

# Darwin Core Guide

Standardizing Marine Biological Data Working Group

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# Preface

Biological data structures, definitions, measurements, and linkages are necessarily as diverse as the systems they represent. This presents a real challenge when integrating data across biological research domains such as ecology, oceanography, fisheries, and climate sciences.

Lots of standards exist for use with biological data but navigating them can be difficult for data managers who are new to them. The Earth Science Information Partners (ESIP) Biological Data Standards Cluster developed this primer for managers of biological data to provide a quick, easy resource for navigating a selection of the standards that exist. The goal of the primer is to spread awareness about existing standards and is intended to be shared online and at conferences to increase the adoption of standards for biological data and make them FAIR.

Benson, Abigail; LaScala-Gruenewald, Diana; McGuinn, Robert; Satterthwaite, Erin; Beaulieu, Stace; Biddle, Mathew; et al. (2021): Biological Observation Data Standardization - A Primer for Data Managers. ESIP. Online resource. <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.16806712.v1>



# Chapter 1

## Introduction

The world of standardizing marine biological data can seem complex for the naive oceanographer, biologist, scientist, or programmer. Transforming and integrating data is about combining the right standards for your desired interoperability with other data types. For example, interoperating fish biology measurements with climate level variables. There are a few concepts necessary to make this possible such as standard data structures, controlled vocabularies and knowledge representations, along with metadata standards to facilitate data discovery. This will permit the inclusion of more data and broader access to better ecosystem based models. Many scientific domains data handling practices are currently being reshaped in light of recent advances in computing power, technology, and data science.





## Chapter 2

# Applications

Some applications are demonstrated in this chapter.

### 2.1 Aligning Data to Darwin Core - Event Core with Extended Measurement or Fact

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January 9, 2022

#### 2.1.1 General information about this notebook

Script to process the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Aransas Bay bag seine data from the format used by the Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC) for bays in Texas. Taxonomy was processed using a separate script (TPWD\_Taxonomy.R) using a taxa list pulled from the pdf “2009 Resource Monitoring Operations Manual”. All original data, processed data and scripts are stored on an item in USGS ScienceBase.

```
# Load some of the libraries
library(reshape2)
library(tidyverse)
library(readr)
```

```
# Load the data
BagSeine <- read.csv("https://www.sciencebase.gov/catalog/file/get/53a887f4e4b075096c60cfdd?f=__c
```

Note that if not already done you'll need to run the TPWD\_Taxonomy.R script to get the taxaList file squared away or load the taxonomy file to the World

Register of Marine Species Taxon Match Tool <https://www.marinespecies.org/aphia.php?p=match>

### 2.1.2 Event file

To start we will create the Darwin Core **Event** file. This is the file that will have all the information about the sampling event such as date, location, depth, sampling protocol. Basically anything about the cruise or the way the sampling was done will go in this file. You can see all the Darwin Core terms that are part of the event file here <http://tools.gbif.org/dwca-validator/extension.do?id=dwc:Event>.

The original format for these TPWD HARC files has all of the information associated as the event in the first approximately 50 columns and then all of the information about the occurrence (species) as columns for each species. We will need to start by limiting to the event information only.

```
event <- BagSeine[,1:47]
```

Next there are several pieces of information that need 1) to be added like the geodeticDatum 2) to be pieced together from multiple columns like datasetID or 3) minor changes like the minimum and maximum depth.

```
event <- event %>%
  mutate(type = "Event",
         modified = lubridate::today(),
         language = "en",
         license = "http://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/legalcode",
         institutionCode = "TPWD",
         ownerInstitutionCode = "HARC",
         coordinateUncertaintyInMeters = "100",
         geodeticDatum = "WGS84",
         georeferenceProtocol = "Handheld GPS",
         country = "United States",
         countryCode = "US",
         stateProvince = "Texas",
         datasetID = gsub(" ", "_", paste("TPWD_HARC_Texas", event$Bay, event$Gear_Type)),
         eventID = paste("Station", event$station_code, "Date", event$completion_dttm),
         sampleSizeUnit = "hectares",
         CompDate = lubridate::mdy_hms(event$CompDate, tz="America/Chicago"),
         StartDate = lubridate::mdy_hms(event$StartDate, tz="America/Chicago"),
         minimumDepthInMeters = ifelse(start_shallow_water_depth_num < start_deep_water_depth_num,
                                         start_shallow_water_depth_num, start_deep_water_depth_num),
         maximumDepthInMeters = ifelse(start_deep_water_depth_num > start_shallow_water_depth_num,
                                         start_deep_water_depth_num, start_shallow_water_depth_num))
```

## 2.1. ALIGNING DATA TO DARWIN CORE - EVENT CORE WITH EXTENDED MEASUREMENT OR FACT11

```
head(event[,48:64], n = 10)
```

	type	modified	language	license	institution	
1	Event	2022-01-09	en	<a href="http://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/legalcode">http://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/legalcode</a>		
2	Event	2022-01-09	en	<a href="http://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/legalcode">http://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/legalcode</a>		
3	Event	2022-01-09	en	<a href="http://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/legalcode">http://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/legalcode</a>		
4	Event	2022-01-09	en	<a href="http://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/legalcode">http://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/legalcode</a>		
5	Event	2022-01-09	en	<a href="http://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/legalcode">http://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/legalcode</a>		
6	Event	2022-01-09	en	<a href="http://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/legalcode">http://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/legalcode</a>		
7	Event	2022-01-09	en	<a href="http://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/legalcode">http://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/legalcode</a>		
8	Event	2022-01-09	en	<a href="http://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/legalcode">http://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/legalcode</a>		
9	Event	2022-01-09	en	<a href="http://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/legalcode">http://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/legalcode</a>		
10	Event	2022-01-09	en	<a href="http://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/legalcode">http://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/legalcode</a>		
	ownerInstitutionCode	coordinateUncertaintyInMeters	geodeticDatum	georeferenceProtocol	countryCode	
1	HARC	100	WGS84	Handheld GPS	United States	
2	HARC	100	WGS84	Handheld GPS	United States	
3	HARC	100	WGS84	Handheld GPS	United States	
4	HARC	100	WGS84	Handheld GPS	United States	
5	HARC	100	WGS84	Handheld GPS	United States	
6	HARC	100	WGS84	Handheld GPS	United States	
7	HARC	100	WGS84	Handheld GPS	United States	
8	HARC	100	WGS84	Handheld GPS	United States	
9	HARC	100	WGS84	Handheld GPS	United States	
10	HARC	100	WGS84	Handheld GPS	United States	
	countryCode	stateProvince	datasetID	sampleSizeUnit	minimumDepthInMeters	maximumDepthInMeters
1	US	Texas	TPWD_HARC_Texas_Aransas_Bay_Bag_Seine	Station_95_Date_09JAN1997:14:3	0.0	0.6
2	US	Texas	TPWD_HARC_Texas_Aransas_Bay_Bag_Seine	Station_95_Date_18AUG2000:11:0	0.1	0.5
3	US	Texas	TPWD_HARC_Texas_Aransas_Bay_Bag_Seine	Station_96_Date_28JUN2005:08:4	0.4	0.6
4	US	Texas	TPWD_HARC_Texas_Aransas_Bay_Bag_Seine	Station_96_Date_23AUG2006:11:4	0.2	0.4
5	US	Texas	TPWD_HARC_Texas_Aransas_Bay_Bag_Seine	Station_96_Date_17OCT2006:14:2	0.7	0.8
6	US	Texas	TPWD_HARC_Texas_Aransas_Bay_Bag_Seine	Station_96_Date_19FEB1996:10:2	0.1	0.3
7	US	Texas	TPWD_HARC_Texas_Aransas_Bay_Bag_Seine	Station_96_Date_11JUN2001:14:1	0.4	0.5
8	US	Texas	TPWD_HARC_Texas_Aransas_Bay_Bag_Seine	Station_96_Date_16MAR1992:09:4	0.0	0.4
9	US	Texas	TPWD_HARC_Texas_Aransas_Bay_Bag_Seine	Station_96_Date_25SEP1996:11:2	0.3	0.7
10	US	Texas	TPWD_HARC_Texas_Aransas_Bay_Bag_Seine	Station_96_Date_08MAY1997:13:2	0.4	0.6

For this dataset there was a start timestamp and end timestamp that we can use to identify the sampling effort which can be really valuable information for downstream users when trying to reuse data from multiple projects.

```
## Calculate duration of bag seine event
event$samplingEffort <- ""
for (i in 1:nrow(event)){
  event[i,]$samplingEffort <- abs(lubridate::as.duration(event[i,]$CompDate - event[i,]$StartDate))
}
event$samplingEffort <- paste(event$samplingEffort, "seconds", sep = " ")
```

Finally there were a few columns that were a direct match to a Darwin Core term and therefore just need to be renamed to follow the standard.

```
event <- event %>%
  rename(samplingProtocol = Gear_Type,
         locality = Estuary,
         waterBody = SubBay,
         decimalLatitude = Latitude,
         decimalLongitude = Longitude,
         sampleSizeValue = surface_area_num,
         eventDate = CompDate)
```

### 2.1.3 Occurrence file

The next file we need to create is the **Occurrence** file. This file includes all the information about the species that were observed. An occurrence in Darwin Core is the intersection of an organism at a time and a place. We have already done the work to identify the time and place in the event file so we don't need to do that again here. What we do need to is identify all the information about the organisms. Another piece of information that goes in here is basisOfRecord which is a required field and has a controlled vocabulary. For the data we work with you'll usually put **HumanObservation** or **MachineObservation**. If it's eDNA data you'll use **MaterialSample**. If your data are part of a museum collection you'll use **PreservedSpecimen**.

Important to note that there is overlap in the Darwin Core terms that "allowed" to be in the event file and in the occurrence file. This is because data can be submitted as "Occurrence Only" where you don't have a separate event file. In that case, the location and date information will need to be included in the occurrence file. Since we are formatting this dataset as a sampling event we will not include location and date information in the occurrence file. To see all the Darwin Core terms that can go in the occurrence file go here <https://tools.gbif.org/dwca-validator/extension.do?id=dwc:occurrence>.

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This dataset in its original format is in “wide format”. All that means is that data that we would expect to be encoded as values in the rows are instead column headers. We have to pull all the scientific names out of the column headers and turn them into actual values in the data.

```
occurrence <- melt(BagSeine, id=1:47, measure=48:109, variable.name="vernacularName", value.name=
```

You’ll notice when we did that step we went from 5481 obs (or rows) in the data to 334341 obs. We went from wide to long.

```
dim(BagSeine)
[1] 5481 109
dim(occurrence)
[1] 334341 49
```

Now as with the event file we have several pieces of information that need to be added or changed to make sure the data are following Darwin Core. We always want to include as much information as possible to make the data as reusable as possible.

```
occurrence <- occurrence %>%
  mutate(vernacularName = gsub("\\\\.", ' ', vernacularName),
         eventID = paste("Station", station_code, "Date", completion_dttm, sep = "_"),
         occurrenceStatus = ifelse(relativeAbundance == 0, "Absent", "Present"),
         basisOfRecord = "HumanObservation",
         organismQuantityType = "Relative Abundance",
         collectionCode = paste(Bay, Gear_Type, sep = " "))
```

We will match the taxa list with our occurrence file data to bring in the taxonomic information that we pulled from WoRMS. To save time you’ll just import the processed taxa list which includes the taxonomic hierarchy and the required term scientificNameID which is one of the most important pieces of information to include for OBIS.

```
taxaList <- read.csv("https://www.sciencebase.gov/catalog/file/get/53a887f4e4b075096c60cfdd?f=__d
## Merge taxaList with occurrence
occurrence <- merge(occurrence, taxaList, by = "vernacularName", all.x = T)
## Test that all the vernacularNames found a match in taxaList_updated
Hmisc::describe(occurrence$scientificNameID)
      n missing distinct
334341      0       61

lowest : urn:lsid:marinespecies.org:taxname:105792 urn:lsid:marinespecies.org:taxname:107034 urn:
highest: urn:lsid:marinespecies.org:taxname:367528 urn:lsid:marinespecies.org:taxname:396707 urn:
```

For that last line of code we are expecting to see no missing values for `scientificNameID`. Every row in the file should have a value in `scientificNameID` which should be a WoRMS LSID that look like this `urn:lsid:marinespecies.org:taxname:144531`

We need to create a unique ID for each row in the occurrence file. This is known as the `occurrenceID` and is a required term. The `occurrenceID` needs to be globally unique and needs to be permanent and kept in place if any updates to the dataset are made. You should not create brand new `occurrenceIDs` when you update a dataset. To facilitate this I like to build the `occurrenceID` from pieces of information available in the dataset to create a unique ID for each row in the occurrence file. For this dataset I used the `eventID` (Station + Date) plus the scientific name. This only works if there is only one scientific name per station per date so if you have different ages or sexes of species at the same station and date this method of creating the `occurrenceID` won't work for you.

```
occurrence$occurrenceID <- paste(occurrence$eventID, gsub(" ", "_", occurrence$scientificNameID), occurrence[1,]$occurrenceID)
[1] "Station_95_Date_09JAN1997:14:35:00.000_Atractosteus_spatula"
```

For the occurrence file we only have one column to rename. We could have avoided this step if we had named it `organismQuantity` up above but I kept this to remind me what the data providers had called this.

```
occurrence <- occurrence %>%
  rename(organismQuantity = relativeAbundance)
```

### 2.1.4 Extended Measurement or Fact extension file

The final file we are going to create is the **Extended Measurement or Fact extension (emof)**. This is a bit like a catch all for any measurements or facts that are not captured in Darwin Core. Darwin Core does not have terms for things like temperature, salinity, gear type, cruise number, length, weight, etc. We are going to create a long format file where each of these is a set of rows in the extended measurement or fact file. You can find all the terms in this extension here <https://tools.gbif.org/dwca-validator/extension.do?id=http://rs.iobis.org/obis/terms/ExtendedMeasurementOrFact>.

OBIS uses the BODC NERC Vocabulary Server to provide explicit definitions for each of the measurements [https://vocab.nerc.ac.uk/search\\_nvs/](https://vocab.nerc.ac.uk/search_nvs/).

For this dataset I was only able to find code definitions provided by the data providers for some of the measurements. I included the ones that I was able to find code definitions and left out any that I couldn't find those for. The ones I was able to find code definitions for were `Total.Of.Samples_Count`, `gear_size`, `start_wind_speed_num`, `start_barometric_pressure_num`,

## 2.1. ALIGNING DATA TO DARWIN CORE - EVENT CORE WITH EXTENDED MEASUREMENT OR FACT15

start\_temperature\_num, start\_salinity\_num, start\_dissolved\_oxygen\_num.  
All the others I left out.

```
totalOfSamples <- event[c("Total.Of.Samples_Count", "eventID")]
totalOfSamples <- totalOfSamples[which(!is.na(totalOfSamples$Total.Of.Samples_Count)),]
totalOfSamples <- totalOfSamples %>%
  mutate(measurementType = "Total number of samples used to calculate relative abundance",
         measurementUnit = "",
         measurementTypeID = "",
         measurementUnitID = "",
         occurrenceID = "") %>%
  rename(measurementValue = Total.Of.Samples_Count)

gear_size <- event[c("gear_size", "eventID")]
gear_size <- gear_size[which(!is.na(gear_size$gear_size)),]
gear_size <- gear_size %>%
  mutate(measurementType = "gear size",
         measurementUnit = "meters",
         measurementTypeID = "http://vocab.nerc.ac.uk/collection/P01/current/MTHAREA1/",
         measurementUnitID = "http://vocab.nerc.ac.uk/collection/P06/current/ULAA/",
         occurrenceID = "") %>%
  rename(measurementValue = gear_size)

start_wind_speed_num <- event[c("start_wind_speed_num", "eventID")]
start_wind_speed_num <- start_wind_speed_num[which(!is.na(start_wind_speed_num$start_wind_speed_num)),]
start_wind_speed_num <- start_wind_speed_num %>%
  mutate(measurementType = "wind speed",
         measurementUnit = "not provided",
         measurementTypeID = "http://vocab.nerc.ac.uk/collection/P01/current/EWSBZZ01/",
         measurementUnitID = "",
         occurrenceID = "") %>%
  rename(measurementValue = start_wind_speed_num)

start_barometric_pressure_num <- event[c("start_barometric_pressure_num", "eventID")]
start_barometric_pressure_num <- start_barometric_pressure_num[which(!is.na(start_barometric_pressure_num$start_barometric_pressure_num)),]
start_barometric_pressure_num <- start_barometric_pressure_num %>%
  mutate(measurementType = "barometric pressure",
         measurementUnit = "not provided",
         measurementTypeID = "http://vocab.nerc.ac.uk/collection/P07/current/CFSN0015/",
         measurementUnitID = "",
         occurrenceID = "") %>%
  rename(measurementValue = start_barometric_pressure_num)

start_temperature_num <- event[c("start_temperature_num", "eventID")]
start_temperature_num <- start_temperature_num[which(!is.na(start_temperature_num$start_temperature_num)),]
start_temperature_num <- start_temperature_num %>%
```

```

mutate(measurementType = "water temperature",
       measurementUnit = "Celsius",
       measurementTypeID = "http://vocab.nerc.ac.uk/collection/P01/current/TEMPPR01/",
       measurementUnitID = "http://vocab.nerc.ac.uk/collection/P06/current/UPAA/",
       occurrenceID = "") %>%
rename(measurementValue = start_temperature_num)

start_salinity_num <- event[c("start_salinity_num", "eventID")]
start_salinity_num <- start_salinity_num[which(!is.na(start_salinity_num$start_salinity_num))]
start_salinity_num <- start_salinity_num %>%
  mutate(measurementType = "salinity",
         measurementUnit = "ppt",
         measurementTypeID = "http://vocab.nerc.ac.uk/collection/P01/current/ODSDM021/",
         measurementUnitID = "http://vocab.nerc.ac.uk/collection/P06/current/UPPT/",
         occurrenceID = "") %>%
  rename(measurementValue = start_salinity_num)

start_dissolved_oxygen_num <- event[c("start_dissolved_oxygen_num", "eventID")]
start_dissolved_oxygen_num <- start_dissolved_oxygen_num[which(!is.na(start_dissolved_oxygen_num$start_dissolved_oxygen_num))]
start_dissolved_oxygen_num <- start_dissolved_oxygen_num %>%
  mutate(measurementType = "dissolved oxygen",
         measurementUnit = "ppm",
         measurementTypeID = "http://vocab.nerc.ac.uk/collection/P09/current/DOX2/",
         measurementUnitID = "http://vocab.nerc.ac.uk/collection/P06/current/UPPM/",
         occurrenceID = "") %>%
  rename(measurementValue = start_dissolved_oxygen_num)

alternate_station_code <- event[c("alternate_station_code", "eventID")]
alternate_station_code <- alternate_station_code[which(!is.na(alternate_station_code$alternate_station_code))]
alternate_station_code <- alternate_station_code %>%
  mutate(measurementType = "alternate station code",
         measurementUnit = "",
         measurementTypeID = "",
         measurementUnitID = "",
         occurrenceID = "") %>%
  rename(measurementValue = alternate_station_code)

organismQuantity <- occurrence[c("organismQuantity", "eventID", "occurrenceID")]
organismQuantity <- organismQuantity[which(!is.na(organismQuantity$organismQuantity))]
organismQuantity <- organismQuantity %>%
  mutate(measurementType = "relative abundance",
         measurementUnit = "",
         measurementTypeID = "http://vocab.nerc.ac.uk/collection/S06/current/S0600020/",
         measurementUnitID = "") %>%
  rename(measurementValue = organismQuantity)

```



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```
# Bind the separate measurements together into one file
mof <- rbind(totalOfSamples, start_barometric_pressure_num, start_dissolved_oxygen_num,
             start_salinity_num, start_temperature_num, start_wind_speed_num, gear_size,
             alternate_station_code, organismQuantity)

head(mof)
  measurementValue          eventID
1          18 Station_95_Date_09JAN1997:14:35:00.000
2         103 Station_95_Date_18AUG2000:11:02:00.000
3         401 Station_96_Date_28JUN2005:08:41:00.000
4          35 Station_96_Date_23AUG2006:11:47:00.000
5          57 Station_96_Date_17OCT2006:14:23:00.000
6           5 Station_96_Date_19FEB1996:10:27:00.000

                                     measurementType measurementUnit measurementTypeID
1 Total number of samples used to calculate relative abundance
2 Total number of samples used to calculate relative abundance
3 Total number of samples used to calculate relative abundance
4 Total number of samples used to calculate relative abundance
5 Total number of samples used to calculate relative abundance
6 Total number of samples used to calculate relative abundance
  measurementUnitID occurrenceID
1
2
3
4
5
6
tail(mof)
  measurementValue          eventID          measurementType measurementUnitID
334336    0.000000 Station_217_Date_03APR2003:13:28:00.000 relative abundance
334337    0.000000 Station_217_Date_24FEB2006:10:12:00.000 relative abundance
334338    0.1428571 Station_217_Date_23JUN2001:12:28:00.000 relative abundance
334339    0.000000 Station_212_Date_23MAY1990:10:43:00.000 relative abundance
334340    0.1224490 Station_212_Date_24JUL1990:09:34:00.000 relative abundance
334341    0.000000 Station_212_Date_21MAR2001:11:52:00.000 relative abundance
                                     measurementTypeID measurementUnitID
334336 http://vocab.nerc.ac.uk/collection/S06/current/S0600020/
334337 http://vocab.nerc.ac.uk/collection/S06/current/S0600020/
334338 http://vocab.nerc.ac.uk/collection/S06/current/S0600020/
334339 http://vocab.nerc.ac.uk/collection/S06/current/S0600020/
334340 http://vocab.nerc.ac.uk/collection/S06/current/S0600020/
334341 http://vocab.nerc.ac.uk/collection/S06/current/S0600020/
                                     occurrenceID
334336 Station_217_Date_03APR2003:13:28:00.000_Litopenaeus_setiferus
334337 Station_217_Date_24FEB2006:10:12:00.000_Litopenaeus_setiferus
334338 Station_217_Date_23JUN2001:12:28:00.000_Litopenaeus_setiferus
```

```

334339 Station_212_Date_23MAY1990:10:43:00.000_Litopenaeus_setiferus
334340 Station_212_Date_24JUL1990:09:34:00.000_Litopenaeus_setiferus
334341 Station_212_Date_21MAR2001:11:52:00.000_Litopenaeus_setiferus

# Write out the file
write.csv(mof, file = (paste0(event[1,]$datasetID, "_mof_", lubridate::today(), ".csv")))

```

### 2.1.5 Cleaning up Event and Occurrence files

Now that we have all of our files created we can clean up the **Event** and **Occurrence** files to remove the columns that are not following Darwin Core. We had to leave the extra bits in before because we needed them to create the **emof** file above.

```

event <- event[c("samplingProtocol", "locality", "waterBody", "decimalLatitude", "decimalLongitude",
                 "eventDate", "sampleSizeValue", "minimumDepthInMeters",
                 "maximumDepthInMeters", "type", "modified", "language", "license", "institutionCode",
                 "ownerInstitutionCode", "coordinateUncertaintyInMeters",
                 "geodeticDatum", "georeferenceProtocol", "country", "countryCode", "state",
                 "datasetID", "eventID", "sampleSizeUnit", "samplingEffort")]

head(event)

```

	samplingProtocol	locality	waterBody	decimalLatitude	decimalLongitude
1	Bag Seine Mission-Aransas Estuary	Aransas Bay	28.13472	-97.00833	
2	Bag Seine Mission-Aransas Estuary	Aransas Bay	28.13528	-97.00722	
3	Bag Seine Mission-Aransas Estuary	Aransas Bay	28.13444	-96.99611	
4	Bag Seine Mission-Aransas Estuary	Aransas Bay	28.13444	-96.99611	
5	Bag Seine Mission-Aransas Estuary	Aransas Bay	28.13444	-96.99611	
6	Bag Seine Mission-Aransas Estuary	Aransas Bay	28.13472	-96.99583	

```

      eventDate sampleSizeValue minimumDepthInMeters maximumDepthInMeters type
1 1997-01-09 14:35:00          0.03                0.0                0.6 Event
2 2000-08-18 11:02:00          0.03                0.1                0.5 Event
3 2005-06-28 08:41:00          0.03                0.4                0.6 Event
4 2006-08-23 11:47:00          0.03                0.2                0.4 Event
5 2006-10-17 14:23:00          0.03                0.7                0.8 Event
6 1996-02-19 10:27:00          0.03                0.1                0.3 Event

```

	license	institutionCode	ownerInst.
1	http://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/legalcode	TPWD	
2	http://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/legalcode	TPWD	
3	http://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/legalcode	TPWD	
4	http://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/legalcode	TPWD	
5	http://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/legalcode	TPWD	
6	http://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/legalcode	TPWD	

```

      coordinateUncertaintyInMeters geodeticDatum georeferenceProtocol country countryCode
1                100                WGS84                Handheld GPS United States

```

## 2.1. ALIGNING DATA TO DARWIN CORE - EVENT CORE WITH EXTENDED MEASUREMENT OR FACT19

```

2          100      WGS84      Handheld GPS United States      US
3          100      WGS84      Handheld GPS United States      US
4          100      WGS84      Handheld GPS United States      US
5          100      WGS84      Handheld GPS United States      US
6          100      WGS84      Handheld GPS United States      US

      datasetID      eventID sampleSizeUnit
1 TPWD_HARC_Texas_Aransas_Bay_Bag_Seine Station_95_Date_09JAN1997:14:35:00.000      hectares
2 TPWD_HARC_Texas_Aransas_Bay_Bag_Seine Station_95_Date_18AUG2000:11:02:00.000      hectares
3 TPWD_HARC_Texas_Aransas_Bay_Bag_Seine Station_96_Date_28JUN2005:08:41:00.000      hectares
4 TPWD_HARC_Texas_Aransas_Bay_Bag_Seine Station_96_Date_23AUG2006:11:47:00.000      hectares
5 TPWD_HARC_Texas_Aransas_Bay_Bag_Seine Station_96_Date_17OCT2006:14:23:00.000      hectares
6 TPWD_HARC_Texas_Aransas_Bay_Bag_Seine Station_96_Date_19FEB1996:10:27:00.000      hectares

      samplingEffort
1      120 seconds
2      120 seconds
3      120 seconds
4      120 seconds
5      120 seconds
6      120 seconds

write.csv(event, file = paste0(event[1,]$datasetID, "_event_", lubridate::today(), ".csv"), fileEn

occurrence <- occurrence[c("vernacularName", "eventID", "occurrenceStatus", "basisOfRecord",
      "scientificName", "scientificNameID", "kingdom", "phylum", "class",
      "order", "family", "genus",
      "scientificNameAuthorship", "taxonRank", "organismQuantity",
      "organismQuantityType", "occurrenceID", "collectionCode")]

head(occurrence)
      vernacularName      eventID occurrenceStatus      basisOfRecord
1 Alligator gar Station_95_Date_09JAN1997:14:35:00.000      Absent HumanObservation
2 Alligator gar Station_95_Date_18AUG2000:11:02:00.000      Absent HumanObservation
3 Alligator gar Station_96_Date_28JUN2005:08:41:00.000      Absent HumanObservation
4 Alligator gar Station_96_Date_23AUG2006:11:47:00.000      Absent HumanObservation
5 Alligator gar Station_96_Date_17OCT2006:14:23:00.000      Absent HumanObservation
6 Alligator gar Station_96_Date_19FEB1996:10:27:00.000      Absent HumanObservation

      scientificName      scientificNameID      kingdom      phylum      class
1 Atractosteus spatula urn:lsid:marinespecies.org:taxname:279822      Animalia      Chordata      Actinopteri
2 Atractosteus spatula urn:lsid:marinespecies.org:taxname:279822      Animalia      Chordata      Actinopteri
3 Atractosteus spatula urn:lsid:marinespecies.org:taxname:279822      Animalia      Chordata      Actinopteri
4 Atractosteus spatula urn:lsid:marinespecies.org:taxname:279822      Animalia      Chordata      Actinopteri
5 Atractosteus spatula urn:lsid:marinespecies.org:taxname:279822      Animalia      Chordata      Actinopteri
6 Atractosteus spatula urn:lsid:marinespecies.org:taxname:279822      Animalia      Chordata      Actinopteri

      order      family      genus      scientificNameAuthorship      taxonRank      organismQuantity
1 Lepisosteiformes      Lepisosteidae      Atractosteus      (Lacepède, 1803)      Species      0
2 Lepisosteiformes      Lepisosteidae      Atractosteus      (Lacepède, 1803)      Species      0

```

```

3 Lepisosteiformes Lepisosteidae Atractosteus      (Lacepède, 1803) Species
4 Lepisosteiformes Lepisosteidae Atractosteus      (Lacepède, 1803) Species
5 Lepisosteiformes Lepisosteidae Atractosteus      (Lacepède, 1803) Species
6 Lepisosteiformes Lepisosteidae Atractosteus      (Lacepède, 1803) Species
  organismQuantityType                                     occurrenceID
1 Relative Abundance Station_95_Date_09JAN1997:14:35:00.000_Atractosteus_spatula Aran
2 Relative Abundance Station_95_Date_18AUG2000:11:02:00.000_Atractosteus_spatula Aran
3 Relative Abundance Station_96_Date_28JUN2005:08:41:00.000_Atractosteus_spatula Aran
4 Relative Abundance Station_96_Date_23AUG2006:11:47:00.000_Atractosteus_spatula Aran
5 Relative Abundance Station_96_Date_17OCT2006:14:23:00.000_Atractosteus_spatula Aran
6 Relative Abundance Station_96_Date_19FEB1996:10:27:00.000_Atractosteus_spatula Aran

write.csv(occurrence, file = paste0(event[1,]$datasetID, "_occurrence_",lubridate::today

```

## 2.2 Salmon Ocean Ecology Data

### 2.2.1 Intro

One of the goals of the Hakai Institute and the Canadian Integrated Ocean Observing System (CIOOS) is to facilitate Open Science and FAIR (findable, accessible, interoperable, reusable) ecological and oceanographic data. In a concerted effort to adopt or establish how best to do that, several Hakai and CIOOS staff attended an International Ocean Observing System (IOOS) Code Sprint in Ann Arbor, Michigan between October 7–11, 2019, to discuss how to implement FAIR data principles for biological data collected in the marine environment.

The Darwin Core is a highly structured data format that standardizes data table relations, vocabularies, and defines field names. The Darwin Core defines three table types: **event**, **occurrence**, and **measurementOrFact**. This intuitively captures the way most ecologists conduct their research. Typically, a survey (event) is conducted and measurements, counts, or observations (collectively measurementOrFacts) are made regarding a specific habitat or species (occurrence).

In the following script I demonstrate how I go about converting a subset of the data collected from the Hakai Institute Juvenile Salmon Program and discuss challenges, solutions, pros and cons, and when and what's worthwhile to convert to Darwin Core.

The conversion of a dataset to Darwin Core is much easier if your data are already tidy (normalized) in which you represent your data in separate tables that reflect the hierarchical and related nature of your observations. If your data are not already in a consistent and structured format, the conversion would likely be very arduous and not intuitive.

### 2.2.2 event

The first step is to consider what you will define as an event in your data set. I defined the capture of fish using a purse seine net as the **event**. Therefore, each row in the **event** table is one deployment of a seine net and is assigned a unique **eventID**.

My process for conversion was to make a new table called **event** and map the standard Darwin Core column names to pre-existing columns that serve the same purpose in my original **seine\_data** table and populate the other required fields.

```
event <- tibble(eventID = survey_seines$seine_id,
               eventDate = date(survey_seines$survey_date),
               decimalLatitude = survey_seines$lat,
               decimalLongitude = survey_seines$long,
               geodeticDatum = "EPSG:4326 WGS84",
               minimumDepthInMeters = 0,
               maximumDepthInMeters = 9, # seine depth is 9 m
               samplingProtocol = "http://dx.doi.org/10.21966/1.566666" # This is the DOI for the
            )

write_csv(event, here::here("datasets", "hakai_salmon_data", "event.csv"))
```

### 2.2.3 occurrence

Next you'll want to determine what constitutes an occurrence for your data set. Because each event captures fish, I consider each fish to be an occurrence. Therefore, the unit of observation (each row) in the occurrence table is a fish. To link each occurrence to an event you need to include the **eventID** column for every occurrence so that you know what seine (event) each fish (occurrence) came from. You must also provide a globally unique identifier for each occurrence. I already have a locally unique identifier for each fish in the original **fish\_data** table called **ufn**. To make it globally unique I pre-pend the organization and research program metadata to the **ufn** column.

```
#TODO: Include bycatch data as well

## make table long first
seines_total_long <- survey_seines %>%
  select(seine_id, so_total, pi_total, cu_total, co_total, he_total, ck_total) %>%
  pivot_longer(-seine_id, names_to = "scientificName", values_to = "n")

seines_total_long$scientificName <- recode(seines_total_long$scientificName, so_total = "Oncorhynchus")
```

```

seines_taken_long <- survey_seines %>%
  select(seine_id, so_taken, pi_taken, cu_taken, co_taken, he_taken, ck_taken) %>%
  pivot_longer(-seine_id, names_to = "scientificName", values_to = "n_taken")

seines_taken_long$scientificName <- recode(seines_taken_long$scientificName, so_taken = "Oncorhynchus nerka",
  pi_taken = "Sebastes melanops", cu_taken = "Sebastes melanops", co_taken = "Sebastes melanops",
  he_taken = "Sebastes melanops", ck_taken = "Sebastes melanops")

## remove records that have already been assigned an ID
seines_long <- full_join(seines_total_long, seines_taken_long, by = c("seine_id", "scientificName")) %>%
  drop_na() %>%
  mutate(n_not_taken = n - n_taken) %>% #so_total includes the number taken so I subtract
  select(-n_taken, -n) %>%
  filter(n_not_taken > 0)

all_fish_caught <-
  seines_long[rep(seq.int(1, nrow(seines_long)), seines_long$n_not_taken), 1:3] %>%
  select(-n_not_taken) %>%
  mutate(prefix = "hakai-jsp-",
         suffix = 1:nrow(.),
         occurrenceID = paste0(prefix, suffix))
  ) %>%
  select(-prefix, -suffix)

#

# Change species names to full Scientific names
latin <- fct_recode(fish_data$species, "Oncorhynchus nerka" = "SO", "Oncorhynchus gorbuscha" = "GO",
  as.character())

fish_retained_data <- fish_data %>%
  mutate(scientificName = latin) %>%
  select(-species) %>%
  mutate(prefix = "hakai-jsp-",
         occurrenceID = paste0(prefix, ufn)) %>%
  select(-semsp_id, -prefix, -ufn, -fork_length_field, -fork_length, -weight, -weight_field)

occurrence <- bind_rows(all_fish_caught, fish_retained_data) %>%
  mutate(basisOfRecord = "HumanObservation",
         occurrenceStatus = "present") %>%
  rename(eventID = seine_id)

```

For each occurrence of the six different fish species that I caught I need to match the species name that I provide with the official `scientificName` that is part of the World Register of Marine Species database <http://www.marinespecies.org/>

```
# I went directly to the WoRMS website (http://www.marinespecies.org/) to download the full taxonomy
species_matched <- readxl::read_excel(here::here("datasets", "hakai_salmon_data", "raw_data", "species_matched.xlsx"))
occurrence <- left_join(occurrence, species_matched, by = c("scientificName" = "ScientificName"))
  select(occurrenceID, basisOfRecord, scientificName, eventID, occurrenceStatus = occurrenceStatus)
write_csv(occurrence, here::here("datasets", "hakai_salmon_data", "occurrence.csv"))
```

### 2.2.4 measurementOrFact

To convert all your measurements or facts from your normal format to Darwin Core you essentially need to put all your measurements into one column called `measurementType` and a corresponding column called `MeasurementValue`. This standardizes the column names are in the `measurementOrFact` table. There are a number of predefined `measurementTypes` listed on the NERC database that should be used where possible. I found it difficult to navigate this page to find the correct `measurementType`.

Here I convert length, and weight measurements that relate to an event and an occurrence and call those `measurementTypes` as `length` and `weight`.

```
fish_data$weight <- coalesce(fish_data$weight, fish_data$weight_field)
fish_data$fork_length <- coalesce(fish_data$fork_length, fish_data$fork_length_field)

fish_length <- fish_data %>%
  mutate(occurrenceID = paste0("hakai-jsp-", ufn)) %>%
  select(occurrenceID, eventID = seine_id, fork_length, weight) %>%
  mutate(measurementType = "fork length", measurementValue = fork_length) %>%
  select(eventID, occurrenceID, measurementType, measurementValue) %>%
  mutate(measurementUnit = "millimeters",
         measurementUnitID = "http://vocab.nerc.ac.uk/collection/P06/current/UXMM/")

fish_weight <- fish_data %>%
  mutate(occurrenceID = paste0("hakai-jsp-", ufn)) %>%
  select(occurrenceID, eventID = seine_id, fork_length, weight) %>%
  mutate(measurementType = "mass", measurementValue = weight) %>%
  select(eventID, occurrenceID, measurementType, measurementValue) %>%
  mutate(measurementUnit = "grams",
         measurementUnitID = "http://vocab.nerc.ac.uk/collection/P06/current/UGRM/")

measurementOrFact <- bind_rows(fish_length, fish_weight) %>%
  drop_na(measurementValue)
```

```
rm(fish_length, fish_weight)

write_csv(measurementOrFact, here::here("datasets", "hakai_salmon_data", "measurement0
```

## 2.3 Hakai Seagrass

### 2.3.1 Setup

This section clears the workspace, checks the working directory, and installs packages (if required) and loads packages, and loads necessary datasets

```
library("knitr")
# Knitr global chunk options
opts_chunk$set(message = FALSE,
                warning = FALSE,
                error   = FALSE)
```

#### 2.3.1.1 Load Data

First load the seagrass density survey data, set variable classes, and have a quick look

```
# Load density data
seagrassDensity <-
  read.csv("raw_data/seagrass_density_survey.csv",
           colClass = "character") %>%
  mutate(date           = ymd(date),
         depth          = as.numeric(depth),
         transect_dist  = factor(transect_dist),
         collected_start = ymd_hms(collected_start),
         collected_end   = ymd_hms(collected_end),
         density         = as.numeric(density),
         density_msq     = as.numeric(density_msq),
         canopy_height_cm = as.numeric(canopy_height_cm),
         flowering_shoots = as.numeric(flowering_shoots)) %T>%
  glimpse()
```

```
## Rows: 3,031
## Columns: 22
## $ X              <chr> "1", "2", "3", "4", "5", "6", "7", "8", "9", "10", "1~
## $ organization   <chr> "HAKAI", "HAKAI", "HAKAI", "HAKAI", "HAKAI", "HAKAI",~
## $ work_area       <chr> "CALVERT", "CALVERT", "CALVERT", "CALVERT", "CALVERT"~
```



```
## $ project      <chr> "MARINEGEO", "MARINEGEO", "MARINEGEO", "MARINEGEO", "~
## $ survey       <chr> "PRUTH_BAY", "PRUTH_BAY", "PRUTH_BAY", "PRUTH_BAY", "~
## $ site_id      <chr> "PRUTH_BAY_INTERIOR4", "PRUTH_BAY_INTERIOR4", "PRUTH_~
## $ date         <date> 2016-05-13, 2016-05-13, 2016-05-13, 2016-05-13, 2016~
## $ sampling_bout <chr> "4", "4", "4", "4", "4", "4", "6", "6", "6", "6"~
## $ dive_supervisor <chr> "Zach", "Zach", "Zach", "Zach", "Zach", "Zach", "Zach", "Zach~
## $ collector     <chr> "Derek", "Derek", "Derek", "Derek", "Derek", "Derek", "~
## $ hakai_id      <chr> "2016-05-13_PRUTH_BAY_INTERIOR4_0", "2016-05-13_PRUTH~
## $ sample_type   <chr> "seagrass_density", "seagrass_density", "seagrass_den~
## $ depth         <dbl> 6.0, 6.0, 6.0, 6.0, 5.0, 6.0, 6.0, 9.1, 9.0, 8.9, 9.0~
## $ transect_dist <fct> 0, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 0, 5, 1~
## $ collected_start <dtm> NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, ~
## $ collected_end  <dtm> NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, ~
## $ density       <dbl> 13, 10, 18, 22, 16, 31, 9, 5, 6, 6, 6, 3, 13, 30, 23,~
## $ density_msq    <dbl> 208, 160, 288, 352, 256, 496, 144, 80, 96, 96, 96, 48~
## $ canopy_height_cm <dbl> 60, 63, 80, 54, 55, 50, 63, 85, 80, 90, 95, 75, 60, 6~
## $ flowering_shoots <dbl> NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, NA, NA, NA~
## $ comments      <chr> NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, N~
## $ quality_log    <chr> NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, N~
```

Next, load the habitat survey data, and same as above, set variable classes as necessary, and have a quick look.

```
# load habitat data, set variable classes, have a quick look
seagrassHabitat <-
  read.csv("raw_data/seagrass_habitat_survey.csv",
    colClasses = "character") %>%
  mutate(date       = ymd(date),
    depth          = as.numeric(depth),
    hakai_id       = str_pad(hakai_id, 5, pad = "0"),
    transect_dist  = factor(transect_dist),
    collected_start = ymd_hms(collected_start),
    collected_end   = ymd_hms(collected_end)) %T>%
  glimpse()
```

```
## Rows: 2,052
## Columns: 28
## $ X      <chr> "1", "2", "3", "4", "5", "6", "7", "8", "9", "10", "1~
## $ organization <chr> "HAKAI", "HAKAI", "HAKAI", "HAKAI", "HAKAI", "HAKAI",~
## $ work_area    <chr> "CALVERT", "CALVERT", "CALVERT", "CALVERT", "CALVERT"~
## $ project      <chr> "MARINEGEO", "MARINEGEO", "MARINEGEO", "MARINEGEO", "~
## $ survey       <chr> "CHOKED_PASS", "CHOKED_PASS", "CHOKED_PASS", "CHOKED_~
## $ site_id      <chr> "CHOKED_PASS_INTERIOR6", "CHOKED_PASS_INTERIOR6", "CH~
## $ date         <date> 2017-11-22, 2017-11-22, 2017-11-22, 2017-11-22, 2017~
## $ sampling_bout <chr> "6", "6", "6", "6", "6", "6", "1", "1", "1", "1", "1"~
```

```
## $ dive_supervisor <chr> "gillian", "gillian", "gillian", "gillian", "gillian"~
## $ collector <chr> "zach", "zach", "zach", "zach", "zach", "zach", "kyle"~
## $ hakai_id <chr> "10883", "2017-11-22_CHOKED_PASS_INTERIOR6_5 - 10", "~
## $ sample_type <chr> "seagrass_habitat", "seagrass_habitat", "seagrass_hab~
## $ depth <dbl> 9.2, 9.4, 9.3, 9.0, 9.2, 9.2, 3.4, 3.4, 3.4, 3.4, 3.4~
## $ transect_dist <fct> 0 - 5, 10-May, 15-Oct, 15 - 20, 20 - 25, 25 - 30, 0 --
## $ collected_start <dtm> NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, ~
## $ collected_end <dtm> NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, ~
## $ bag_uid <chr> "10883", NA, NA, "11094", NA, "11182", "7119", NA, "7~
## $ bag_number <chr> "3557", NA, NA, "3520", NA, "903", "800", NA, "318", ~
## $ density_range <chr> NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, N~
## $ substrate <chr> "sand,shell hash", "sand,shell hash", "sand,shell has~
## $ patchiness <chr> "< 1", "< 1", "02-Jan", "< 1", "< 1", "< 1", "< 1", "~
## $ adj_habitat_1 <chr> "seagrass", "seagrass", "seagrass", "seagrass", "seag~
## $ adj_habitat_2 <chr> NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, N~
## $ sample_collected <chr> "TRUE", "FALSE", "FALSE", "TRUE", "FALSE", "TRUE", "T~
## $ vegetation_1 <chr> NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, "des", NA, "des", NA, NA, NA, ~
## $ vegetation_2 <chr> NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, N~
## $ comments <chr> NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA~
## $ quality_log <chr> "1: Flowering shoots 0 for entire transects", NA, NA, ~
```

Finally, load coordinate data for surveys, and subset necessary variables

```
coordinates <-
  read.csv("raw_data/seagrassCoordinates.csv",
           colClass = c("Point.Name" = "character")) %>%
  select(Point.Name, Decimal.Lat, Decimal.Long) %T>%
  glimpse()
```

```
## Rows: 70
## Columns: 3
## $ Point.Name <chr> NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, N~
## $ Decimal.Lat <dbl> 52.06200, 52.05200, 51.92270, 51.92500, 51.80900, 51.8090~
## $ Decimal.Long <dbl> -128.4120, -128.4030, -128.4648, -128.4540, -128.2360, -1~
```

### 2.3.1.2 Merge Datasets

Now all the datasets have been loaded, and briefly formatted, we'll join together the habitat and density surveys, and the coordinates for these.

The seagrass density surveys collect data at discrete points (ie. 5 metres) along the transects, while the habitat surveys collect data over sections (ie. 0 - 5 metres) along the transects. In order to fit these two surveys together, we'll narrow the habitat surveys from a range to a point so the locations will match. Based on how the habitat data is collected, the point the habitat survey is

applied to will be the distance at the end of the swath (ie. 10-15m will become 15m). To account for no preceding distance, the 0m distance will use the 0-5m section of the survey.

First, we'll make the necessary transformations to the habitat dataset.

```
# Reformat seagrassHabitat to merge with seagrassDensity
## replicate 0 - 5m transect dist to match with 0m in density survey;
## rest of habitat bins can map one to one with density (ie. 5 - 10m -> 10m)
seagrass0tmp <-
  seagrassHabitat %>%
  filter(transect_dist %in% c("0 - 5", "0 - 2.5")) %>%
  mutate(transect_dist = factor(0))

## collapse various levels to match with seagrassDensity transect_dist
seagrassHabitat$transect_dist <-
  fct_collapse(seagrassHabitat$transect_dist,
    "5" = c("0 - 5", "2.5 - 7.5"),
    "10" = c("5 - 10", "7.5 - 12.5"),
    "15" = c("10 - 15", "12.5 - 17.5"),
    "20" = c("15 - 20", "17.5 - 22.5"),
    "25" = c("20 - 25", "22.5 - 27.5"),
    "30" = c("25 - 30", "27.5 - 30"))

## merge seagrass0tmp into seagrassHabitat to account for 0m samples,
## set class for date, datetime variables
seagrassHabitatFull <-
  rbind(seagrass0tmp, seagrassHabitat) %>%
  filter(transect_dist != "0 - 2.5") %>% # already captured in seagrass0tmp
  droplevels(.) # remove now unused factor levels
```

With the distances of habitat and density surveys now corresponding, we can now merge these two datasets plus their coordinates together, combine redundant fields, and remove unnecessary fields.

```
# Merge seagrassHabitatFull with seagrassDensity, then coordinates
seagrass <-
  full_join(seagrassHabitatFull, seagrassDensity,
    by = c("organization",
      "work_area",
      "project",
      "survey",
      "site_id",
      "date",
      "transect_dist")) %>%
  # merge hakai_id.x and hakai_id.y into single variable field;
```

```

# use combination of date, site_id, transect_dist, and field uid (hakai_id
# when present)
mutate(field_uid = ifelse(sample_collected == TRUE, hakai_id.x, "NA"),
       hakai_id = paste(date, "HAKAI:CALVERT", site_id, transect_dist, sep = ":"),
       # below, aggregate metadata that didn't merge naturally (ie. due to minor
       # differences in watch time or depth gauges)
       dive_supervisor = dive_supervisor.x,
       collected_start = ymd_hms(ifelse(is.na(collected_start.x),
                                       collected_start.y,
                                       collected_start.x)),
       collected_end   = ymd_hms(ifelse(is.na(collected_start.x),
                                       collected_start.y,
                                       collected_start.x)),
       depth_m         = ifelse(is.na(depth.x), depth.y, depth.x),
       sampling_bout    = sampling_bout.x) %>%
left_join(., coordinates, # add coordinates
         by = c("site_id" = "Point.Name")) %>%
select( - c(X.x, X.y, hakai_id.x, hakai_id.y, # remove unnecessary variables
           dive_supervisor.x, dive_supervisor.y,
           collected_start.x, collected_start.y,
           collected_end.x, collected_end.y,
           depth.x, depth.y,
           sampling_bout.x, sampling_bout.y)) %>%
mutate(density_msq = as.character(density_msq),
       canopy_height_cm = as.character(canopy_height_cm),
       flowering_shoots = as.character(flowering_shoots),
       depth_m = as.character(depth_m)) %T>%
glimpse()

```

```

## Rows: 3,743
## Columns: 38
## $ organization    <chr> "HAKAI", "HAKAI", "HAKAI", "HAKAI", "HAKAI", "HAKAI", ~
## $ work_area       <chr> "CALVERT", "CALVERT", "CALVERT", "CALVERT", "CALVERT"~
## $ project         <chr> "MARINEGEO", "MARINEGEO", "MARINEGEO", "MARINEGEO", "~
## $ survey          <chr> "CHOKED_PASS", "CHOKED_PASS", "CHOKED_PASS", "PRUTH_B~
## $ site_id         <chr> "CHOKED_PASS_INTERIOR6", "CHOKED_PASS_EDGE1", "CHOKED~
## $ date            <date> 2017-11-22, 2017-05-19, 2017-05-19, 2017-07-03, 2017~
## $ collector.x     <chr> "zach", "kyle", NA, "tanya", "zach", "zach", "zach", ~
## $ sample_type.x   <chr> "seagrass_habitat", "seagrass_habitat", "seagrass_hab~
## $ transect_dist   <fct> 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, ~
## $ bag_uid         <chr> "10883", "7119", "7031", "2352", "10255", "10023", "1~
## $ bag_number      <chr> "3557", "800", "301", "324", "3506", "3555", "3534", ~
## $ density_range   <chr> NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, N~
## $ substrate       <chr> "sand,shell hash", "sand,shell hash", "sand,shell has~
## $ patchiness      <chr> "< 1", "< 1", "< 1", "< 1", "< 1", "05-Apr", "04-Mar"~

```

```
## $ adj_habitat_1 <chr> "seagrass", "sand", "standing kelp", "seagrass", "sea-
## $ adj_habitat_2 <chr> NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, "standing kelp", NA, NA, NA, ~
## $ sample_collected <chr> "TRUE", "TRUE", "TRUE", "TRUE", "TRUE", "TRUE", "TRUE~
## $ vegetation_1 <chr> NA, "des", "des", "zm", "des", NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA~
## $ vegetation_2 <chr> NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, "NA~
## $ comments.x <chr> NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA~
## $ quality_log.x <chr> "1: Flowering shoots 0 for entire transects", NA, NA,~
## $ collector.y <chr> "derek", "ondine", "ondine", "derek", "derek", "derek~
## $ sample_type.y <chr> "seagrass_density", "seagrass_density", "seagrass_den~
## $ density <dbl> 4, 10, 6, 13, 6, 1, 2, 6, 21, 3, 7, 4, 3, 14, 17, 11,~
## $ density_msq <chr> "64", "160", "96", "208", "96", "16", "32", "96", "33~
## $ canopy_height_cm <chr> "80", "80", "110", "60", "125", "100", "100", "125", ~
## $ flowering_shoots <chr> "0", NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, "0", NA, NA, NA, "0", NA~
## $ comments.y <chr> NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA~
## $ quality_log.y <chr> NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA~
## $ field_uid <chr> "10883", "07119", "07031", "02352", "10255", "10023",~
## $ hakai_id <chr> "2017-11-22:HAKAI:CALVERT:CHOKED_PASS_INTERIOR6:0", "~
## $ dive_supervisor <chr> "gillian", "gillian,gillian.sadlierbrown", "gillian,g~
## $ collected_start <dtm> NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, ~
## $ collected_end <dtm> NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, ~
## $ depth_m <chr> "9.2", "3.4", "4.8", "2.4", "5.3", "5.6", "4.4", "2.5~
## $ sampling_bout <chr> "6", "1", "3", "5", "5", "3", "5", "2", "1", "2", "6"~
## $ Decimal.Lat <dbl> 51.67482, 51.67882, 51.67493, 51.64532, 51.67349, 51.~
## $ Decimal.Long <dbl> -128.1195, -128.1148, -128.1237, -128.1193, -128.1180~
```

### 2.3.2 Convert Data to Darwin Core - Extended Measurement or Fact format

The Darwin Core ExtendedMeasurementOrFact (eMoF) extension bases records around a core event (rather than occurrence as in standard Darwin Core), allowing for additional measurement variables to be associated with occurrence data.

#### 2.3.2.1 Add Event ID and Occurrence ID variables to dataset

As this dataset will be annually updated, rather than using natural keys (ie. using `package::uuid` to autogenerate) for event and occurrence IDs, here we will use surrogate keys made up of a concatenation of date survey, transect location, observation distance, and sample ID (for occurrenceID, when a sample is present).

```
# create and populate eventID variable
## currently only event is used, but additional surveys and abiotic data
## are associated with parent events that may be included at a later date
```

```

seagrass$eventID <- seagrass$hakai_id

# create and populate occurrenceID; combine eventID with transect_dist
# and field_uid
## in the event of <NA> field_uid, no sample was collected, but
## measurements and occurrence are still taken; no further subsamples
## are associated with <NA> field_uids
seagrass$occurrenceID <-
  with(seagrass,
    paste(eventID, transect_dist, field_uid, sep = ":"))

```

### 2.3.2.2 Create Event, Occurrence, and eMoF tables

Now that we've created eventIDs and occurrenceIDs to connect all the variables together, we can begin to create the Event, Occurrence, and extended Measurement or Fact table necessary for DarwinCore compliant datasets

```

# subset seagrass to create event table
seagrassEvent <-
  seagrass %>%
  distinct %>% # some duplicates in data stemming from database conflicts
  select(date,
    Decimal.Lat, Decimal.Long, transect_dist,
    depth_m, eventID) %>%
  rename(eventDate = date,
    decimalLatitude = Decimal.Lat,
    decimalLongitude = Decimal.Long,
    coordinateUncertaintyInMeters = transect_dist,
    minimumDepthInMeters = depth_m,
    maximumDepthInMeters = depth_m) %>%
  mutate(geodeticDatum = "WGS84",
    samplingEffort = "30 metre transect") %T>% glimpse

```

#### 2.3.2.2.1 Event Table

```

## Rows: 3,659
## Columns: 8
## $ eventDate          <date> 2017-11-22, 2017-05-19, 2017-05-19, 201~
## $ decimalLatitude    <dbl> 51.67482, 51.67882, 51.67493, 51.64532, ~
## $ decimalLongitude    <dbl> -128.1195, -128.1148, -128.1237, -128.11~
## $ coordinateUncertaintyInMeters <fct> 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0~

```

```
## $ maximumDepthInMeters      <chr> "9.2", "3.4", "4.8", "2.4", "5.3", "5.6"~
## $ eventID                    <chr> "2017-11-22:HAKAI:CALVERT:CHOKED_PASS_IN~
## $ geodeticDatum              <chr> "WGS84", "WGS84", "WGS84", "WGS84", "WGS~
## $ samplingEffort              <chr> "30 metre transect", "30 metre transect"~
```

```
# save event table to csv
write.csv(seagrassEvent, "processed_data/hakaiSeagrassDwcEvent.csv")
```

```
# subset seagrass to create occurrence table
seagrassOccurrence <-
  seagrass %>%
  distinct %>% # some duplicates in data stemming from database conflicts
  select(eventID, occurrenceID) %>%
  mutate(basisOfRecord = "HumanObservation",
         scientificName = "Zostera subg. Zostera marina",
         occurrenceStatus = "present")

# Taxonomic name matching
# in addition to the above metadata, DarwinCore format requires further
# taxonomic data that can be acquired through the WoRMS register.
## Load taxonomic info, downloaded via WoRMS tool
# zmWorms <-
#   read.delim("raw_data/zmworms_matched.txt",
#             header = TRUE,
#             nrows = 1)

zmWorms <- wm_record(id = 145795)

# join WoRMS name with seagrassOccurrence create above
seagrassOccurrence <-
  full_join(seagrassOccurrence, zmWorms,
            by = c("scientificName" = "scientificname")) %>%
  select(eventID, occurrenceID, basisOfRecord, scientificName, occurrenceStatus, AphiaID,
         url, authority, status, unacceptreason, taxonRankID, rank,
         valid_AphiaID, valid_name, valid_authority, parentNameUsageID,
         kingdom, phylum, class, order, family, genus, citation, lsid,
         isMarine, match_type, modified) %T>%
  glimpse
```

#### 2.3.2.2.2 Occurrence Table

```
## Rows: 3,659
```

```
## Columns: 27
## $ eventID <chr> "2017-11-22:HAKAI:CALVERT:CHOKED_PASS_INTERIOR6:0", ~
## $ occurrenceID <chr> "2017-11-22:HAKAI:CALVERT:CHOKED_PASS_INTERIOR6:0:0:~
## $ basisOfRecord <chr> "HumanObservation", "HumanObservation", "HumanObserv~
## $ scientificName <chr> "Zostera subg. Zostera marina", "Zostera subg. Zoste~
## $ occurrenceStatus <chr> "present", "present", "present", "present", "present~
## $ AphiaID <int> 145795, 145795, 145795, 145795, 145795, 145795, 1457~
## $ url <chr> "https://www.marinespecies.org/aphia.php?p=taxdetail~
## $ authority <chr> "Linnaeus, 1753", "Linnaeus, 1753", "Linnaeus, 1753"~
## $ status <chr> "accepted", "accepted", "accepted", "accepted", "acc~
## $ unacceptreason <lg1> NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, ~
## $ taxonRankID <int> 220, 220, 220, 220, 220, 220, 220, 220, 220, 22~
## $ rank <chr> "Species", "Species", "Species", "Species", "Species~
## $ valid_AphiaID <int> 145795, 145795, 145795, 145795, 145795, 1457~
## $ valid_name <chr> "Zostera subg. Zostera marina", "Zostera subg. Zoste~
## $ valid_authority <chr> "Linnaeus, 1753", "Linnaeus, 1753", "Linnaeus, 1753"~
## $ parentNameUsageID <int> 370435, 370435, 370435, 370435, 370435, 3704~
## $ kingdom <chr> "Plantae", "Plantae", "Plantae", "Plantae", "Plantae~
## $ phylum <chr> "Tracheophyta", "Tracheophyta", "Tracheophyta", "Tra~
## $ class <chr> "Magnoliopsida", "Magnoliopsida", "Magnoliopsida", "~
## $ order <chr> "Alismatales", "Alismatales", "Alismatales", "Alisma~
## $ family <chr> "Zosteraceae", "Zosteraceae", "Zosteraceae", "Zoster~
## $ genus <chr> "Zostera", "Zostera", "Zostera", "Zostera", "Zostera~
## $ citation <chr> "WoRMS (2022). Zostera subg. Zostera marina Linnaeus~
## $ lsid <chr> "urn:lsid:marinespecies.org:taxname:145795", "urn:ls~
## $ isMarine <int> 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1~
## $ match_type <chr> "exact", "exact", "exact", "exact", "exact", "exact"~
## $ modified <chr> "2008-12-09T10:03:16.140Z", "2008-12-09T10:03:16.140~
```

```
# save occurrence table to csv
write.csv(seagrassOccurrence, "processed_data/hakaiSeagrassDwcOccurrence.csv")
```

```
seagrassMof <-
  seagrass %>%
    # select variables for eMoF table
    select(date,
           eventID, survey, site_id, transect_dist,
           substrate, patchiness, adj_habitat_1, adj_habitat_2,
           vegetation_1, vegetation_2,
           density_msq, canopy_height_cm, flowering_shoots) %>%
    # split substrate into two variables (currently holds two substrate type in same var
    separate(substrate, sep = ",", into = c("substrate_1", "substrate_2")) %>%
    # change variables names to match NERC database (or to be more descriptive where non
```



```

rename(measurementDeterminedDate = date,
       SubstrateTypeA            = substrate_1,
       SubstrateTypeB            = substrate_2,
       BarePatchLengthWithinSeagrass = patchiness,
       PrimaryAdjacentHabitat      = adj_habitat_1,
       SecondaryAdjacentHabitat    = adj_habitat_2,
       PrimaryAlgaeSp              = vegetation_1,
       SecondaryAlgaeSp            = vegetation_2,
       BedAbund                    = density_msq,
       CanopyHeight                = canopy_height_cm,
       FloweringBedAbund           = flowering_shoots) %>%
# reformat variables into DwC MeasurementOrFact format
# (single values variable, with measurement type, unit, etc. variables)
pivot_longer( ~ c(measurementDeterminedDate, eventID, survey, site_id, transect_dist),
             names_to = "measurementType",
             values_to = "measurementValue",
             values_ptypes = list(measurementValue = "character")) %>%
# use measurement type to fill in remainder of variables relating to
# NERC vocabulary and metadata fields
mutate(
  measurementTypeID = case_when(
    measurementType == "BedAbund" ~ "http://vocab.nerc.ac.uk/collection/P01/current/SDBIOL02/",
    measurementType == "CanopyHeight" ~ "http://vocab.nerc.ac.uk/collection/P01/current/OBSMAXI",
    # measurementType == "BarePatchWithinSeagrass" ~ "",
    measurementType == "FloweringBedAbund" ~ "http://vocab.nerc.ac.uk/collection/P01/current/SE",
    measurementUnit = case_when(
      measurementType == "BedAbund" ~ "Number per square metre",
      measurementType == "CanopyHeight" ~ "Centimetres",
      measurementType == "BarePatchhhLengthWithinSeagrass" ~ "Metres",
      measurementType == "FloweringBedAbund" ~ "Number per square metre"),
    measurementUnitID = case_when(
      measurementType == "BedAbund" ~ "http://vocab.nerc.ac.uk/collection/P06/current/UPMS/",
      measurementType == "CanopyHeight" ~ "http://vocab.nerc.ac.uk/collection/P06/current/ULCM/",
      measurementType == "BarePatchhhLengthWithinSeagrass" ~ "http://vocab.nerc.ac.uk/collection/P",
      measurementType == "FloweringBedAbund" ~ "http://vocab.nerc.ac.uk/collection/P06/current/UP",
      measurementAccuracy = case_when(
        measurementType == "CanopyHeight" ~ 5),
      measurementMethod = case_when(
        measurementType == "BedAbund" ~ "25cmx25cm quadrat count",
        measurementType == "CanopyHeight" ~ "in situ with ruler",
        measurementType == "BarePatchhhLengthWithinSeagrass" ~ "estimated along transect line",
        measurementType == "FloweringBedAbund" ~ "25cmx25cm quadrat count")) %>%
select(eventID, measurementDeterminedDate, measurementType, measurementValue,
       measurementTypeID, measurementUnit, measurementUnitID, measurementAccuracy,
       measurementMethod) %T>%

```

```
# select(!c(survey, site_id, transect_dist)) %T>%
glimpse()
```

### 2.3.2.2.3 Extended MeasurementOrFact table

```
## Rows: 37,430
## Columns: 9
## $ eventID <chr> "2017-11-22:HAKAI:CALVERT:CHOKED_PASS_INTERI~
## $ measurementDeterminedDate <date> 2017-11-22, 2017-11-22, 2017-11-22, 2017-11-~
## $ measurementType <chr> "SubstrateTypeA", "SubstrateTypeB", "BarePat~
## $ measurementValue <chr> "sand", "shell hash", "< 1", "seagrass", NA,~
## $ measurementTypeID <chr> NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, "http://vocab.ne~
## $ measurementUnit <chr> NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, "Number per squa~
## $ measurementUnitID <chr> NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, "http://vocab.ne~
## $ measurementAccuracy <dbl> NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, 5, NA, NA, N~
## $ measurementMethod <chr> NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, "25cmx25cm quadr~
```

```
# save eMoF table to csv
write.csv(seagrassMof, "processed_data/hakaiSeagrassDwcEmof.csv")
```

## 2.3.3 Session Info

Print session information below in case necessary for future reference

```
# Print Session Info for future reference
sessionInfo()
```

```
## R version 4.1.1 (2021-08-10)
## Platform: x86_64-apple-darwin17.0 (64-bit)
## Running under: macOS Big Sur 10.16
##
## Matrix products: default
## BLAS: /Library/Frameworks/R.framework/Versions/4.1/Resources/lib/libRblas.0.dylib
## LAPACK: /Library/Frameworks/R.framework/Versions/4.1/Resources/lib/libRlapack.dylib
##
## locale:
## [1] en_US.UTF-8/en_US.UTF-8/en_US.UTF-8/C/en_US.UTF-8/en_US.UTF-8
##
## attached base packages:
## [1] stats graphics grDevices utils datasets methods base
##
## other attached packages:
## [1] worrms_0.4.2 magrittr_2.0.3 knitr_1.39 lubridate_1.8.0
```

```
## [5] here_1.0.1      forcats_0.5.1  stringr_1.4.0  dplyr_1.0.9
## [9] purrr_0.3.4     readr_2.1.2    tidyr_1.2.0    tibble_3.1.7
## [13] ggplot2_3.3.6   tidyverse_1.3.1
##
## loaded via a namespace (and not attached):
## [1] Rcpp_1.0.8.3     assertthat_0.2.1 rprojroot_2.0.3 digest_0.6.29
## [5] utf8_1.2.2       R6_2.5.1        cellranger_1.1.0 backports_1.4.1
## [9] reprex_2.0.1     evaluate_0.15    httr_1.4.3      pillar_1.7.0
## [13] rlang_1.0.2      curl_4.3.2       readxl_1.4.0    rstudioapi_0.13
## [17] rmarkdown_2.14   urltools_1.7.3   triebeard_0.3.0 bit_4.0.4
## [21] munsell_0.5.0    broom_0.8.0      compiler_4.1.1  modelr_0.1.8
## [25] xfun_0.31        pkgconfig_2.0.3  htmltools_0.5.2 tidyselect_1.1.2
## [29] httpcode_0.3.0   bookdown_0.26    fansi_1.0.3     crayon_1.5.1
## [33] tzdb_0.3.0       dbplyr_2.2.0     withr_2.5.0     crul_1.2.0
## [37] grid_4.1.1       jsonlite_1.8.0   gtable_0.3.0    lifecycle_1.0.1
## [41] DBI_1.1.2        scales_1.2.0     cli_3.3.0       stringi_1.7.6
## [45] vroom_1.5.7      fs_1.5.2         xml2_1.3.3      ellipsis_0.3.2
## [49] generics_0.1.2   vctrs_0.4.1      tools_4.1.1     bit64_4.0.5
## [53] glue_1.6.2       hms_1.1.1        parallel_4.1.1  fastmap_1.1.0
## [57] yaml_2.3.5       colorspace_2.0-3 rvest_1.0.2     haven_2.5.0
```

## 2.4 Trawl Data

One of the more common datasets that can be standardized to Darwin Core and integrated within OBIS is catch data from e.g. a trawl sampling event, or a zooplankton net tow. Of special concern here are datasets that include both a total (species-specific) catch weight, in addition to individual measurements (for a subset of the overall data). In this case, through our standardization to Darwin Core, we want to ensure that data users understand that the individual measurements are a part of, or subset of, the overall (species-specific) record, whilst at the same time ensure that data providers are not duplicating occurrence records to OBIS.

The GitHub issue related to application is can be found [here](#)

### 2.4.1 Workflow Overview

In our current setup, this relationship between the overall catch data and sub-setted information is provided in the `resourceRelationship` extension. This extension *cannot* currently be harvested by GBIF. The required terms for this extension are `resourceID`, `relatedResourceID`, `resourceRelationshipID` and `relationshipOfResource`. The `relatedResourceID` here refers to the *object* of the relationship, whereas the `resourceID` refers to the *subject* of the relationship:

- `resourceRelationshipID`: a unique identifier for the relationship between one resource (the subject) and another (relatedResource, object).
- `resourceID`: a unique identifier for the resource that is the subject of the relationship.
- `relatedResourceID`: a unique identifier for the resource that is the object of the relationship.
- `relationshipOfResource`: The relationship of the subject (identified by the `resourceID`) to the object (relatedResourceID). The `relationshipOfResource` is a free text field.

A few resources have been published to OBIS that contain the `resourceRelationship` extension (examples). Here, I'll lay out the process and coding used for the Trawl Catch and Species Abundance from the 2019 Gulf of Alaska International Year of the Salmon Expedition. In the following code chunks some details are omitted to improve the readability - the overall code to standardize the catch data can be found [here](#). This dataset includes species-specific total catch data at multiple stations (sampling events). From each catch, individual measurements were also taken. Depending on the number of individual caught in the trawl, this was either the total number of species individuals caught, or only a subset (in case of large numbers of individuals caught).

In this specific data record, we created a single Event Core with three extensions: an *occurrence* extension, *measurement or fact* extension, and the *resourceRelationship* extension. However, in this walk-through I'll only touch on the Event Core, occurrence extension and `resourceRelationship` extension.

The trawl data is part of a larger project collecting various data types related to salmon ocean ecology. Therefore, in our Event Core we nested information related to the sampling event in the specific layer. (include a visual representation of the schema). Prior to creating the Event Core, we ensured that e.g. dates and times followed the correct ISO-8601 standards, and converted to the correct time zone.

```
# Time is recorded numerically (1037 instead of 10:37), so need to change these columns.
trawl2019$END_DEPLOYMENT_TIME <- substr(as.POSIXct(sprintf("%04.0f", trawl2019$END_DEPL
trawl2019$BEGIN_RETRIEVAL_TIME <- substr(as.POSIXct(sprintf("%04.0f", trawl2019$BEGIN_I
# Additionally, the vessel time is recorded in 'Vladivostok' according to the metadata
trawl2019 <- trawl2019 %>%
  mutate(eventDate_start = format_iso_8601(as.POSIXct(paste(EVENT_DATE_START, END_DEPL
                                tz = "Asia/Vladivostok))),
         eventDate_start = str_replace(eventDate_start, "\\+00:00", "Z"),
         eventDate_finish = format_iso_8601(as.POSIXct(paste(EVENT_DATE_FINISH, BEGIN_I
                                tz = "Asia/Vladivostok))),
         eventDate_finish = str_replace(eventDate_finish, "\\+00:00", "Z"),
         eventDate = paste(eventDate_start, eventDate_finish, sep = "/"),
         project = "IYS",
```

```

cruise = paste(project, "GoA2019", sep = ":"),
station = paste(cruise, TOW_NUMBER, sep=":Stn"),
trawl = paste(station, "trawl", sep=":")

```

Then we created the various layers of our Event Core. We created these layers/data frames from two separate datasets that data are pulled from - one dataset that contains the *overall* catch data, and one dataset that contains the *specimen* data:

```

trawl2019_allCatch <- read_excel(here("Trawl", "2019", "raw_data",
                                     "2019_GoA_Fish_Trawl_catchdata.xlsx"), sheet = "CATCH_FINAL")

mutate(project = "IYS",
       cruise = paste(project, "GoA2019", sep = ":"),
       station = paste(cruise, `TOW_NUMBER (number)`, sep = ":Stn"),
       trawl = paste(station, "trawl", sep = ":"))

trawl2019_specimen <- read_excel(here("Trawl", "2019", "raw_data", "2019_GoA_Fish_Specimen_data.xlsx"),
                                sheet = "SPECIMEN_FINAL") %>%

mutate(project = "IYS",
       cruise = paste(project, "GoA2019", sep = ":"),
       station = paste(cruise, TOW_NUMBER, sep = ":Stn"),
       trawl = paste(station, "trawl", sep = ":"),
       sample = paste(trawl, "sample", sep = ":"),
       sample = paste(sample, row_number(), sep = ""))

```

Next we created the Event Core, ensuring that we connect the data to the right layer (i.e. date and time should be connected to the layer associated with the sampling event). Please note that because we are creating multiple layers and nesting information, and then at a later stage combining different tables, this results in cells being populated with NA. These have to be removed prior to publishing the Event Core through the IPT.

```

trawl2019_project <- trawl2019 %>%
  select(eventID = project) %>%
  distinct(eventID) %>%
  mutate(type = "project")

trawl2019_cruise <- trawl2019 %>%
  select(eventID = cruise,
         parentEventID = project) %>%
  distinct(eventID, .keep_all = TRUE) %>%
  mutate(type = "cruise")

trawl2019_station <- trawl2019 %>%

```

```

select(eventID = station,
       parentEventID = cruise) %>%
distinct(eventID, .keep_all = TRUE) %>%
mutate(type = "station")

# The coordinates associated to the trawl need to be presented in a LINESTRING.
# END_LONGITUDE_DD needs to be inverted (has to be between -180 and 180, inclusive).
trawl2019_coordinates <- trawl2019 %>%
  select(eventID = trawl,
         START_LATITUDE_DD,
         longitude,
         END_LATITUDE_DD,
         END_LONGITUDE_DD) %>%
  mutate(
    END_LONGITUDE_DD = END_LONGITUDE_DD * -1,
    footprintWKT = paste("LINESTRING (", longitude, START_LATITUDE_DD, ",",
                        END_LONGITUDE_DD, END_LATITUDE_DD, ")")
  )
trawl2019_linestring <- obistools::calculate_centroid(trawl2019_coordinates$footprintWKT)
trawl2019_linestring <- cbind(trawl2019_coordinates, trawl2019_linestring) %>%
  select(eventID, footprintWKT, decimalLatitude, decimalLongitude, coordinateUncertaintyInMeters)

trawl2019_trawl <- trawl2019 %>%
  select(eventID = trawl,
         parentEventID = station,
         eventDate,
         year,
         month,
         day) %>%
  mutate(
    minimumDepthInMeters = 0, # headrope was at the surface
    maximumDepthInMeters = trawl2019$MOUTH_OPENING_HEIGHT,
    samplingProtocol = "midwater trawl", # when available add DOI to paper here
    locality = case_when(
      trawl2019$EVENT_SUB_TYPE == "Can EEZ" ~ "Canadian EEZ"),
    locationID = case_when(
      trawl2019$EVENT_SUB_TYPE == "Can EEZ" ~ "http://marineregions.org/mrgid/849")
  )
left_join(trawl2019_linestring, by = "eventID") %>%
distinct(eventID, .keep_all = TRUE) %>%
mutate(type = "midwater trawl")

trawl2019_sample <- trawl2019_specimen %>%
  select(eventID = sample,
         parentEventID = trawl) %>%
distinct(eventID, .keep_all = TRUE) %>%
mutate(type = "individual sample")

trawl2019_event <- bind_rows(trawl2019_project,

```

```

        trawl2019_cruise,
        trawl2019_station,
        trawl2019_trawl,
        trawl2019_sample)

# Remove NAs from the Event Core:
rawl2019_event <- sapply(trawl2019_event, as.character)
rawl2019_event[is.na(trawl2019_event)] <- ""
rawl2019_event <- as.data.frame(trawl2019_event)

```

**TO DO:** Add visual of e.g. the top 10 rows of the Event Core.

Now that we created the Event Core, we create the occurrence extension. To do this, we create two separate occurrence data tables: one that includes the occurrence data for the *total* catch, and one data table for the *specimen* data. Finally, the Occurrence extension is created by combining these two data frames. Personally, I prefer to re-order it so it makes visual sense to me (nest the specimen occurrence records under their respective overall catch data).

```

rawl2019_allCatch_worms <- worrms::wm_records_names(unique(trawl2019_allCatch$scientificname))
rawl2019_occ <- left_join(trawl2019_allCatch, trawl2019_allCatch_worms, by = "scientificname") %>%
  rename(eventID = trawl,
         specificEpithet = species,
         scientificNameAuthorship = authority,
         taxonomicStatus = status,
         taxonRank = rank,
         scientificName = scientificname,
         scientificNameID = lsid,
         individualCount = `CATCH_COUNT (pieces)(**includes Russian expansion for some species)` ,
         occurrenceRemarks = COMMENTS) %>%
  mutate(occurrenceID = paste(eventID, "occ", sep = ":"),
         occurrenceID = paste(occurrenceID, row_number(), sep = ":"),
         occurrenceStatus = "present",
         sex = "")

rawl2019_catch_ind_worms <- worrms::wm_records_names(unique(trawl2019_catch_ind$scientificname))
rawl2019_catch_ind_occ <- left_join(trawl2019_catch_ind, trawl2019_catch_ind_worms, by = "scientificname") %>%
  rename(scientificNameAuthorship = authority,
         taxonomicStatus = status,
         taxonRank = rank,
         scientificName = scientificname,
         scientificNameID = lsid) %>%
  mutate(occurrenceID = paste(eventID, "occ", sep = ":"),
         occurrenceStatus = "present",
         individualCount = 1)

```

```
# Combine the two occurrence data frames:
trawl2019_occ_ext <- dplyr::bind_rows(trawl2019_occ_fnl, trawl2019_catch_ind_fnl)

# To re-order the occurrenceID, use following code:
order <- stringr::str_sort(trawl2019_occ_ext$occurrenceID, numeric=TRUE)
trawl2019_occ_ext <- trawl2019_occ_ext[match(order, trawl2019_occ_ext$occurrenceID),] %>%
  mutate(basisOfRecord = "HumanObservation")
```

**TO DO:** Add visual of e.g. the top 10 rows of the Occurrence extension.

**Please note** that in the *overall* species-specific occurrence data frame, *individualCount* was not included. This term should not be used for abundance studies, but to avoid confusion and the appearance that the specimen records are an additional observation on top of the overall catch record, the *individualCount* term was left blank for the overall catch data.

A resource relationship extension is created to further highlight that the individual samples in the occurrence extension are part of a larger overall catch that was also listed in the occurrence extension. In this extension, we wanted to make sure to highlight that the *specimen* occurrence records are a *subset* of the *overall* catch data through the field `relationshipOfResource1`. Each of these relationships gets a unique `resourceRelationshipID`.

```
trawl_resourceRelationship <- trawl2019_occ_ext %>%
  select(eventID, occurrenceID, scientificName) %>%
  mutate(resourceID = ifelse(grepl("sample", trawl2019_occ_ext$occurrenceID), trawl2019_catch_ind_fnl$resourceID, NA)) %>%
  mutate(eventID = gsub(":sample.*", "", trawl2019_occ_ext$eventID)) %>%
  group_by(eventID, scientificName) %>%
  filter(n() != 1) %>%
  ungroup()

trawl_resourceRelationship <- trawl_resourceRelationship %>%
  mutate(relatedResourceID = ifelse(grepl("sample", trawl_resourceRelationship$occurrenceID), trawl_resourceRelationship$resourceID, NA)) %>%
  mutate(relationshipOfResource = ifelse(!is.na(resourceID), "is a subset of", NA)) %>%
  dplyr::arrange(eventID, scientificName) %>%
  fill(relatedResourceID) %>%
  filter(!is.na(resourceID))

order <- stringr::str_sort(trawl_resourceRelationship$resourceID, numeric = TRUE)
trawl_resourceRelationship <- trawl_resourceRelationship[match(order, trawl_resourceRelationship$resourceID),] %>%

trawl_resourceRelationship <- trawl_resourceRelationship %>%
  mutate(resourceRelationshipID = paste(relatedResourceID, "rr", sep = ":"),
        ID = sprintf("%03d", row_number()),
```



```
resourceRelationshipID = paste(resourceRelationshipID, ID, sep = ":")) %>%  
select(eventID, resourceRelationshipID, resourceID, relationshipOfResource, relatedResourceID)
```

**TO DO:** Add visual of e.g. the top 10 rows of the `ResourceRelationship` extension.

### 2.4.2 FAQ

**Q1.** Why not use the terms *associatedOccurrence* or *associatedTaxa*? **A.** There seems to be a movement away from the term *associatedOccurrence* as the `resourceRelationship` extension has a much broader use case. Some issues that were raised on GitHub exemplify this, see e.g. [here](#). *associatedTaxa* is used to provide identifiers or names of taxa and the associations of an Occurrence with them. This term is not apt for establishing relationships between taxa, only between specific Occurrences of an organism with other taxa. As noted on the TDWG website, [...] *Note that the ResourceRelationship class is an alternative means of representing associations, and with more detail*. See also e.g. [this issue](#).



## Chapter 3

# dataset-edna

By Diana LaScala-Gruenewald

### 3.1 Introduction

#### **Rationale:**

DNA derived data are increasingly being used to document taxon occurrences. To ensure these data are useful to the broadest possible community, GBIF published a guide entitled “Publishing DNA-derived data through biodiversity data platforms.” This guide is supported by the DNA derived data extension for Darwin Core, which incorporates MIxS terms into the Darwin Core standard.

This use case draws on both the guide and the extension to illustrate how to incorporate a DNA derived data extension file into a Darwin Core archive.

For further information on this use case and the DNA Derived data extension in general, see the recording of the OBIS Webinar on Genetic Data.

#### **Project abstract:**

The example data employed in this use case are from marine filtered seawater samples collected at a nearshore station in Monterey Bay, California, USA. They were collected by CTD rosette and filtered by a peristaltic pump system. Subsequently, they underwent metabarcoding for the 18S V9 region. The resulting ASVs, their assigned taxonomy, and the metadata associated with their collection are the input data for the conversion scripts presented here.

A selection of samples from this collection were included in the publication “Environmental DNA reveals seasonal shifts and potential interactions in a marine community” which was published with open access in *Nature Communications* in 2020.

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## 3.2 Published data

- GBIF
- OBIS

## 3.3 Repo structure

```

.
+-- README.md           :Description of this repository
+-- LICENSE             :Repository license
+-- .gitignore          :Files and directories to be ignored by git
|
+-- raw
|   +-- asv_table.csv    :Source data containing ASV sequences and number of reads
|   +-- taxa_table.csv   :Source data containing taxon matches for each ASV
|   +-- metadata_table.csv :Source data containing metadata about samples (e.g. collection date, location)
|
+-- src
|   +-- conversion_code.py :Darwin Core mapping script
|   +-- conversion_code.ipynb :Darwin Core mapping Jupyter Notebook
|   +-- WoRMS.py          :Functions for querying the World Register of Marine Species
|
+-- processed
|   +-- occurrence.csv    :Occurrence file, generated by conversion_code
|   +-- dna_extension.csv :DNA Derived Data Extension file, generated by conversion_code

```

## Chapter 4

# Dealing with errors

Datasets can have a wide variety of errors that pop up during the darwin core alignment process. This chapter details ways in which a data manager can identify, discuss, and resolve potential errors in the data.

It should be noted that, in most cases, the data manager/scientist aligning the data to darwin core should reach out to the data originator to ensure the actions taken are not incorrectly representing the observations.

### 4.1 Example using GitHub to resolve errors

1. Dataset sent to OBIS-USA via email.
2. OBIS-USA uploaded to IPT.
3. Once the data were uploaded, the IPT identified there was an issue with the `occurrenceID` field. The issue was then presented and discussed in a

ioos/bio\_data\_guide Public

<> Code Issues 11 Pull requests Discussions Actions Projects Wiki

## managing duplicate occurrenceIDs #78

Closed MathewBiddle opened this issue 12 days ago · 5 comments

MathewBiddle commented 12 days ago

Making unique occurrenceID for the rows. Unfortunately, the best I could do was to concatenate the station, organism, life stage, and type. This still left me w/ 205 duplicates (410 rows). Looking a little more closely at the duplicates (see screenshot below) it seems that there are duplicate observations (same methods, place, time, and species - stage is missing). Not sure what to do in this case, most likely need to reach back to the PI and get their 2 cents.

	27	28
Cruise	AMBON2017	AMBON2017
Station	ML1.1	ML1.1
Type	TWINRING_150UM_MICROSCOPY	TWINRING_150UM_MICROSCOPY
Date_Time	2017-08-17 15:24:00	2017-08-17 15:24:00
Longitude [decimal_degrees_east]	-162.766	-162.766

GitHub ticket:

- The data manager uploaded the raw data and code to GitHub through the pull request below. This included a fix for the `occurrenceID` issue.

## Ambon zooplankton #77

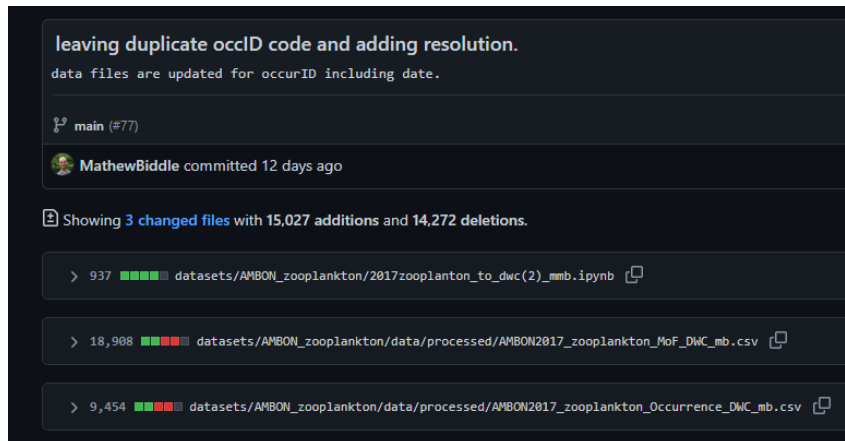
Merged MathewBiddle merged 3 commits into ioos:main from MathewBiddle:ambon\_zooplankton 12 days ago

Conversation 1 Commits 3 Checks 0 Files changed 6

Changes from all commits File filter Clear filters Conversations Jump to

- > 6,610 datasets/AMBON\_zooplankton/2017zooplankton\_to\_dw(2)\_mbb.ipynb
- > 155 datasets/AMBON\_zooplankton/data/processed/AMBON2017\_zooplankton\_Event\_DWC\_mb.csv
- > 9,455 datasets/AMBON\_zooplankton/data/processed/AMBON2017\_zooplankton\_MoF\_DWC\_mb.csv
- > 4,728 datasets/AMBON\_zooplankton/data/processed/AMBON2017\_zooplankton\_Occurrence\_DWC\_mb.csv
- > 2,937 datasets/AMBON\_zooplankton/data/raw/AMBON2017150.csv
- > 1,794 datasets/AMBON\_zooplankton/data/raw/AMBON2017505.csv

- The OBIS node manager was notified of the availability of a revised dataset by pointing directly to the appropriate commit in GitHub:



- The OBIS node manager downloaded the data from the commit above and uploaded them to the IPT.
- The IPT returned a summary of the dataset including that 434 records had invalid `scientificNameID` records in the occurrence file.
- After some data sleuthing, the data manager noticed that the code accidentally removed trailing zeros from `scientificNameID` that ended in 0:

```
#taxonid needs to not have trailing .0
taxons = df[['taxonID']].astype('string', errors='ignore')
t=taxons['taxonID'].convert_dtypes()
t=t.str.strip('.0')
t
df['taxonID']=t
df.head()
```

- So, the data manager updated the code to resolve the issue and generate a



new occurrence file.

```

1 #OK, rename and then add new columns
2 #Rename columns as necessary
3
4 df.rename(columns={'Depth_m': 'minimumDepthMeters',
5                  'life_stage': 'lifeStage',
6                  'type': 'samplingProtocol',
7                  'Longitude_decimal_degrees_east': 'decimalLongitude',
8                  'Latitude_decimal_degrees_north': 'decimalLatitude',
9                  'Accepted_Organism_Identification': 'scientificName',
10                 'dwcID' + ' taxonID' }, inplace=True)
11
12 # add new parameters
13
14 df['scientificNameID'] = 'urn:lsid:marinespecies.org:taxname:' + df['taxonID'].astype(str)
15
16 df['identificationReferences'] = 'MBG'
17 df['basisOfRecord'] = 'HumanObservation' #haspace!
18 df['occurrenceStatus'] = 'present'
19
20 df.head()

```

1. Here is fixing the scientificNameID generation:

```

1 #finally!
2 #nope it's scientificNameID that needs this
3 sciids = df[['scientificNameID']].astype('string', errors='ignore')
4 s = sciids['scientificNameID'].convert_dtypes()
5 s = s.str.strip('.')
6 df['scientificNameID'] = s
7
8 df.head()

```

2. Here is removing the problematic code:

```

1 #finally!
2 #nope it's scientificNameID that needs this
3
4 # mmb - Think this was not necessary.
5 # sciids = df[['scientificNameID']].astype('string', errors='ignore')
6 # s = sciids['scientificNameID'].convert_dtypes()
7 # s = s.str.strip('.')
8 # df['scientificNameID'] = s
9 df.head()

```

10. The revised occurrence file was then resubmitted to the OBIS node manager by pointing them at the appropriate commit record:

**fixing taxonID and aphialID columns**

we lopped of trailing zeros making invalid ids

main (#82)

MathewBiddle committed 3 days ago

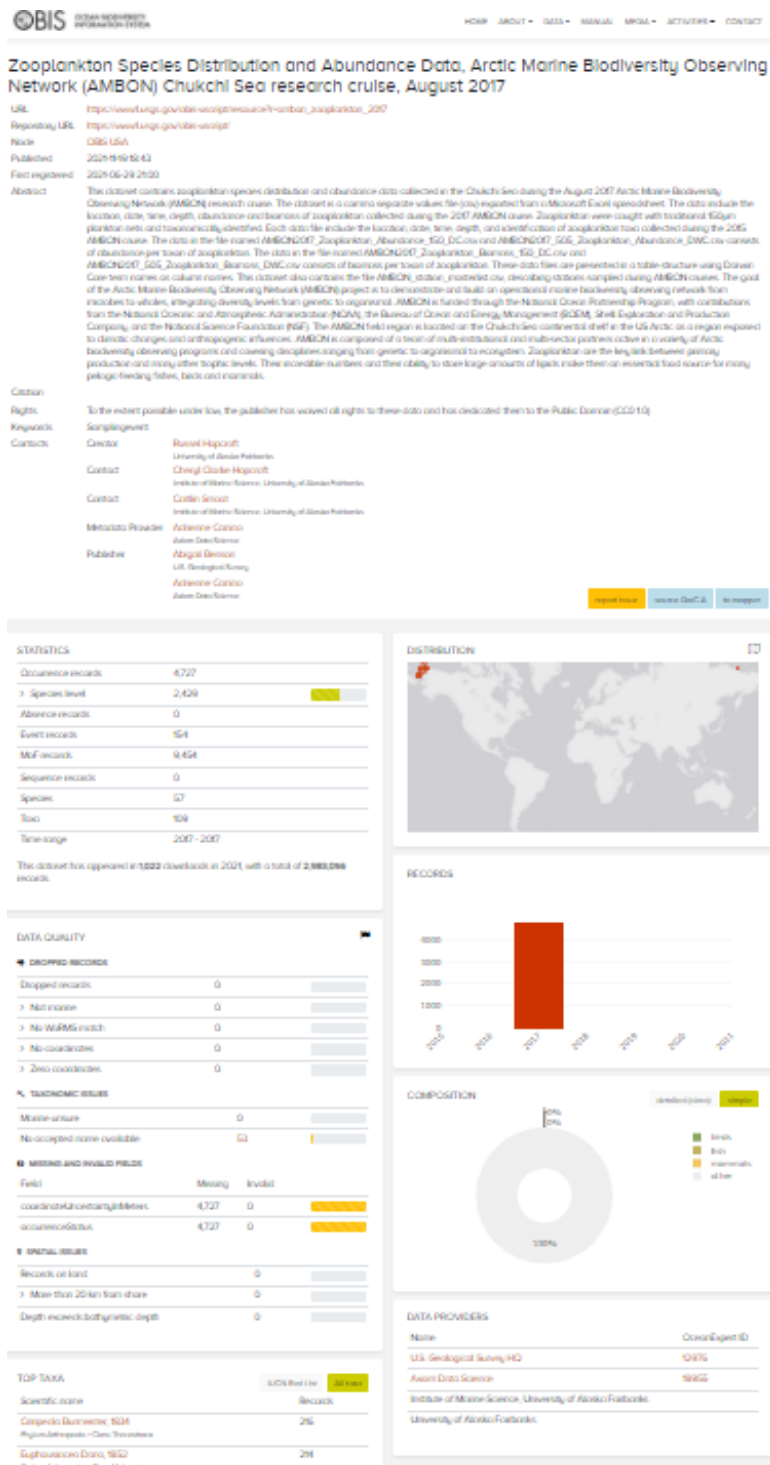
Showing 2 changed files with 989 additions and 1,230 deletions.

> 915 datasets/AMBON\_zooplankton/2017zooplankton\_to\_dwc(2)\_mmb.ipynb

> 1,304 datasets/AMBON\_zooplankton/data/processed/AMBON2017\_zooplankton\_Occurrence\_DWC\_mb.csv

11. The OBIS node manager downloaded the data from the commit above and uploaded them to the IPT.
12. The IPT and OBIS landing page now indicated that no more issues with





these data are present:



## Chapter 5

# Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What data structure does OBIS recommend? A. The OBIS-ENV Darwin Core Archive Data Structure. OBIS manual

Q. What is a controlled vocabulary, why use them? A. There are a number of controlled vocabularies that are used to describe parameters commonly used in specific research domains. Using terms defined in a controlled vocabulary allows for greater interoperability of data sets within the domain, and ideally between domains by ensuring that variables that are the same can be identified.

Q. What controlled vocabularies does OBIS rely on? A. WoRMS, NERC Vocabulary Server including: \* Device categories using the SeaDataNet device categories

- Device make/model using the SeaVoX Device Catalogue
- Platform categories using SeaVoX Platform Categories
- Platform instances using the ICES Platform Codes
- Unit of measure

Q. How can I find out which common measurementTypes are used in measurement or facts tables in existing OBIS datasets? A. See Measurement Types in OBIS

Q. What is an ontology? A. An ontology is a classification system for establishing a hierarchically related set of concepts. Concepts are often terms from controlled vocabularies. Ontologies can include all of the following, but are not required to include them. Classes (general things, types of things) Instances (individual things) Relationships among things Properties of things Functions, processes, constraints, and rules relating to things

Q. What is ERDDAP? A. ERDDAP is a data server. It provides ‘easier access to scientific data’ by providing a consistent interface that aggregates many disparate data sources. It does this by providing translation services between many common file types for gridded arrays (‘net CDF’ files) and tabular data (spreadsheets). Data access is also made easier because it unifies different types of data servers and access protocols.

Q. What metadata profile does OBIS use? A. OBIS uses the GBIF EML profile (version 1.1)

Q. Can Darwin Core be used in the Semantic Web/Resource Description Framework? A. See Darwin Core Resource Description Framework Guide and Lessons learned from adapting the Darwin Core vocabulary standard for use in RDF

## Chapter 6

# Tools

Below are some of the tools and packages used in workflows. R and Python package “Type” is BIO for packages specifically for biological applications, and GEN for generic packages.

### 6.1 R

Package	Type	Description
bdveRse	BIO	A family of R packages for biodiversity data.
ecocomDP	BIO	Work with the Ecological Community Data Design Pattern. ‘ecocomDP’ is a flexible data model for harmonizing ecological community surveys, in a research question agnostic format, from source data published across repositories, and with methods that keep the derived data up-to-date as the underlying sources change.

Package	Type	Description
EDIorg/EMLassemblelylin	BIO	For scientists and data managers to create high quality EML metadata for dataset publication.
finch	BIO	Parse Darwin Core Files
iobis/obistools	BIO	Tools for data enhancement and quality control.
robis	BIO	R client for the OBIS API
ropensci/EML	BIO	Provides support for the serializing and parsing of all low-level EML concepts
taxize	BIO	Interacts with a suite of web ‘APIs’ for taxonomic tasks, such as getting database specific taxonomic identifiers, verifying species names, getting taxonomic hierarchies, fetching downstream and upstream taxonomic names, getting taxonomic synonyms, converting scientific to common names and vice versa, and more.
worms	BIO	Client for World Register of Marine Species. Includes functions for each of the API methods, including searching for names by name, date and common names, searching using external identifiers, fetching synonyms, as well as fetching taxonomic children and taxonomic classification.

Package	Type	Description
Hmisc	GEN	Contains many functions useful for data analysis, high-level graphics, utility operations, functions for computing sample size and power, simulation, importing and annotating datasets, imputing missing values, advanced table making, variable clustering, character string manipulation, conversion of R objects to LaTeX and html code, and recoding variables. Particularly check out the describe() function.
lubridate	GEN	Functions to work with date-times and time-spans: fast and user friendly parsing of date-time data, extraction and updating of components of a date-time (years, months, days, hours, minutes, and seconds), algebraic manipulation on date-time and time-span objects.
stringr	GEN	Simple, Consistent Wrappers for Common String Operations

Package	Type	Description
tidyverse	GEN	The ‘tidyverse’ is a set of packages that work in harmony because they share common data representations and ‘API’ design. This package is designed to make it easy to install and load multiple ‘tidyverse’ packages in a single step.
uuid	GEN	Tools for generating and handling of UUIDs (Universally Unique Identifiers).

## 6.2 Python

Package	Type	Description
metatype	BIO	A lightweight Python 3 library for generating EML metadata
python-dwca-reader	BIO	A simple Python package to read and parse Darwin Core Archive (DwC-A) files, as produced by the GBIF website, the IPT and many other biodiversity informatics tools.
pyworms	BIO	Python client for the World Register of Marine Species (WoRMS) REST service.



Package	Type	Description
numpy	GEN	NumPy (Numerical Python) is an open source Python library that's used in almost every field of science and engineering. It's the universal standard for working with numerical data in Python, and it's at the core of the scientific Python and PyData ecosystems.
pandas	GEN	pandas is a fast, powerful, flexible and easy to use open source data analysis and manipulation tool, built on top of the Python programming language. Super helpful when manipulating tabular data!
uuid	GEN	This module provides immutable UUID objects (class UUID) and the functions <code>uuid1()</code> , <code>uuid3()</code> , <code>uuid4()</code> , <code>uuid5()</code> for generating version 1, 3, 4, and 5 UUIDs as specified in RFC 4122. Built in – part of the Python standard library.

Package	Type	Description
obis-qc	BIO	Quality checks on occurrence records. Checks <code>occurrenceStatus</code> , <code>individualCount</code> , <code>eventDate</code> , <code>decimalLatitude</code> , <code>decimalLongitude</code> , <code>coordinateUncertaintyInMeters</code> , <code>minimumDepthInMeters</code> , <code>maximumDepthInMeters</code> , <code>scientificName</code> , <code>scientificNameID</code> . Checks from Vandepitte et al. flags not implemented: 3, 9, 14, 15, 16, 10, 17, 21-30.
biopython	BIO	Biopython is a set of freely available tools for biological computation written in Python by an international team of developers. It is a distributed collaborative effort to develop Python libraries and applications which address the needs of current and future work in bioinformatics.

### 6.3 Google Sheets

Package	Description
Google Sheet DarwinCore Archive Assistant add-on	Google Sheet add-on which assists the creation of Darwin Core Archives (DwCA) and publishing to Zenodo. DwCA's are stored into user's Google Drive and can be downloaded for upload into IPT installations or other software which is able to read DwC-archives.

## 6.4 Validators

Name	Description
Darwin Core Archive Validator	This validator verifies the structural integrity of a Darwin Core Archive. It does not check the data values, such as coordinates, dates or scientific names.
GBIF DATA VALIDATOR	The GBIF data validator is a service that allows anyone with a GBIF-relevant dataset to receive a report on the syntactical correctness and the validity of the content contained within the dataset.
LifeWatch Belgium	Through this interactive section of the LifeWatch.be portal users can upload their own data using a standard data format, and choose from several web services, models and applications to process the data.



## Chapter 7

# Extras

Below is some more in-depth information into specific areas associated with standardizing your data to Darwin Core and uploading it through the IPT.

### 7.1 Ecological Metadata Language (EML)

The Ecological Metadata Language (EML) is a community developed and maintained metadata standard that is typically associated with ecological-, and earth and environmental data. The purpose of EML is to provide the ecological community with an extensible, flexible, metadata standard used in data analysis and archiving, which will allow automated machine processing, searching and retrieval. EML has been around since 2003, and can be considered a “dialect” or specification to XML to describe tables and other data objects. The XML Schema provides a framework for the metadata, with defined “rules” on how to organize the metadata without any stipulations (another way to put it, *XML is the language that defines the rules that govern the EML syntax*). The XML Schema defines the structure of some information in a document (e.g. elements and attributes names and relationships), but does not provide any specific details the information included within. An EML document or file (eml.xml) is used to provide detailed description of metadata related to data objects, including tables (and other data objects), their columns, typing etc, and how data tables are linked or grouped. EML is widely used for datasets about ecosystem level observations, and can be used to detail data table information to a high granularity, which allows data users to arrange data tables in any way they need to. EML is particularly useful for wide data tables as table level details are entirely contained within the metadata document, meaning that there is not necessarily a need for external definitions such as a code list. However, if you have a long table arrangement, like the Darwin Core Archive (DwC-A), you can define the allowable values for the column in the metadata as well.

EML is excellent at describing the details of a column of data so that the data values in the tables can be read into analysis systems or an analysis environment using the metadata, or even into a relational database. EML allows for tables to be easily reusable, and read into workflows, translated or reformatted. A drawback to EML is that, compared to the ISO standard, EML is a community standard, adopting a more ‘bottom-up’ approach. This is contrary to the ISO standard, which are internationally agreed upon standards by experts (‘top-down’). However, at the time of EML development in the early 2000’s there was a gap in metadata options to describe ecological data tables, with ISO standards typically being more applicable to geographic data. EML can cover almost anything and is particularly good at tabular data. But at the same time, due to the self-contained nature, there can be little control from outside lists, which means that the description is left to the EML constructor (data provider/manager) and consequently, individual datasets can look quite different from each other, even when they contain similar measurements. As such, it will be important to document best practices and clear mapping of fields between different metadata schemas (e.g. cross-walks between ISO.xml and EML.xml). As of version 2.2, EML can link to external ontologies, and there is capacity for annotation with external terms (e.g. through their URIs). Code lists and external dictionaries can help as they sometimes contain additional information that might not fit into EML (e.g. protocols, or code lists stored in ontologies). Having these external code lists and exporting them as EML snippets could go a long way in reducing that heterogeneity, because the constructors can then select measurements from lists when developing EML documents.

EML is implemented as a series of XML document types (modules) that can be used in an extensible manner to document ecological data. Each EML module is designed to describe one logical part of the total metadata that should be included with any ecological dataset. The architecture of EML was designed to serve the needs of the ecological community, and has benefitted from previous work in other related metadata standards. Using this format can facilitate future growth of the metadata language, and EML supports an active developer community (see e.g. NCEAS EML GitHub). EML adopts much of its syntax from the other metadata standards that have evolved from the expertise of groups in other disciplines. Whenever possible, EML adopted entire trees of information in order to facilitate conversion of EML documents into other metadata languages. The GBIF IPT is a tool used to create a single eml.xml file format inside the DwC-A data package. However, the IPT does not use any of the EML’s built-in table description modules, and perhaps primarily uses one EML module (resource module) for high-level metadata.

However, it is important to know how both OBIS and GBIF use EML, as often a higher granularity of the metadata can be found in the original data tables. An example of this is spatial coverage. The IPT only allows for either a bounding box to be documented (populating North, South, East, and West coordinates), or a single polygon. The EML document however would be able to capture multiple polygons worth of spatial coverage (i.e. a polygon for each transect

surveyed). This more detailed information however is often captured in the data (in an OBIS record). Additionally, not all fields that can be populated in an EML document can be translated to the IPT, or harvested by OBIS and GBIF. The GBIF IPT only produces a select number of fields or attributes available in EML.

*Important:* When reading the EML section in the OBIS manual, you'll notice that it reads that OBIS uses the GBIF EML profile (version 1.1). However, the current EML version is 2.2.0, as per EcoInformatics. This does not mean that these versions are not compatible, rather, it means that the GBIF IPT currently uses a subset of available EML 2.2.0 fields and attributes, the subset of which they have versioned 1.1.

If you are interested in creating an EML metadata file, it is possible to upload those into the IPT. There are R packages that can help in developing an EML.xml file. These packages are e.g. EML, emld or EMLassemblyline.





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