Process to adopt new GOOS Essential Ocean Variables (EOVs)

1. The proposal for a new GOOS EOV must be put forward by a group of experts representing a community to the relevant GOOS Expert Panel(s)[1] under which the EOV will be managed.

2. The proposal must justify why the EOV should be adopted, demonstrating:

    I. that the systematic and sustained observation of the EOV at a global scale and the data delivery into global data streams is technical, politically and economically feasible using proven, scientifically understood and ethical methods;

    II. that the systematic and sustained observation of the EOV at a global scale will improve the understanding of ocean phenomena with relevance for at least one of the GOOS overarching societal benefits areas: climate, weather and hazard warnings, and ocean health. The EOVs should address the needs of users, whether from science, government or the private sector, and the justification for observing the EOV must be supported by the broader community as detailed in articles, reports from expert meetings or workshops etc.;

    III. that the EOV is essential to address a societal problem and/or understand certain phenomena (i.e. they cannot be sensibly replaced by another variable(s), and they belong to the minimum set of variables needed to address the problem and/or observe the phenomena).

3. The proposal should consist of a 2–3-pages report and a completed specification sheet and should be submitted to the GOOS Expert Panel(s) under which the EOV will be managed for consideration.
    - The report shall provide the background for the proposal, including the justification noted in point 2.
    - The report will specify what sub-variables constitute the EOV.
    - The accompanying specification sheet will define the observational requirements for the collection of sub-variables that constitute the EOV (a template is available here).

4. The proponents of the new EOV will be invited to give a presentation to the relevant GOOS Expert Panel(s).

5. After a public announcement, the proposal will be open for public review and announced via GOOS communication channels and made available via the GOOS website for at least 2 months. The responsible GOOS Expert Panel(s) will consider the comments received during the public review.

[1] Some EOVs may be cross-disciplinary and need oversight from more than one panel.

6. The GOOS Expert Panel(s) will then have up to 6 months to evaluate the pertinence of the proposal and, if accepted, categorise the variable as concept, pilot or mature[2].

7. The lead Panel(s) will keep the other GOOS Panels informed about the proposal and the evaluation process, for their awareness and opinion.

8. The lead Panel(s) will provide a written justification of their evaluation and categorisation to the proponents and to GOOS Steering Committee.

    - If the variable is considered to be concept or pilot, the justification will specify what aspects must be further developed to reach maturity. Concept and Pilot EOVs can still be noted in the GOOS EOV framework and be worked on towards reaching maturity and resubmitted when this has been achieved.

    - If the variable is considered to be mature, and under the guidance of the Expert Panel/s, the proponents will be invited to present the EOV to the GOOS Steering Committee who will ultimately take the decision on its adoption, and incorporation of the variable to the GOOS EOV list.

9. When the GOOS Steering Committee approves the adoption of an EOV as mature, the proponents must commit to maintaining and updating the specification sheets for that EOV in coordination with the relevant GOOS Expert Panel(s) and GOOS Secretariat to ensure that the EOV continues to be effective.

10. Additions of one or more new EOV sub-variables to an existing EOV will be the responsibility of the relevant GOOS Expert Panel(s) in charge of the EOV, who will approve or not those additions. The relevant GOOS Expert Panel(s) will inform the other panels about those additions for their awareness and opinion.

[2] A variable of high importance but without as yet proven observing infrastructure is either considered pilot if there are efforts to improve and prove observing capability or concept if there is as yet insufficient effort on observing capability.