



INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
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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 2930
(Available in English only)

IOC/VR/EH/YT/FC
10 February 2023

To : Official National Coordinating Bodies for liaison with the IOC
Ship Observation Team (SOT, VOS, SOOP, ASAP) National Focal Points

Cc. : Permanent Delegates/Observers Missions to UNESCO and
National Commissions for UNESCO of IOC Member States
Chair and Vice-Chairpersons of IOC
Chairpersons, GOOS and GCOS Steering Committees
Ms Champika Gallage, World Meteorological Organization

**Subject: Twelfth Session of the Ship Observation Team (15–18 May 2023) and
the XBT scientific workshop (11–12 May 2023) in Melbourne, Australia
(hybrid)**

Action required:

(i) Inform the IOC and WMO Secretariats of representatives participating in SOT-12
(in-person or virtual) no later than **28 February 2023**

(ii) Verify the list of national focal points for Ship Observation Team programmes and
notify both Secretariats of changes.

The Ship Observations Team (SOT) was created to build on synergies between the three groups involved in coordinating global ship-based observing programmes—the Voluntary Observing Ship (VOS) Scheme, the Ship-of-Opportunity Programme (SOOP), and the Automated Shipboard Aerological Programme (ASAP)—with a view to working towards a full-integration of ship-based observing systems on commercial and research vessels, within a multi-platform global ocean observing system.

Membership to the Team is open, and comprises operators of VOS, SOOP, and ASAP networks, as well as representatives from other groups using ships as observing platforms. It also includes representatives from monitoring centres, data management centres, telecommunication providers, manufacturers, scientific advisory bodies, and data users.

On behalf of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), I have the pleasure to inform you that a two-day scientific workshop on Expendable Bathythermograph (XBT) (11–12 May 2023) and the Twelfth Session of the Ship Observations Team (SOT-12, 15–18 May 2023) will be held at the kind invitation of the Bureau of Meteorology in Melbourne, Australia as a hybrid meeting. The SOT Executive

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Committee will meet prior to the SOT-12 on 14 May in the afternoon and after the SOT-12 on 19 May 2023.

As a SOT Member, operating VOS, SOOP, and/or ASAP, you are cordially invited to nominate one or more representatives to participate in SOT-12. Relevant experts are also invited to participate in and contribute to the XBT scientific workshop. SOT-12 and the XBT scientific workshop will be conducted in hybrid format. According to established procedures for the SOT, financial support from the WMO or the IOC is not available for participation. The provisional agenda, local logistics, and any other background or supporting documentation will be posted as they become available at the event website: <https://www.goosocean.org/SOT-12>. Documentation and discussion at both SOT-12 and the preceding XBT scientific workshop will be presented in English only.

I also invite you to check the list of National Focal Points in annex and report any discrepancies or changes required to the Secretariat or to nominate new contact points if needed.

The SOT-12 will consist of a common session for the three programmes: the fourteenth session of the VOS Panel (VOSP); the sixteenth session of the SOOP Implementation Panel (SOOPIP); and an ASAP Panel session. A special session of the meeting will provide Members / Member States the occasion to report on their national activities related to the SOT. Each country is invited to provide only one consolidated national presentation on its SOT-related activities (i.e., VOS, SOOPIP, ASAP and Port Meteorological Officers (PMO)), as appropriate. Detailed information on national reports session will be circulated to the members in due course.

Please notify Ms Ting YU (t.yu@unesco.org) of the IOC with copy to WMO Secretariat (cgallage@wmo.int), as soon as possible, but **no later than 28 February 2023**, whether your representative(s) will participate in SOT-12 and/or XBT scientific workshop. Kindly provide the full name and contact details of the participating representatives and mode of their participation (in-person or online).

A copy of this letter is being sent to the VOS focal point(s), SOOPIP member(s) and ASAP focal point(s) of your country as appropriate.

We look forward to your favourable response and to your continuous and active participation in ocean observing activities, and, in particular, the Ship Observations Team.

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Vladimir Ryabinin
Executive Secretary

Enclosure: SOT Contact Points

SOT CONTACT POINTS

The Ship Observations Team (SOT) is maintaining lists of contact points for itself as well as for its sub-programmes.

WMO Members and IOC Member States operating ship-based observation programmes are invited to coordinate at the national level and nominate one SOT Focal Point for each Member/Member State. They may also nominate one or more contact point(s) for the SOT sub-programmes (VOS, SOOP, ASAP), and Port Meteorological Officers (PMOs).

The current lists of focal points are available from the web pages detailed in the table below. Members/Member States are invited to check these lists and report discrepancies or required changes to the attention of Ms YU Ting (t.yu@unesco.org) at IOC with a copy to Ms Champika Gallage at: cgallage@wmo.int and the SOT Technical Coordinator at: ship-tc@ocean-ops.org

Lists	Summary	Website
SOT	National Focal Point (<i>one contact point per country</i>)	https://www.ocean-ops.org/board?t=sot&groupid=7011
VOSP	National Focal Point(s) of the Voluntary Observing Ship Panel (<i>one or more contact point per country</i>)	https://www.ocean-ops.org/board?t=sot&groupid=7013
SOOPIP	National Focal Point(s) of the Ship of Opportunity Programme Implementation Panel (<i>one or more contact point per country</i>)	https://www.ocean-ops.org/board?t=sot&groupid=7014
ASAP	National Focal Point(s) for the Automated Shipboard Aerological Programme (<i>one or more contact point per country</i>)	https://www.ocean-ops.org/board?t=sot&groupid=7012
PMOs	Port Meteorological Officers – <i>useful contacts</i>	https://www.ocean-ops.org/board?t=sot&groupid=7015