Animal-borne telemetry: An integral component of the ocean observing toolkit

Animal telemetry is a powerful tool for observing marine animals and the physical environments that they inhabit, from coastal and continental shelf ecosystems to polar seas and open oceans. Satellite-linked biologgers and networks of acoustic receivers allow animals to be reliably monitored over scales of tens of meters to thousands of kilometers, giving insight into their habitat use, home range size, the phenomenology of migratory patterns and the biotic and abiotic factors that drive their distributions. Furthermore, physical environmental variables can be collected using animals as autonomous sampling platforms, increasing spatial and temporal coverage of global oceanographic observation systems. The use of animal telemetry, therefore, has the capacity to provide measures from a suite of essential ocean variables (EOVs) for improved monitoring of Earth’s oceans. Here we outline the design features of animal telemetry systems, describe current applications and their benefits and challenges, and discuss future directions. We describe new analytical techniques that improve our ability to not only quantify animal movements but to also provide a powerful framework for comparative studies across taxa. We discuss the application of animal telemetry and its capacity to collect biotic and abiotic data, how the data collected can be incorporated into ocean observing systems, and the role these data can play in improved ocean management.

General information
Publication status: Published
Organisations: National Institute of Aquatic Resources, Section for Freshwater Fisheries Ecology, Macquarie University, University of Western Australia, State Oceanic Administration China, University of Gothenburg, University of Tokyo, Australian Institute of Marine Science, Sydney Institute of Marine Science, Dalhousie University, NOAA, James Cook University Queensland, University of California at Santa Cruz, Stanford University, Fundacao Universidade Federal do Rio Grande, Office of Naval Research, Norwegian Polar Institute, University of St Andrews, Ecole Nationale d'Ingenieurs de Sfax, Sorbonne Université, Carleton University, South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity, University of Pretoria, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, CSIC, NIWA, Universite de La Rochelle, Deakin University, Flinders University, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu, Phuket Marine Biological Center, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, University of Porto, Marine Biological Association, Norwegian Institute for Nature Research, University of British Columbia, University of Tasmania
Corresponding author: Harcourt, R.
Publication date: 2019
Peer-reviewed: Yes

Publication information
Journal: Frontiers in Marine Science
Volume: 6
Article number: 326
Ratings:
BFI (2019): BFI-level 1
Original language: English
Keywords: Animal movement, Animal telemetry, EOV, Movement analysis, Ocean observing
Electronic versions:
Fulltext
DOIs:
10.3389/fmars.2019.00326
Source: Scopus
Source ID: 85066579603
Research output: Contribution to journal › Review – Annual report year: 2019 › Research › peer-review