

# GOOS Ocean Observing Report Card 2025 plan

Background document for the 14th GOOS Steering Committee meeting (SC-14)  
and the GOOS cross-panel meeting

## Introduction

The Ocean Observing Report Card is a high-level annual GOOS report developed with OceanOPS, that provides a deep insight on the state, capacity and value of our observing system. It focuses on how an integrated observing system adds value to society across the three GOOS delivery areas of climate, operational services and ocean health. The Report Card also highlights the value of physical, biogeochemical and biological observations, providing a global view of the state of the GOOS, identifying the latest observing networks' progress, the key challenges and opportunities to enhance the system.

Until now, the Report Card has been released as a printed booklet, as well as an interactive online version that allows users to explore the covered topics and the status of the various observing networks in more depth.

The previous web and .pdf versions of the Report Card can be found at <https://www.ocean-ops.org/reportcard/>

## Plans for the 2025 issue

For the upcoming issue that will be released by early October 2025, we want to further improve the impact and quality of the Report Card by making its content more engaging, and improving outreach efforts.

Upcoming changes:

- An improved web version will be developed, containing interactive maps and graphs, video content, user feedback form, and other additional materials to explore;
- The printed version will be simplified and shortened, inviting the reader to explore further in the online version;
- Content will be developed centrally from interviews with experts under different topics;
- The topics of the Report Card will be selected from the suggestions of the GOOS Expert Panels and Steering Committee;
- Member State contributions to the observing system will be highlighted;
- Possibility to collaborate with Member States on translated versions of the Report Card.

## Questions to discuss at the cross-panel meeting:

### 1. **What specific, relevant topics should be covered in this year's Report Card?**

We are looking for impactful stories that:

- Highlight the value of GOOS-coordinated ocean observations and networks under the themes of climate, operational services and ocean health
- Demonstrate recent impact and achievements relevant to a non-expert audience
- May be connected to recent newsworthy events around the world (e.g. notable extreme events, important scientific discoveries)

For each suggested topic, we would kindly ask you to identify a contact point(-s) - expert that could be interviewed to provide their insights and aid the production of the story.

### 2. **What specific changes or enhancements would you like to see in the 2025 Report Card?** (see previous editions [here](#))

### 3. **While ambitious for the 2025 edition, do you believe the Report Card should report on EOVs/ECVs (as currently it reports on the OCG network status) in the future? What is needed to achieve this?**

## Questions to discuss at SC-14:

### 1. **What do you see as the ultimate goal and key audiences of the Report Card?**

Setting a clear goal and audience will help adjust the content and style of the Report Card.

Goal examples: Positioning GOOS as a valuable voice in the field of ocean science, attracting more private funders, getting more Member States to contribute etc.

Audience examples: Scientists, governments, students, philanthropic funders etc.

### 2. **What specific, relevant topics should be covered in this year's Report Card?**

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### 3. How could we report on Member States' contribution to GOOS?

In earlier issues, a map highlighting countries that support different ocean observing networks was displayed. Should we bring this back in the upcoming issue?

Are there any other suggestions how Member State contributions could be represented?

Example from the 2019 Ocean Observing Report Card:

