



OBPS_20251217

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IOC Ocean Best Practices System (OBPS) Monthly Meeting

17 December 2025
11:00-12:00 UTC
[ONLINE]



2025

OBPS_20251217
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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 17 December 2025

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Summary outcomes of the meeting

- **IOC-OBPS Steering Group:** Reconstitution process and timelines were confirmed; the Circular Letter will be issued on 18 December, with nominations due by 21 January and appointments by 31 January. Rebecca was confirmed as Chair, and the current Steering Group was formally thanked as it concludes its mandate, with special appreciation to Pauline Simpson.
- **IOC-OBPS Repository:** The DSpace upgrade is ongoing; data migration is completed, and enhancements have been delayed due to problems when rebooting the system. The repository is expected to be ready by mid-January. The curation of the repository is ~60% completed.
- **IOC-OBPS Communications:** OBPS 2025 key achievements are being written for the December Newsflash and a report card/status report to be published by the end of the year. OBPS communications will be aligned with IOC channels, and a January meeting with the IOC communications team will define the next steps.
- **Other Updates:** Progress was reported on the endorsement framework, the Frontiers Research Topic editor selection, the update of the OBPS OTGA self-paced course (relaunch planned for February 2026), the upcoming OBPS activities at the Ocean Science Meeting, Glasgow February 2026, and on the Strategic Plan 2026–2030.

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

The meeting commenced at 11:00 UTC. The session was recorded with attendees' consent ([see recording here](#)). A list of participants is included in Annex I.

2. SG RECONSTITUTION

The meeting started with an update on the reconstitution of the Steering Group, with Emma and Patricia providing detailed clarification on the process and timelines. A Circular Letter will be distributed on Thursday, 18 December, through IOC channels, with nominations due by 21 January and appointments to be communicated by 31 January. The circular letters can be found at this link: <https://oceanexpert.org/doclist/39>

The Steering Group will comprise two categories of members. The first category includes IOC Members, representing IODE (e.g., Lotta or Paula, plus an additional representative from OBIS/ODIS), as well as the OSS, MSP, and Tsunami sections. The second category includes external experts who have expressed interest in continuing their involvement; from this meeting, these include Virginie VDV and Frank MK. These experts will need to be formally nominated through the Circular Letter process, which is detailed at the link above. Rebecca will serve as Chair of the Steering Group. For those members who want to still collaborate with OBPS outside of the Steering Group, a short email should be sent to Patricia outlining in which form they want to collaborate.

Patricia also took the opportunity to thank the SG members as they conclude their current mandate, with a special appreciation to Pauline Simpson for her many years of outstanding service as OBPS Project Manager and Repository Manager; her expertise and commitment have been central to the development OBPS, and we wish her every success as she moves on to focus on advancing best practices through European projects.

3. REPOSITORY UPDATE

We discussed the ongoing DSpace software upgrade, which has faced delays due to technical issues with the repository not starting properly after updates or reboots performed at IODE. Patricia explained that while data migration was completed successfully, the latest enhancements are behind schedule, and payments have been paused to the external provider until the issues are resolved. The team aims to have the repository ready for launch by mid-January, with a potential beta testing phase involving SG members and close collaborators. Patricia reported progress on the repository curation, which is now 60% complete, with plans to have everything reviewed by the end of January. The SG discussed the necessary 2nd review process for documents that are identified as not aligning with the current criteria, agreeing that the number of documents not aligning would determine the process for the second and third reviewers.

Patricia also pointed out that this exercise is useful, as while the content of the repository, she is noting that some collections need immediate updates since they are older than 5 years (For example, CMEMS data products documentation). Emma suggested defining what a collection is and reviewing them against that definition. Rebecca proposed setting timeframes for updates, with IMOS updating every 3-4 years as an example. The SG debated whether outdated documents should be updated, with Virginie questioning the need to update practices that are still current. Pauline explained the challenges of getting people to deposit new versions and suggested that automated reminders could help address this issue. Emma proposed lengthening the review period to 5-6 years to match the understanding of the process. For example, IMOS uses version control tables for their documentation. A document can be reviewed every 3-4 years and then if nothing was changed, that can be mentioned in the version control table. In this way the community can still be sure that the document is still up to date and used.

4. OBPS COMMUNICATION

Patricia wrote [this article](#) for the December OBPS Newsflash; however, the information gathered seemed too long for the Newsflash, and the group decided that this info can be used instead to create a report card for OBPS 2025 achievements. They agreed that Virginie will select a few key topics for the Newsflash, while Patricia will work on preparing a comprehensive report with updates and key achievements before year-end. The team also discussed the distribution of the newsletter, with Emma clarifying that OBPS should be included in the IOC newsletter rather than sending

separate communications to the entire IOC mailing list. Virgine explained challenges with accessing Mailchimp due to computer issues. Emma suggested aligning OBPS communications with IOC's new plan, clarifying that OBPS newsletters should only be sent to those who've selected OBPS, not the full IOC database. Patricia will organize a meeting with Virginie, Chloe, and Laura in January to discuss the best communication strategy, with a decision needed by February for the next newsletter.

Action: Patricia to organise a meeting in January with the IOC communication team, and Virginie to clarify OBPS communication within IOC.

5. OTHER UPDATES

Updates were also provided on the progress of the **OBPS endorsement framework**, where several meetings have been held to discuss the document that is being drafted.

Seven editor applications were received for the **Research Topic on the Frontiers Journal**, with two very good applications. Patricia will organise meetings with these, and a meeting in January will be planned for the onboarding of the new editors. The list of applications and assessments by Jay and Johannes can be found here:

 [APPLICATIONS_EDITORS_2025](#) .

The **OBPS self-paced OTGA course** will be closed at the end of this year, and a new update and modules will be prepared for the reopening of the course at the end of February.

The upcoming **Town hall event at the Ocean Science Meeting** in February, Glasgow, was also discussed briefly and it was agreed to share updates through LinkedIn. In addition a meeting with the **Advisory Board** will be held in January/February to present the current work on the **OBPS Strategic Plan 2026-2030**. Also, the [SWOT analysis](#) is still accepting input from the SG, preferably before January, when Patricia will work with Justin, Emma, and Rebecca to incorporate the input on this document, with the previous SWOT analysis done in 2024.

6. CLOSE OF THE MEETING

The meeting closed at 12.15 UTC.

ANNEX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS [ONLINE]

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