

Ocean & Society Survey

Ethics, Data Sharing & Analysis

Ethics

For facilitated administration: Ethics are pre-approved based on public opinion survey agency protocols. See [Focaldata FAQs](#) for more detail.

For independent administration:

- To ensure free, prior, informed consent of participants, you must consider whether ethics approval is necessary for your organization/institution. If this is the case, we have successfully applied and secured ethics approval through Dalhousie University (REDCap platform), and we can discuss avenues of support.
- Additionally, this survey is intended for any global citizen, age 18 and older, and is intended for anonymous, grouped results. The age of consent in respective countries must be considered, and the Survey Details section amended to suit current operative laws, regulations, or guidelines for research involving human subjects for respective jurisdictions. The Survey Details section must also be amended to include researcher contact information with each independent use.

Data sharing & analysis

To inform shared learning and exchange, a centralized data hub affords open-access use of participating country datasets. The Comprehensive Knowledge Archive Network ([CKAN](#)) portal was selected as it is free, open-source, and explicitly supportive of the [UNSDGs](#). The portal is installed on a secure, Canadian-based server ([Entremission](#)), allowing the lead coordinating partner (the [Canadian Ocean Literacy Coalition](#), affiliated with Dalhousie University) to share OSS datasets from both facilitated (Focaldata) and independent platforms (if standardized in accordance with specified terms as outlined above). This affords any interested individual access to the shared data for viewing or use (in accordance with CKAN's data use protocols to ensure access controls are enabled for downloading and disabled for editing, modification, and deletion).

Although broad analysis will be conducted by the OSS co-design team (for which interested country leads or team members are welcome to join), anyone can use datasets of interest for analysis to meet particular needs. Analyses are encouraged to be shared with the centralized hub, to ensure knowledge exchange, enabling the identification of regional trends and patterns throughout the Ocean Decade and beyond.