



The Global Ocean Observing System

# Programmatic Development: Ocean Observations

**Dr Joanna Post**  
**IOC/GOOS**

# Agenda item 8

8.1 Global Ocean Observing System Governance Reform

8.2 Progress report on Ocean Observations in areas under National Jurisdiction

8.3 Brief update on GOOS related reports: progress report on Global Climate Observing System & Joint Collaborative Board

# 8.1 Mandate

## IOC Decision A-32/4.8.1 GOOS Work Plan for 2024–2025

Invites GOOS Sponsors to support evolving GOOS governance that would lead to improved advice and operational support, be inclusive of additional stakeholders, and be open to advice from a process of governance change;

Requests the Executive Secretary to review progress with reform of GOOS governance to meet the needs of Member States, including any proposed actions or otherwise in response to the nine recommendations of the ‘Report of the Study on Support Provided to Global and Regional Ocean Observing Systems’ by Neville Smith commissioned by GOOS as referred to in the report of the GOOS Steering Committee Part 1 ([SC-10-1](#) section 4) in 2021, and to report progress to the IOC Executive Council at its 57th session in 2024

# Recommendations for GOOS governance in the Neville Smith report

**Recommendation 1.** The **GOOS community should reconsider its structure** within the governance discussions, aligning GOOS uniquely with ocean observation activities, and recognizing a Global Ocean Information System and a Global Ocean Processing, Modelling and Forecasting System as the two other elements of a world ocean system.

**Recommendation 2.** A plan for **rejuvenating national engagement** should be developed, including for communicating progress with all parts of the support structure. Communiqués should be issued immediately upon the conclusion of any major activity (e.g., Committee or Panel meetings) to inform stakeholders of areas of discussion and decisions to create a sense of timely action. Such activity was at best only partly resourced as part of the present support structure.

**Recommendation 3.** **Regional networks** should be recognized as part of the support structure when and where they offered advantage and value for implementing the six pillars of the support strategy and for regional user/societal engagement.

**Recommendation 4.** **Experimental and ad hoc research contributions** to observations, data and information management and modelling and forecasting **should be recognized**, but not necessarily coordinated through the support structure. Research use of products and system services should be captured in the user and uptake strategy.

**Recommendation 5.** **A plan for show casing user uptake** and energising the dialogue and engagement with the user community more generally should be developed. Such an activity was presently not resourced as part of the support structure.

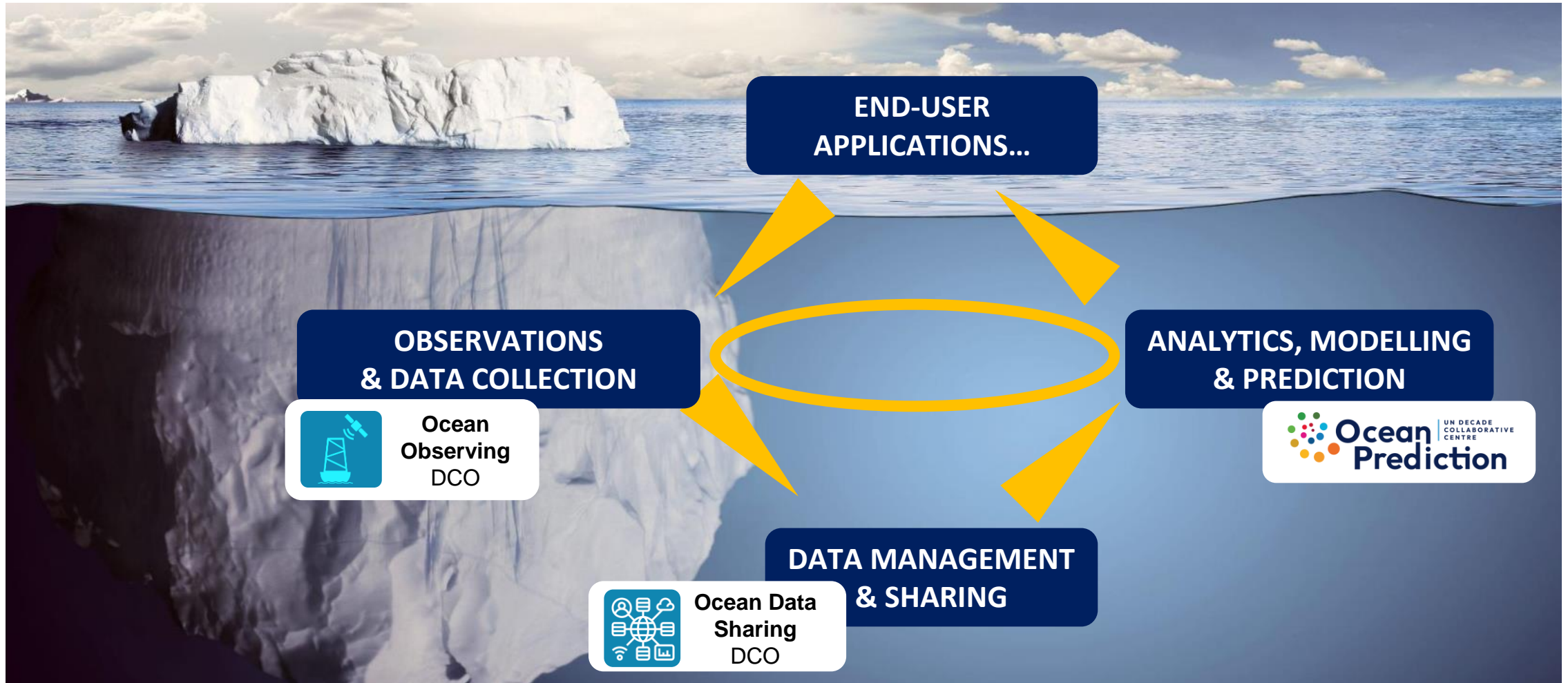
**Recommendation 6.** A small **study group should be formed** from the major supporters of **capacity building, education, and training** to provide guidance on how activities should be identified, prioritised and executed within the framework of support.

**Recommendation 7.** A **high-level description of the architecture of the ocean system should be developed and put out for public comment and feedback**. The architecture should include clearly delineated observation, information and data management, and production and forecasting elements and a virtual 'cloud of support' that ensured it operated effectively as a system, with effective connectivity internally and externally.

**Recommendation 8.** The **framework for support should be further developed**, along with a 5-10-year strategy based on the guidance provided in this Report.

**Recommendation 9.** The community supporting relevant ocean activities should be engaged to **renovate and rejuvenate the current hub-and-spoke arrangement**, consistent with whatever changes in governance that might be agreed elsewhere and following the other Recommendations and Findings of this Report. The change should be in place by 2025 and follow the roadmap outlined in this study.

# DCO-00, DCO- ODS and DCC – OP Coordination



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# Update

- GOOS must be fit for purpose to provide the global ocean observing system that addresses Decade and societal challenges, including those related to the ocean-climate nexus, ecosystem management and protection, marine pollution, blue food and the development of a sustainable ocean economy
- GOOS is the only entity that provide global view and global implementation plans on ocean observation – coastal zones and particularly high seas
- GOOS can “lift” the whole system – particularly with a strengthened hub under new budget
- We need to strengthen and sustain Earth system monitoring understanding, and deliver data with end user cost/benefit in mind.
- Many regional and national systems are observing and forecasting with good reason.
- The Decade structure provides some framing into which GOOS governance can support and lead delivery of observations at international, regional and national
- This is a good start and management team is leading delivery through the value chain with end-users in mind.

# Update

- Next steps
  - **Circular letter for new SC members – with wider skill set (all 10 members exceeded their term of office)**
  - **Report for EC57 according to request from Assembly**
    - Inc. SWOT and Progress against 9 recommendations – (available end April)
- What next?
  - **New Steering Committee – with wider skill set to help evolve GOOS**
  - **Build GOOS management team strategy and GOOS implementation plans (as requested) e.g. for Carbon and in consideration of MSP**
  - **Close collaboration with sponsors**
  - **Link into the decade framework / governance**
  - **Potential for EC to request further evolvement of GOOS governance based on this progress**
- IOC member states and sponsors must be involved

