



Global Ocean Observing System



## 2. GOOS NFP Implementation Guidelines

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On behalf of the GOOS NFP Implementation Guidelines Task Team

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**Part I:**

# **Progress on Developing the NFP Guidelines**

# Purpose of the NFP Implementation Guidelines

**The NFP Terms of reference (ToR) set out the objectives on the role of GOOS National Focal Points**

*“The overarching objective of the GOOS NFP is to promote and support nationally and regionally coordinated strategies for the implementation of a sustained global ocean observing system that delivers the essential information needed for our sustainable development, safety, wellbeing and prosperity”*

**Since the ToR are quite broad and written at a high level:**

- A Task Team was set up to create clear guidelines to help NFPs
- Working together with the NFPs to develop these guidelines is essential to make sure the content is useful and relevant

# Task team - NFP Guidelines

**Members:** Matias Sifon, Alvaro Scardilli, Caroline Cusack, Champika Gallage (WMO), Jing Li (Secretariat)

**Status:** Drafting Stage– **need input from NFPs to progress**

**Progress to date:** ([link](#))

- **Identified some Questions and possible answers** in the NFP Implementation Guidelines
- **Proposed Outline & Annexes drafted**
  - Annex 1: List of relevant NPFs;
  - Annex 2: List of relevant GOOS Resources
- **Prepared an analysis of other national reports** related to GOOS

**Questions to address in the “NFP Guidelines”:**

1. How can NFP support **strengthening national coordination** for ocean observations?
2. How can national ocean observation **better connect and contribute to GOOS?**
3. What will **NFPs report** to GOOS?
4. How can NFPs better **advocate/publicize/promote GOOS** at national level?
5. How will the **GOOS Secretariat support** NFPs to fulfill their roles?

# Draft Outline – Table of Contents

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 GOOS

### 1.2 GOOS National Focal Points

### 1.3 Purpose of the Guidelines

## 2. Implementation Guidelines for GOOS NFP

### 2.1 Facilitate National Coordination

- (a) Connect to other NFPs (See Annex 1)
- (b) Establish a GOOS National Committee (hub)
- (c) Support to develop National Ocean Observing System
- (d) Link stakeholders across the ocean observing value chain (new!)

### 2.2 Support National Connection and Contribution to GOOS

- (a) Promote Data Flow to GOOS
- (b) Advocate for national investment to Ocean Observing System
- (c) Promote the engagement and contribution to OCG and Networks
- (d) Connect to other GOOS Components

### 2.3 Promote the work of GOOS at national level

- (a) Share relevant GOOS activities and resources
- (b) Advocate for GOOS and Ocean observing needs at national level
- (c) Develop Use Cases
- (d) Promote GOOS standards and best practices

## 2. Implementation Guidelines for GOOS NFP

### 2.4 NFP Reporting (To be further defined)

- (a) National needs and gaps
- (b) National plan and implementation status
- (c) National investment (Amount, funding mechanisms, sustainability..)
- (d) National responses to GOOS priorities
- (e) National data centre and data policy
- (f) How many EOVs are measured in the country?
- (g) ...

## 3. Resources

### 3.1 Support from GOOS Secretariat

- (a) Organise GOOS NFP Forum
- (b) Promote and highlight the Importance of GOOS NFP
- (c) Capacity building
- (d) Highlight National Contributions
- (e) Synthesis national needs and gaps into actions
- (f) Enhance interaction among NFPs and with GRAs
- (g) Support to link with relevant stakeholders
- (h) Communication support

### 3.2 Relevant GOOS Resources (see Annex 2)

# Draft – Annexes

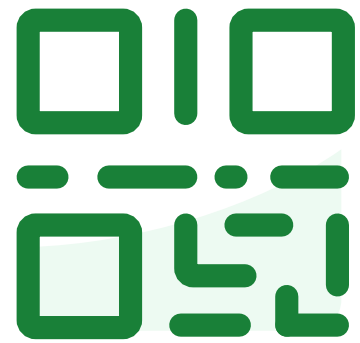
## Annex 1: List of NFPs or national committees of relevant networks and partners

1. **IOC National Focal Point** ([link](#))
2. **WMO Permanent Representative** ([link](#))
3. **UNEP National Focal Point** ([link](#))
4. **National UN Ocean Decade Committee** ([link](#))
5. **National Argo Committee**
6. **NFPs for Data Buoy Coordination Panel (DBCP)** ([link](#))
7. **NFPs for Ship Observation Team (SOT)** ([link](#))
  - Automated Shipboard Aerological Programme (ASAP) ([link](#))
  - Voluntary Observing Ships (VOS) ([link](#))
  - Ship of Opportunity Programme (SOOP) ([link](#))
8. **NFPs for Global Sea Level Observing Network (GLOSS)** ([link](#))
9. **National representatives for IODE**
  - [Oceanographic Data Management](#)
  - [Marine Information Management](#)
10. **GCOS Focal Point** ([link](#))
11. **Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFPs)** ([link](#))
12. **Other (please specify):** \_\_\_\_\_

## Annex 2: GOOS Resources Directory

1. **GOOS Strategic documents**
  - GOOS 2030 Strategy ([link](#))
  - A Roadmap for the Implementation of the GOOS 2030 Strategy ([link](#))
  - Framework of Ocean Observing ([FOO](#)) & FOO 2.0 System Report ([link](#))
2. **NFPs related documents**
  - Terms of References ([link](#))
  - List of GOOS NFPs ([link](#))
  - NFP Nomination Form ([link](#))
  - NFP Implementation Guidelines (under development)
  - NFP Reporting Template (under development)
3. **Resources from GOOS relevant components**
  - **Essential Ocean Variables (EOV)** [EOV Specification Sheets ([link](#)); Guide on how to use EOV Specification Sheets ([link](#)); EOV-based Monitoring Tool (e.g. [GOOS BioEco Metadata Portal](#))
  - **OCG and networks** [Network Specification Sheets: [Argo](#) | DBCP ([Global Drifter Array](#) | [National/Coastal Moored Buoy Networks](#)) | SOT ([ASAP](#) | [VOS](#) | [SOOP](#)) | [GLOSS](#) | [AniBOS](#) | [GO-SHIP](#) | [OceanSITES](#) | [HF Radar](#) | [Ocean Gliders](#) | Tsunami Buoys; OCG Cross-network Data Implementation Strategy ([link](#)); Network national reports (2025): [Argo](#) | [DBCP](#) (2024) | [SOT](#) | [GLOSS](#) (multi-year)
  - **OceanOPS**
  - **Use Cases** ([link](#))
4. **Communication resources**
  - GOOS Logo ([link](#))
  - GOOS Brand Guidelines ([link](#))
  - GOOS Messaging Guide (under development)
  - Ocean Observing System Report Card ([link](#))
  - GOOS Webinars ([link](#))
  - NFP LinkedIn Group ([link](#))
  - NFP Slide decks (under development)

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**Q1: Are the guidelines useful?**



## **Q2: What else do you want in the guidelines?**



**Q3: Do you want to join the writing team of the Guidelines?**



**If your answer to Q3 was Yes,  
please give your name and  
country, thanks**

# Part II:

## NFP Reporting

# Analysis of other National Reports

## Common Information Asked Across Templates

1. Contact & institutional details
2. Current status of observing system
3. Planned activities
4. Technical developments & upgrades
5. Data management & sharing
6. Challenges and risks
7. Use & applications of data
8. Contributions to global agendas
9. Outreach, training, and publications

## Unique Information Asked

Network	Unique Information Asked
Argo	Float failures/lifetimes, DAC/DMQC progress, decoding issues, CTD reference data, RBR procurement, AST-level issues, outreach.
SOT	Fleet counts (VOS/SOOP/ASAP), PMO networks (ports, services, training), comms methods, data formats, OceanOPS cross-check.
DBCP	Buoy vandalism annex, buoy lifetimes, eco-buoys, IoT comms, new parameters, explicit EW4All contributions.
GLOSS	Gauge technology, GPS technology in the network, less strict format
NODC/ADU	National data policies (IOC, ISO, QMF), staff & budget trends, services/products (URLs), user categories & geography, contribution to IODE (time, funding, secondments).

# GOOS SC Response to Qs from the Task Team

## Q1: Is an annual report required from each NFP?

If yes, what should be included to avoid duplication of effort

### Feedback

- **There are many reporting mechanisms to GOOS**, e.g. the Global Ocean Observing Report Card ([link](#)).
- **GOOS SC may request OceanOPS to provide an easy-to-use tool for NFPs**. Knowing GRAs/NFPs' context is one of the trends identified in the new 5-year plan of OceanOPS.
- National representatives of OCG networks and OceanOPS database could be queried by GOOS NFPs
- **National Charts might be useful to show the governance structure of ocean observation** in each country – see examples at this [Link](#)
- Suggest: a lightweight, **two-page** “national ocean observing snapshot” **every two years, aligned with the IOC-UNESCO country report timetable**. Contents: (i) **update on Essential Ocean Variables** delivered to OceanOPS, (ii) **one flagship application case** (e.g., typhoon warning), (iii) **gaps that need GOOS help**. **No extra templates; data already in OceanOPS will be pulled automatically**. Co-drafting with the national IOC delegate is welcome to **avoid duplication**.

# GOOS SC Response to Qs from the Task Team

## Q2: Would a welcome pack for new joiners be useful to the NFPs?

### Feedback

- A welcome pack will be **helpful** for new NFPs, by highlighting the list of things we could provide to **help new joiners engage, be productive and feel as part of the group.**
- **A concise but lively welcome pack:** one graphic showing the IOC/GOOS/OceanOPS hierarchy, a one-page “who-does-what” contact matrix, and a 90-day task checklist (update metadata, join the next NFP call, flag one national gap). Delivered as fillable PDF , it lets any new NFP start immediately without extra paperwork.

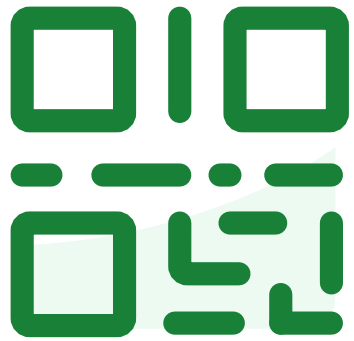
# GOOS SC Response to Qs from the Task Team

## Q3: What kind of activities are expected to be accomplished by the NFP?

### Feedback

- To **focus** not only on **observations** and **research**, but also on **application aspects**, e.g. climate change, food and energy security, etc. NFPs could strengthen GOOS' status among MS, and the connectivity to original causes.
- **Not only the observing assets but also the people who have the knowledge and expertise to support the core observing systems should be understood and valued.**
- Keep the ToR short: (1) keep the OceanOPS metadata set complete, (2) relay GOOS calls to domestic agencies. Anything beyond this—policy papers, fundraising, cross-sector coordination—should be optional and supported by dedicated GOOS travel funds.
- NFP selection: prefer civil-servant or agency staff who already sit on national IOC committees; university professors only if formally nominated by the ministry.

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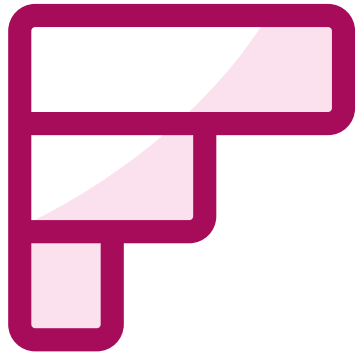


## **Q4: What should the NFP report to GOOS?**



**Q5: What are your current reporting obligations nationally that are relevant to GOOS?**

**Is there any opportunity to streamline NFP reporting with your current reporting obligations?**



## Q6: What Format?

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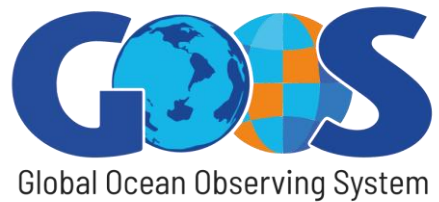
## Q7: Reporting timeline?

# Part III:

## Next Steps

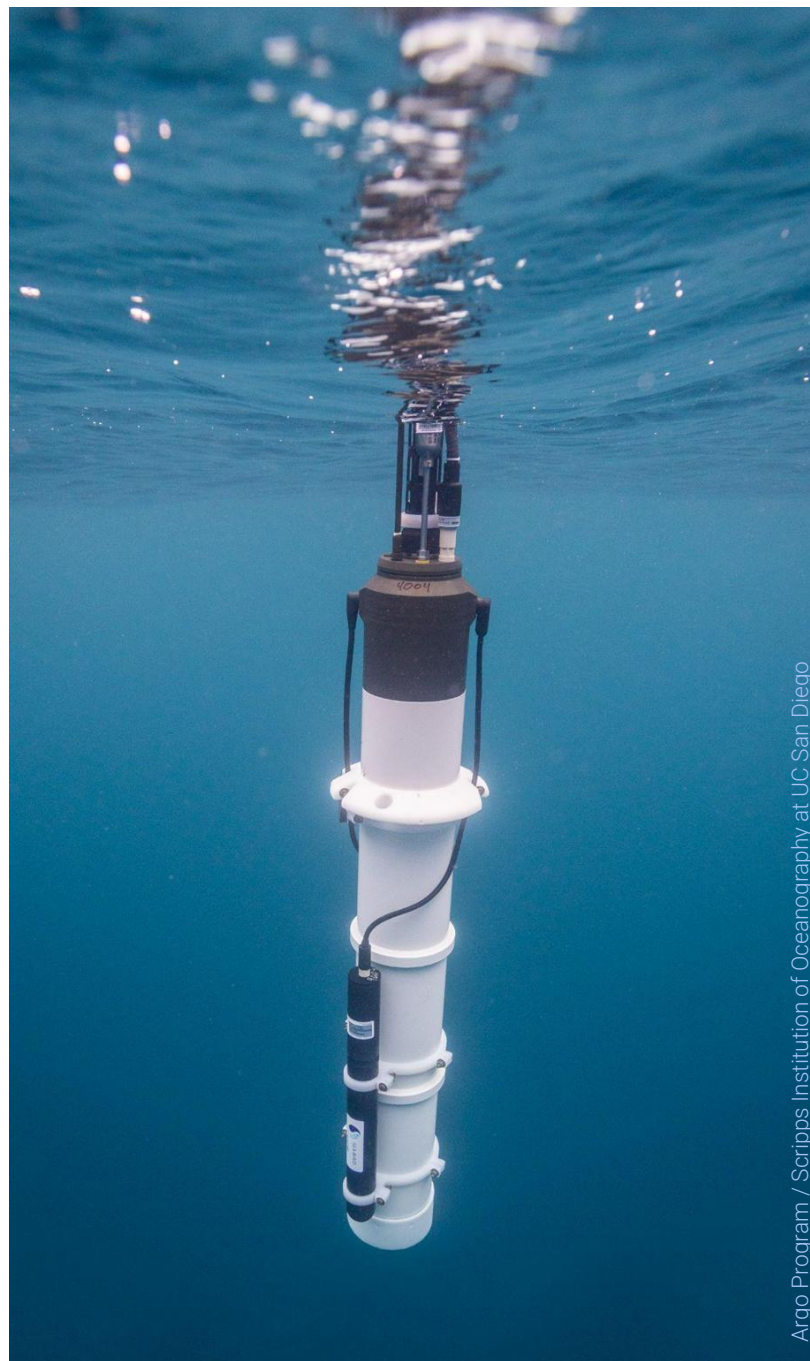
# Next steps

- ✓ NFP Reporting Template (2026.3)
- ✓ NFP Messaging Guide (welcome package) (2026.3)
- ✓ NFP Implementation Guidelines (2026.10)



# Thank you

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Argo Program / Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego

