



OBPS_20250129

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Oceanographic
Commission

IOC Ocean Best Practices System (OBPS) Monthly Meeting

29 January 2025
09:00-10:00 UTC
[ONLINE]



2025

OBPS_20250129
29 January 2025
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 the delivery of the work plan.

This report is the record of the online meeting on 29 January 2025

Suggested citation:

IOC Ocean Best Practices System (OBPS), Monthly Meeting, 29 January 2025.
[ONLINE] Paris, UNESCO/IOC/IODE, 7pp. 2025 (OBPS_20250129)

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Summary

This monthly meeting discussed various topics including the SG-OBPS-VII Annual meeting dates, the priority activities for 2025, the new version (V.2) of the Repository Content Criteria that includes a section for standards, and a proposal for the format for the OBPS Workshop 2025. Lastly, we discussed the submissions of abstracts for upcoming conferences and the status of the ADAPT Project with upcoming workshops and training courses. To improve participation, a proposal was made to alternate time zones for monthly meetings, avoiding consecutive scheduling conflicts for some members.

Summary Actions of the Meeting

- Patricia to propose new dates for the SG-OBPS-VII
- All Steering Group members to review the repository content criteria V2 document and provide comments in the next few days before its publication.
- Patricia to set up a meeting for a handover meeting with Justin, Uta, and Christian for Work Package 3 activities.
- Patricia and the team to further develop the proposal for the new workshop format (hackathon style).

- All Steering Group members to send any success stories within their networks to Rachel by February 6th for featuring in news articles.
- Cristian to share the draft abstract for the International Ocean Data Conference by Thursday.
- Emma to engage with Peter and Joanna regarding the internal airing of the value proposal document for IOC programmes and subcommissions.

- Patricia to change the timing of future meetings to alternate between different time slots to accommodate various time zones.

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

The meeting commenced at 09:00 UTC. Apologies were noted by Katherina S., Aileen T., Pauline Simpson and Vinnie. The session was recorded and can be [downloaded here](#). A list of participants is included in Annex I.

2. SG-OBPS-VII ANNUAL MEETING DATES

The dates for the SG-OBPS-VII Annual Meeting were discussed, with the originally proposed dates of October 7–9 being not unfeasible due to Cristian's unavailability. Alternative dates were suggested for early November instead of October, considering the scheduling conflicts with the Living Data Conference in Colombia (October 21–24) and the proposal for the Annual Workshop (week of November 24–28, noting that November 27 is a U.S. national holiday). Additionally, the OTGA-SG meeting is scheduled for November 4–7, which will involve the participation of some OBPS-SG members and IOC representatives from various regions and programs.

Action 2.1: Patricia to propose new dates for the SG-OBPS-VII Annual Meeting

3. OBPS 2025 PRIORITY ACTIVITIES

Rebecca discussed the priorities activities for 2025, focusing on:

- **Repository:** Content curation, Endorsement, and Upgrade of the DSpace
- **Federated Network:** Technology developments
- **Ocean Practices Decade Program:** Community engagement and networking

Emma pointed out that it is important to complete ongoing activities before taking on new ones, and the importance of improving the repository's interface (Upgrade of the DSpace). Patricia noted that progress continues on the endorsement process and the DSpace repository upgrade, with three proposals already received that will be evaluated today. The team agreed to continue working on these items in the coming months to enable progress on new activities later in the year.

4. REPOSITORY CONTENT GUIDELINES UPDATE

[Version 2 of the Repository Content Guidelines](#)

This version incorporates feedback from the last monthly meeting in December 2024, where a decision to include a separate section from standards was requested.

The group discussed the new standards section of the Repository Content Guidelines, with some comments made directly on the document. Emma suggested that only standards from recognized international bodies should be accepted in the repository, with the relevant standard body indicated in the metadata. Johannes raised concerns about the complexity of data standards across various groups and levels. Enrique noted inconsistencies in the criteria for practices versus standards, pointing out that practices follow a more open approach, while standards require official endorsement.

Jay clarified that maturity standards will be included in the metadata and proposed evaluating standards based on best practice characteristics such as user feedback and training. Emma emphasized that the document should not be a living document but should have version control and a set deadline for input. She stressed that Version 2 must be finalized and publicly released to proceed with pending non-acceptance submissions.

Rene inquired whether standards currently exist in the repository and if the guidelines have been used to review them. Patricia confirmed that standards are present but that this new version has not yet been applied for review. Jay suggested addressing uncertainty in the next version but opted not to debate the issue further.

Patricia proposed inviting everyone to review the document and provide comments in the coming days, with further discussions to be held with Pauline. A slot at next monthly meetings to address the issues raised about standards. The team agreed to finalize and publicly release Version 2 of the document.

Additionally, Patricia highlighted the need for more reviewers to complete the retrospective content review for the Carpadus Collection.

Action 4.1: All Steering Group members to review the repository content criteria V2 document and provide comments in the next few days before its publication.

5. WP3 UPDATE

Patricia announced the departure of Cristian as a co-lead from WP3, with Ute Broenner taking over as a co-lead with Justin Buck.

Action 5.1: Patricia to set up a meeting for a handover of Work Package 3 activities. with Justin, Uta, and Christian.

6. OBPS ANNUAL WORKSHOP PROPOSAL

Rebecca discussed the format and purpose of the OBPS Annual workshop. The primary goal is to facilitate the creation and finalization of best practices, with a stronger emphasis on active participation and advancing best practices. The current one-week format requires a significant time investment, so a shift to a 2–3 day hands-on event is proposed to reduce this burden while enhancing engagement. A hackathon-style format could attract new participants, foster collaboration, and deliver tangible outcomes. The proposed new format, would alternate between a traditional workshop and a hackathon-style event every two years.

The proposed format would begin with Day 1 focusing on sessions explaining the development, maturity, and endorsement process for best practices, using real examples from OBPS. Day 2 would be a hands-on hackathon where participants, guided by experts such as SG members and OBPS users, work on best practice development, maturity, and endorsement. On Day 3, participants would present their results, receive feedback from a jury composed of the Advisory Board and endorsing entities, and plan for future publication or endorsement in the OBPS repository. The event would target university students, best practice developers, and current OBPS authors working on their maturity and endorsement.

The event is proposed for 24–28 November, with Stefania, Vinnie, Patricia, and Rebecca as potential organizers. To improve engagement, the transition from YouTube/Zoom to a unified platform like QiqoChat is suggested, though timezone considerations must be addressed to minimize redundancy and maximize efficiency. A budget request of \$10,000 is still pending approval, and alternative funding sources, including new sponsors beyond the IOC, may need to be explored.

Metrics for success include the number of best practices created or finalized and the formation of new collaborations. Additionally, Day 2 could feature one-hour invited community sessions where different groups actively create and submit best practices. Emma supported the shorter format, noting that participants on Day 1 could share their experiences and summarize key takeaways. She also suggested using the current templates for best practice creation on Days 2 and 3, engaging participants through the Decade Coordination Office (DCO), and leveraging existing networks to drive involvement.

Action 6.1: Patricia and the team to further develop the proposal for the new workshop format (hackathon style).

7. IODC-III ABSTRACT SUBMISSIONS

Patricia informed the group that a series of abstracts are being prepared for submission to the IODC-III Conference, with a deadline this Friday 31st January at midnight. Patricia prepared an abstract for session 1 about the role of best practices in data management to enrich contribution to OBIS, and she invited the group for feedback on the document here: [Abstract_Session1](#). Carolina Peralta is leading one abstract for session 2 on capacity development in the Caribbean region, while Christian is leading another one for session 3 about the open federated network, and IOC OBPS value proposition for all IOC programmes. To produce this last abstract, Christian prepared this [draft document](#), that collects information on IOC Programmes and Regional Subcommission for creating a value proposal, and asked the team agreed to provide feedback. Patricia clarified to Emma that this document from Cristian, is not the same document that was included in the IODE-28 Action paper, about the IOC-OBPS funds extension proposal. Emma proposed that the IOC OBPS value proposition document should be edited and targeted for Joanna and Peter to present at an IOC meeting (in late February or March). Emma emphasized the need for a short PowerPoint presentation to accompany the document and the proposal that went to IODE-28. Patricia reminded the team to submit success stories to Rachel by February 6th.

Rene shared that he is now reviewing abstract submissions for the conference Oceans in June, and mentioned that he had received many abstracts about OBPS, and from current and past OBPS members. Patricia proposed that once abstracts have been accepted for both conferences (Oceans and IODC-III) we should make sure that our messages are aligned in both conferences.

Action 7.1: Cristian to share the draft abstract for IODC-III by Thursday 30th January.

Action 7.2: All Steering Group members to send any success stories within their networks to Rachel by February 6th.

Action 7.3: Emma to engage with Peter and Joanna regarding the value proposal document for IOC programs and subcommissions.

8. WP7 UPDATE

Carolina Peralta shared the fantastic news via email that the ADAPT project will hold its first workshop in Colombia from April 28 to May 2, where she will be providing support. Meanwhile, Carol Mazucco has reopened the OBPS Self-Paced Training Course in OTGA and is working towards launching a trial version of the University CV course by the end of February.

9. AOB

Jay proposed to rotate the meeting timings so sequential meetings are not in the middle of the night for some members.

Action 9.1: Patricia to change the timing of future meetings to alternate between different time slots to accommodate various time zones.

10. CLOSE OF THE MEETING

The meeting closed at 10:10 UTC.

ANNEX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS [ONLINE]

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