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ODIS Steering Group

Meeting 10 March 2026



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Agenda

1. Current status of ODIS - where are we now?
2. Terms of Reference considering request from IOC Assembly to streamline IOC activity
3. Support for NODCs
 1. Data architecture / FAIR ocean data charter
 2. NODC Capacity development
 3. Regional workshops
4. Immediate next steps for ODIS
5. World Ocean Database – support from NODCs and workshops
6. Next SG meeting



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1 Current Status of ODIS

Vision

- The IODE-28/IOC33 Decision: “develop in collaboration with programmes across the IOC, the IOC Ocean Data and Information System (ODIS) as a foundational digital ecosystem where users can discover and access data and information products, services, and other assets provided by Member States, projects and other partners associated with IOC. “
 - ODIS SG well placed to advise the work
 - more than just a technical solution - includes coordination and a supporting structure – empowering the National Oceanographic Data Centres as the key stakeholders in IODE





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1 Current Status of ODIS

Current position

- 59 nodes connected to ODIS
 - Providing data discovery through ODIS and OceanInfoHub
- ODIS graph endpoint is down – and has been for some time
 - Plan to bring it back up is needed
 - But resourcing (including financial) to maintain it is currently not available
 - More sustainable long-term approach is needed, including support National Oceanographic Data Centres and for data exchange to support IOC programmes (e.g. Ocean Acidification, World Ocean Database) and Member State needs
 - Operations group paused





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1 Status on ODIS

Vision for ODIS

- Technically: move to exchange of data quickly to support – identifying appropriate, limited technology stack
 - IOC programmes and targets (e.g. SDG14.3)
 - Member state needs (e.g. sustainable ocean plans)
 - UN Ocean Decade solutions focus (e.g. coastal resilience; biodiversity protection; applications [models])
- Organizationally: support National Oceanographic Data Centres to achieve this, and grow engagement with IODE

Questions for ODIS SG:

- Any questions or comments on this vision?
- How do we best communicate the current status and the future vision with ODIS nodes and NODCs? Bridging what has achieved, what needs to be done and showing continuity



2 Terms of Reference

- Streamlining of IOC Activity by Executive Secretary as per decision of the 33rd IOC Assembly
- Consequence = an opportunity to discuss the Terms of Reference for the ODIS Steering Group

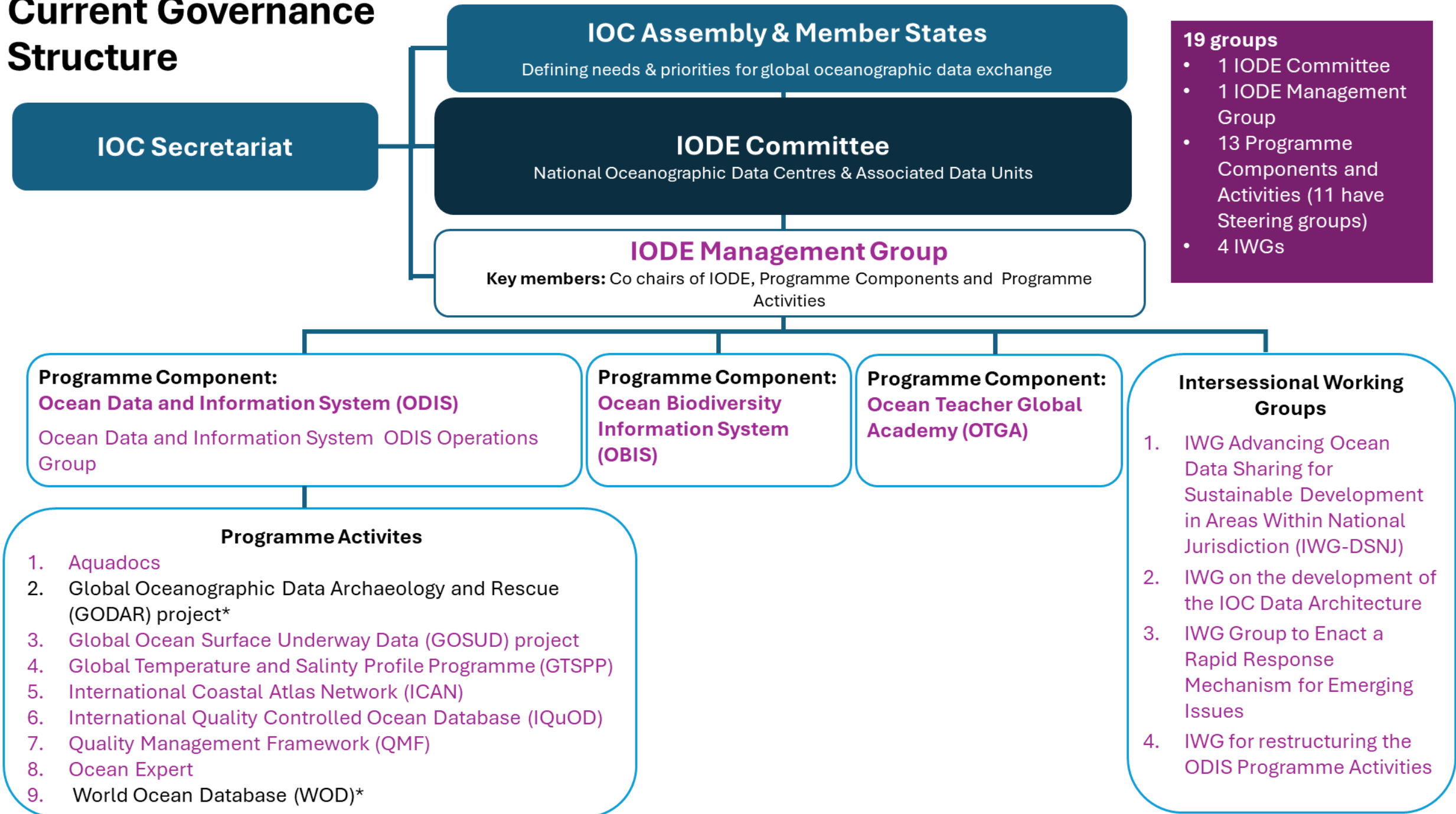


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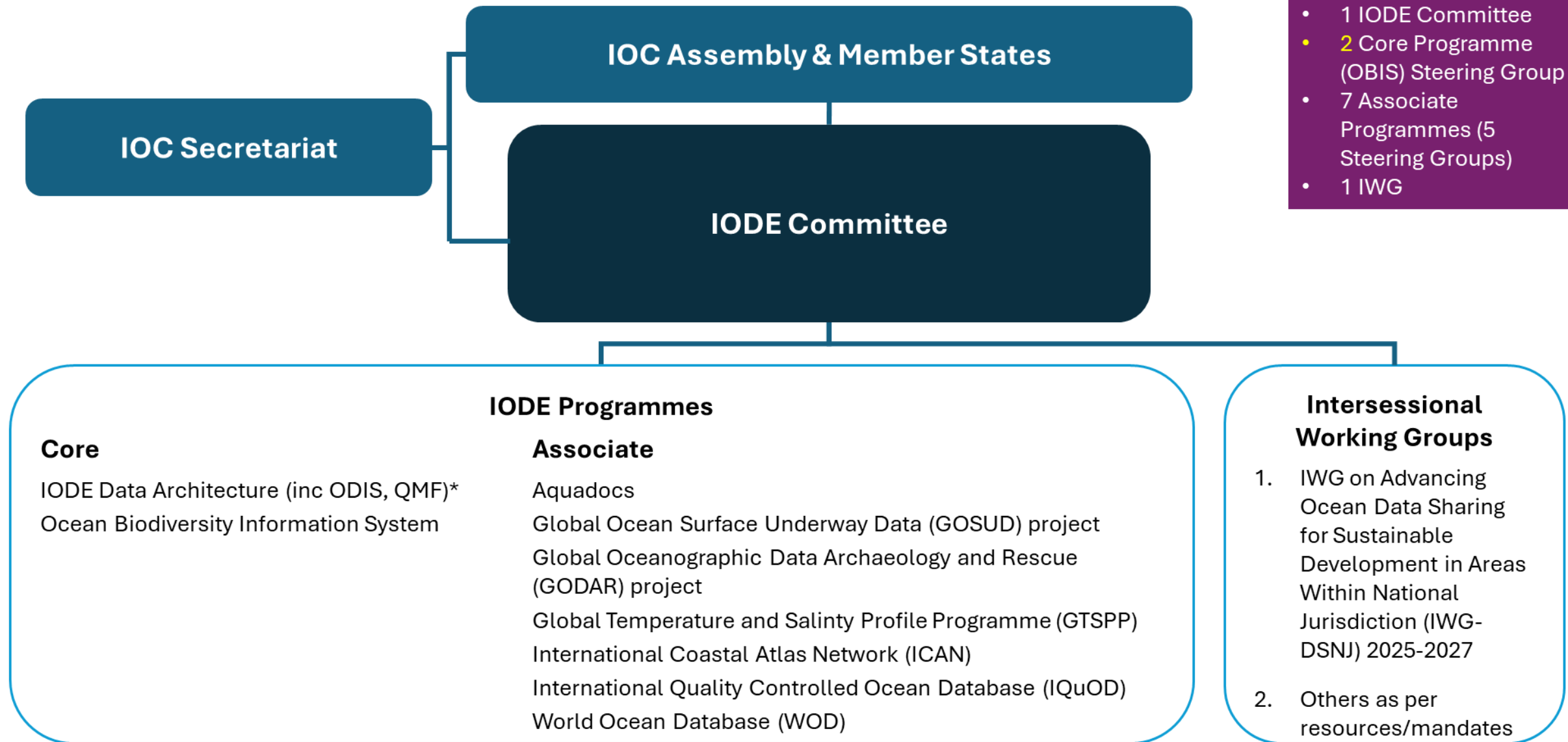
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Current Governance Structure



Proposed Governance Structure



- 11 groups**
- 1 IODE Committee
 - 2 Core Programme (OBIS) Steering Group
 - 7 Associate Programmes (5 Steering Groups)
 - 1 IWG

* **RENAME ODIS SG – provide broader scope-** ADVISING THE IOC on DATA / IODE – SUPPORT SOPM: Support definition and implementation of workplan and IOC’s data architecture. Increase the maturity and quality management of the NODCs** ODIS will be reviewed and incorporated as needed in the IOC data architecture plan The Quality Management Framework for NODCs (QMF) will be integrated as a Task Team of the IODE Advisory Group.

2 Terms of Reference

- Questions to ODIS SG – recognizing we are not going to solve this today:
 - How would you like to see the Terms of Reference for ODIS and the Steering Group evolve considering the proposed governance structure?
 - What are the priority focus areas for you / your Member State for data exchange?
- Timeline to propose updated Terms of Reference: before the next IODE Committee Meeting, scheduled for September / October 2026 (online)



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3 Support for NODCs

Developing a workplan - what to do first?

- What should we do to support and develop National Oceanographic Data Centres?
- How do we make NODCs feel more included and increase their engagement with the network?
 - Increasing adoption of IODE accreditation by NODCs and use of the IODE Quality Management Framework or equivalents

Proposed:

- Review Terms of Reference for National Oceanographic Data Centres
 - Are the responsibilities of an NODC clear? e.g., to share data for World Ocean Database
 - Are the expectations of an NODC from IODE clear? And the expectations of IODE from an NODC?
- Focus on a limited set of key variables – initial starting points: WOD profiles and IOC needs (e.g. Ocean Acidification for Sustainable Development Goal 14.3)
 - Guiding principle – move towards Essential Ocean Variable (and other necessary parameters) exchange





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3 Support for NODCs

3.1 Data architecture / FAIR ocean data charter

IOC Data Architecture

- General plan approved by IOC Assembly in 2025 – assuming the data architecture supports Member State needs
- Therefore, focus is on data exchange for Essential Ocean Variables plus other key parameters for, e.g., Sustainable Ocean Planning
- Consultancy to be engaged to develop the IOC Data Architecture roadmap, using targeted funding made available by NORAD
- ODIS Steering Group will play a key role in liaising with the consultancy





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3 Support for NODCs

3.1 Data architecture / FAIR ocean data charter

FAIR Ocean Data Charter

- We all talk about FAIR data – but what is FAIR to you may not be FAIR to me
- Consultancy to be engaged to develop with input from across the community, using targeted funding from NORAD
 - Document will explain what we mean by FAIR data when we talk about it in the ocean context
 - Should include actionable steps
 - ODIS Steering Group will be key stakeholders engaged



3 Support for NODCs

3.2 NODC Capacity development

(coming)



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3 Support for NODCs

3.3 Regional Workshops

- Planning regional workshops in Africa and in the Caribbean
- Looking for input from NODCs - what do we need to have in mind for the workshops?





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4 Immediate next steps for ODIS

1. Identify an approach to reinstate the current ODIS knowledge graph
2. Develop material to communicate to National Oceanographic Data Centres:
 - Current status of ODIS and what it does
 - What we are focusing on
 - Change in focus to organizational and technical support
 - Need for World Ocean Database profile submission and support of IOC activities
 - Identifying needs for capacity development
 - Long-term goal of Essential Ocean Variable (plus) data exchange
3. Identify SG member(s) willing to engage with and report back to SG on:
 - Joint Collaborative Board with World Meteorological Organization activities relating to data
 - International Quality Controlled Ocean Database (IQuOD) programme activity Steering Group



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5 World Ocean Database – support from NODCs and workshops

- Many on-going conversations about the resiliency of the World Ocean Database
 - Presentation to IODE Management Group in January, including the NOAA team
 - Workshops in February on resiliency, and American Geophysical Union convening discussions on data resiliency in March (Adam to attend)
- WOD Users: include meteorological offices; Argo delayed mode QC etc...
- Current advice from NOAA:

- Question to ODIS SG: How best can we support from our community?



6 Next Meeting

- Next meeting of the Steering Group expected to be on Tuesday 21 April 2026
- Review revised TOR
- Review draft workplan



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THANK YOU

