

16th Observations Coordination Group (OCG-16)

The **Sixteenth Observations Coordination Group (OCG-16) Meeting** will take place from **07 to 10 April 2024 hosted by IFREMER and IOC/WMO OceanOPS, Brest, France.**

Updates from the intersessional work will be discussed and new objectives set, plus new areas discussed for inclusion in the OCG work plan. Please make sure to check the agenda below, and the details on the sessions for the key questions that will be addressed, background documents to review and the key outcomes. An emphasis has been placed on having time for discussion at this OCG meeting, and key discussion areas anticipated will be around OceanOPS, data and metadata implementation status, requirements, networks data usage in regional and global models. All up to date materials can be found on the event web page - [here](#).

The Observations Coordination Group will host one additional engagement as a part of the OCG-16 meeting, providing opportunities to engage and exchange with network experts and IOCARIBE representatives about regional observing system in the Caribbean:

- IOCARIBE Session - morning Wednesday 09 April

Please note that each OCG network is expected to provide a network report and have a poster for the poster session. Reports should be submitted by **Monday 24 March 2025.**

MEETING LINK: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83813576343>

OBJECTIVES

- Identify actions and major lines of work for OCG 2025-2027, with resource required
- OceanOPS Work Plan, SLA framework & planning for new strategy to 2030
- Assess development of emerging networks
- Identify the data and metadata work towards the IOC Data Architecture and WIS2
- Assist IOCARIBE in planning for a regional ocean observing system. Using the Caribbean as a test case to look at the connection between GOOS OCG networks and GOOS Regional Associations - how do we respond, are the right connections there to address regional identified priorities, Sargassum, Tropical Cyclones, etc.
- Develop the framework for assessing network maturity, health, health and risk, and agree the OCG network/subnetwork list

OUTCOMES

- GOOS OCG Work Plan

DEADLINES | BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS to review prior to OCG-16

- [Network report documents](#) (Session 6.3)
- OceanOPS Annual Plan & Budget (March 24)
- Service Level Agreement Document (March 24)
- Tropical Americas & Caribbean Ocean Observing Forecasting System Proposal (TAC-OOFS) which lays out the roadmap for IOCARIBE-GOOS (Session 9)
- USV Paper

OTHER ITEMS

- PPTs sent through for Friday 04 April to l.blezat@unesco.org / [link to folder](#)
- [Network posters](#) (Session 6) and Miro board - electronic (March 31) / printed version to go up on site (Mon am)

LOGISTICS:

Please review this document for additional [logistics](#). For any local information and help please contact Emanuela Rusciano [erusciano@ocean-ops.org].

For OCG related inquiries contact Emma Heslop [e.heslop@unesco.org], cc Ann-Christine Zinkann [ann-christine.zinkann@noaa.gov] and Champika Gallage [cgallage@wmo.int].

Timetable Overview

Time	Monday [April 07]	Tuesday [April 08]	Wednesday [April 09]	Thursday [April 10]
8:30	Arrival & Poster set up			
9:00 - 10:30	1. Opening 2. GOOS & WMO Update 3. Longer term goals and OCG Objectives	4. Requirements continued BGC Panel 7. Data and Metadata	9. IOCARIBE-GOOS, supporting regional priorities	12. Communications GOOS Messaging/Rebranding Report Card
Coffee break (10:30 - 11:00)				
11:00 - 12:45	4. Requirements implementation. RRR/ Co-Design, BioEco Panel 5. OCG Update	7. Data and Metadata Continued	9. Continued	13. EOVS Views
Lunch break (12:45 - 14:00)				
14:00-15:30	6. Networks Posters 1 hour mingle/30 mins online Miro	8. OceanOPS	9. Continued 10. Revisit longer term goals, objectives and key results	14. Summarized Actions 15. Planning OCG-17, roundtables, TTs, and close
Coffee break (15:30-16:00)				
16:00-17:30	6. Networks continued emerging, issues and risk	8. OceanOPS continued	11. Modelling and services	
17:30 - end		OCG Group Dinner		

Chairs: Jon, Emma, Champika, Mathieu, Kevin. Monitoring chat and slides: Louise and Emanuela

Rapporteur: Emma, Ann, Champika, Signe, Jing, Kevin and Mathieu, **in bold** - aim to collect actions and basic notes

16th Observation Coordination Group (OCG-16)

Annotated Agenda

Available at OCG-16 event webpage: <https://oceanexpert.org/event/4656>

DAY 1 – Monday 7 May 2025 | 09:00 – 17:30 (In local time GMT+2)

AM Chair: Emma Heslop

1. Welcome (15 min) – Joanna Post & local hosts

Welcome from – local host and GOOS

Aims: Welcome participants, adopt the agenda, meeting logistics, including posters and instructions for setting up.

Roundtable for who is here and online – vv brief

2. GOOS & WMO update (45 min) – Emma Heslop & Albert Fischer [**Champika**]

Aims: Updates from GOOS. Steering Committee meeting readout, preparation to the IOC Assembly, WMO Congress, including OBPS, communications and data initiatives.

[20 min presentation + 20 min discussion]

2.1 GOOS & WMO Updates – Emma Heslop & Albert Fischer

Discussion questions:

- Do the OCG networks ever have to communicate about GOOS or the work of the OCG
 - do they have what they need?
- Do the network leads read the GOOS Updates? Are they helpful? How do you get news about GOOS?
- 4 years into the GOOS 2030 Strategy, what are the biggest changes from your perspective, what are important priorities to consider? What could GOOS do better?

3. Longer term goals, objectives and expected key results (30 min) – David Legler, Emma Heslop, Ann-Christine Zinkann [**Champika**]

First part of 2 sessions to look at long term goals for the OCG. What role should the OCG play in the global ocean observing system in 2035, what will the mix of networks look like, what are the key lines of work, what role does OceanOPS play? Come prepared with your own questions and ideas.

3.1 Short PPT to discuss review OCG ToRs and and identify some of the big ideas – 5 mins

COFFEE BREAK – 10:30 – 11:00

4. Requirements implementation (75 min) – Champika Gallage, Emma Heslop, Ann-Christine Zinkann, Ana Lara Lopez **[Kevin]**

Aims: Review the work on the WMO Rolling Review of Requirements process, following the review of the first Ocean Application Area Statement of Guidance. Reflect on the output and its relevance, and the next steps for GOOS and WMO, and the interaction with WMO GBON and 'ocean GBON'. The GOOS Co-Design Programme, development of requirements for emerging services, and interaction with WMO and GOOS processes. Update from BioEco Panel on actions from OCG-15 and news on Biodiversity plans and how this initiative will interact with the networks.

- 4.1 WMO Rolling Review of Requirements, Co-Design process – towards an ocean GBON – Champika Gallage, Emma Heslop & Ann Cristine Zinkann – 10 mins + discussion)
- 4.2 BioEco Panel – update from OCG-15 actions (AniBOS), BioEco Panel Meeting, Biodiversity Plans, relevance and interaction with OCG Networks (10 mins + discussion)

Discussion questions:

- How do these initiatives intersect with the networks – OCG?
- Did the intersections identified from OCG-15 lead to success?

5. OCG Update (30 min) – David Legler [online] **[Ann]**

Aim: Review the progress of intersessional work and highlight the key achievements; and provide updates on key OCG activities over the past year. Highlight topics/opportunities in which OCG should take action over the coming 2-3 years towards observing system development. Ensure engagement with networks needs and priorities.

[20 min presentation + 10 min discussion]

- 5.1 Update OCG actions and looking ahead – David Legler

Proposed action/decision

-

LUNCH BREAK - 12:45 - 14:00

PM Chair: Jon Turton

6. Network Posters (90 min) - All networks

Aim: To enable networks and OCG management to discuss progress, questions and any key issues affecting the networks.

Network's posters will be displayed outside of the meeting room, we will have time to look and discuss in this session and across all the coffee breaks. Please ensure that Posters are submitted digitally (there will be an online part to the session) and bring a physical copy to the OCG meeting. There will also be a poster on the work of the Maturity and Metrics TT on definitions for maturity/emerging network status and work towards a network 'health index'.

1 hour with posters & online participants posting questions through Miro board

30 minutes online, working with the Miro board and colleagues online

Louise Blezat Miro Board

Background documents:

[Link to posters](#)

COFFEE BREAK - 15:30 - 16:00

6. Network issues & risk, emerging networks (90 min) - Jon Turton [Ann]

Aim: Look at any specific needs from the OCG Emerging Networks and report on their progress against the [network attributes](#). In addition, we will hear an update on progress towards achieving the network attributes from the USV network, which is keen to be considered as an OCG emerging network [process will be to hear the presentation, have time for questions and reflection, then we will take the decision on emerging status in session 14]

Update from across the networks addressing requests for assistance with issues or opportunities related to networks plans for implementation, instrumentation, data management, testing, new sensors, coverage, capacity development, etc. Based on a summary taken from the Network Reports.

Discuss a framework for assessing risk of network issues (mission critical, long term decline...?) - what/how does OCG define and raise up the most pressing and/or critical issues, showing inherent weakness in the system that should be addressed.

[5 min presentations + discussion]

- 6.1 Emerging networks: Brief updates from emerging networks SMARTCables, FVON, SOCONET on progress on network attributes development, issues and next steps (brief PPT 5 mins) - Bruce Howe (SMARTCables),
- 6.2 USV progress on network attributes development and discussion on emerging network status - Ruth Patterson (10 mins PPT and discussion 20 mins)
- 6.3 Summary across all network reports on opportunities/issues and look at in framework for risk assessment - Ann Zinkhann, discuss issues and framework (45 mins)

Discussion questions:

- What are the major cross network challenges and concerns
- What are the priorities for action at network or cross network level, does the risk index help identify this?
- How could OCG support networks in facing these issues/ is it OCG action or request or other entity or ?

Background documents:

- [USV paper](#)

Link to network summary reports

Proposed action/decision

- ...

Extra - "Towards a global wave drifter program to feed direct satellite/in-situ swell monitoring systems and operational sea state models"- Dr Fabrice Collard, [Ocean Data Lab](#) Director.

ADJOURN - DAY 1

DAY 2 - Tuesday 8 April 2025 | 09:00 - 17:30 (In local time GMT+2)

Chair AM: Champika Gallage

4. Requirements continued (20 min) [Emma]

From BGC Panel update from actions at OCG-15 and news on Carbon Plan and how this will interact with the networks.

- 4.3 BGC Panel - update from OCG-15 actions (02 - BGC Argo), Carbon Plan, relevance and interaction with OCG Networks (20 mins total)

7. Data strategy and its implementation (70 min) - Kevin O'Brien [Emma]

Aim: To review the progress of the OCG Data Implementation Strategy, actions of the OCG Data Task Team and discuss its implementation across the OCG networks. This session will review the plans formed at the joint IODE-GOOS Data Workshop and subsequent work towards an IOC Data Strategy. Discuss key issues, barriers and planning for 2025-2026. Identify next steps for OCG implementation in the coming year, in the framework of an IOC Data Architecture, and cross GOOS data work. Including the work on minimum metadata (OceanOPS Passport) to gain a unique ID (WIGOS number) and onward tracking for GOOS, network and OceanOPS services.

[20 min presentations + 50 min discussion]

- 7.1 OCG Data Implementation Plan & Data Task Team updates - Kevin O'Brien
- Review results of OCG Data TT survey to networks
 - Status and Roadblocks to OCG Data and Implementation Strategy - Kevin O'Brien
- 7.2 IOC Data Architecture concept and initial work - Emma Heslop

COFFEE BREAK - 10:30 - 11:00

[45 min presentations + 60 min discussion]

- 7.3 WMO and WIS 2.0 updates, developments and discussions
- Argo examples of a WIS2.0/WIS 2.0 node and discussion around application for other networks, OCG, OceanOPS - Thierry Carval (10 mins total)
 - ERDDAP example of WIS2.0 node - Kevin O'Brien (10 mins total)
 - MCDS Update - David Berry, Champika Gallage (10 mins)

Discussion

12:30

- WIS 2.0 progress in ocean domain - Tom Kralidis (remote) - 15 mins

Discussion questions/issues:

- What are the barriers or blockages, what networks are struggling with, and can we make a specific plan to support?
- What are the ideal work flows, where are the gaps? How can OCG highlight hotspots for action?
- How should data providers be acknowledged as data flows through the system and into products?
- How to have a uniform data license posture? Is this possible
- What would be the next steps to support networks in preparation for WIS2.0?

Proposed action/decision

- ...

LUNCH BREAK - 12:45 - 14:00

PM Chair: Emma Heslop

8. OceanOPS - Mathieu Belbeoch [Ann]

Aims: This session will have a brief update on the OceanOPS activities, cover the finalized restructuring, priorities for the next year and next steps. The session will give a readout from the joint WMO/NOAA/Ifremer meeting, WMO/IOC/OCG Management Group work, status of Service Level Agreements (SLAs), European Project work and its anticipated contribution to OceanOPS/GOOS, and to seek feedback on priority areas for work over the next 12 months. In addition, OceanOPS will, with OCG and sponsors, define a path for OceanOPS to develop a new 5 year Strategic Plan (2026 - 2030), including metrics for tracking year to year progress. Note: EOv view detailed discussion is on Thursday -this will be part of the work plan.

SLA Aims: To give an overview of the Service Level Agreements developed over the past months, funding structure, services delivered in service levels and future development opportunities. OceanOPS SLAs - framework agreed and ensure baseline functionality - so that we all understand what we are doing and aim to be up and running by 2026.

[15 min presentations + 75 min discussion]

- 8.1 Brief OceanOPS progress with current Strategic Plan – Mathieu Belbeoch (10-15 mins scene setting)
- 8.2 SLA Overview: state of play of SLAs, cost/support structure – Jon Turton/Ann-Christine Zinkann

Discussion questions:

- How many networks are 'ready' for the SLAs, are there any major obstacles?
- How would you describe the benefits of OceanOPS services to a funder?
- What services of OceanOPS are of interest to potential national funders?
- What would be the impact on the network if OceanOPS did not exist?
- If you have to give an 'elevator pitch' on OceanOPS what would you say?
- Can we be more consistent and proactive in approaching national funders, should we approach national funders collectively?
- How can OCG support networks in marketing OceanOPS, as discussed at OCG-15?

COFFEE BREAK - 15:30 - 16:00

- 8.3 Future planning for 2025-2026 activities: functions, developments, and work plan priorities – Mathieu Belbeoch
- Main lines of work, priority actions, how European Projects fit
 - Budget overview and staffing
 - Collective/coordinated action around funding – what do networks need and how can we support?
 - Risk management
- 8.4 OceanOPS & EU/FR Projects – Laurent Mortier

8.5 Development OceanOPS Strategic Plan (2026 – 2030): outline a process and gather feedback through an interactive session – Emma Heslop

Discussion questions:

- What new core services should OceanOPS provide (e.g. to all OCG networks, to GOOS, national funders, WMO)?
- What impact on the integrated system if OceanOPS did not exist?

Proposed action/decision

- ...

OCG-16 GROUP DINNER - 18:30-21:00 - Le Restaurant Vauban (Brest)

DAY 3 - Wednesday 9 April 2025 | 09:00 - 17:30 (In local time GMT+2)

AM Chair: Emma Heslop

9. WORKSHOP - IOCARIBE-GOOS (3 hours)

Workshop agenda: [link](#)

Purpose of the IOCARIBE-GOOS Session

- To engage with OCG Members to support the budding IOCARIBE ocean observing regional system
- Review the regional plan (TAC-OOFS project document), as the blueprint for the Ocean Observing and Forecasting System (OOFS) in the Caribbean and Tropical Americas (TAC)
- Discuss and offer advice on implementation, to avoid any pitfalls, find opportunities, identify where to start, consider resource mobilisation, and how can GOOS OCG can engage - towards drafting an IOCARIBE-GOOS Workplan
- Discuss TOR for the survey for stakeholder capacity and user needs

Resource Links

2002 IOCARIBE-GOOS Strategic Plan

Ocean Decade - Vision 2030 White Papers:

- [Sustainably Expand GOOS \(#7\)](#)
- [Create a Digital Representation of the Ocean \(#8\)](#)

Inventory from IOCARIBE-GOOS (PENDING - searching the IOCARIBE drive)

[OHI Ocean Info Hub](#)

9.1 IOCARIBE Session 1 overview, current network activity, and priorities **[Jing]**

COFFEE BREAK - 10:30 - 11:00

9. WORKSHOP - IOCARIBE-GOOS - (105 min) - Continued

9.2 IOCARIBE Session 2 Blueprint - discussion around recommendations **[Jing]**

LUNCH BREAK - 12:45 - 14:00

PM Chair: Kevin O'Brien

9. IOCARIBE Continued - (30 min)

IOCARIBE Wrap up discussion - conclusions **[Jing]**

10. Revisiting - Longer term goals and objectives and key results (60 min) [Emma]

Aims: Circling back to discussion in Session 3, identifying main ideas for long term goals and discussing the near/medium term objectives and how OCG might track this through key results.

Discussion questions:

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Proposed action/decision

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COFFEE BREAK - 15:30 - 16:00

11. Modelling and services input (90 min) - Ann Zinkann and Jon Turton [Champika]

Aims: Panel discussion to follow presentations - with a key questions - 10 mins each presentations on CMEMS (TBC), ECMWF (Hao Zuo), NOAA (Vijay Tallapragada), CoastPredict (Giovanni Coppini) modelling and services, presentations to consider the questions/issues below for discussion.

Some background on which observations various models use has been compiled by OceanPredict at <https://oceanpredict.org/observations-use/>

Panel (Hao, Vijay, Nadia, Ann & Jon) discussion - questions/issues for consideration:

- Which observations are presently being assimilated into which models and from which networks?

- Which observations are presently being used for model validation and from which networks?
- How do the various modelling centres access the observations (GTS, GDACs, CMEMS etc), are the present access means sufficient?
- Is the need for data EOY-based, network-based or platform-based?
- Is there a need for data products (EOY-based or network-based) as well as basic observational data/
- Why are not all GOOS network data being used in models, what are the issues (lack of availability, access, timeliness, concerns about accuracy etc)?
- Is there a disconnect between the modellers/data users and the networks/data providers?
- how can modelers communicate back to the networks/data providers on data quality issues (e.g. degradation over time) and on data needs?
- How will requirements change with AI-forecasting systems?

ADJOURN - DAY 3

DAY 4 - Thursday 10 April 2025 | 09:00 - 17:30 (In local time GMT-8)

AM Chair: Mathieu Belbeoch

12. Communication GOOS / OCG - (90min) - Laura Stukonyte & Emanuela Rusciano [Kevin]

Aims: GOOS has been undertaking a GOOS messaging and branding review, the aim of which is to enable all parts of GOOS to speak with one voice, including OCG and the networks, to improve the knowledge share of GOOS and increase branding consistency across GOOS. We will introduce the messaging work for feedback from the OCG before its launch in June 2025. There will also be an update on the 2025 Ocean Observing Report Card and discussion on changes and the online version.

[10 min presentations + 20 min]

12.1 GOOS Communication - Laura Stukonyte

12.2 GOOS Report Card - Emanuela Rusciano

Discussion questions:

To be added

Proposed action/decision

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COFFEE BREAK - 10:30 - 11:00

13. EOY Views (90 min) - Ann Zinkann, Thomas Latter [Emma]

Aims: EOY views - run an analysis on OceanOPS dashboard - miro on today, and miro on EOY view of tomorrow, discuss the need from the networks on developing this capability and congregate around what level/information (e.g. depth, all networks, precision, geographic location)

[10 min presentations + 75 min interactive session]

13.1 Framework for developing EOY views of GOOS - interactive session using Miro

Discussion questions:

- ...

Proposed action/decision

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LUNCH BREAK - 12:45 - 14:00

PM Chair: Emma Heslop

14. Summarized Actions and Reflections (60 min) - David Legler and Emma Heslop [Mathieu]

Aims: Run through the decisions, actions and recommendations across the sessions and adjust, synthesize, merge, and clarify. Develop some level of priority.

Assess and decide on USV as an OCG emerging network

Proposed action/decision

- Adoption of a set of OCG-15 decisions, actions, and recommendations

15. Planning for OCG-17 (15 min)

Location suggestions:

Dates: April/May

Roundtable planning

Task Teams

Proposed action/decision

- Suggested dates

Closing of OCG-16

Note: This agenda item can be modified based on the specific needs and focus of the meeting. The format, duration, and topics can be adjusted as needed.

Meeting Guidelines & Roles and Responsibilities

For in-person participants

- If you have a name tag from previous meetings please bring one to encourage reusing these.
- Please arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the meeting.
- Please ensure that you are engaging with both in-person and online participants.
- We encourage you to attend the workshops prior to the OCG meeting.
- Dress code: business casual.

For online participants

- Keep your microphone muted unless you are speaking. We will try to use video, unless it presents a problem for bandwidth, so join with your camera on.
- If you have a question or comment, please use the chat box to type your question/comment or indicate by raising your hand in order to be called upon by the moderator.
- Please be succinct in both your questions and answers.
- At the end of each item, please expect to be called upon to ensure all OCG members have had the chance to comment.
- The sessions will be recorded for the purpose of writing the report, and the recordings deleted afterwards.

Roles and responsibilities Chair, rapporteurs, online moderator

Chairs (indicated summary agenda)

- Introduce the speakers
- Engage in and guide the discussion
- Assist in guiding the discussion
- Make sure questions are addressed
- Wrap up the session with outcomes and actions, provide a summary of key discussion points and seek consensus if needed
- Keep agenda on track overall

Rapporteurs [indicated in detailed agenda]

- Write a summary of the key discussion points and ensure actions, decisions and recommendations are documented from the sessions - here
- Review Otter AI discussion paragraph when produced

Online Moderator

- Monitor online participants for comments, questions, hands raised or problems
- Be the interface in the room for online participants - facilitate their interaction