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IOC Ocean Best Practices System (OBPS) Meeting

19 June 2024
12.00-13.30 UTC
[ONLINE]



2024

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19 June 2024
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 OBPS convenes monthly online meetings to discuss progress and focus on delivery of the work plan

This report is the record of the online meeting for 19 June 2024

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	Opening of the Meeting 19 June 2024	3
2	Work Package Activity Reports ACTION: WP leads to present a WP activity report each month from July 2024.	3
3	Advisory Board - membership ACTION: 3.1. Update the Advisory Board membership spreadsheet with ToR criteria and any known candidates. (PS) (DONE) 3.2. The Selection Group: RG; GP; JP; FMK; EH; JB; PS would review the applicant' submissions by the end of June and may arrange a meeting.	3
4	<u>Work Plan 2024</u> quarterly status check ACTION: WP 3 (CMM), WP7 (APB/AM) and WP8 (RZ) to add their June status updates to the Work Plan 2024	3
5	OBPS Co-Chair Elect - nominations ACTION: An invitation would be sent out to all SG members inviting anyone who wishes to nominate himself or another SG member for the Co-Chair-Elect role, should email the present Co-Chairs, GP and RG before the next monthly meeting on 17 July 2024.. (DONE PS)	4
6	<u>SG-OBPS-VI 12-14 November 2024</u> ACTION: On the basis of the spreadsheet results at the end of June, Co-Chairs to decide if SG-OBPS-VI will be online or in-person/hybrid, if possible by the monthly July meeting.	4
7	<u>Work Packages Task List and Volunteers</u> ACTION: WP leads to add tasks to the spreadsheet and RZ agreed to contact WP leads individually.	5
8	Activities Log and Future Event Log ACTION: SG members to maintain their OBPS activities in the spreadsheet activities log	5
9	Task Team Proposal : <u>Ocean Governance</u> ACTION: Laura M and Jay P to revise the proposal in line with comments at this meeting and present the revised proposal at the SG monthly meeting 17 July 2024.	
10	Ambassador Programme ACTION: Rebecca Z. and Cora H. to report at the monthly July meeting	
11	ADAPT Project	
12	OceanPractices - Endorsed (Hosted) Programmes ACTION: Rebecca Z. to invite all the OceanPractices hosted programmes to organise a workshop VIII session.	
13	Close of the Meeting	6

ANNEX 1 - LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

1. Opening of the Meeting

George Petihakis (Co-Chair) opened the meeting and welcomed participants. A complete list of the meeting participants is shown in Annex I. Apologies were received from Johannes Karstensen, Juliet Hermes, Peter Pissierssens. All participants agreed the session should be recorded, available [here](#).

2. Work Package Activity Reports

Pauline Simpson, Project Manager explained that to increase communication within SG and the sharing of OBPS activity, the Co-Chairs had decided to re-invigorate the formal monthly WP leads activity report. WP leads were requested to provide a short activity report each month starting from July 2024, as an oral or written report which would be included in the meeting report.

ACTION: WP leads to present a WP activity report each month from July 2024.

3. Advisory Board - membership

George Petihakis explained that the call for membership had closed on 31 May 2024. The [spreadsheet of responses to the call for membership and personal invites](#) was shared. It was confirmed that the proposed number of members of the Advisory Board is 8 and queried how that number would be 'split' between the call applicants and personal invites; it was initially agreed to work on 4:4. The call applicants had provided their CV and Statement of Interest and it was recommended to have similar information on the personal invites. It was decided that Emma Heslop and Jay Pearlman would provide that information for the personal invites that were already accepted, but any new invites would be asked to provide that information. A small Selection Group volunteered to review the invites and applications and make a proposal to the SG. Since the call closed 31 May 2024 it was hoped that the selection group could make their recommendations to SG before the end of the June, but first the group would preview the applications which might provide an initial filter. Pauline Simpson was requested to add the ToR of the Advisory Board to the spreadsheet as a form of selection criteria. It was also requested for the selection group to indicate if any of the applicants were known to them.

ACTION:

3.1. Update the Advisory Board membership spreadsheet with ToR criteria and any known candidates. (PS) (DONE)

3.2. The Selection Group: RG; GP; JP; FMK; EH; JB; PS would review the applicant' submissions by the end of June and may arrange a meeting.

4. Work Plan 2024 quarterly status check

Pauline Simpson, shared the current Work Plan 2024 and requested that the meeting review the status updates and asked that those who had not provided updates for the June status check should do so during the meeting. WP3 and 8 agreed to provide their updates.

ACTION: WP 3 (CMM), WP7 (APB/AM) and WP8 (RZ) to add their June status updates to the Work Plan 2024,

5. OBPS Co-Chair Elect - nominations

George Petihakis reminded the meeting that the present Co-Chairs would be stepping down at the annual SG-OBPS Nov 2024 meeting. The present Co-Chair-Elects, Rebecca Zitoun and Cristian Munoz Mas would become Co-Chairs until the end of 2026. He announced that the agreed OBPS succession procedure would be followed and two candidates for Co-Chair-Elect effective from Nov 2024 would be sought. The [OBPS Steering Group Terms of Reference](#) was shared to ensure compliance with the agreed procedures. The procedure as the initial step, will call for nominations from existing SG members to stand for OBPS Co-Chair-Elect and if necessary, followed by an external call and personal invite exercise. It was suggested to include in the call the time commitment expected from candidates and that they have institutional support to participate as an SG-OBPS. It was planned that the exercise would be completed by Sep 2024 following applications and any voting.

ACTION: An invitation would be sent out to all SG members inviting anyone who wishes to nominate himself or another SG member for the Co-Chair-Elect role, should email the present Co-Chairs, GP and RG **before the next monthly meeting on 17 July 2024. (DONE PS)**

6. [SG-OBPS-VI 12-14 November 2024](#)

Rene Garello informed the meeting that a decision on whether the annual SG-OBPS-VI, 12-14 Nov 2024, would be online or in-person/hybrid is not decided because funding is not available. Members were requested to indicate on the [spreadsheet](#) by the end of June, whether they can provide funding support to attend an in-person meeting either in Paris or Oostende. See the table for the responses following this meeting.

Funding of 24 members
10 x Yes (incl need to confirm)
3 x Not sure
6 x No
5 x No answer

A request for a booking of a meeting room at Unesco Paris has been in place since February and chased by GOOS and now IODE, but no response has been received. IODE has provisionally booked a meeting room in Oostende.

ACTION: On the basis of the spreadsheet results at the end of June, Co-Chairs to decide if SG-OBPS-VI will be online or in-person/hybrid, if possible by the monthly July meeting

7. [Work Packages Task List and Volunteers](#)

After her participation at UN Ocean Decade Barcelona 2024 where Rebecca Zitoun collected names of 6 volunteers wishing to contribute to OBPS, Rebecca had made a call at the June monthly meeting for WP Leads to indicate on the [spreadsheet](#) those tasks that new volunteers could contribute to within their WP. Rebecca reported that no WP had added any tasks (except her!). She reminded that the volunteers were eager to help and is a missed opportunity if not followed up. Suggestions like the workshop was made.

ACTION: WP leads to add tasks to the spreadsheet and RZ agreed to contact WP leads individually.

8. Activity Log: [Outputs, Conference & Workshops...](#)

Pauline Simpson reminded that OBPS maintains an [activity log](#) of publications, presentations, workshops which SG members have been involved with that included an OBPS component. This is an important metric which the project provides in the Annual Report to the IOC Sponsors (IODE and GOOS). SG members were asked to regularly log their contributions and upload the file to the folder and spreadsheet please.

ACTION: SG members to maintain their OBPS activities in the [spreadsheet activities log](#)

9. Task Team Proposal : [Ocean Governance](#) (Science Policy)

Jay Pearlman introduced the [Task Team proposal : Ocean Governance](#) which he reported had started life during discussions at the UN Ocean Decade, Barcelona 2024 where he had received requests and support from senior researchers like Peter Haugan an ex chair of IOC, and Craig McLean previously of NOAA. He was invited to consider if OBPS could address 'what are the practices to implement science policy'. He introduced Laura Meyer who confirmed she had submitted the proposal and would Chair and coordinate the Task Team. Laura outlined her legal background and work with IEEE and the OBPS Workshop 2024.

Comments included:

Rachel P. that the topic may need to be scoped more narrowly, it could not be global governance since that is an enormous undertaking, so was it just European waters or high seas governance - Laura felt this revision would come from the TT members activities and expertise; although the initial discussion had been about methodologies for science and policy interfaces,

Emma H. felt the title 'Governance' indicated more Law of the Sea emphasis and the text (apart from a few 'science policy' mentions) did not reflect the science policy topic sufficiently and recommended, the title and content needed to be revised.

Justin B informed that the global surface (unmanned) vehicle community are producing a position paper addressing ethical research topics re indigenous communities and operations in territorial waters etc.

Frank M-K agreed its title and scope were very ambitious and mentioned the Ocean Decade White Papers and wondered how this TT activity can influence getting the recommendations from those White Papers into some policy; Virginie v-D-V queried influencing the existing policies and national policies. Emma H. questioned if this TT is in line with the OBPS priorities. Whilst all OBPS activities take resources, Jay P. responded that most of the TT members are outside of the SG-OBPS. Members present agreed that the TT should be implemented but requested that the title, scope, its identity, concrete ideas and work outcomes be further defined and the revised proposal presented at the monthly July meeting.

ACTION: Laura M and Jay P to revise the proposal in line with comments at this meeting and present the revised proposal at the SG monthly meeting 17 July 2024.

10. Ambassador Programme

Rebecca Z reported that the present programme finishes Oct 2024 and a number of Ambassadors were embedded in OBPS activities. Although it was hoped to continue the programme this was the opportunity to discuss lessons learned and how to change the programme to be more active.

ACTION: Rebecca Z. and Cora H. to report at the monthly July meeting

11. Brief update for the ADAPT project status and next steps

Ana Carolina Peralta was not available to make a report on the ADAPT Project.

12. OceanPractices - Endorsed (Hosted) Programmes

Rebecca Z. reported that three new Ocean Practices hosted programmes had just been endorsed mostly relating to plastics - 2 in Europe and 1 in Caribbean . Rebecca will invite these hosted programmes to provide sessions at Workshop VIII

ACTION: Rebecca Z. to invite all the OceanPractices hosted programmes to organise a workshop VIII session.

13. Close of the Meeting

George P. thanked all Members for their meeting participation. The meeting closed at 13.25 UTC.

ANNEX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS [ONLINE]

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