



Steering Group for the IOC Ocean Best Practices System (SG-OBPS)

Monthly Meeting
14 Apr 2021
13.00-14.00 UTC
[ONLINE]

SG-OBPS-20210310

14 Apr 2021

English only

ABSTRACT

The IOC Ocean Best Practices System Steering Group (SG-OBPS) meets annually at a face-to-face/hybrid/online meeting. During the intervening months the SG-OBPS meets online monthly.

This report is the record of the online meeting for 14 April 2021

For bibliographic purposes this document should be cited as follows:

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1. Opening of the meeting

Jay Pearlman, SG-OBPS Co-Chair, opened the meeting at 13.00 UTC on Wednesday 14 April 2021. Apologies were received from Peter Pissierssens; Claudia Delgado and Adam Leadbetter. A complete list of the meeting participants is shown in Annex I. Participants confirmed that they accepted that the meeting was to be recorded to assist with reporting purposes. The meeting agenda had been provided [online](#) in GDrive one week before the meeting for Work Package(WP) leads to contribute topics for decision or report. A draft version of this meeting report is provided to participants to give them the opportunity to provide any additional brief text for inclusion, though Decisions and Motion text cannot be changed.

Jay Pearlman welcomed the participants and noted 17 SG-OBPS members were present at this meeting representing a quorum. He noted that this meeting had a full agenda which for the first time, had time allocations to agenda items. In response to his call there were no requested additions to the agenda.

2. Capacity Development Proposal

Ana Lara-Lopez (AL-L) introduced the [proposal](#). She highlighted it had been available for sometime and described a three-pronged approach - courses; webinars; tutorials. It is important to take this forward now that a group of volunteers had been recruited and were ready to work with Claudia Delgado and AL-L on structuring this work. She briefly covered the three approaches:

Courses - would be facilitated through OTGA and a link to those courses can be in OBPS and on the OBPS website.

Tutorials - to identify existing relevant tutorials; create a list and contact producers asking for permission to make them available on the website (and also the repository)

Webinars - in consultation with WP5 to organize 4 webinars per year. CD volunteers suggest one on how to obtain GOOS Endorsement. Webinar recordings can be made available through OBPS and the OBPS website. It was acknowledged that volunteers will help with the webinar organization but contributions would be required from SG. AL-L would make contact to request specific activities.

AL-L confirmed there is no implication that WP7 were centralising content in OTGA but it would be the facilitating partner for OBPS.

Juliet Hermes confirmed there was a GOOS Endorsement detailed [document](#) about how to get your BP GOOS endorsed. She informed that OCG were hosting a CD Webinar Series and were looking at webinars for example on: how to create a BP; how to use the OBPS; how to get a GOOS endorsement. It was suggested OCG Webinar Series and OBPS Webinar Series should work together when appropriate.

Emma Heslop highlighted that to leverage EuroSea and JERICO S3 the encouragement to create best practices, should be extended to include the creation of video content on the BP.

The co-chair summarised that the SG had visually approved the CD proposal.

ACTION

1. Ana Lara-Lopez to contact SG for course support for this CD proposal
2. Ana Lara-Lopez (OBPS) and Juliet Hermes (for OCG) to discuss collaboration on hosting relevant webinars

3. Intent to collaborate with Omic BON Proposal

Frank Muller-Karger as WP6 co-lead introduced this [proposal](#) as common sense for OBPS to join with GEO BON as one of the founding fathers of Omics BON. He confirmed to Mark Bushnell's question that this proposal did not commit to any additional OBPS resources. Pier Luigi Buttigieg (PLB) who authored this proposal with Cora Horstman(CH) identified the initial main objective was to obtain methodological content from Omics BON into OBPS. This collaboration identifies a Task Team as one objective and further work would be identified then, when a Task Team proposal for this would come before SG. PLB also linked this collaboration with the BOON Ocean Decade Programme application. The following motion was presented by PLB and CH:

MOTION

The OBPS will partner with the marine branch of GEO BON's proposed Omic BON to manage their methods. This entails:

- * A dedicated community in the OBPS repository, subsuming the existing [GLOMICON community](#).
- * An OBPS Task Team to facilitate Omic BON and associated programmes (e.g. BOON) and projects (e.g. EuroSEA, AtlantECO) in using the OBPS for omic methods.
- * An OBPS spokesperson to represent OBPS in the context of Omic BON

An SG vote on the motion above was recorded in the Chat which is now stored with the meeting recording in the meeting folder.

The motion was passed by 15 members.

4. Foreign language deposits into OBPS Proposal

Pauline Simpson (PS) as WP2 co-lead introduced the background document and [proposal](#), reminding SG that in SG-OBPS Annual Meeting 2019 they had agreed a policy of only English language community practices could be deposited into OBPS. In SG-OBPS Annual Meeting 2020 the policy was changed to 'accept non-English texts if they have within the document an English title, English abstract and English key words which can be input to the metadata'. The phrase 'within the document' has caused issues since many existing foreign language practices do not have an English title and English abstract **within the document**.

It was confirmed that under the new policy the English abstract would be available to view on the OBPS interface and creators of new foreign language practices should be encouraged to include within their document an English title and English abstract. The number of foreign language deposits in OBPS is not significant because the 2020 policy had created a barrier. The English abstract will be input by the submitter and if in the future an English abstract was supplied through OBPS volunteers, a new metadata field labelled OBPS Summary would clearly identify OBPS provenance. PS proposed the following motion:

MOTION

The SG approves the following revision to the policy on foreign language deposits into OBPS:

To accept non-English texts the authors or submitters must provide for the record's metadata: 1) an English title, 2) an English abstract and 3) English keywords. [1, 2].

We will then recommend for WP3 that the semantic tagging functionality is expanded to the abstract, title, and keywords fields (may already be available)

We exclude from this policy legacy documents where the authors or submitters are not in a position to generate such translations.

Further, It was recommended that OBPS should accept languages beyond the UN Languages.

The minimal vetting procedures for foreign language content (e.g. document structure intact, file not corrupted, display possible, etc) will be the same as that of English language content.

[1] We will understand the metadata in these fields to be the creative work of the submitter. We understand the same content, but in the document, to be the creative work of the authors.

[2] For documents where English translations are not recoverable from the authors or submitter, we will propose an "OBPS Summary" metadata field where such content can be added by the OBPS team or volunteers. This too will be included in the semantic tagging targets.

An SG vote on the motion above was recorded in the Chat which is now stored with the meeting recording in the meeting folder.

The motion was passed by 16 members.

ACTION

1. It was noted that this change in policy has implications and should be communicated to the community. (PS)

5. Task Team for Omics/eDNA Protocol Management Proposal

Cora Horstman and Pier Luigi Buttigeig authors of the [proposal](#) reported that they had been approached by the Omics/eDNA OBPS Workshop IV Working Group with a proposed action that includes a Task Team. It is a far reaching 'blue sky' proposal for actions to be collaboratively refined, with CH and PLB identifying what OBPS can and cannot do. The duration of the TT is difficult to predict other than until actions are finished

The original document had been titled 'Decision Tree proposal' and it was queried by AL-L whether this was the priority since Decision Trees had been mentioned by more than one WS IV WG and was of interest to WP7.

This proposal is for approval for a TT with Terms of Reference to be established with TT members. Globally distributed, external members had been identified. It would come under WP6 and for the Decision Tree discussions, liaise with WP7. WP6 co-leads support the proposal but highlighted they would not be members of the TT. CH and PLB proposed the following motion:

MOTION

The SG approves the creation of an OBPS Task Team tasked with:

- Establishing a diverse working group representing multiple regions and initiatives
- Establishing a scope of collaboration between the Omics/eDNA community and the OBPS
- drafting a Terms of Reference and feasible deliverables to advance the OBPS for the

Omics/eDNA community

An SG vote on the motion above was recorded in the Chat which is now stored with the meeting recording in the meeting folder.

The motion was passed by 17 members.

6. Task Team for OBPS value chain analysis and KPI development Proposal

Cristian Munoz Mas (CM) introduced the [proposal](#) and thanked all who had contributed comments to the document. The proposal includes addressing the analysis of value chains within the system and to design Key Performance Indicators (KPI) which would be made available via API/webservices. A deliverable of the TT would be to present a paper to OCEANS 2021 on *The Best Practices uptake process across the Ocean Observing Community and its quantification* which would include 5 use cases and build on Rachel Przeslawski recently published paper [Impact and Outcomes of Marine Sampling Best Practices](#). He explained the TT would work with all WP but would be under WP1 with a duration of 15 months. The TT members represented both internal SG and external invitations.

PLB agreed it was needed to monitor that OBPS is 'healthy'. CM proposed the following:

MOTION

The SG approves the creation of an OBPS Task Team tasked with:

- 1) Assess the values and the impacts of each product and service the OBPS offers, and what measures could be used to monitor their advancement towards OBPS objectives.
- 2) Develop metrics that give insight into the uptake of content from the OBPS across the ocean observing communities.
- 3) Systematize the qualification and quantification of the OBPS performance, success and impacts, and publish them as open information on the OBPS.

An SG vote on the motion above was recorded in the Chat which is now stored with the meeting recording in the meeting folder.

The motion was passed by 17 members.

7. SG-OBPS Decision Making Procedure Proposal

Pier Luigi Buttigieg introduced this [Procedure](#) which had been initiated by himself and Juliet Hermes. He explained it was needed to formalize, but not to the extent of Robert's Rules, how the SG made and documented decisions. and to run SG business efficiently.

Many comments had been made and were now incorporated into the one document. It was accepted it was a living document, but once approved any proposed changes would need to come to SG for approval.

It was noted that the procedure was being used at this meeting. Discussion expanded to what decisions should come to SG particularly relating to Task Teams. The co-chair highlighted the document section *Once a decision is made by the SG, implementation is*

delegated to a Work Package. Decisions on implementation are done at the work package level except where the decisions impact funding or strategic direction. Recommendations for decisions on funding or overarching strategy will be brought to the SG for consideration and resolution. It became obvious that some SG members needed more time to review the document.

PLB proposed the original motion but offered the additional option to Defer

MOTION

The SG approves the procedure [outlined](#) for future decision making processes, acknowledging the need to further define mechanisms for executive actions.

An SG vote on the motion above was recorded in the Chat which is now stored with the meeting recording in the meeting folder.

The option to defer was voted by 6 members and it was agreed to bring the item to the next monthly SG after all SG had made a final review and comments addressed

8. TT21-01 Diversity

This item submitted by Jordan van Stavel (JvS) and Cora Horstman (CH) included the proposal of the TT [Draft call for TT members](#) and [website presence](#) for approval. The co-chair highlighted that the agenda item on SG Decision Making indicated that this approval was not necessary at SG level with the foci of such TT activities and work plan being addressed at the WP level. It was however **agreed by all** that the TT21-01 call for members and website presence documents could be an informal customizable template for future Task Teams.

9. Engagement log: interaction with external communities

Mark Bushnell (MB) co-lead of WP6 urged all SG to log their interactions with external communities/partners. This will be an essential data source for project Key Performance Indicators (KPI)

10. Ocean Decade

Juliet Hermes opened the discussion with the question of when OBPS could start discussions with partners identified in the OBPS Ocean Decade Programme Application who at the time of their agreeing to join the application were not fully briefed.

The Co-chairs indicated the planning process could begin before formal outcome notification had been received. Kirsten Isensee informed that formal notification concerning Ocean Decade applications would be sent out soon but advised moving forward without linking actions to the Ocean Decade before notification has been received; the actions could be relabeled once notification had been received.

ACTION

1. A Task Team for Ocean Decade Planning be proposed to SG with those wishing to be members of the TT to indicate their interest. (JK for May 2021 SG meeting)

11. Any Other Business

Emma Heslop (EH) :

- All-Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance - AANCHOR - what is happening with meeting discussions?
- [Impact and Outcomes of Marine Sampling Best Practices](#) edited by Rachel Przeslawski provides good analysis and what the challenges are - a possible future agenda item to look at the findings? Perhaps use as a case study for OBPS and is linked to the new TT for VCA and KPI. JP suggested it be listed on the OBPS website (it is already in the repository)
- GOOS Steering Committee - an OBPS webinar is scheduled for 19 April and EH identified this as an opportunity to indicate what are the OBPS 'asks' but more importantly at the GOOS SC to report them on the OBPS agenda item the following week, so that GOOS SC can discuss and maybe support and take forward. PLB listed EOVS data management overlap with BP for EOVS as a priority for interaction.

Jay Pearlman reminded the meeting that IODE XXVI was also being held 20-23 April 2021

12. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

Jay Pearlman thanked SG members for a productive meeting. The meeting was closed at 14.07 UTC.

The next monthly meeting is scheduled to be held Wed 12 May 2021 @ 13.00 UTC

ANNEX I

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