

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
Reports of Meetings of Experts and Equivalent Bodies



**IODE Steering Group for the
Ocean Data and Information
System (ODIS)**

Final Report

Third Session (Online)
10 December 2024

10 December 2024
English only

For bibliographic purposes, this document should be cited as follows:

IODE Steering Group for the Ocean Data and Information System (SG-ODIS), Third Session, 10 December 2024 (virtual meeting) 6pp. & Annexes, 2024. (Reports of Meetings of Experts and Equivalent Bodies).

Table of Contents

1. Introduction	1
2. Opening of the meeting	1
3. Adoption of the agenda	1
4. 2024 and 2025 activities in brief	2
5. 2025-2026 Overview of activities	2
6. Immediate priorities 2025: IODE-28 and IODC	3
7. New ODIS-SG and ODIS-Ops ToR	4
8. New SG members	4
9. Fundraising for ODIS	4
10. Discussion	4
Annex 1. List of Participants	7

1. Introduction

The Third Session of the IODE Steering Group for the Ocean Data and Information System was convened on 10th December 2024 at 2PM UTC. A virtual format was chosen to facilitate maximum participation of Steering Group members.

OE event link: <https://oceanexpert.org/event/4642>

The purpose of the meeting was to provide a comprehensive overview of progress on the work plan over the past four months, and to get feedback on plans for 2025.

2. Opening of the meeting

Pier Luigi Buttigieg (ODIS Chair) welcomed the participants to the meeting, and shared the agenda on screen. He clarified that this is an update to the steering group, of plans for the coming year, including new management structures for ODIS as the federation grows.

3. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted with no changes.

4. 2024 and 2025 activities in brief

ODIS development

Two calls were raised in August 2024 for applications. Doug Fils and Jeff McKenna were hired on fairly short contracts (four months each) as we are moving into a new funding cycle in early 2025. This was not an easy process. We have been informed that mechanisms of contracting might need to change in future, but are still waiting to be advised. We would welcome this as it would allow more certainty for contractors.

The Dashboard provides a real time view of the status of the ODIS federation <http://dashboard.oceaninfohub.org/>. For other systems such as WMO's WIS2 we are developing a system-to-system bridge.

Global search hub

The Global Search Hub portal continues to be supported as a demonstration of ODIS (<https://oceaninfohub.org>). The portal currently indexes 55 Nodes from 45 Partner organisations and (the online front end) contains over 130,000 content items in seven content categories: (i) Experts (27,000); (ii) Institutions (13,000); (iii) Documents (42,000); (iv) Training (1,500); (v) Vessels (113); (vi) Projects (3,600); and (vii) Datasets (48,000). We have a new interface in development <https://dev.oih.iode.org/>

We have also developed a Getting Started Manual for ODIS: <https://odis.org/join>

Training

ODIS has worked closely with the International Coastal Atlas Network (ICAN), to support GeoNode training in association with the activities supporting the African Coastal and Marine Atlas (2021). The IOC/OTGA/IOCAFRICA/RTC Kenya/ICAN/Seabed2030/CODATA course [Training on the Implementation of FAIR Principles to African Marine and Coastal Data](#) was recently held in Mombasa (September 2024).

The training course: [Implementing the Ocean Data and Information System \(ODIS\)](#) architecture was held as a self-paced course during 2024 in four languages, English, Spanish, Portuguese, and French.

Communications and outreach

During July – December 2024, communications tools (logo, brochure and video) were developed for ODIS, and the ODIS website is undergoing revision. We have developed two standard communications to new indexed partners - these will only be released once the new Global Search Hub interface is up and running, and new partner records appear in the front end.

Revision of ODIS-SG and ODIS-Ops ToR

This has been done, incorporating a review period for the ODIS-SG. To be reported on below in the next item. We will be calling for nominations for both groups, with the SG being very high level, and the Ops group for technical day-to-day issues and operations.

5. 2025-2026 Overview of activities

1. Revising and raising contracts, reviewing all public-facing portals and materials, revising new public awareness materials for ODIS, and preparing management systems, operating working groups, budgets and work plans for the upcoming years.
2. The project will provide technical and procedural guidance and documentation as well as related training to assist data/information providers as well as diverse user communities with the necessary capacity to actively and equitably participate in ODIS.
3. ODIS will develop additional functionality to support end-users.
 - a. This will focus on the creation of data products and services derived from the interoperable data mesh ODIS Nodes create.
 - b. End-users identified by the ODIS Operations Committee and Steering Committee (see below) will assist in prioritising function development.
4. ODIS will support the OceanData 2030 Programme, registered under the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.
5. Together with OceanData 2030, ODIS will further strengthen and broaden a bridge to other digital ecosystems such as WMO's WIS2.0.
6. IODE and ODIS will support Marine Spatial Planning and Sustainable Ocean Planning in implementing interoperable data flows.
7. Efforts commence to ensure all sub-programme activities under ODIS establish functional Nodes in ODIS.

8. Update the Steering Committee, with new, higher-level mandate focusing on 5-10 year strategy to ensure ODIS has relevance and utility in a rapidly changing technological landscape.
9. Establish an ODIS Operations Group (ODIS-Ops) to expand the technical coordination and decision-making processes (currently performed by personnel in OIH WP2) to members from every ODIS Node
10. Two partner communications sent with ODIS communications materials (1st high level, 2nd technical)
11. Revision and integration of ODIS and OIH flagship websites: <https://odis.org/> and <https://oceaninfohub.org/>
12. Finalisation of branding and organisational identity materials: logos, brochures, promotional videos.
13. Establishment of an online presence and steering committee for OceanData 2030
14. Raise contracts for technical contractors.
15. Embed/cross-link global search hub capabilities of OIH to ODIS websites for more seamless user experience.
16. Complete the automation of IODE's ODIS technical coordination, diagnostic, and data product generation processes (e.g. those that keep OIH up to date), initiated by content that ODIS Nodes maintain in ODISCat.
17. Raise resourcing to upgrade ODISCat to match new capabilities and interest provided by ODIS and OIH.
18. Create further training resources to support potential ODIS partners in building and maintaining high-quality digital asset catalogues compatible with ODIS-Arch (training directed for NODCs and ADUs that do not already have an online metadata catalogue).

6. Immediate priorities 2025: IODE-28 and IODC

6.1 Documents for IODE-28

A background document was prepared for ODIS, shared to this SG.

[ODIS background document for IODE-28](#)

6.2 Planning for IODC-3

Shared from the IODC-III Planning Committee,

We would like to invite you to submit abstracts to the **Third International Oceanographic Data Conference, IODC-III**. IODC-III will be held at INVEMAR in Santa Marta, Colombia on 10-11 March, 2025, preceding the 28th Session of the IODE Committee.

The conference will be in a hybrid format, so both in-person and online presentations will be accepted.

Session Themes

You are kindly invited to submit abstracts contributing to the following four themes:

1. Ocean Biodiversity (and how we can collectively contribute to the needs of BBNJ and GBF)
2. Capacity development facilitating data, information, and knowledge exchange
3. Working towards a federated Global Ocean Data Ecosystem - ongoing initiatives, partnerships and ambitions towards the Ocean Decade Vision 2030 outcomes.

4. Application of ocean data for Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and SOPM

Details on these sessions and the workshop may be found at: <https://oceandataconference.org/iode-iii-programme/>

For the ODIS-SG to note: The conference will be concluded with a workshop on the Ocean Data and Information System (ODIS), aimed at NODCs and ADUs and other participants in IODE-III to familiarize themselves with ODIS.

Limited funds are available for speakers from developing countries with accepted papers. Please indicate if you require support when submitting your abstract.

The web page on guidelines for submission of abstracts, and to register for the conference will be opened soon. For further information please contact tp.pissierssens@unesco.org

Deadline for abstract submissions is **Monday, 20 January at 5 AM UTC.**

Best regards, Taco de Bruin (Coordinator of the Planning Committee)

7. New ODIS-SG and ODIS-Ops ToR

[Proposed revision of the Terms of Reference of ODIS](#)

8. New SG members

Pier Luigi requested the group to think about people who could be proposed for the ODIS Steering Group - people who are thinking 5-10 years ahead; how the world and the internet are changing, so that they can guide ODIS into the future. Also people who can help us to connect to other sectors. The more regional and sectoral diversity that we can get, the better.

9. Fundraising for ODIS

We do need to raise funding for additional activities. We could consider this through seconding, or other projects such as EU/EC projects. If you have a similar idea or identify an opportunity, please do contact us. Sometimes it is just about synchronising tasks, not directly transfer of funds. This can also include formalising contributions of funding/ work by nodes, even if resources don't flow to IODE, they are used by systems that interact with IODE.

- a. Consider joint-tasks with national or regional funding (e.g. MARCO-BOLO)
- b. National funding for ocean data

10. Discussion

AL: What's the connection between the SG and Ops group, but I think this has been somewhat answered. Do you envisage more interconnection? Thinking about ICAN and the crossover between SG and Tech groups.

PL: This could be considered, but we are trying not to have too much overlap between these groups. Members of the SG wouldn't need to be participants in ODIS at all, we would be looking for people with a bigger-picture vision of digital transformation, laws, new treaties and security.

AL: For productivity and accountability, perhaps consider a bit more overlap.

PL: Was considering that the SG develops the strategy, which would be shared with the Ops group. But these mechanisms can be worked out. In the existing documents, there is room for observers and other members to be present in both groups.

CD: Who will be keeping tabs on what the nodes are doing, for example the EMODnet catalogue is going to be completely revamped in 2025, so it will/may fall out of the ODIS catalogue - so how would these issues be addressed? There could be a gap there that needs a mechanism (meet at the beginning and discuss plans - to note potential problems).

PL: Every node will pursue their own objectives and work plans. Each node will have a member on the Ops comm - so it would be their role to identify these changes and work with the ODIS team to avoid too much interruption. Globally, what happens to one node shouldn't affect the others.

KOB: there might be confusion between Ocean-Ops and ODIS-Ops, so we need to be aware of that. Reference was made to the GOOS-IODE meeting held last month. We discussed this cross-IOC architecture. It is loosely referenced in the ToR, but maybe there should be a more specific reference to that. We should perhaps try to coordinate our presentations at the IODC so that we can explain / work towards this architecture, to develop a coherent approach.

TDB: Perhaps this should be written into the ToR.

PL: Perhaps we have two separate, important items a) coordinating IODC sessions, b) ToRs. Agreed to add in a new paragraph 'Recognising' in the preamble to acknowledge the IOC architecture development.

AL: On the conference, Session 1 is on the federated ocean data ecosystem. It is probably up to us on this call to develop a plan to structure submissions there.

PL: There seems to be a lack of awareness that a federated digital ecosystem already exists, and that many national and regional initiatives are already a part of this. We need to make it clear that this is not an abstract concept.

CD: For EMODnet too, many people don't realise that we are already federated.

PL: We need to make that point clearly. Might be a good way to start that day on 11th March.

TH: Questioned whether the Ops group communication is transitioning from the 1:1 work that is currently going on. Also how this group relates to the SG. At some point will there be a need for a discussion of products that are built on top of these federations? This could be a third group - not necessarily Ops or SG level, but a third level.

PL: The frequency for Ops meetings would be monthly, not everyone would need to attend every one. Yes to some extent this can take the pressure off 1:1 meetings. Also, we would like the federation to self-regulate a little more. Even if IODE were no longer able to support, ODIS would continue as a self sustaining network. A user focus group would be very important. The people in the SG should be thinking beyond immediate needs, without bias. The user group would provide a very important role of driving specific services. We could start this informally, and then perhaps develop a ToR for this group as well. Some users could be hazards, plastics etc.

TH: The White Papers from the Decade could be used and referenced.

PL: Please share further ideas so we can further develop these mechanisms.

LS: Thanked everyone for joining the meeting at such a busy time of year. Took a group photo. The report will be circulated in the next few days - please would all add to the record of the meeting if anything is missing.

Annex 1. List of Participants

Mr. Sergey BELOV
deputy director
All-Russian Research Institute Hydrometeorological Information - World Data Center,
Obninsk

6, Korolev St.,Obninsk,
Obninsk
Kaluga region
249035
Russia

Tel: +7 48439 74194
Email: belov@meteo.ru

Mr. Pier Luigi BUTTIGIEG
Data Scientist, Digital Architect
Deep-sea ecology and technology
Alfred Wegener Institut

Bussestr. 24
27515 Bremerhaven
Germany

Tel: +494212028984
Email: pier.buttigieg@awi.de

Mr. Taco DE BRUIN
Scientific Data Manager
National Marine Facilities
Koninklijk Nederlands Instituut voor Onderzoek der Zee

PO Box 59
1790 AB Den Burg
Netherlands

Tel: +31 (0)222-369479
Email: Taco.de.Bruin@nioz.nl

Mr. Conor DELANEY
Secretariat - Technical Coordination
European Marine Observation and Data Network

Jacobsenstraat 1
8400 Oostende
Belgium

Email: conor.delaney@emodnet.eu

Ms. Carolina GARCIA VALENCIA
Information Analysis for Planning Chief
Research and Information for Marine and Coastal Management
Instituto de Investigaciones Marinas y Costeras José Benito Vives de Andreis

Calle 25 No. 2-55, Playa Salguero, Rodadero
Santa Marta D.T.C.H., Magdalena,
Colombia

Tel: 57 3106014254

Email: carolina.garcia@invemar.org.co

Ms. Tanya HADDAD
Information Systems Specialist
Department of Land Conservation and Development
Oregon Coastal Management Program

800 NE Oregon Street, Suite 1145
Portland, Oregon 97232
United States

Tel: +19716730962

Email: tanya.haddad@dlcd.oregon.gov

Mr. Arno LAMBERT
IT Services Manager
UNESCO / IOC Project Office for IODE

InnovOcean Campus
Jacobsenstraat 1
8400 Oostende
Belgium

Tel: +32 (0)59 34 14 62

Email: a.lambert@unesco.org

Mr. Adam LEADBETTER
Senior Consultant

10 Gort an Duin
Galway
Ireland

Email: aleadbetter9@gmail.com

Mr. Jeff MCKENNA
Director
GatewayGeo

1101 Blue Rocks Road
Lunenburg Nova Scotia B0J 2C0
Canada

Email: jmckenna@gatewaygeomatics.com

Mr. Kevin O'BRIEN
Senior Research Scientist
Joint Institute for the Study of the Atmosphere and Ocean
University of Washington

24 Kincaid Hall
Seattle, WA 98159
United States

Tel: +1 (206) 526 6751
Email: kevin.m.obrien@noaa.gov

Ms. Lucy SCOTT
Ocean InfoHub Project Manager; Marine Scientist
UNESCO / IOC Project Office for IODE

InnovOcean Campus
Jacobsenstraat 1
8400 Oostende
Belgium

Tel: +27 (0) 82-879-5006
Email: l.scott@unesco.org