IOC AND THE FUTURE OF THE OCEAN: SUSTAINABLE DELIVERY AND EXPANSION OF IOC ACTIVITIES

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The Future of IOC toward next 10 years and its implication for Member States

Varna, Bulgaria
19th March 2012
Intergovernmental UN platform for dialogue and cooperation in ocean science.

Intergovernmental UN Platform to enable ocean science for addressing existential issues.
IOC MTS: High-Level Objectives and Functions

**Mission:** to bring together governments and science community in achieving ‘the Ocean We Need for the Future We Want’

- Healthy ocean and sustained ocean ecosystem services;
- Effective warning systems and preparedness for tsunamis and other ocean-related hazards;
- Resilience to climate change and contribution to its mitigation;
- Scientifically-founded services for the sustainable ocean economy; and
- Foresight on emerging ocean science issues.
The science we need for the ocean we want

Issues

• Clean
• Healthy and resilient
• Productive
• Safe
• Predicted
• Accessible
• Inspiring and engaging

Solutions (infrastructure)

Enabling environment

• Pollutants
• Ecosystems
• Food from the Ocean
• Ocean economy
• Ocean-climate nexus
• Ocean-related risks
• Ocean observing system
• Ocean digital representation
• Capacity development
• Behaviour change
Relevant UN Frameworks set objectives

- Convention on Biological Diversity
- THE LAW OF THE SEA
- Kunming-Montreal GBF
- Ocean-Climate Dialogue
- Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 - 2030
- UNEP
- Regional Seas
- + BBNJ
- + ILBI on Plastic Pollution 2024
How the System is organized

Convention 1
Goals
Secretariat
National PoC
Commitments
Assessment 1

Convention 2
Goals
Secretariat
National PoC
Commitments
Assessment 2

Convention 3
Goals
Secretariat
National PoC
Commitments
Assessment 3

Protocol A
Goals
Secretariat
National PoC
Commitments
Assessment A

Protocol B
Goals
Secretariat
National PoC
Commitments
Assessment B

...
Patient, sick with multiple diseases, is treated by several specialized doctors who do not speak to each other.

Ocean is most often “2nd priority” in many conventions.
Humankind is running out of time to start managing the ocean sustainably.
Climate, real-time services, ocean health
What is the role of ocean observations in addressing climate change?

Little!
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Little!

What is the role of knowledge products based on ocean observations in addressing climate change?

Fundamental!
NEED a stronger enabling environment for products!
Is there an approach to create enabling environment for ocean knowledge products generation that would facilitate their efficient use? Yes!

“Sustainable Ocean Planning”

climate-smart, ecosystem-focussed, ethical & equitable ocean management on the basis of science-supported planning for a sustainable blue economy

But: much still needs to be constructed!
Key Ocean Management Domains

- Coastal zone management and adaptation
- Marine Spatial Planning, sustainable ocean economy
- BBNJ, MPAs, reserves, LMEs, heritage sites, UCH
- Management of fisheries and aquaculture
- Adaptation to and mitigation of climate change, NDCs
- Development of national R&D strategies & ocean policies
- Real-time oceanographic, weather/climate services
- Regional and national capacity development
- Early warning Systems, Sendai
IOS Evaluation of IOC strategic positioning

Sustainable delivery and expansion of IOC activities:
estimate of required budget, including human resource needs

(Document distributed by IOC Circular Letter No. 2912)

Conclusions:
workforce: 60 -> 90,
budget: 30M$ -> 50M$

Expect soon:
Increase in regular programme budget
What is missing in the pot?
Or, what has not been developed enough?
(list is not inclusive and not in any order)

• Use of climate predictions and projections for ocean management
• Framework to adapt to sea-level rise
• Research on ocean chemical pollution -> multiple stressors
• Return on investments in ocean research/observations -> *ocean economics*
• Valuation of ecosystems and benefits of ocean life-supporting services
• Ocean reanalysis
• ODIS: enabling environment for knowledge products!
• Mainstreaming reanalysis with use of remote sensed data
• Biogeochemistry - ecological observations and models
• Ocean science – policy interface
• ...
IOC can help saving the Ocean!

- Capitalize on Ocean Decade, its processes and Conference 2024
- Build on ideas in the Action Plan from IOS Evaluation
- Costa Rica and France, 2024 and UNOC 2025
- A pan-UN plan of working in the ocean?
- Need for an in-depth co-design of the future IOC services (reverse engineering?) – a complex task

Dec. A-32/5

IOC and the Future of the Ocean: Sustainable Delivery and Expansion of IOC Activities

A consultation on how IOC could optimally facilitate science-based sustainable ocean planning, ocean science support to implementation of UN environmental conventions and frameworks, and development of a sustainable ocean economy;

IOC Executive Secretary to prepare and initiate the consultation involving appropriate stakeholders and present a progress update to the IOC Executive Council in 2024