

Coastal Ocean Observing

Our ability to acquire, manage and manipulate coastal ocean data has changed dramatically over the past decade – exponentially improving our ability to monitor, model and predict. Sensors are more accurate; autonomous technology is now a real option, not a technology for future consideration; and a terra-byte of data is no longer a “terror-byte.” But have we figured out how to use all of that for the betterment of ourselves and of the oceans?

The Council of Canadian Academies (2013) captured the enormity of the mission: “Increases in coastal populations, changes in their distributions, and increasingly intense and diversified marine and coastal activities highlight emerging social ecological challenges in coastal areas and the related need for accurate, fine-scale, and up-to-date data on coastal and nearshore areas. These data are essential for monitoring emerging opportunities and challenges for coastal communities, and for the development of effective integrated coastal zone management With increased interest and practical requirements to move towards marine spatial planning, integrated coastal zone management, and ecosystem-based approaches, there is an increasing need for more detailed data, as well as enhanced integration of disparate data sets ...”

In the spring 2018 issue of the Journal of Ocean Technology – with guest editor Bill Carter – we are seeking contributions towards enhancing our appreciation for the value of coastal ocean data; the importance of coastal ocean monitoring systems to enhance our ability to operate efficiently, safely and in an environmentally responsible manner; and perhaps most importantly improving our ability to recognize and respond to rapid and longer term changes in water quality. Where has new and innovative technology taken us in our quest; is there a “paradigm shift” on the horizon that will revolutionize how we acquire and utilize data? Collecting data can be outrageously expensive; from a research perspective, have we finally turned the corner on recognizing the value of utilizing data acquired by others?

Would you like to share your research and experiences with our readers? We are inviting the submission of technical papers, essays and short articles for this issue.

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Important deadlines

Technical paper submissions: **November 17, 2017**
Essays and short articles: **January 26, 2018**