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**Perspective**

The Office of the Oceanographer of the Navy strives to provide its services and products within a completely distributed data network to help decision-makers achieve situational awareness. Regarding open data exchange, the Navy strives to provide as much of its data as possible. Data can be provided as long as providing it doesn't compromise operational security. Generally this is done by managing latency and resolution. The basic environmental data concept is a 4-dimensional cube. That is, various types of information are fused into a coherent 4-D picture of the battlefield to provide the decision-maker situational awareness. This concept assumes that the atmosphere and ocean are linked. To support this concept, processes for ensuring atmospheric information exchange should be equally applicable to the ocean.

The Navy is focusing on exploiting all available sources of weather information. For example, there is an initiative to use the AEGIS radar to observe meteorological parameters without interfering with its operational function of area air defense.

The Navy is interested in participating in a strategy for providing atmospheric information in order to address a "distributed" atmospheric information system, facilitate free and open data exchange, and address costs and benefits of weather and climate services. Within this context the Navy's objectives are to:

- Facilitate broad exchange of data (but this must *not* constrain Navy from protecting what Navy must protect).
- Provide a framework for expanding public-private partnerships.
- Foster development of integrated observing systems.
- Balance use of observations and model data.