



INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(of UNESCO)

Thirty-second Session of the Assembly
UNESCO, 21–30 June 2023

Item 4.9 of the Provisional Agenda

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS OF THE JOINT WMO-IOC COLLABORATIVE BOARD

Summary

The Joint WMO-IOC Collaborative Board (hereafter JCB) was created by IOC Assembly Resolution XXX-2 (2019) and a “mirror” resolution adopted by the WMO. In 2021 IOC adopted the WMO-IOC Collaborative Strategy and Report (IOC Decision A-31/3.5.5). In 2022 the JCB met virtually and identified a set of potential actions to support the implementation of its aims.

This document summarises the outcomes from the above JCB meeting and presents the next steps the JCB will take (supported by the IOC and WMO Secretariats) to achieve its mandated tasks and to undertake a review of progress, as requested by IOC in 2019 (IOC Resolution XXX-2).

The purpose of the document is to review progress and approve the approach for JCB next steps.

Financial and administrative implications: There are no financial and administrative implications.

The proposed decision(s) is referenced A-32/4.9 in the Provisional Action Paper (document IOC-32/AP Prov.)

Introduction

1. The Joint World Meteorological Organization (WMO) – Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC) Collaborative Board (JCB) held its Second Session (JCB-2) online through two 3-hour meetings on 1–2 March 2022 (see [IOC/INF-1420](#), Annex 1 for the agenda).

2. The JCB Co-Chairs Dr Albert Martis (WMO) and Dr Srinivasa Kumar Tummala (IOC) chaired the session. Following the adoption of the Joint WMO-IOC Collaborative Strategy (2022–2025) by both WMO 73rd Session of Executive Council (EC73) and IOC Assembly 31st Session (A-32) in June 2021 ([IOC/A-31/3.5.5.Doc\(1\) Rev.](#)), the expected outcomes of JCB-2 were to:

- Understand the role of JCB in adding value to the joint activities and mutual interest between WMO and IOC;
- Identify gaps/possible areas of strengthened collaboration and to formulate recommendations to address these gaps; and
- Draft the outline of a workplan for 2022–2023.

3. The meeting followed the value chain approach, from observations, through data, modelling, services, and covering research and capacity development, of the JCB. Both IOC and WMO presented their priorities and related activities, highlighted progress of work in 2021, and proposed short term priorities for JCB action. The JCB discussed the gaps and opportunities, and how and where the JCB could add value. A joint collaborative workplan for 2022–2023 was agreed with the following key items:

- Establishment of JCB Webinar Series across the value chain;
- Development of proposals for Satellites Ocean position white paper;
- Enhanced synergy between GBON/RRR process and GOOS Co-Design to promote sustainability of observation;
- Increased focus on ocean carbon research and observing capacity and design;
- Joint development of an ocean data map;
- Collaboration on interoperability between IOC/IODE OIH/ODIS and WMO WIS: Enhanced involvement of all JCB members in developing WIS 2.0 and ODIS Implementation Plan and regional initiatives;
- Collaboration between IOC/IODE and WMO on ocean best practices (IOC OBPS);
- Harmonization of WMO and IOC data policy, guidance and consultations;
- Strengthened response & resilience to coastal flooding hazards for coastal communities including tsunamis;
- Advancement of ocean prediction & forecasting S/GDPFS to benefit end-users and Members;
- Increased avenues for marine meteorology and oceanography expert community to come together at regional/local level in addition to increasing the involvement of decision makers;
- Co-hosting of big ocean events between WMO and IOC and co-lead in other big event/conferences (e.g. COP);
- Increased regional collaboration between WMO and IOC (e.g. Ocean Side Event);
- Intensified leveraging of existing strategic plans from WMO and IOC to achieve stronger contribution;
- Generation of links and harmonization of Capacity Development activities/ programmes/ strategies of WMO and IOC;

Progress in 2022–2023 and status of JCB Review

4. The JCB-2 meeting held in March 2022 was positive and several important areas for collaboration were identified, as highlighted in the Workplan 2022-2023. Although there is IOC/WMO progress regarding a number of the items outlined in the workplan, the overall progress has been slower than anticipated. This is in part a result of COVID-19 impacting the ability of the JCB to meet in person to discuss, assess progress, or prioritize the actions and other resource issues.

5. In addition, although the JCB has fulfilled part of its charge from the IOC (Resolution XXX-2, 2019) and prepared a WMO-IOC Collaborative Strategy as adopted in 2021, and also a workplan for 2022-2023, it has not fulfilled the IOC request for a review of its performance after four years, reporting to the IOC Assembly in 2023. Further, the mechanism for implementation of a JCB Collaborative Strategy is somewhat unclear, for example how does this function alongside other existing WMO and IOC strategies.

6. The JCB Chairs met online in March 2023 and agreed to address the Work Plan Progress and the 4-year Review of the JCB through a meeting in September/October 2023. The agenda for this will be discussed in a virtual meeting in July, however it will include a review and a focus on priority topics for collaboration. There is renewed commitment from the IOC Executive Secretary and secretariat to the work of the JCB.