

The Global Ocean Observing System  
[www.goosocean.org](http://www.goosocean.org)

# GOOS SC-10 part 2

## Ocean Observations in Areas under National Jurisdiction (OONJ) – Preview of Report Findings –

***Emma Heslop***

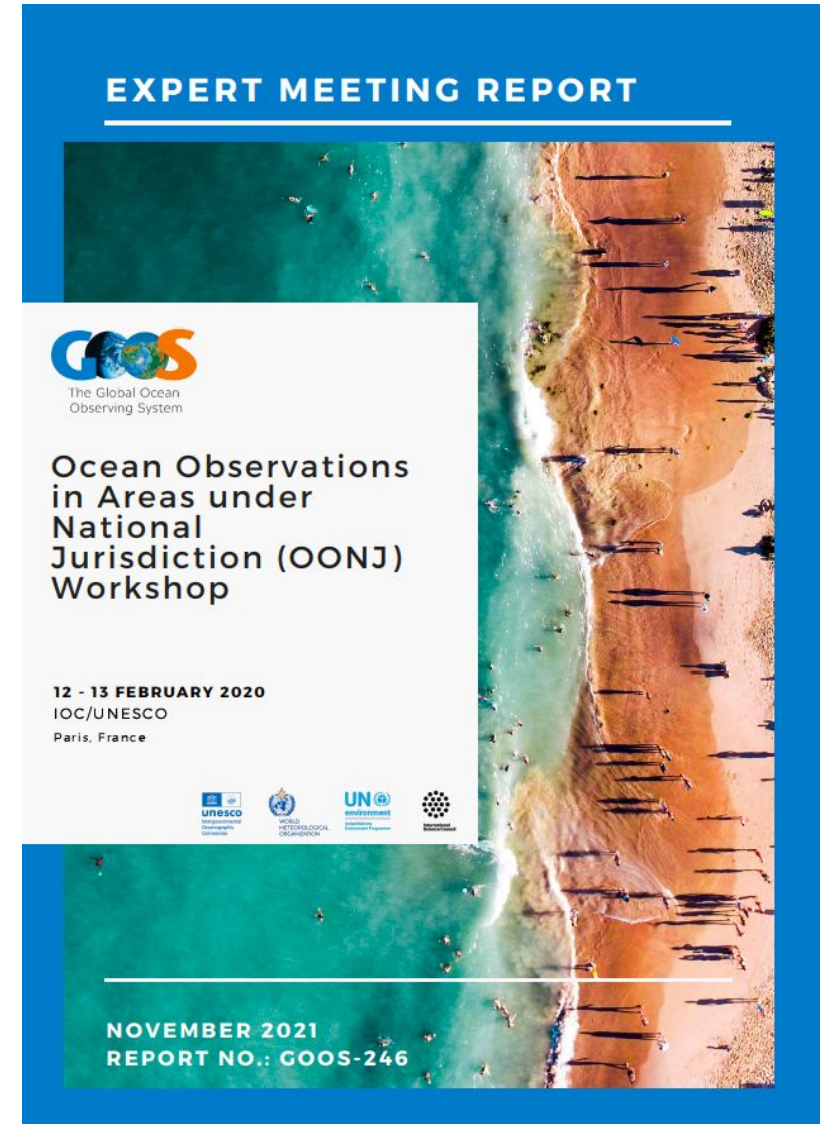
*Programme Specialist, GOOS Office, IOC/UNESCO*

*29 November – 02 December 2021*



# Experts Workshop Ocean Observations in Area under national Jurisdiction (OONJ)

- 2 day Experts Workshop (February 12-13) at IOC HQ, Paris
- Included global networks, international law of the sea experts (academic and DOALOS), IOC, GOOS, WMO – experts providing opinion in their personal capacity
- Discussed
  - the value of observations to coastal states
  - concerns of coastal states
  - issues the global networks currently face in undertaking observations in areas under national jurisdiction
  - Solution spaces within UNCLOS



# United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)

- UNCLOS concluded in 1982 and was a great achievement, enables global maritime cooperation and protects coastal States' interests.
- States can exercise full sovereignty over the ocean up to twelve nautical miles from their coast and claim sovereign rights over natural resources up to 200 nautical miles from their coasts, in their Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs).
- The need for ocean research to continue was recognised. UNCLOS was not meant to inhibit 'peaceful Marine Scientific Research'.
- Reality today - this is having a significant impact on our ability to develop a global ocean observing system that includes coastal States' EEZs – 30%
- GOOS/IOC had significant success with the Argo Notification Scheme, recently updated (2018) to include 6 BGC variables – BUT issues remain for many networks and hamper implementation of a OOS.

Networks/Issue areas	1 a) MSR process incompatible operational reality of sustained observing	1 b) Advance notice incompatible with platform operation	2) Observing in EEZs disputed zones	3) No national procedure for clearance
Argo	*2	*3	*	
SOT SOOP	*	*		

# WORKSHOP OUTCOMES - SOLUTION SPACES

1. Argo notification Scheme as a process (model)
2. Article 247 of UNCLOS (IOC procedure)
3. Update DOALOS published guide: DOALOS publish a “*Guide to the Implementation of the Relevant Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea*”, which provides guidance and forms for Coastal States to use for for MSR clearance. This could be updated to address some of the issues faced
4. Raising-awareness activities
5. WMO Recommendations
6. Regional / country arrangements
7. Article 258 of UNCLOS: “*deployment and use of any type of scientific research installations or equipment*”... *subject to MSR* Use as a means to clarify the status of new ocean observing platforms, e.g. gliders.

Solution Space		GO-SHIP	SOOP XBT / underway	VOS	Drifters	Argo	ABS	OceanGliders	OceanSITES	GLOSS
1	Argo Notification Scheme as a process (model)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
2	Article 247 (IOC)	Partial	Potential	No	Potential	Yes	Potential	Yes	Yes	No
3	Update The Guide	Partial	Potential (XBT)	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
4	Raising of awareness activities: Increasing transparency – benefits (risks) Enabling environment	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
5	WMO recommendations	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (Future)	Yes	No	Yes (Partial)
6	Regional/country arrangements	Yes (Partial)	Yes (Partial)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
7	Article 258 UNCLOS	No	Yes (Partial)	No	Yes (Partial)	Yes (Partial)	Yes (Partial)	Yes (Partial)	Yes (Partial)	No

# Workshop recommendations

1. IOC consider starting Argo notification scheme equivalent process for other platforms/variables.
2. IOC, with DOALOS and WMO support, set up an informal meeting, IOC Assembly or Executive Council, to discuss and share different practices in the implementation of MSR clearance procedures by States - leading to an expression of an 'IOC Best Practice' for national implementation of MSR clearance procedures
3. IOC/GOOS, WMO and DOALOS consider a joint work plan or initiative to raise awareness of the issues and the value gained from ocean observations. A coordinated awareness building effort would be more powerful than a single action.
4. GOOS use the information from the findings, recommendations and outcomes of the OONJ Workshop to support networks, the GOOS National Focal Points, and the ocean observing community in working with the MSR clearance procedures. develop a focal point for the collection and documenting of ongoing issues and dissemination of any raising awareness materials.



# Workshop recommendations

5. WMO to consider how resolutions could be supportive in highlighting the need for sustained ocean observations from EEZs and the critical role the national MSR clearance process plays in enabling this.
6. DOALOS to assess if there is appetite to pursue gaining a mandate from Member States to develop an update to the Guide to the Implementation of the Relevant Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.
7. IOC to consider initiating a pilot, using the IOC Article 247 process to undertake ocean observations after adoption of the project by the IOC and notifying Member States of the intent to undertake the activities in their EEZs.

# Next Steps

- In review with Workshop participants
- Publish Report and highlight recommendations
- Bring to IOC Executive Council 2022

GOOS to work with IOC, WMO and DOALOS to carefully select those areas where they will place effort to support ocean observations in coastal States EEZs. GOOS to ask these organisations to work together and commit to making progress in this politically difficult but societally vital area.

