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

Monthly Meeting
08 November 2023
20.00-21.00 UTC
[ONLINE]



UNESCO 2023

SG-OBPS-20231108
08 November 2023
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 08 November 2023

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ANNEX 1 - LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

1. Opening of the Meeting

George Petihakis (GP) (OBPS co-chair) introduced the meeting and welcomed SG members. A complete list of the meeting participants is shown in Annex I. Apologies were received from Rene Garello; Rachel Przeslawski; Paul Van Ruth; Johannes Karstensen, Peter Pissierssens and Jay Pearlman. All participants agreed the session should be recorded. Available [here](#)

2. SG-OBPS-V, 12-14 December 2023, Unesco, Paris - Agenda

Pauline Simpson (Project Manager) worked through each agenda item to permit discussion on understanding the agenda content and the addition of any extra items. The topic of Ambassadors was requested to be included as an agenda item but the main changes were in the terminology and logic of the order of the agenda. The [latest version](#) will be circulated to SG on 10 November 2023.

Action:

2.1 PS to edit the agenda to reflect agreed changes and circulate the finalised agenda to SG on 10 November

3. OBPS Workshop VII : OceanPractices, 09-13; 16- 20 October 2023

This was also discussed during the SG-OBPS-V agenda review, those comments are included here. The first week of Workshop VII was held as Sessions dedicated to the UN Ocean Decade Challenges and in the following week, 10 Focus Sessions were organised by the communities to discuss their contribution to the best practices and standards landscape. Due to some Ocean Vision 2023 Challenge leads not being available and lack of abstract submission there was no session for Challenges 4, 5 and 10 and at the last minute Challenge 3 was postponed. This year we benefited from the voluntary technology support of AIR Centre Network. There were some 500 registrations. The Workshop Report will be produced before the end of the year. Challenge and Focus Session leads have undertaken to provide a report of their sessions and recommendations by the end of November and these will be included in the final workshop report.

Frank Muller-Karger (FMK) commented that he was not certain that the various Challenge leads focused on discussion on their white paper and felt that some of the external presentations submitted as addressing a particular Challenge, were not totally applicable.

OBPS Workshop VIII, 2024: FMK suggested the Workshop VIII 2024 theme could focus on the outcomes of the UN Ocean Decade Barcelona 2024 Conference which would include the white papers resulting from the work of the Ocean Vision 2030 Challenge Working Groups. It could integrate with programmes and processes of the Ocean Decade and work with the DCU. Emma Heslop (EH) commented that it might depend on how good or useful the white papers were. If those white papers identified, 'this is

where we need best practices' then the following OBPS workshop could review the white papers and look for best practices; in what areas it said it needed best practices and, see where to help the community. It is expected a number of white papers will mention best practices and may identify in which areas there is a need for stimulation

4. SG OUTPUTS - Monthly reminder

Pauline Simpson highlighted the link on the agenda and encouraged all members to complete the [Outputs spreadsheet](#) which is an essential element of the OBPS Annual Reporting to IODE AND GOOS

Action:

4.1. All members requested to add any outputs relating to OBPS (conference ppt, articles etc) to [Outputs spreadsheet](#)

5. New OBPS Website

Rachel Przslawski was unable to attend but submitted the following update:

- *Content for the website is almost done, and I'll have the full staging website to the SG in a few days for comments. <http://staging.obps.btsa.solutions/>. The developer needs to finish the job this month so we can get final payment from UNESCO. We can always tweak content later as people further develop things, but we need the bones of the website right.*

Action:

5.1 Website <http://staging.obps.btsa.solutions/>, content review by all SG by 16 November 2023

6. Endorsement Process

Mark Bushnell (MB) reported on the progress with creating generic guidance for recruiting new OBPS endorsement entities and endorsement. A meeting had been held and a draft generic endorsement document is [here](#) and MB invited all to review and contribute. He reported progress in IOOS for endorsement with the first candidate being 'QARTOD Sea level'. Going through the endorsement process for that will enable refinement to their procedure which can feed into the OBPS generic endorsement exercise.

Action:

6.1 All SG to contribute to the [draft generic endorsement process document](#)

7. OceanPractices for the Decade

This too was also discussed under the SG-OBPS-V agenda review. Rebecca Zitoun (RZ) reported on the realisation of the lack of an OceanPractices Decade Strategy and the considerable activity in applications from projects to be hosted by the OceanPractices Decade Programme; the last round was 8 applications of which 6 were approved. EH agreed many Programmes do not know what to do with all the hosted projects because this structure was developed after Programmes were endorsed. FMK shared that

Marine Life 2030 has a WhatsApp channel for communication and organizes two meetings a year for the hosted projects. Also, Marine Life 2030 has started inviting their hosted projects to peer review new hosted project applications. EH queried where OceanPractices Programme sat in the Decade structure and GK confirmed it was to be collaborating within the DCC Ocean Prediction. EH advised this DCC could be invited to the SG-OBPS-V (Enrique Alvarez who now is DCC staff, had attended the last SG-OBPS-IV,) but they could also advise on how to deal with the hosted projects and how they can help with them. RZ reported she was going to submit a poster and presentation for the Barcelona 2024 Conference/

Action:

[RZ to approach the DCC Ocean Prediction for advice and help](#)

8. AOB

Virginie Van Dongen-vogels requested all to submit pieces for the December NewsFlash.eg. the workshop. EH suggested Juliet Hermes be asked to contribute a piece on the latest GOOS Endorsed Practice: *Morris, T., Scanderbeg, M., West-Mack, D., Gourcuff, C. and Poffa, N., et al (2023) Best practices for Core Argo floats: Getting started, physical handling, metadata, and data considerations. Version 1. Cape Town South Africa, South African Environmental Observation Network (SAEON), 45pp. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25607/OBP-1967>*

9. Close of the Meeting

It was noted that the December monthly meeting will be replaced by SG-OBPS-V, 12-14 December 2023 and the next monthly meeting would be Wed 11 January 2024 @ 20.00 UTC

George Petihakis thanked the members for their participation.

The meeting closed at 21.00 UTC

ANNEX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS [ONLINE]

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