



INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
COMMISSION OCÉANOGRAPHIQUE INTERGOUVERNEMENTALE
COMISIÓN OCEANOGRÁFICA INTERGUBERNAMENTAL
МЕЖПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВЕННАЯ ОКЕАНОГРАФИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ

اللجنة الدولية الحكومية لعلوم المحيطات

政府间海洋学委员会

UNESCO – 7 Place de Fontenoy - 75352 Paris Cedex 07 SP, France
<http://ioc.unesco.org> - contact phone: +33 (0)1 45 68 03 18
E-mail: v.yabinin@unesco.org

IOC Circular Letter No 2971
(Available in English, French, Spanish, Russian)

IOC/VR/EH/FC
31 October 2023

To : IOC National Coordinating Bodies for Liaison with IOC (IOC Member States)

C.c. : Permanent Delegates / Observer Missions to UNESCO, and
National Commissions for UNESCO of IOC Member States
IOC Officers

**Subject: Call for nominations for the IOC *ad hoc* intersessional Working Group
on Ocean Observations in Areas under National Jurisdiction
(IOC/WG-OONJ)**

Action required: Member States to provide nominations for membership of the IOC ad hoc intersessional working group on Ocean Observations in Areas under National Jurisdiction following IOC Decision A-32/4.8.2, deadline 30 November 2023

The IOC Assembly at its Thirty-second Session last June adopted Decision A-32/4.8.2, pertaining to Ocean Observations in Areas under National Jurisdiction, and decided to establish an *ad hoc* intersessional Working Group on Ocean Observations in Areas under National Jurisdiction with its Terms of Reference as in Annex 1.

The IOC/WG-OONJ will build on the work undertaken by the IOC and in particular the IOC-led Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), as presented to the IOC Executive Council in 2022 and the Assembly in 2023 in the report of the Experts Workshop on Ocean Observations in Areas under National Jurisdiction (OONJ, [GOOS-246](#)). Additional information from Member States and GOOS Networks on their experiences and issues regarding sustained ocean observations in areas under national jurisdiction are also synthesized in the Summary Report on the Consultation on Ocean Observations in Areas under National Jurisdiction ([IOC/A-32/4.8.2.Doc\(1\)](#)) and detailed in Information Document [IOC/INF-1431](#).

It is planned that the *ad hoc* intersessional working group on OONJ will meet virtually once a month with the support of the IOC Secretariat. The first online meeting is scheduled for 7 December from 13:00 to 14:30 CET. A face-to-face meeting will be considered if the working group deems it necessary to complete the work.

Member States wishing to contribute to the work on this topic may nominate individuals to be members of the group to Forest Collins (f.collins@unesco.org), using the Nomination Form in Annex

Chairperson

Dr Yutaka MICHIDA
Professor
Atmosphere and Ocean Research
Institute, The University of Tokyo
Kashiwanoha 5-1-5
2778564 Kashiwa
JAPAN

Vice-Chairpersons

Dr Marie-Alexandrine SICRE
Directrice de Recherche
Centre national de la recherche scientifique
(CNRS)
3 rue Michel Ange
75016 Paris
FRANCE

Mr Juan Camilo FORERO HAUZEUR
Executive Secretary
Colombian Ocean Commission (COO)
Avenida Ciudad de Cali No. 51 – 66
Edificio WBC, Oficina 306
111071 Bogotá, D.C.
COLOMBIA

Prof. Amr Zakaria HAMOUDA
President
National Institute of
Oceanography and Fisheries(NIOF)
Qaitbay, Al-Anfoshi
Alexandria
EGYPT

Executive Secretary

Dr Vladimir RYABININ
Intergovernmental Oceanographic
Commission — UNESCO
7 Place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris Cedex 07 SP
FRANCE

Dr Nikolay VALCHEV
Director
Institute of Oceanology
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
40 Parvi May Str.
9000 Varna
BULGARIA

Dr Srinivasa Kumar TUMMALA
Director
Indian National Centre for Ocean
Information Services (INCOIS)
Pragathi Nagar (BO), Nizampet (SO)
Hyderabad 500090
INDIA

2 to this letter, by 30 November 2023. Participation in this *ad hoc* working group is voluntary and Member States are not obliged to be represented.

Thanking you in advance for your cooperation, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Vladimir Ryabinin
Executive Secretary

Enclosures (2): 1/ Terms of Reference IOC *ad hoc* intersessional working group on Ocean Observations in Areas under National Jurisdiction (IOC/WG-OONJ)
2/ Nomination Form: IOC *ad hoc* intersessional working group on Ocean Observations in Areas under National Jurisdiction (IOC WG OONJ)

**IOC *ad hoc* intersessional working group on Ocean Observations
in Areas under National Jurisdiction**

Terms of Reference

Membership

Membership will be sought through a call via an IOC Circular Letter on a voluntary basis.

The Working Group will select two Co-Chairs from its members and may call upon relevant experts to provide a deeper insight into topics or questions.

Mandate

1. Review the report of the Experts Workshop on Ocean Observations in Areas under National Jurisdiction (OONJ, GOOS-246), and the information provided to IOC from Member States and GOOS Networks on their experiences and issues, respectively, regarding sustained ocean observations in areas under national jurisdiction, following the decision adopted at the Executive Council (Decision IOC/EC-55/3.4), and as synthesized in the Summary Report on the Consultation on Ocean Observations in Areas under National Jurisdiction (IOC/A-32/4.8.2.Doc(1)), with additional information in the Information Document for this decision (IOC/INF-1431).
2. Identify and document specific examples of problems in making sustained ocean observations in areas under national jurisdiction and an assessment of their level of impact on GOOS, and research, services, and products reliant on such GOOS data.
3. Through this process, seek additionally to identify examples of best practice relevant to the taking of sustained ocean observations in areas under national jurisdiction.
4. Should specific cases with material adverse impact on GOOS be identified, provide a diagnosis of the root cause of the problem, and identify whether potential action is within the IOC mandate, in consideration of international law, including UNCLOS, or whether other bodies need to be engaged.
5. For those where potential action fall within the IOC mandate, identify recommendations with regard to potential action, for discussion at the IOC Assembly in 2025.
6. Present the results from these discussions, with any recommendations for action on this issue, to the IOC Assembly at its 33rd Session in 2025, with a progress report provided to the Executive Council at its 57th Session in 2024.

**IOC ad hoc intersessional working group on Ocean Observations
in Areas under National Jurisdiction**

Member State: _____

Candidate's name: _____

Position: _____

Institution: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email address: _____

Postal Address: _____

Additional comments:

Nomination Submitted by: _____

Signature: _____

Position: _____

Government Department/Agency: _____

Date: _____

Nomination Forms duly completed and signed should be sent by 30 November 2023 to the IOC Secretariat by email to f.collins@unesco.org through one of the following channels:

1. The coordinating body for liaison with the IOC
2. Head of the National Commission for UNESCO
3. The Permanent Delegate to UNESCO