



The Global Ocean Observing System



GRA Council Meeting

Results of the 14th GOOS SC Meeting

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16 April 2025 | Online

Fourteenth Session of the GOOS Steering Committee, SC-14

UNESCO HQ, ROOM IX, Paris, 19-21 February 2025

The SC identified the following key areas for the Work Plan 2025-2027:

1. GOOS coordination and management (core activities)
2. Observation system integration, design, development and delivery (GOOS 2030 Strategy, Goal 2)
3. Maintain and strengthen data integration and delivery (new focus area across all 3 goals)
- 4. System implementation:** i) at national and **regional level** and ii) and applications (**GOOS 2030 Strategy, Goal 1**)
5. Outreach: projects, partners and communications (GOOS 2030 Strategy, Goals 1 and 3)
6. GOOS Reform (GOOS 2030 Strategy, Goal 3)



Report of GRA Council

- Updates on the work with GOOS Regional Alliances (GRAs).
- Advances in connecting with GOOS NFPs.
- There remain large differences between levels of advancement and support in different regions and challenges in connection, transparency, awareness of data needs and delivery, and reporting between different GRAs and between GRAs and GOOS.
- The SC discussed the need to strengthen connections between NPFs, GRAs and other GOOS components.
- There is a lack of understanding regarding processes, and a flow diagram could help visualize these connections.



Report of GRA Council

- The SC must move towards defining the collective roles of GRAs/NFPs and potential focal areas to coordinate on and collaborate with GOOS.
- GRAs have a key role in supporting new technology and capacity development, but there is no existing mechanism for GRAs to contribute to emerging observation networks of GOOS.
- Data accessibility remains a challenge, particularly for developing countries where ocean observation infrastructure is limited. GRAs could help bridge this gap by connecting developed countries' existing networks with developing regions.
- Strengthening communication and engagement is also a priority. The SC identified that SC regional experts could connect more closely with GRAs



Decisions/Recommendations

- Encouraged the GRA council to propose some application areas (and leverage these to their alliance members and wider GOOS components) to support data access and delivery to GOOS at regional and national level as well as report increases in data flow and national-level engagement to GOOS.
- Recommended a virtual meeting (in 2025) between members of the GRA council and the GOOS co-design and Coast Predict programmes and then a subsequent GRA council call to discuss opportunities for strengthened engagement and data sharing.
- Recognised that, long-term, a mechanism to optimise and facilitate NFP and GRA engagement with, and reporting to, GOOS needs to be established.
- Requested the GOOS SC Regional Experts to connect with GRAs and NFPs in their regions to optimise and enhance engagement with other GOOS components by these GRAs and NFPs as much as possible.
- Recommended that GRA representatives upload their meetings onto Ocean Expert, and request reports after GRA meetings
- Encourage participation of GOOS SC regional experts and GRA Council in the GRA annual/periodic meetings.
- Recommended to hold a stakeholder meeting including with GOOS SC, expert panels, GRA, NFP, other IOC focal points and other relevant stakeholders.



Actions: The actions below were identified by the SC and will be elaborated further in the GOOS SC work plan 2025-2027

ACTIONS	Due by	Key Participants	Focal point	Report back to GOOS SC in
<u>Session 6a. System implementation at national and regional level</u>				
NFP / GRA				
Establish a task team with the following SC members: Matias Sifon, Alvaro Scardilli and Caroline Cusack, as well as Champika Gallage from the WMO, supported by the secretariat (Jing Li), to develop a proposal for NFP implementation guidelines (by 30 Sep 2025).	30-Sep-25	Matias Sifon, Alvaro Scardilli, Caroline Cusack, Champika Gallage (WMO)	Jing Li	Q4 2025 / Q1 2026
Encouraged the GRA council to propose some application areas (and leverage these to their alliance members and wider GOOS components) to support data access and delivery to GOOS at regional and national level as well as report increases in data flow and national-level engagement to GOOS.	30-Sep-25	GRA Council Chair (Carl Gouldman) and Vice Chair (Alvaro Scardilli)	Jing Li	Q1 2026
Virtual meeting (in 2025) between members of the GRA council and the GOOS co-design and Coast Predict programmes and then a subsequent GRA council call to discuss opportunities for strengthened engagement and data sharing.	31-Dec-25	GRA Council and GOOS Decade Programmes	Jing Li	Q4 2025 / Q1 2026
Consider how to establish a mechanism to optimise and facilitate NFP and GRA engagement with, and reporting to, GOOS	ongoing	Considered as part of GOOS reform		Q1 2026

ACTIONS	Due by	Key Participants	Focal point	Report back to GOOS SC in
GOOS SC Regional Experts to connect with GRAs and NFPs in their regions to optimise and enhance engagement with other GOOS components by these GRAs and NFPs as much as possible.	ongoing	Regional Experts	GOOS regional focal points	Q1 2026
GRA meetings should be uploaded to Ocean Expert	ongoing	GOOS SC Regional Representatives, GRA Council	GOOS regional focal points / Jing Li	
Encourage participation of GOOS SC regional experts and GRA Council in the GRA annual/periodic meetings.	ongoing	GOOS SC Regional Representatives, GRA Council	GOOS regional focal points / Jing Li	
Encourage engagement between GOOS/IOC focal points	2027	All	All	To be further discussed
Future GOOS conference including with GRA, NFP, GOOS SC, panels and other IOC focal points and relevant stakeholders	tbc	All	All	To be further discussed





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Thank you

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