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

**Monthly Meeting**  
09 August 2023  
12.00-13.00 UTC  
[ONLINE]



**UNESCO 2023**

SG-OBPS-20230809  
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English only

### **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 09 August 2023

For bibliographic purposes this document should be cited as follows:

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## ANNEX 1 - LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

## **1. OPENING OF THE MEETING**

Jay Pearlman (previous SG-OBPS co-chair) introduced the meeting by explaining that this SG was the third quarterly SG Open Chat Session for 2023. A complete list of the meeting participants is shown in Annex I. Apologies were received from Emma Heslop; Tan Shau Hwai (Aileen); Frank Muller-Karger; Edwin Mwashinga; Peter Pissierssens; Rene Garello. All participants agreed the session should be recorded (see [https://drive.google.com/file/d/13D8WIPx3eGoJFhsEa-1w\\_UB9LtNGEtxN/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/13D8WIPx3eGoJFhsEa-1w_UB9LtNGEtxN/view?usp=drive_link))

## **2. SG MONTHLY MEETING (Nov 2023 -Mar 2024)**

Pauline Simpson (Project Manager) explained that since its beginning in 2019, the regular monthly SG-OBPS meeting has been held the second Wednesday each month. Some members have a clash with other Decade meetings now and have asked for the SG monthly meeting day to be reviewed. As the SG knows, we rotate the meeting **time** every six months to ensure that an unsociable meeting time does not fall on the same region all the year. The next discussion on timing of the monthly meetings is due in September and she recommended that the day as well as the time be discussed/agreed then. She had no issue with changing the day of the month but strongly urged that it should be a regular day of each month, since deciding on a different meeting date each month would be a planning nightmare and also regularity would be lost.

### **Action:**

2.1 A doodle to be sent out to gauge what regular day of the month is preferred by members (PS)

2.2. SG-OBPS meeting 13 Sep 2023 to make a decision on the day and time of monthly meetings (PS)

## **3. ADAPT: Adapting Ocean Best Practices to the local context (Caribbean Pilot Project)**

Ana Carolina Peralta (ADAPT Project Manager) updated the meeting on project progress. Some delay on administrative matters with IOC/Unesco for consultancy contracts/partnership agreements etc had occurred because of vacations; it is expected these administrative arrangements will be completed by the end of Sep or 01 Oct. ACP went through the project work plan timeline to show that the project was still on track and had just finished phase one (preparation). The in-person courses would be delivered in 2024, one in Colombia and one in Grenada. Partners had contributed to suggestions for questions for the survey on regional training needs and she is now working on the survey design ready for 15 August and will be sharing the draft with partners to review. At the end of August, they will then analyse the results and start to identify the experts (both within and external to the region) to co-design the training

programme. ACP confirmed to JP that it was intended that the project results would be shared and applied to other regions, particularly Africa where the present OBPS Task Team 22-01 is working. She displayed a list of stakeholders identified in the proposal and included as stakeholders the experts and students as part of that cohort. ACP reported that the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute Conference would be held in mid-November and she would be making a presentation on OBPS capacity development approach, facilitating and sharing of methods and knowledge, and fostering collaboration.

#### **4. OBPS WORKSHOP VII**

Pauline Simpson, Jay Pearlman and Cora Hoerstman confirmed that the workshop date was 09-13 October 2023 in which the days (of approx 3 hours each) would consist of track sessions covering the 10 Ocean Decade Challenges which is hoped will be led by the WP leads of the Decade Vision 2030. The workshop week would be followed by a week of focused sessions, self-organized by topic groups (many of whom did the same in previous workshops), A call for abstracts, track leads and focussed sessions had gone out with an extended deadline of 31 July 2023 and once the co-chairs were back from vacation these would all be reviewed for acceptance. JP commented that sessions would be scheduled to accommodate the Pacific region time zone and we are looking for leads for that region (Rebecca, Vinnie and Aileen may be able to assist).

**Action:**

[Doodle for Workshop Organizing Committee to be sent out \(PS\)](#)

#### **5. OCEANPRACTICES FEDNET (OPFN)**

Jay Pearlman reminded the meeting of the High Level Objective of OBPS/Ocean Practices for the Decade strategic plan of a Federated Network of Methodology Management Systems. He reported that the network would be hosted on Ocean InfoHub and an initial pilot for Fisheries and Aquaculture is in discussion working in collaboration with ICES and FAO. The pilot is looking for other Fisheries and Aquaculture groups that are managing a substantial collection of methodologies particularly in the Southern Hemisphere (Australia). Rachel P and Paul VR agreed to consider if there were candidate MMS in Australia. Rachel P commented there was no central MMS repository for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Australia. Paul reported that there was some discussion but agreed no MMS. IMOS uses OBPS as its central MMS repository. There are some national agencies that could take that role but it is not there yet.

JP reported that George Petihakis, Johannes Karstensen and others were successful in their proposal for an EC grant called ObsSea4Clim on EOVs and advancing the knowledge base of EOVs and this would include funding for the FedNet.

**Action:**

[Investigate MMS potential in Australia \(RP/PVR\)](#)

[Create a short paper on the FedNet and share it at workshop \(JP\)](#)

## 6. OBPS WEBSITE DESIGN REFRESH

Rachel Przeslawski updated the meeting on the progress of the OBPS Website design refresh/streamline. The WordPress Theme had been decided by a vote of SG and she was now working on the landing page and content. She shared the staging url <http://staging.obps.btsa.solutions/> but stressed that the contractor BTSA had not addressed graphic design so it does not look great right now. RP called for comments and supply of the website content and any suitable images. She highlighted the menu bar and other features and talked about the three main tiles on the landing page. Members present had comments but RP would prefer to receive considered comments particularly about the content of the landing page. Nicholas Roden commented he thought the menu bar was very important and that we should look at the Unesco website <https://www.unesco.org/en> as an example of layout, text, menu bar and images. Post meeting FYI: IODE and GOOS are both redesigning their websites

### Action:

RP will be emailing the staging url and making a formal call to all SG for revised content for pages and feedback on landing page

## 7. ENDORSEMENT

The OBPS work plan for 2023 has a deliverable for the recruitment of OBPS Endorsing Entities in addition to the GOOS Expert Panels which, includes a new infographic to support the exercise. Mark Bushnell had kindly volunteered to lead this effort and before talking about endorsement he informed the meeting that he had stepped down from being Technical Coordinator of QARTOD and had been replaced by Dr. Jeff Coogan Mark is gradually withdrawing from his commitments and suggested that Jeff Coogan should replace him on the SG-OBPS. Post meeting MB informed reported that Jeff Coogan would not be taking up the QARTOD position

Mark B shared his draft [generic endorsement statement](#) which he advised should be as simple as possible but requested all to review the draft and make comments. During discussion, Paul VR outlined how IMOS view endorsement and Rachel informed in the chat: *We're working on a national endorsement plan here in Australia involving our National Marine Science Committee (of which IMOS, AIMS and all other major Australian science institutes are members).* It was agreed that a small group of SG should take this forward and the following volunteered: MB/JP/PS/PVR/RP/ACP?/ Juliet Hermes and Emma Heslop would be invited to join.

### Action:

Small group (Task Team?) on Endorsement to be invited to a meeting convened within the month (MB/PS)

## 8. CLOSE OF MEETING

Jay Pearlman thanked the members for really useful discussions

The meeting closed at 13.15 UTC

## ANNEX I

### LIST OF PARTICIPANTS [ONLINE]

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