



INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION  
COMMISSION OCÉANOGRAPHIQUE INTERGOUVERNEMENTALE  
COMISIÓN OCEANOGRÁFICA INTERGUBERNAMENTAL  
МЕЖПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВЕННАЯ ОКЕАНОГРАФИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ  
اللجنة الدولية الحكومية لعلوم المحيطات  
政府间海洋学委员会

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**IOC Circular Letter No 2666**

(Available in English, French, Spanish, Russian)

IOC/VR/AF/TAA/TH

1st June 2017

**To :** Official National Coordinating Bodies for liaison with the IOC

**Cc :** Permanent Delegations to UNESCO of IOC Member States  
National Commissions for UNESCO in IOC Member States  
IOC Officers  
Chairs of GOOS Steering Committee  
GOOS Regional Alliance chairs  
Co-Presidents of the Joint Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM)  
Chair of GLOSS Group of Experts  
National Contact Points for the Global Sea-Level Observing System (GLOSS)  
Co-chairs of Argo Steering Committee  
Argo National Focal Points  
Officers of the Ship Observations Team (SOT)  
Chair and officers of the Data Buoy Cooperation Panel (DBCP)

**Subject :** **Nomination and/or updating of details on GOOS, JCOMM, GLOSS, Argo, SOT and DBCP National Contact Points**

In August 2016, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) Circular Letter No 2634 requested the designation of a national coordinating body for liaison with the Commission and stated that a subsequent Circular Letter would be sent to request the designation or update of National Contact Points for the subsidiary bodies established by the IOC and its programmes. We are now taking a next step towards making a coordinated effort to update our National Contact Points for all IOC-governed observations and services programmes.

The IOC-led Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) builds on and adds value to national and regional sustained ocean observing efforts, focused on delivering information for climate, operational services, and increasingly, management of ocean health. Coordination of GOOS implementation is also done in part through the Joint WMO-IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM), and its Global Sea Level Observing System (GLOSS), the Ship Observation Team (SOT) and the Data Buoy Cooperation Panel (DBCP).

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Taking into account that we are now preparing for the Fifth Session of JCOMM in October 2017, and the Fifteenth session of the Group of Experts for GLOSS in July 2017, it is important that we have updated contact information for all national relevant experts. Some of the JCOMM programmes (including DBCP and SOT) have complementary WMO-maintained lists of national contact points.

We would like to seek your cooperation in designating:

1. a GOOS National Contact Point, whose responsibilities consist of promoting GOOS at the national level, and reporting on the status of national activities and capacity development needs.
2. a JCOMM National Contact Point for IOC, whose responsibilities consist of promoting JCOMM technical coordination activities at the national level, reporting on the status of national activities and capacity development needs, and coordinating with the national meteorological and/or hydrographic service.

These National Contact Points for IOC are new, and their Terms of Reference referenced on the attached nomination form. Since the scope of GOOS and JCOMM activities overlap, you may appoint the same contact point for GOOS and JCOMM, or you may wish to have a GOOS National Contact Point focused on observing networks and a JCOMM National Contact Point for IOC focused on operational ocean services and forecast systems including real-time data systems. Optional Alternates may be appointed to cover additional areas of work of GOOS and JCOMM, or to provide backup for the main National Contact Point.

In addition, we would like to ask you to review and if necessary update or designate the following National Contact Points for individual observing networks under GOOS and JCOMM:

3. The Argo National Focal Point, who is informed about planned float deployments, how to track float positions, and how to access float data, in compliance with IOC Resolutions XX-6 and EC-XLI.4. The current list can be found at: <http://ioc-unesco.org/argo-nfp-2017>.
4. The GLOSS National Contact Point, who promotes GLOSS implementation and provides coordination at a national level, reports to GLOSS on national activities and to IOC on training needs, regularly reviews national GLOSS stations and ensures data flow to data centres. The list of current GLOSS National Contact Points can be found at: [http://www.psmsl.org/links/sea\\_level\\_contacts/](http://www.psmsl.org/links/sea_level_contacts/).
5. The SOT National Contact Point, focused on observations from voluntary commercial ships. The list of current SOT National Contact Points can be found at: <http://www.jcomm.info/SOT-NFP>. This is a merged list with appointments from WMO and IOC.
6. The DBCP National Contact Point, focused on observations from surface drifters and moorings. The list of current DBCP National Contact Points can be found at: <http://www.jcomm.info/DBCP-NFP>. This is a merged list with appointments from WMO and IOC.

Please note that National Contact Points receive no funding from IOC for their activities; the support of their activities is one of the commitments expected of an IOC Member State participating in the relevant observing system programmes and networks.

The Official National Coordinating Body for liaison with the IOC can delegate responsibilities to the various ocean observing and services National Contact Points above, according to their respective

areas of responsibility. A more detailed description of the responsibilities of each Contact Point is included in the designation form attached to this letter. We would appreciate if you can send your information by filling in the attached form and sending it to **[oot@unesco.org](mailto:oot@unesco.org)** not later than 30 June 2017.

Thanking you in advance for your cooperation I remain, yours sincerely,

*[signed]*

Vladimir Ryabinin  
Executive Secretary

Enclosure: Nomination Form (available in English only)

(i)

*Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS),  
Joint IOC-WMO Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM),  
Global Sea Level Observing System (GLOSS),  
Argo, Ship Observations Team (SOT), and Data Buoy Cooperation Panel (DBCP)*

National Contact Points

**NOMINATION FORM<sup>1</sup>**

**Name of Member State:**

**Summary of the responsibilities** of the National Contact Points:

GOOS National Contact point: The person designated by a Member State to promote the work of GOOS and GOOS Regional Alliances at the national level by promoting GOOS' plans and documents where relevant, publicizing opportunities for engagement with GOOS structures and activities, including its panels, the JCOMM Observations Coordination Group, GOOS Regional Alliances, and GOOS Projects, and advocating for national ocean observing systems activities that contribute to GOOS; Promote regionally and nationally coordinated strategies and implementation for a sustained ocean observing system delivering the needed information to users, including suggesting pilot projects; Ensure that national needs and gaps related to sustained ocean observing systems are brought to the attention of the GOOS Programme; and to supply information to IOC on ocean observing capacity development needs in the context of the IOC Capacity Development strategy and plan.

GOOS National Contact Point Terms of Reference: <http://ioc-unesco.org/goos-ncp-tor>

JCOMM National Contact Point for IOC: The person designated by a Member State to promote the work of JCOMM at the national level where relevant by publicizing JCOMM's normative work on guides, standards and best practices, in the areas of observations, data management, services and forecast systems; monitoring the engagement of national observing networks with the JCOMM Observations Coordination Group, encouraging provision of data in real time, and the registry of all platforms with the JCOMM Observing Programme Support Centre (JCOMMOPS); highlighting opportunities at a national level to engage with the work of JCOMM and the programmes of IOC and WMO; reporting to IOC on the status of national activities that contribute to JCOMM; help to identify potential improved engagement at the national level; ensuring that national needs for JCOMM observing networks, real-time data systems, and forecast and early warning systems are brought to the full attention of the JCOMM programme; and to supply information to IOC on capacity development needs in the context of the IOC Capacity Development strategy and plan; coordinating with the National Meteorological Hydrological Service, including any relevant METAREA Co-ordinators and the JCOMM Member(s) appointed by WMO to provide input for JCOMM. An annual meeting of the national Met-Ocean community is encouraged, with input provided to the Co-Presidents of JCOMM.

JCOMM National Contact Point for IOC Terms of Reference: <http://ioc-unesco.org/jcomm-ncp-tor>

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<sup>1</sup> Updated May 2017, available in English only

GLOSS National Contact Point: The person designated by a Member State to promote GLOSS Implementation Plan at National Level and provide national coordination; distribute GLOSS documentation and publications to the national institutions and persons concerned; ensure that national needs for GLOSS data, products, scientific and technical advice are brought to the attention of the GLOSS programme; supply information to IOC on training needs; organise regular reviews of the national GLOSS stations through appropriate channels to ensure that their operation is in accordance with GLOSS requirements; ensure data flow from national tide gauges and GNSS receivers to GLOSS data centres in accordance with IOC Oceanographic Data Exchange Policy; report to IOC on the status of national stations that contribute to GLOSS, help to identify potential solutions for stations with poor or no data return; publicise GLOSS and sea-level studies in general.  
GLOSS Terms of Reference: [http://www.ioc-unesco.org/GLOSS\\_TORs](http://www.ioc-unesco.org/GLOSS_TORs)

Argo National Contact Point: The person designated by a Member State to receive the following information from the Argo Information Centre: type and number of floats to be deployed; dates and geo-coordinates of locations where floats are to be deployed in the high seas; contact information of the governmental, non-governmental or private entity responsible for Argo Programme floats deployed in the high seas; parameters and variables to be collected by sensors; other information that the governmental, non-governmental or private entity responsible for Argo Programme floats deployed in the high seas might consider of interest.  
Argo Terms of reference: [jcomm.info/Argo\\_ToRs](http://jcomm.info/Argo_ToRs)

SOT National Focal Point: is the main national contact for responsibilities focused on observations from voluntary commercial ships whose terms of reference can be found at [jcomm.info/SOT\\_ToRs](http://jcomm.info/SOT_ToRs) Note that this list of Focal Points can be appointed through WMO or through IOC.

DBCP National Focal Point: is the main national contact for responsibilities focused on observations from surface drifters and moorings, whose terms of reference can be found at [jcomm.info/DBCP\\_ToRs](http://jcomm.info/DBCP_ToRs). Note that this list of Focal Points can be appointed through WMO or through IOC.

There is overlap in the functions of the GOOS and the JCOMM National Contact Points. Therefore, depending on the structure of your country's organizations related to the activities of GOOS and JCOMM, you may appoint the same contact point for GOOS and JCOMM, or you may wish to have a GOOS National Contact Point focused on observing networks and a JCOMM National Contact Point for IOC focused on operational ocean services and forecast systems including real-time data systems. Should you wish to appoint alternates, please add their information below each national contact point.

**1. Global Ocean Observing Systems National Contact Point (GOOS)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution [repeat for all]: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. JCOMM National Contact Point (for IOC)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Argo National Focal Point**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Global Sea Level Observing System (GLOSS) National Contact Point**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Ship Observation Team (SOT) National Contact Point**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Data Buoy Cooperation Panel (DBCP) National Contact Point**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal address: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Comments regarding any of the contacts above:**

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Nominations Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Government Department/Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Nomination Forms duly completed and signed should be sent by 16 June 2017 at the latest to the IOC Secretariat (scan to [ooos@unesco.org](mailto:ooos@unesco.org)) through one of the following channels:

1. The coordinating body for liaison with the IOC
2. Head of UNESCO National Commission
3. Permanent Delegate to UNESCO

Any enquiries can be addressed to the Head of the Ocean Observation and Services Section, Dr Albert Fischer at: [a.fischer@unesco.org](mailto:a.fischer@unesco.org) (with copy to Forest Collins [f.collins@unesco.org](mailto:f.collins@unesco.org))