**Standards and Best Practices report May 2021 OCG 12**  Juliet Hermes

A more focused approach has been taken with networks, thank you to everyone for their time and energy.

To try and maintain a consistent approach, I developed and am sharing a paragraph for networks to put on their network websites with a request to include a tab or a section on BP

*Best Practices have always been an essential component across all areas of the observing system and the OCG ocean observing networks are committed to ensuring that their best practices are comprehensive, findable and are used. OCG, the IOC and the WMO Integrated Global Observing Systems (WIGOS* [*<http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/wigos/index\_en.html>*](http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/wigos/index_en.html)*), are seeking increased collaboration with partner organisations towards the objective of harmonized standards, and better traceability of observations to standards. In an ongoing effort to ensure this NETWORK NAME is working at providing best practices for the life cycle of all EOVs observed under the program, for each stage of the observation life cycle. The NETWORK NAME is contributing to this effort by compiling this list of best practice documents available and will identify gaps in the documentation and where documents need to be updated.*

*Best Practices are defined as a methodology that has repeatedly produced superior results relative to other methodologies with the same objective; to be fully elevated to a best practice, a promising method will have been adopted and employed by multiple organizations (*[*Pearlman et al, 2019*](https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fmars.2019.00277/full)*). Those best practices which have undergone community review and the network considers to be fully supported by the NETWORK NAME community will be identified as NETWORK NAME ‘GOOS endorsed’ and tagged as such in the IODE/GOOS oceanbestpractices.org repository.*

Network updates

* DBCP - working with Long, have been through the BP on their website and highlighted broken links ad areas of possible convergence. Need to meet again with Long to look at a TT to see how we can converge these BP. I will present at the PI workshop.
* SOT (VOOS/SOOP/ASAP) - TT busy with various BP, using the glider structure as a basis, great support from Tammy Morris and Justine Parks. Looking at some cross network BP with GoSHIP. Presenting at SOT 11
* OCEANGlider - Self organising, workshop underway for an overarching best practices document
* HF Radar - been working with Lisa Hazard and a TT. Have identified a number of key best practices which are going to be reviewed by the community . From this a reduced number should be endorsed.
* GLOSS - working with Gary to identify gaps in the regional best practices and structuring an overarching paper.
* GO-SHIP - well established BP, some are being updated, one has been endorsed. Am in touch with authors of an additional update who are responding to community review, this will then go through the endorsement process
* Argo - working with Tammy and TT to develop an overarching paper
* OCEAN-SITES - need further discussions with Johannes, he will raise at the next exec meeting abut endorsing some documents. Also self organised in terms of IAPSO and SCOR WG
* Anibos - Have a number of BP but need to work further with them

**GOOS endorsement:**

2 best practices have been endorsed through GOOS:

* Langlois, T.; Goetze, J.; Bond, T. et al (2020) A field and video annotation guide for baited remote underwater stereo-video surveys of demersal fish assemblages. Methods in Ecology and Evolution, 11, pp.1401–1409. DOI: https:// doi.org/10.1111/2041-210X.13470
* Becker. S.; Aoyama, M.; Woodward, E.M.S.; Bakker, K.; Coverly, S.; Mahaffey, C. and Tanhua, T. (2020) GO-SHIP Repeat Hydrography Nutrient Manual: the Precise and Accurate Determination of Dissolved Inorganic Nutrients in Seawater, Using Continuous Flow Analysis Methods. Frontiers in Marine Science, 7:581790, 15pp. DOI: 10.3389/fmars.2020.581790

This has been a slow start but will gather momentum as networks finalise their BPs. Am waiting for the final go ahead to put the information on the GOOS website (liaising with Forest).

Trying to resolve (with GOOS Bioeco panel) the regional vs global approach: The endorsement process highlighs the need for globally recognised methods, but this can, of course, be modified. The definition of best practice as per the OBPS does not state global. I like the idea of national, regional and international levels. But people requesting for endorsement would have to be prepared to have it endorsed by an international committee, even for a national BP. The GOOS committees could perhaps reach out to the GRAs for support with this. This would then allow for different national BPs to be assessed the same way and thus we would maintain confidence in the endorsement process.

This could be a step in working towards convergence of national or regional best practices. This would be another reason for the international GOOS committees/OCG to endorse the BP through this process as, when there is then for example a BP for the same EOV/observing method but for different nations, the connections can be made and any differences can be assessed and ideally a convergence can happen to a regional or global BP which supersedes the others.

This needs to be further ironed out in the endorsement process.

Ongoing work with the ocean best practices steering group ([www.oceanbestpractices.org](http://www.oceanbestpractices.org)). The GOOS endorsed tag should be finalised soon, until then the GOOS endorsed BPs have a tag in their title. Monthly meetings are attended and preparations have begun for the annual OBPS workshop. A proposal was submitted to Ocean Decade as an IOC program on the OBPS and numerous presentations have been given. A paper was published in May 2021: Pearlman et al., Evolving and Sustaining Ocean Best Practices to Enable Interoperability in the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. 2021. Frontiers Marine Science