGS) highlighted that the European Commission has recently put significant effort into collecting data from industry through the new data ingestion call. This initiative is part of developing a data platform not solely focused on the scientific community but incorporating external data sources, including contributions from industry and NGOs. This platform will be critical for sustaining data management activities and ensuring that these diverse data streams are effectively integrated and accessible.

Adam Leadbetter added that some companies are also sharing sound velocity profile data (measurements of the speed of sound through water) through the EMODnet physics platform. These types of pathways are key for integrating corporate data into wider scientific systems.

Managing data sensitivity

There are established ways to manage sensitivity when sharing data. Submissions can be delayed from public release for a defined period (two, three years or whatever is appropriate). Reducing spatial resolution is another common approach to mitigate sensitivity. For example, bathymetry collected in transit can be shared at lower resolution if the data provider prefers it.

Another complexity arises when data are collected across multiple exclusive economic zones. Each country may have different rules on data sharing, so to comply with local regulations, companies must “clip” or restrict data from certain areas before release.

For biodiversity data, such as marine mammal observations, repositories often require standardized formats like Darwin Core. Companies like Total Energies may perform the translation themselves before sharing with global repositories like the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF). Alternatively, organizations can contact the relevant repository—such as the OBIS Secretariat—for guidance on transforming their data to the correct format. Emerging tools, including artificial intelligence, are also proving useful for data reformatting, though care must be taken to avoid exposing sensitive information during the process.

The cost and benefit of data sharing

Even when companies are willing to share, practical barriers remain. Many private sector actors collect large datasets that are initially restricted, and making these data available later requires additional effort. Despite the willingness, this extra work can be a deterrent. At the same time, short-term commercial considerations should not override long-term benefits. Making data available often requires only a few hours or days of work, yet the impact for science, policy, and sustainable ocean management is significant. Promoting examples where sharing is standard practice can help normalize across industries.

Demystifying risks – the example of telecommunication cables

Concerns around data sharing are valid, and risks need to be managed carefully. However, these risks are sometimes overstated and used as a reason not to share data, for instance with telecommunication cables: while there is caution about making their locations public, much of this information is already available or can be accessed through other means. Actors with harmful intent are unlikely to rely on published datasets—they already know where to look. At the same time, over 80% of damage to these cables globally is caused by fisheries and anchoring, rather than malicious State actors—putting the actual risk into perspective. This suggests that while national security concerns are real, they should not become a blanket justification for withholding data. The default should be to share as much as possible, and only restrict access where there are clear and specific reasons to do so.

From data sharing to metadata sharing?

Ownership and licensing of data can be effectively managed with the right metadata. Systems like SeaDataNet[11] track the data provider, distributor, and custodian, which helps clarify ownership and resolve potential issues. This approach also supports licensing. Open metadata can coexist with controlled access to the actual dataset—data can remain private or be shared on request. While this may require effort from both data centers and users, it ensures compliance with data policies and maintains clarity about who owns or controls the data.

[11] https://www.seadatanet.org/

As private and public sectors increasingly consider geopolitical and technological concerns, we may see a shift toward metadata-focused sharing, where datasets are advertised and discoverable but only released upon request, according to Adam Leadbetter. This approach balances accessibility with control, recognizing that managing metadata is easier than managing sensitive data itself. Ultimately, there is a trade-off between making data fully open and maintaining control, and the right balance depends on the needs of data providers and users.

“All the data you can get” – adopting a pragmatic approach

While some datasets are highly time-sensitive, others like bathymetry and density retain value over years. While the temporality of data is a relevant consideration, a pragmatic approach is needed. The priority should be to gather as much data as possible, even if it is only made available after some delay. Having slightly older data is still far more valuable than having no data at all. Currently, the focus should be on increasing data availability rather than being overly selective. Only once there will be an abundance of data, it would make sense to refine priorities.

Addressing fragmentation by engaging sub-Communities of Practice

About the fragmentation of ocean data repositories, Adam Leadbetter highlighted that NODCs face resourcing challenges, but regional initiatives like EMODnet are making strong progress. EMODnet contributes to the European Digital Twin and also explores how European data can feed into global systems. This illustrates a functioning pathway from national data collection to regional integration and global sharing.

Adam Leadbetter also highlighted the value of sub-Communities of Practice, acknowledging that different actors (researchers, private sector, observers) have different incentives and data needs. An overarching Community of Practice is needed to connect these sub-communities. This helps reducing fragmentation, fosters collaboration, and ensures that shared standards and objectives benefit all actors while respecting specific needs and motivations.

6.0 CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

This workshop clearly demonstrated the need to take action in order to leverage the vast amounts of marine data produced by the blue economy. The experts outlined a broad width of feasible pathways for the Partnership’s additional activity. While stressing that “a lot has to happen to improve the ocean data ecosystem”, Peter Burger and Adam Leadbetter recommended an incremental approach by “starting small and getting people to tell the success stories”. Therefore, the following main takeaways serve the purpose of prioritizing action for an implementation phase with meaningful impact.

MAIN TAKEAWAYS	NEXT STEPS
Mobilisation is key	The additional activity foresees a transversal mobilisation phase leveraging targeted incentives, success stories and best practice. Ongoing public outreach at targeted events (e.g. panel discussions at EMODnet Conference 2025 and 3rd EU Blue Economy Conference, planned intervention at 11th EuroGOOS International Conference).
Marine data governance is not fit-for-purpose	The additional activity foresees several milestones to address policy needs. Considering the ongoing implementation of the EU Ocean Pact, policy recommendations will focus on improving: 1) an enabling framework to unlock hidden marine corporate data, 2) the optimization of national observing and monitoring systems at European level (e.g. with harmonized collection methodologies) to leverage the marine data produced by the blue economy.
Facing fragmentation with prioritization	The workshop series will focus on key sub-Communities of Practice for the Partnership, especially “aquaculture and fisheries” (half of co-funded projects) and offshore wind (EU flagship for the competitiveness of the EU Blue economy). However, following a pragmatic approach (“All the data you can get”) as long as corporate data sharing remains the exception, the choice of datasets will not be a strong criterion for prioritization.
Open data vs controlled data sharing	The discussion point “From data sharing to metadata sharing” will be explored through the scoping phase, as well as current and future “trusted” data exchange models supporting a sustainable and competitive blue economy (see scoping Question 4).
Developing an understanding for business requirements	Considering that the Partnership’s strong research background may be an obstacle to bridge the different perceptions of the value of data (sharing) across policy, research, finance and business (see scoping Question 8), implementation should rely on a strong co-design process with the private sector to ensure adequate engagement.