Data as a currency - What should we be measuring?

Is there a ‘best’ approach?
Increased focus on the environment

Image from The Guardian, Credit Andrew Merry/Getty Images

Image from The Guardian, Credit AP

Image from worldwildlife.org, credit Wilm van Passel/WWF
Several companies and organisations across all industries are making net zero pledges:

- Shell by 2050
- BP by 2050
- Fugro by 2035
- Orsted by 2040
- Edinburgh Uni by 2040
- Strathclyde Uni by 2040
- Fife Council by 2045

Some companies making net positive impact pledges:

- Shell – from 2021 projects in high biodiversity areas to have net positive impact on biodiversity
- BP – from 2022 all new projects to aim to achieve net positive impact
- Vattenfall – by 2030 biodiversity enhancing measures are an integrated part of all activities with an impact on nature
Data Acquisition

- Pre development, during development and post development
- Traditionally vessel based
- More increasingly remote / autonomous vehicle based
What data is collected?

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- Metocean Data
DNA-based methods bring biodiversity monitoring into the twenty-first century, providing a solution fit for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.
What should be collected?

- Do we need consensus on what we collect?
  - Could this stifle innovation and emerging techniques such as eDNA?
  - Minimum requirements?
  - Community driven or contaminant/component driven?

- We should consider equipment instrument capacity and design timeframes:
  - Remote vehicles, particularly USVs, can be payload sensitive
  - Currently designing units to be commissioned in 2-3 years time

Taxonomic heat tree from eDNA samples, NatureMetrics.
How do we ensure we collect what is really needed?

- Legislation change / legislator driven
- Operator / developer driven
- Contractor driven

Image from BBC website, creator BOWL
Unlocking Insights from Geo-data