The U.S. Animal Telemetry Network: A Plan for Implementation

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The U.S. is a global leader in animal telemetry, with tremendous animal telemetry infrastructure and considerable technical expertise. However, assets are often owned and operated independently by multiple groups with little connectivity. The U.S. Animal Telemetry Network (ATN) aims to provide a mechanism to facilitate and empower an alliance among federal, industry, academic, state, local, tribal, and non   -federal organizat telemetry observing data and products are ready to be integrated into the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS). The ATN data management approach involves receiving, handling, and distributing diverse data types from archival, satellite, and acoustic tag platforms using consistent metadata standards and best practices. ATN data management system will be a quasi   -centralized nation distribute data and data products to U.S. IOOS Regional Associations (RA) and other partners. An integration of biological and ocean observation will: improve predictions of climate change impacts; more effectively protect and restore healthy coastal ecosystems; and enable the sustainable use of marine resources. We describe the plan for operationalizing the ATN and how IOOS RAs will aid in localizing inputs to data processes and priority studies in the future.