

**Ocean Tracking Network (OTN)**

**Application for an equipment loan**

**Introduction**

To foster the conduct of high quality telemetry science, and to assist with the expansion of the scale and scope of the Ocean Tracking Network (OTN), the OTN has available for loan to university or not-for-profit organizations a limited number of VEMCO receiver units. Loan periods are planned for durations of up to two years. Renewals of the loan, or approvals for loans of longer periods, will be determined on a case-by case basis. Renewal requests will be evaluated based on the progress of the work during the initial loan period, the merit of the proposed work for the period of the renewed deployment, and timely data delivery.

The Ocean Tracking Network (OTN) is a Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) – Major Science Initiative Fund global research and technology development project headquartered at Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia. Starting in 2008, the OTN began deploying Canadian state-of-the-art acoustic receivers and oceanographic monitoring equipment in key ocean locations. These are being used to document the movements and survival of aquatic animals carrying acoustic tags (“pingers”), and to show how both are influenced by oceanographic conditions. OTN deployments will occur in all of the world’s five oceans, and span seven continents. The species tracked include marine mammals, sea turtles, squid, and fishes including sharks, sturgeon, eels, tuna, salmon, and cod.

Over 200 international researchers from 15 countries are currently participating in the global network. OTN hosts a Data Warehouse that serves as a repository for data collected by OTN researchers, and is working to develop interpretation and visualization tools for tracking data. OTN also operates a fleet of autonomous vehicles (Slocum/Wave gliders) in support of oceanographic and tracking research. Additional information on OTN can be found at http://oceantrackingnetwork.org/

**Criteria for the loan:**

Applications will be evaluated based on:

* The scientific merit of the research program. The relevance of the proposal to the mission and science objectives of the OTN
* The adequacy of array and risk management
* The potential for the deployment to foster networking with other telemetry researchers in the region, and to assist with growing the OTN

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**Application procedure**

Prior to making an application, interested researchers are requested to contact the OTN Senior Program Manager (Brendal Townsend (brendal.townsend@dal.ca), + 902 494 4230) to determine present availability of equipment for loan, and to discuss their potential application. Suitable projects will be invited to submit a copy of the application form, a project plan and the applicant’s curriculum vitae to: brendal.townsend@dal.ca ), or via mail to: Ocean Tracking Network Equipment Pool, c/o Ms. Tracy Rounds, Department of Biology, Dalhousie University, Life Sciences Centre, 1355 Oxford St., PO Box 15000, Halifax, NS, B3H 4R2, Canada. The application will be peer reviewed, and the comments of the peer reviewers will be transmitted to the OTN Deployment Committee, who will make a final recommendation on whether or not to approve the deployment. This recommendation will be forwarded to the OTN Senior Management team for final approval. There is no fixed date for receipt of applications. The pool will remain accessible to researchers as long as uncommitted equipment is available. The review and approval process will take time. Applicants should plan for this when submitting their application.

**Loan agreement**

The parties will sign a formal loan agreement specifying the terms of the loan. These terms will include the Ocean Tracking Network providing the agreed-upon number of receivers. In addition, OTN will make available to successful applications the services of our technical team to assist with the design and review of mooring systems for the proposed work. In some instances, OTN may be able to send a member of our technical team to assist with field work on the projects. *Applicants must agree to look after customs procedures and pay for the shipping and operations and maintenance expenses (including rebatterying) necessary to deploy and maintain the receivers for the duration of the agreement*. Our funding agency requires us to report annually on the project activities, the highly-qualified personnel trained by our collaborators and the contributions (cash and in-kind) that OTN partners make annually to maintaining the loaned infrastructure. As a condition of the loan, the applicant must provide annual reports furnishing this information, which will be included in our annual reporting and possibly in occasional releases to media outlets on OTN activities.

The applicant must also provide a copy of the metadata, detection data (VRL receiver files) from the Equipment and any associated receivers used in fulfillment of the Project, as well as tagging metadata on animals tagged in fulfillment of the Project, within three months of the recovery of the data, to the OTN data warehouse. The OTN Data Policy will govern the use of the data in this warehouse. The latest version of the OTN Data Policy and latest versions of OTN operational policies, templates and checklists for data collection are available online at.

The latest versions of OTN operational policies, templates and checklists for data collection are available online at: <http://members.oceantrack.org/data/data-collection>



**Application for an equipment loan from OTN**

**Applicant Information:**

Name

Title

Address

Email

Telephone number

**Proposed Collaborator Information (add additional names if required):**

 Present status (Check one)

#1 Name 🞎 PhD 🞎 PostDoc 🞎 Technician

Institution Student:🞎 PhD 🞎 MSc 🞎 Undergrad.

Email address

#2 Name 🞎 PhD 🞎 PostDoc 🞎 Technician

Institution Student:🞎 PhD 🞎 MSc 🞎 Undergrad.

Email address

#3 Name 🞎 PhD 🞎 PostDoc 🞎 Technician

Institution Student:🞎 PhD 🞎 MSc 🞎 Undergrad.

Email address

#4 Name 🞎 PhD 🞎 PostDoc 🞎 Technician

Institution Student:🞎 PhD 🞎 MSc 🞎 Undergrad.

Email address

Study title:

Number and type of receivers requested:

Number of acoustic receivers which are already on hand to supplement OTN equipment:

Proposed location of deployment (country and region; please also provide Latitudes and Longitudes):

Proposed period of deployment (start, end):

Species to be studied:

Are there other telemetry arrays in the region of your study on which your animals might be detected? If yes, who is operating them and will they be contacted regarding your study?

Have you or any members of you team had previous experience with sonic telemetry? Please describe this briefly.

Append a project plan, describing the proposed use and deployments of the equipment. This should include:

1. A presentation of the study, including its scientific objectives (hypotheses tested, questions asked, species monitored), scientific merit, excellence of the research team, and the potential benefits of the work to fisheries management, ocean conservation, user groups, etc.
2. Funding. Please indicate the budget for the project, the funding sources for operation costs, and whether the funding is confirmed or anticipated. If anticipated, please indicate the expected date of notification.
3. Relevance of the proposal to the mission of OTN.
4. Proposed array design (please include details on methods including mooring design and rationale for the deployment plan, maps/graphics documenting the location, details of the site, and bathymetry).
5. Deployment schedule
6. Maintenance schedule
7. Data retrieval schedule
8. Mooring description/design
9. Shipping and delivery details
10. Roles and responsibilities of the collaborators in the study
11. Risk management (proposed steps taken to minimize/ mitigate for potential loss of loaned equipment).
12. Other details you believe are relevant