



GRA BACKGROUND REPORT IOCARIBE-GOOS

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GOOS Regional Alliance Meeting (Online)
13 November 2024



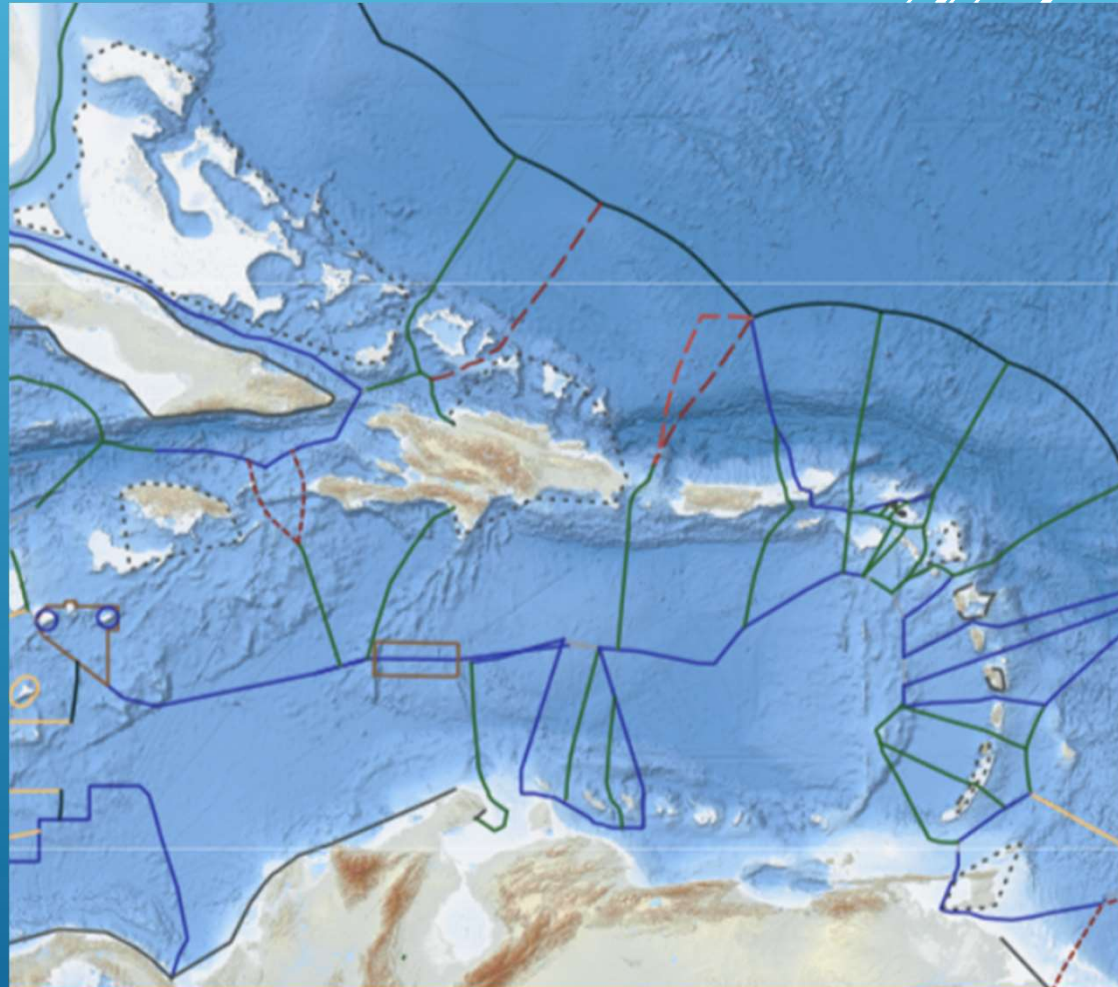
Agenda Overview

1. Progress and Achievements

- Achievements & Goals
- Timeline
- Progress Updates

1. Challenges and Opportunities

1. Future Plans



Highlighting Successes

International Marine Science Conference on IOCARIBE GOOS



MAY 2023, Colombia

IOCARIBE-GOOS (TAC-OOFS): ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS

ACTIVITIES	PROJECTS
1. Governance 2. Pilot Observing System (via Observing Council)	CoastPredict TAC Region A Turnkey Basic Observing System for Caribbean SIDS Observation and Modelling for Decision Making

Short Term Goals

I. Develop Governance Structure

- Establish the Working Group
 - Member State representation
 - Inclusion of ECOPS, SIDS, and underrepresented communities
- Circular Letter (COMPLETE)
- Updated (Draft) Terms of Reference (TOR) (COMPLETE)
- Working Group to accept TOR, Finalize Work Plan and Begin Road Map

INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION (of UNESCO)

Annex I

Terms of Reference for the IOCARIBE-GOOS Working Group

1. PURPOSE:

The Working Group serves as the IOC Regional Sub-commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Region (IOCARIBE) Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) planning, implementation, and oversight body. The objective of IOCARIBE-GOOS is to deliver a sustained ocean observing system for the Caribbean and adjacent regions. The Working Group will review and recommend to the IOCARIBE Subcommission priorities and actions required for the full establishment of a coordinated, integrated, interoperable, and sustainable regional ocean and coastal observing system in the IOCARIBE region.

2. FUNCTIONS:

2.1. Identify:

- Regional sustained observing requirements for societal benefit areas.
- Transboundary observing networks and their link to Global GOOS and Joint WMO/IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM) networks.
- Real-time and archived data streams from in situ and relevant satellite observations and their link to regional and global networks, including through International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE).
- Information, products, and model output for the region that provide societal benefits, and their links to global GOOS and other international efforts.
- Gaps in the existing observing systems and develop mechanisms to fill these gaps, including project proposals.

2.2. **Assess** regional readiness and capacity in each of these areas and the overall performance of the system in providing users with fit-for-purpose data and information products.

2.3. Advise, Train, and Build Capacity:

- Provide strategic direction and oversight for ocean observation initiatives in alignment with IOCARIBE-GOOS regional priorities.
- Advise Member States on technical requirements needed for deploying, operating, and maintaining sustainable ocean and coastal observing and forecast systems.

Next: Identify stakeholder needs - specific priorities

2023-2024 PROGRESS & TIMELINE

2023

- Marine Science Conference on IOCARIBE-GOOS in Colombia
- IOCARIBE-GOOS Coordinator elections held,
- Development of the preliminary 24-25 Workplan

Early
2024

- Increased staffing capacity
- Initial Core Advisory Group met January 26th, March 8th
- Participated in GOOS Regional Forum 4.08-4.11 (Barcelona, Spain)

May-
July

- Workshopped governance framework, defined goals + timeline
- Development Terms of Reference (TOR) in alignment with 2013 IOCARIBE-GOOS TOR
- Applied for external grant funding

2024 PROGRESS & TIMELINE - Continued

August

- Deep dive into IOCARIBE-GOOS governance history, refined/finalized (DRAFT) governance documents
- **Funding:** Working with IOCARIBE Secretariat, Coast Predict, TAC-OOFS to begin Adaptation Fund grant drafting group

September-
October

- Sent Circular Letter calling for IOCARIBE member state nominations for the IOCARIBE-GOOS Working Group.
- Participated in Capacity Development Working Group meeting; will work towards shared goal to develop/support technical training programs

November

- Held Inaugural IOCARIBE-GOOS Working Group meeting on 11.08, regional experts and partners in attendance.
- Introduced TOR, 2024-2025 Workplan
 - Follow up will provide opportunity to comment before
- Experts and Project leads presented on existing regional initiatives
- Workplan to be used to help shape the Roadmap (2025+)

Challenges

- Terms of Reference (TOR) development
- Needed finalized TOR before CL distributed
- Limited overlap with neighboring GRAs
- Determining policy/language alignment with IOC Regional Body vs Global GOOS
- Understanding and communicating International vs. Domestic Policies to experts
- Limited capacity/funding

Recommendations

- Archive of TOR documentation
- Global GOOS-facilitated regional meetings (working/ground level)
- A Working Group Representative attend neighboring GOOS meetings
- Available guidance on International LoS, EEZ-related topics for GRAs
- Synthesizing IOC-determined EEZ policy for GRAs, member states, and stakeholders

Challenges + Opportunities

Future Plans

Next: 24-25 Budget- \$71,878

1. Capacity/Stakeholder Needs Survey

- Inventory of existing observing networks
- Understand member state/user priorities
- Gauge stakeholder capacities (technical/staff, identify gaps)

1. Grow and maintain relationships with regional partners

- Plan 2025 virtual and in-person WG meetings
- Identify shared goals/priorities

1. Roadmap: identify achievable/actionable steps


- Utilizing Work Plan and GOOS 2030 Strategy/Roadmap to develop IOCARIBE-GOOS Roadmap


1. Development of the Initial Observing and Forecasting System (Led by TAC-OOFS, Task Teams)



IOCARIBE – GOOS Goals

in support of the 2024-2025 IOCARIBE WORK PLAN

 Field training and access to technology


 Training in use of data networks

 Training for Ocean Observations for decision making

 Support of approvals for data collection in EEZs

 Engagement sessions for policy-makers

LONG TERM PRIORITIES (5+ YEARS)

- Long-term high-quality observations
 - Observations, forecasts, and products address essential ocean variables based on regional needs
 - Open access to data
 - Widely available marine products
 - Measurable benefits
 - Standardization of best practices
 - Multidisciplinary partnerships
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Intergovernmental
Oceanographic
Commission

Sub-Commission for the Caribbean
and Adjacent Regions

Subcomisión para el Caribe y
Regiones Adyacentes



2021 United Nations Decade
2030 of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development



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IOCARIBE-GOOS 10.1-10.7

10.1.	Conduct a formal vote to select the permanent coordinator for IOCARIBE Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS).
10.2.	Support the re-establishment of a sustained regional ocean observing and forecasting system, through the appointment of qualified experts to participate in the IOCARIBE Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) working group, by issuing a Circular Letter to this effect.
10.3.	Identify and inventory priority observational needs including communication, social science and ocean literacy within the region while considering available resources and avoiding the duplication of previous work.
	Develop a regional strategy for ocean observing and forecasting, including ways to collectively facilitate domestic marine scientific research clearances for instrument deployments.
10.4.	Establish a sustainable governance structure that includes ECOPs.
	Develop ToRs for IOCARIBE-GOOS that amongst other issues provides mechanisms for sharing experiences and activities among Member States
10.5.	Actively engage in efforts to secure representation and participation from each of the Member States within IOCARIBE Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS).
10.6.	Actively capitalize on existing regional and international activities and partnerships, such as the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology & Hydrology (CIMH) and the Caribbean Coastal Ocean Observing System (CARICOOS), to enhance collaboration and information sharing.
10.7.	Establish an effective process for reporting metadata and other relevant information to OceanOPS (formerly JCOMMOPS).