



OBPS_20251008

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Commission

IOC Ocean Best Practices System (OBPS) Monthly Meeting

8 October 2025
13:00-14:00 UTC
[ONLINE]

 **Ocean best
practices** 2025

The logo for the Ocean Best Practices System (OBPS) 2025. It features a stylized blue wave icon to the left of the text 'Ocean best practices' in a bold, dark blue sans-serif font. The year '2025' is positioned at the bottom right of the main text.

8 October 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 8 October 2025

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Summary outcomes of the meeting

The OBPS team discussed updates on the Steering Group revision, the OBPS strategic planning 2030, preparations for the Ocean Science Meeting in Scotland, the progress on the curation of the repository, and testing the upgraded software of the repository. Invitation and expression of interest letters have been sent to IOC Members for SG nominations and SG members, with responses due by 17 October. The Strategic Planning Summary remains open for review until 13 October, after which a SWOT analysis will follow in November once the new SG is formed. Preparations for the OBPS Townhall at the Ocean Science Meeting 2026 in Scotland are progressing, with Justin, Emma, and Jay confirmed to attend. The testing of the new repository on the IODE server is showing major improvements, and a new version is expected to be released in November. A plan to assess DSpace's search capabilities to potentially replace the costly EDS service will be developed. Repository content review has restarted, and the review process has been simplified. The group explored key topics for the agenda for the SG Annual meeting and moved the meeting to January 2025 in order to prepare it well in advance.

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

The meeting commenced at 13:00 UTC. Apologies were noted from Jay P. and Justin B. The session was recorded with attendees' consent ([see recording here](#)). A list of participants is included in Annex I.

2. UPDATES

2.1 OBPS STEERING GROUP REVISION UPDATE

Invitation letters have been sent to 10 IOC Members requesting nominations of representatives from IOC Programmes and Sub-Commissions. In parallel, expressions of interest in continuing to be part of the SG have also been sent to current members. The deadline for responses is 17 October. After that date, we will communicate the results. Please remember to reply to Patricia regarding this email.

2.2 STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATES

Patricia reminded that the [Strategic Planning_Summary](#) is open for review by the SG, new deadline: Monday 13th October. The next step will be to perform a SWOT analysis once the new SG has been formed. The fees for the OBPS Townhall on the Ocean Science Meeting 2026 in Scotland, have been paid. The list of participants needs to be updated to identify who from OBPS is going and in what role. It is confirmed that Justin, Emma, and Jay will attend.

2.3 DSPACE/REPOSITORY STABILITY AND FUNCTION UPDATE

Access issues with the repository are still persisting, particularly during large operations such as submissions. However, for quick or punctual checks, the system is currently functioning without problems. A notice about these issues has been published on the OBPS website and on LinkedIn.

The progress of testing the new repository on the IODE server is progressing. Pauline mentioned that it has shown significant improvements compared to the initial trials on the test instance. Pauline and Patricia are providing feedback to the subcontractors, who will address the remaining issues over the next two weeks. The updated version is expected to be released around November.

A plan to test the search interface on the DSpace was discussed with the idea of evaluating whether the search results on the DSpace are better than in the EDS, and we could move away from the costly service. Pauline and Patricia will work together to provide D2T with the metadata fields to replicate the current EDS functionality. Then, once the new repository is publicly available, a team of testers will be formed to perform searches and evaluate it.

2.4 REPOSITORY CONTENT REVIEW RESTARTED

The review of the repository content has started, with Patricia currently reviewing the Miscellaneous collection.

Pauline, Patricia, and Emma discussed the challenges of having two reviewers for all documents. They proposed a more streamlined process in which Patricia conducts the initial review, and only documents that may not be suitable for the repository are passed to a second reviewer. Pauline agreed to assist with this second review. In cases where the first and second reviewers disagree, a third reviewer will be consulted. Virginie raised the idea that while the review is underway, it could be helpful to also look at the maturity of the documents to be checked. However, this would prolong the exercise, and discussions on how the maturity model is used in OBPS need to be discussed.

The potential use of AI was also discussed. Although this option had been explored previously, it was not pursued due to the requirement for a large dataset to train the algorithm. The group agreed to present the results of the miscellaneous collection review and a plan on how to communicate with authors of documents to be withdrawn at the next monthly meeting on 19 November 2025.

3. OBPS SG ANNUAL MEETING

A proposal to move the Steering Group Annual meeting to January was made to allow more time to prepare the agenda effectively. The following key topics for the meeting were discussed:

- AISBL relationship - a formal relationship required
- OBPS Strategy 2030
- OBPS Governance: Roles and responsibilities of SG + Governance structure + Working groups, task teams
- OBPS Endorsement Policy Document
- Repository Sustainability and Evolution (EDS, AI, etc)
- Curation of the repository status, results
- Work Plan and budget 2026-2027
- Maturity Model
- Ocean Practices Federated Network
- ECOPs OBPS

4. AOB

Other topics included upcoming events, such as the World Conference on Marine Biodiversity 2026, next November 17-20, in Bruges (BE). Abstract submissions for this conference are now open: <https://www.wcmb2026.org/call-abstracts>. Patricia to check with Frank MK. and Anna from the BioEco Panel to see if they are going and could advocate for OBPS.

Other events interesting for OBPS are: the EMODnet Open Conference (<https://emodnet.ec.europa.eu/en/emodnet-open-conference-2025>) and the 11th EuroGOOS International Conference

A proposal for an OBPS workshop in April next year was shared and is available for input if anyone wants to contribute.

A general presentation from OBPS was requested to be shared with the group. This presentation can be used and adapted by the group: <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1iEdthMtDr9GoSDI1cMjQ60sd-vVRMFOg/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=114966491440731765327&rtpof=true&sd=true>.

5. PROPOSED TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

Topic 1: European Projects

- **European repository:**
 - What is the connection recommended through the strategy work, other insights?
 - If work is required, who is going to do it? Will it detract from current OBPS work, and therefore have to be delayed?
 - Can it be called an Ocean Best Practice System if there is no interoperability? IOC would request not, as it is confusing to the community.
- **European Projects** OBPS involvement update.
 - BioGeoSea: BP are in this and other projects - do we have any track on this effort, BPs produced finally, and messaging provided to the community?

Topic 2: Curation of the repository status

6. ACTIONS

Action	Who	By when
Plan a meeting with D2T to follow up on the actions and feedback provided to improve the DSpace.	Patricia	13/10/2025
Prepare a plan on how to communicate with users about documents being removed from the repository and present it at the next meeting.	Patricia	Before 19/11
Share the call for journal editors through IOC and GOOS channels.	Patricia	10/10/2025

Follow up with Jay about adapting the definitions of good, better, and best from the maturity model paper.	Patricia	10/10/2025
Reach out to Anna from the BioEco panel about including OBPS information in presentations at the World Conference on Marine Biodiversity.	Patricia	10/10/2025
Steering Group members to review the Strategic Planning_Summary	SG	13/10/2025
Steering Group members attending the Ocean Science meeting to inform Patricia so she can update the information for the town hall session.	SG	13/10/2025
Steering Group members to review the OBPS workshop proposal for next year.	SG	17/10/2025
Steering Group members to respond to Patricia's email about the steering group by the end of next week.	SG	17/10/2025

7. CLOSE OF THE MEETING

The meeting closed at 14.00 UTC.

ANNEX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS [ONLINE]

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