



**Reports of Meetings of
Experts and Equivalent
Bodies**

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Commission

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

Monthly Meeting
08 March 2023
20.00-21.00 UTC
[ONLINE]



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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 monthly online.

This report is the record of the online meeting for 08 March 2023

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ANNEX 1 - LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

1. Opening of the meeting

George Petihakis (GP) (Co-Chair SG-OBPS) introduced the meeting and confirmed that this SG was the first 2023 quarterly SG Meeting designated for decisions. A complete list of the meeting participants is shown in Annex I. Apologies were received from Mark Bushnell, Rene Garelo; Frank Muller-Karger; Peter Pissierssens and Nicholas Roden. All participants agreed the session should be recorded for minute taking purposes

2. AISBL Investigation update

GP reported that the SG AISBL subgroup (George Petihakis, Rene Garelo, Jay Pearlman, Johannes Karstensen, Peter Pissierssens, Pauline Simpson (Emma Heslop (EH) was unavailable), had met to take forward the agreed decision to investigate the feasibility of creating an OBPS/OP AISBL. The AISBL can provide a mechanism for receiving grants from governments and other organizations. He explained the AISBL would not replace OBPS as an IOC project but will support OBPS' sustainability and development. GP went through the notes of the meeting on 6 March 2023 <https://tinyurl.com/2vkycsfy> which included such topics as hosting organization and membership fees based on a cost analysis of the annual funding the AISBL would require. Membership fees of other AISBL had been discussed and in reply to EH question a figure up to 1000 euros per year would be considered for the OBPS/OP AISBL.

3. OBPS VII 2023 Workshop - save the date

In Rene Garelo's absence, Pauline Simpson (PS) reported that the date for the next annual OBPS Workshop VII was scheduled **in the week beginning 9 October 2023.**

4. SG Monthly meeting times

In consideration of new SG members' extended global distribution, it had been decided to ask SG to review the meeting times (when both summer and winter time are affected by global clock changes in March and October). An agenda item on this has been included at each SG since January but there was never time for the discussion. It was agreed a small subgroup of SG members representing continents/regions would make the review and bring recommendations to the SG meeting 12 April.

ACTION: A subgroup: Jay Pearlman/Rebecca Zitourn/Aileen Tan Shau Hwai/Ana Caroline Peralta/Edem Mahu/Rachel Przeslawski/Pauline Simpson, would review options to try and accommodate all timezones, and present their recommendations to the SG on 12 April 2023.

5. Update on Search Logic Benchmarking

PS reported that at the SG-OBPS-IV it was agreed that in the light of comments made about issues with searching on the Enhanced Discovery Service (EDS) (search interface) it had been agreed to carry out a search logic test exercise once the IODE IT (Arno and Pieter) had tried to fix the Boolean problem. Benchmark testing searches have been supplied by the SG and the delay in starting the testing, was that the EDS required to have its updating indexing run by the IODE IT team and to implement the successful Boolean fix onto the production EDS.

ACTION: Arno Lambert agreed to run the EDS bulk re-indexing in the next two days and to address implementing their Boolean fix on the EDS production version.

6. Website redesign

Rachel Prezslawski (RP) reported that the contract for the web redesign is going through some administrative hurdles but was expected to be signed soon. She highlighted the Website wish list and thanked those who had made additions and called for any additional requirements /comments to be added to this asap because she would use it as a basis for building the structure etc (rather than content) . <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1a6lBxu02H9u-KTnJDtGc3jILvvSGaXH9UL6R79OACTg>.

A decision she was keen for the SG to consider was whether the website should have a 'members' only login and asked first, '*who is a member*'. She also explained having the members' login would require additional database functionality on the website which opens up security and privacy issues. Ana Lara-Lopez (AL-L) queried if SG will see a website wireframe and RP confirmed this was her next activity. She hoped to be working on this over the next month and would be conferring with all at each step.

ACTION: Decision: The SG agreed not to include a members only login/membership database in the new web redesign, at this time.

7. DEI Statement for OBPS

Cora Horstmann (CH) explained that one of the outcomes of the Task Team 21-01 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity (DEI) in Ocean Best Practices Development, was to agree an OBPS Statement on DEI that would be added to the new website. CH shared a link to the draft https://docs.google.com/document/d/1QTY1JRmPqib_YHvRFQgoZoDUAOW1nlyb8MPuMSSP_N0/edit?usp=sharing, and asked members to review and edit (in suggesting mode) so that she can finalise and make it available to RP for addition to the new website

ACTION: Decision: The SG approves the inclusion on the OBPS website, of the DEI statement as presented at this meeting, with the small edits indicated at the meeting

8. OBPS Ambassadors in the field

Cora Horstmann (CH) explained that the Ambassadors who were selected to join OBPS in 2022 had been participating in a series of communication and outreach training sessions finishing March 2023, which has been to prepare them to advocate and to talk about OBPS at relevant regional conferences and workshops. They are now ready to 'go out into the field' and CH explained she had started a spreadsheet

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1zvT3R2nhO0a6thdHElcN9wqbCBScx2jrYC9v_VXfRUk/edit?usp=sharing and asked SG to assist to identify relevant conferences and workshops where they could give presentations.

AL-L reminded that WP7 would be planning OBPS webinars and thought these would be an opportunity for the Ambassadors to make presentations and moderate.. (see also Item 9)

9. Capacity Development in Ocean Best Practices Pilot in the Caribbean - NORAD proposal

Ana Lara-Lopez (AL-L) informed the SG of the good news that the NORAD Proposal had been successful. Preparatory work now starts with the consortium to prepare workplans, detailed budgets and timeline to submit to IOC. The SG congratulated all who were involved in the preparation of the proposal.

10, Embedding BP into University Curriculum

AL-L reminded the SG of the WP7 action to progress this pilot. She and Carol Mazucco (CM) will arrange a meeting next month to set down plans and document the process which could eventually be uploaded to OBPS as a model for other case studies.. JP has a contact at Univ Connecticut who would like to participate in this pilot.

11. Webinars

AL-L informed the meeting of the WP7 plan for OBPS Webinars hosted through the GOOS Webinar setup. She has uploaded a spreadsheet https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1GgPg4oikAAi9DKbzw_a6JaWBBtsJ6PrrJgwdqlb5WKE/edit?usp=sharing and asks SG to add webinar topics, speakers, moderators etc. Depending on the number of ideas and suggestions she envisaged 4-6 webinars a year being hosted.

In this section AL-L also reminded the SG about a new Newsflash regular item: *The bad, the worse, and the ugly*. She is looking for SG volunteers to provide

their own experiences of such happenings. Rebecca Zitoun has set up a spreadsheet

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1COXCUsTaDJ4J9q_ZwG4jPTYCUQXiteXaa5zVJnP378c/edit?usp=sharing to collect names and month of a volunteer SG contribution

Here is the extract explaining the idea:

It is well known that we learn more from our mistakes, and as humans, we are certainly experts at making them! Science is no exception, and yet we seldom publish these mistakes, if at all. Most of the research published shows the successful results we obtain while conducting science. The wisdom about the pitfalls and mistakes that can occur while carrying out our research is not published or communicated in any way, shape or form. Therefore, the same mistakes can be repeated by others, unaware that these could happen because no one has warned them. Communicating mistakes should be best practice to help others avoid them, and so we have created this new small section in our News Flash. The section is intended for the community to contribute, and we would like to invite everyone to do so. Don't worry; you can make an anonymous contribution, and you are allowed to blame your pets/friends/family!

Virginie van Dongen-Vogels (VvDV) added that the next Newsflash was April and she was also looking for success stories

12. Ocean Practices for the Decade (OceanPractice)

Rebecca Zitoun (RZ) co-lead of OceanPractices spoke of the many emails that everyone gets routinely from the Decade but at the same time the Decade Coordination Unit also sends more formal and administrative emails that require official Programme response. Until now these formal DCU emails are received by the email decade@oceanbestpractices.org and have been forwarded to a large group (14) in the SG. Rebecca suggested for the formal emails, this forwarding large group should be reduced to the co-leads; co-chairs and previous co-chairs and co-chair elects and Project Manager, but asked anyone who wishes to be on this forwarding list to let her know.

ACTION: Any SG member wishing to be on the forwarding for formal DCU Programme Administrative emails to inform RZ.

Secondly, one of the important activities for the OP Programme is communication and outreach. There is a growing Community of Practice in the OP Programme and the need is for posts to keep the COP engaged and exchange of information etc (which could be the same as posted on LinkedIn and Twitter.) RZ wondered if we need a meeting to agree what topics can be included in the posts - RP recommended if there is stuff that can be branded OBPS, just post it!)

CM acknowledged that social media posting is not easy and suggested, since the Ambassadors have received communication/social media training they could

perhaps support this OP COP postings if they have time. AL-L seconded this suggestion. CH was not sure they would be interested. If not perhaps open a call (possibly external) for a volunteer/s who already are social media 'posters' or could be trained.

ACTION: RZ to approach the Ambassadors first and ask if they are interested.

13. Any other Business

Jay Pearlman(JP) raised some upcoming activities:

6th World Conference on Marine Biodiversity, Penang Malaysia.

Aileen Tan Shau Hwai (SG member) is organising this conference and has offered a session/s for best practices. Frank Muller-Karger will be giving a keynote at the conference. We need to respond to Aileen whether we will be putting together presentations. Please let JP know if any SG member is interested.

Decade Coordination Centre for Ocean Forecasting in which Enrique Alvarez is actively involving OBPS/OP. Th DCC has started a co-design effort on modelling. The OBPS role is to help with synergy of information coming from the exercise. OBPS has identified ECOP modellers from GEOMAR and CMCC who will work on the co-design.

VVDV commented the modelling initiative was interesting since there is a lack of implementation of BP in this and data assimilation - it is good to engage with modellers. Juliet Hermes in the chat reported that they are very engaged in that through our modelling efforts as well. Her team member Jen is on the co-design and co-leading the African component with Karim.

JP suggested putting something in Newsflash.

GP reported that the co-chairs are trying to involve OBPS in at least 2 project proposals

14. Close of Meeting

George Petihakis thanked all for their participation

The meeting closed at 21.00 UTC

ANNEX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS [ONLINE]

Juliet HERMES
Manager and oceanographer
Marine Offshore Node
South African Environmental Observation
Network,
National Office, Foretrust Building, Foreshore
Martin Hammerschlag Way
Cape Town, 0001, South Africa

Emma HESLOP
Act. Director
Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) /
Observation Coordination Group (OCG)
7 Place de Fontenoy, 75007 Paris – France

Cora HORSTMANN
Mediterranean Institute of Oceanography (MIO)
Campus de Luminy Bâtiment Méditerranée
13288 Marseille Cedex 09, France

Ana LARA- LOPEZ
University of Tasmania,
Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies
20 Castray Esplanade, Battery Point, Hobart,
Tasmania, TAS 7004, Australia

Arno LAMBERT
IT Specialist
UNESCO / IOC Project Office for IODE
InnovOcean Campus – Jacobsenstraat 1 -
8400 Oostende – Belgium

Edem MAHU
Marine and Fisheries Sciences
University of Ghana
P. O. Box LG 25, Legon
Accra. Ghana

Ana Carolina (**Carol**) MAZZUCO
Department of Oceanography
Universidade Federal do Espírito Santo Av.
Fernando Ferrari,
514, Goiabeiras Vitória-Espírito Santo,
CEP 29075-910, Brazil

Cristian MUNOZ MAS
Senioringeniør
Havforskningsinstituttet
Forskningsgruppe for Bærekraftig Utvikling
Strandgaten 196 Room 216
5004 Bergen, Norway

Edwin MWASHINGA
Environmental and Social Scientist
SIDS and Climate Change for Sustainable
Development,
UNESCO Sub Commission for Africa and
Adjacent States,
Nairobi, Kenya

Jay PEARLMAN (Co-Chair)
Director, Four Bridges
Port Angeles, WA 98362
United States of America

Ana **Carolina** PERALTA BRICHTOVA
Universidad Simon Bolivar, Laboratorio de
Biología Marina Departamento de Estudios
Ambientales. Valle Sartenejas Edif. Química y
Procesos P.B. Ofic. 019. Valle de Sartenejas.
Baruta 89000, Miranda, Venezuela

George PETIHAKIS (Co-Chair)
Research Director
Institute of Oceanography
Hellenic Centre for Marine Research, Crete
Main Building of HCMR, Former U.S. Base,
Gournes, P.O.Box 2214,
Heraklion, Greece

Rachel PRZESLAWSKI
Research Leader Marine Ecosystems
Fisheries Research
NSW Department of Primary Industries |
Fisheries,
4 Woollamia Rd | PO Box 89 | Huskisson |
NSW 2540, Australia

Pauline SIMPSON
Project Manager Ocean Best Practices System
UNESCO / IOC Project Office for IODE
InnovOcean Campus – Jacobsenstraat 1 -
8400 Oostende – Belgium

Virginie VAN DONGEN-VOGELS
Australian Institute of Marine Science
Townsville Queensland 4810
Australia

Rebecca ZITOUN
Postdoctoral Fellow
Marine Mineral Resource Groups

GEOMAR Helmholtz-Zentrum für
Ozeanforschung Kiel, Wischhofstr. 1-3, 24148
Kiel, Germany