



The Global Ocean Observing System

First GOOS National Focal Points (NFP) Forum

25 October 2023

Session : 2 Reflections on National observing system by NFPs

Belgium NFP, beyond business as usual?

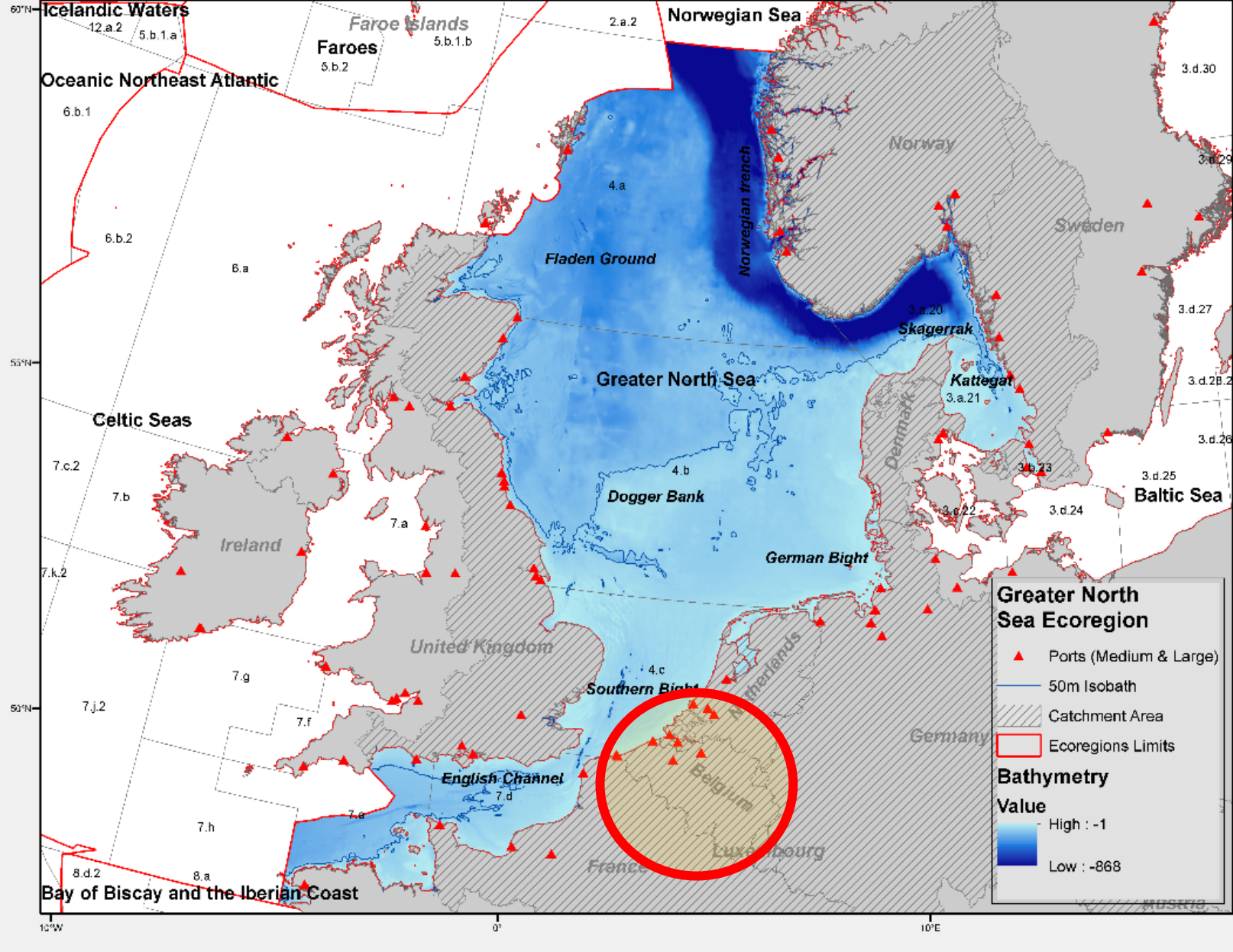
Sébastien Legrand, Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences
Head Belgian Marine Forecasting Centre

Belgium

Belgium, a small country :

- at the heart of Europe

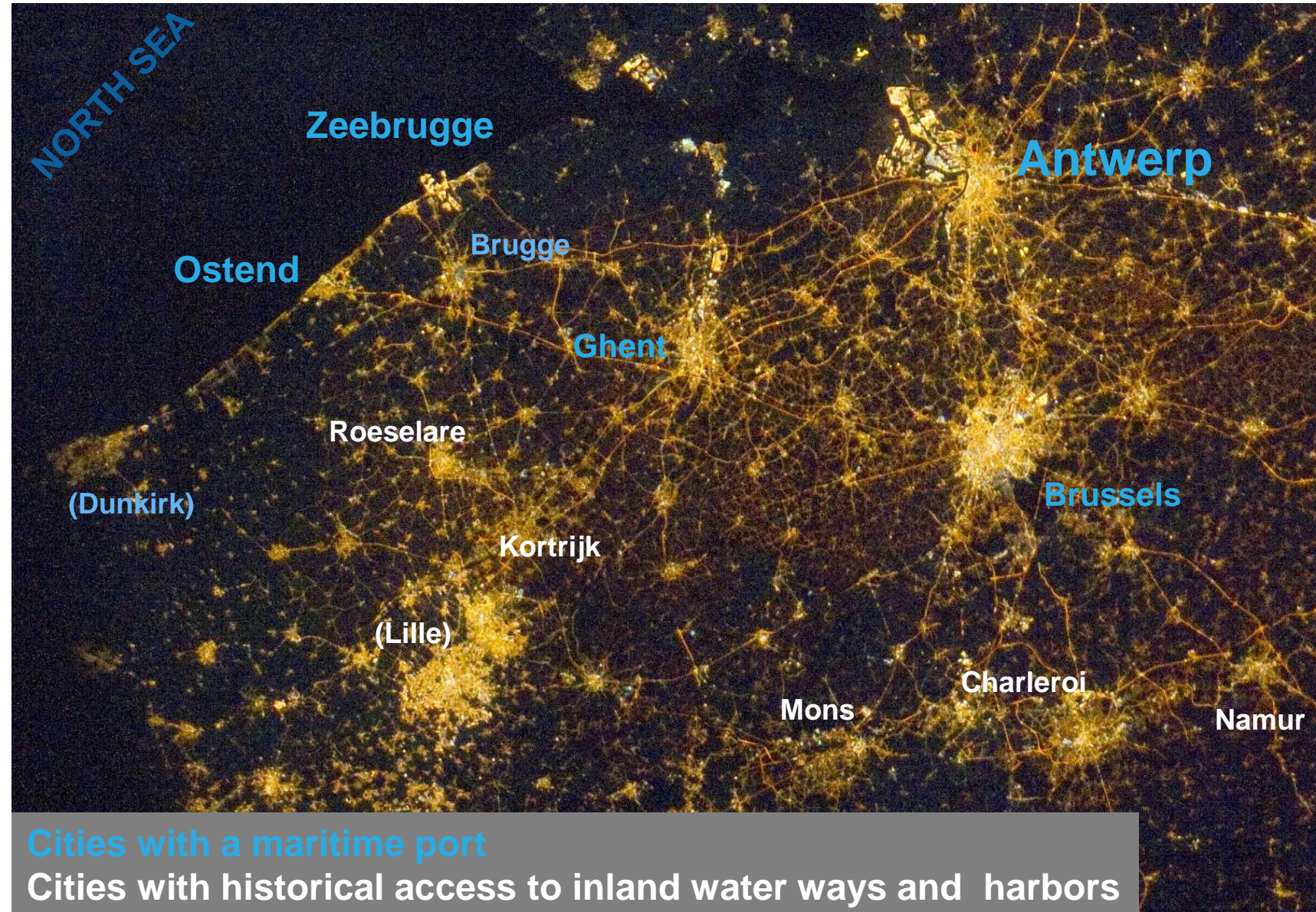
- bordering the Southern Bight of the North Sea



Belgium:

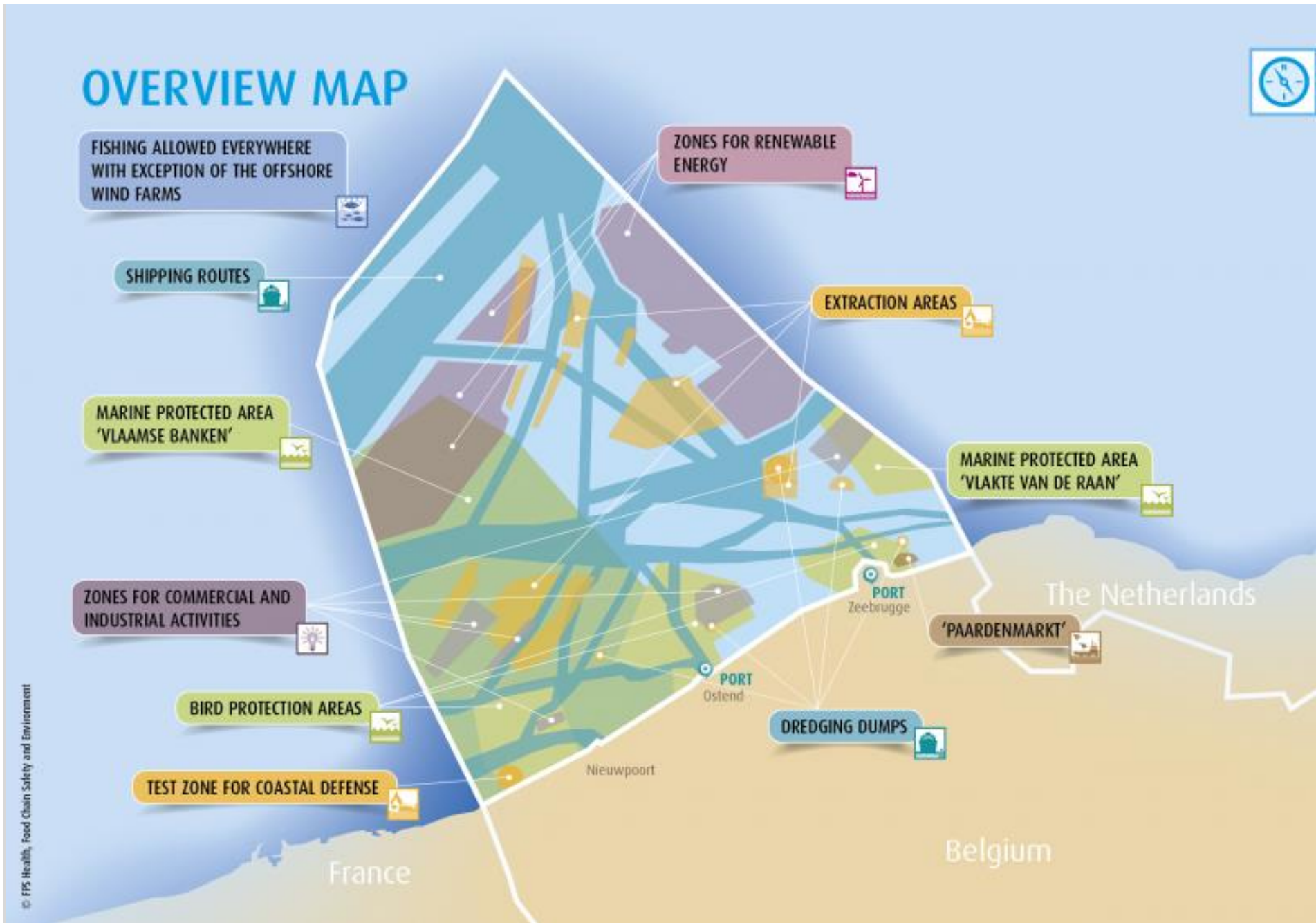
Millennial tradition of **maritime trade**

has shaped Belgian urban developments and economy



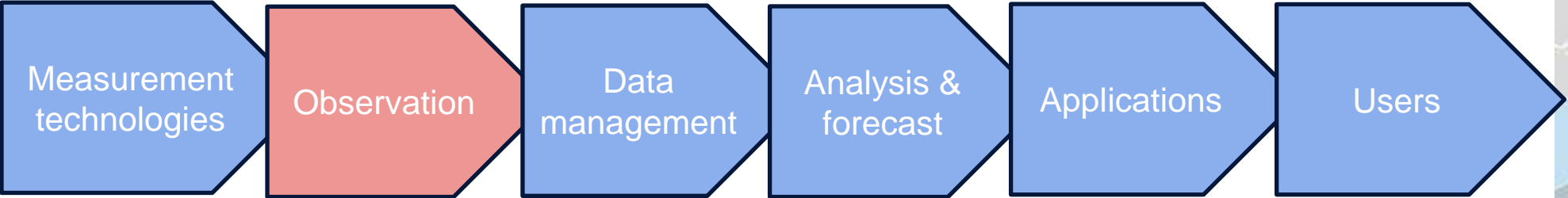
An MSP in support to the Belgian Blue Economy

Massive but sustainable exploitation of the Belgian waters

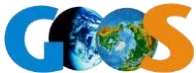


Current status of the National Ocean observing programme

A fully fledged GOOS value chain at national level



Around 4 main agencies



In-situ and remote observation of the Belgian waters



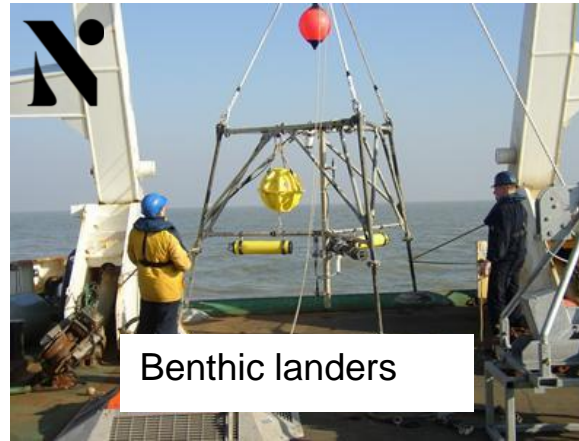
Meetnet Vlaamse Banken



Simon Stevin



Lifewatch buoy



Benthic landers



"VISTOOL"



Belgica

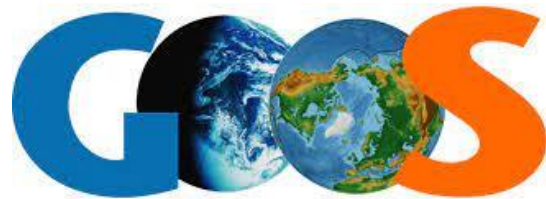


AUV

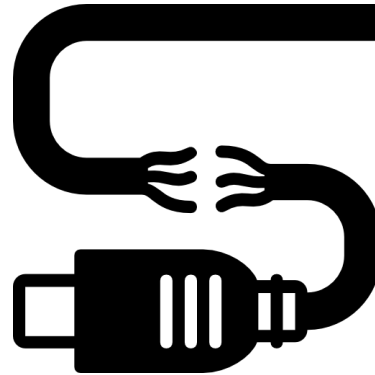


USV

Towards a Belgian national committee for sustainable ocean observations?



The Global Ocean Observing System



Intergovernmental organisations
(OSPAR, ICES)

 **EMODnet**  **European Commission initiatives**
(EMODnet, Copernicus)

European research infrastructures
(LifeWatch, JERICO, ICOS, EMBRC, etc)

 **EuroGOOS**
European Global Ocean Observing System

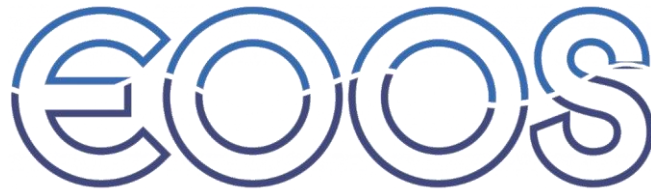
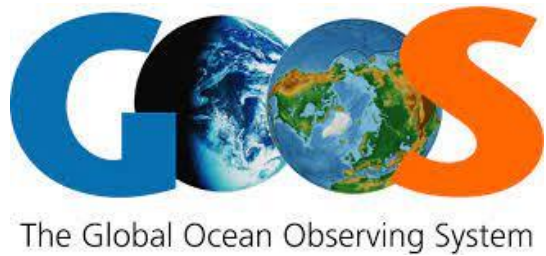
Pan-European bottom-up initiatives
(EuroGOOS, European Marine Board, SeaDataNet, EuroFleet, etc)

National monitoring programs
(WinMon.be, Monit.be, etc)

R&D projects
(EuroSea, UltFarms, Susana, eco-MPV, CoastBusters, etc)

Industrial projects
(ORE, artificial energetic island, CODEVCO, etc)

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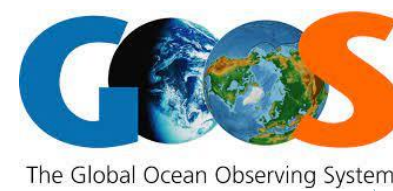
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Towards a Belgian national committee for sustainable ocean observations



Priority for the coming year:

Establishing up the national committee

- RBINS, ILVO, MDK, VLIZ
- Main funders : BELSPO and EWI
- IOC delegates : BELSPO and EWI
- Link with NDC : BELSPO or VLIZ?
- Private companies : Blauw cluster?

Priority for the next 2-3 years:

- Extending the national committee to Universities (if relevant)
- Extending scope to OO activities made in deep ocean and polar regions

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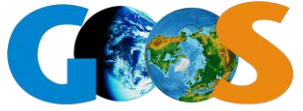
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Support needed from GOOS

- Widely circulate the ToRs of GOOS NFP
- Clearly stating objectives and expectations from the national committees, included at the IOC General Assembly
- Clear methodology for reporting our activities
- Communication material to be used for national stakeholders





The Global Ocean Observing System

Thank you



unesco
Intergovernmental
Oceanographic
Commission



WORLD
METEOROLOGICAL
ORGANIZATION



UN
environment
programme

**International
Science Council**

