

Professional Certification

Primary benefits

- One way that certification is valuable is that it helps the educational system put value on non-academic career paths.
- Increases visibility of the field and opportunities in it
- Professionalize OSTO careers/occupations.

Next steps: (some group needs to do each of these items but who will do each of them needs to be determined.)

- Can't have a one-size fits all certification. Need to identify relevant occupations and determine which occupations should be considered for certification. For ex., Ocean Observing System technicians, data collection technicians, operational ocean forecaster, "oceanographic product provider." Need to narrowly and specifically define.
- Determine what are the Core Competencies (aka "measurable moments") for these occupations and who defines them. Need to involve the appropriate sectors (industry, govt, etc) in this discussion.

- Identify standards for forecasts, products, services
- Areas with liability issues are more likely to want some type of some assurance that the product and service they're relying on are competent (e.g., data analysts in OOS or data products in OOS). There needs to be a decision made on whether this is through the certification of a profession or the evaluation of a product and/or service.

Things to consider

- Certification is voluntary
- There needs to be a process by which organizations (e.g. industry, Navy etc.) need to have a vote at the “stop” points in the certification process if they're going to be involved in determining the competencies, tracks etc.
- Need to recognize that different sectors (govt, industry, academics) may have different needs/uses for certification