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IOC Ocean Best Practices System (OBPS) Monthly Meeting

17 July 2024
12.00-13.30 UTC
[ONLINE]



2024

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17 July 2024
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 delivery of the work plan

This report is the record of the online meeting for 17 July 2024

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1. Opening of the Meeting

George Petihakis (Co-Chair) opened the meeting and welcomed participants. A complete list of the meeting participants is shown in Annex I. Apologies were received from, Rebecca Zitoun, Rachel Przeslawski, Justin Buck, Carol Mazzuco Emma Heslop and Peter Pissierssens. All participants agreed the session should be recorded, available [here](#).

2. Work Package 1: Project Management Activity Report

Pauline Simpson, Project Manager explained that this month's WP1 agenda covered most of the current activities and she would not be repeating those. For WP1, she was able to announce the appointment of the new OBPS Project Manager, Patricia Cabrera, previously at VLIZ who was expected to start on 01 August 2024.

3. Advisory Board - membership

George Petihakis explained that the selection board had now finalised its voting on the [spreadsheet of responses to the call for membership and personal invites](#) but there was no consensus. A further filtering of skill sets of each voted candidate mapped to Advisory Board criteria would be made and an urgent meeting would be arranged in the next few days since candidates were already chasing a decision.

ACTION:

Filtering of skill sets to be organised and an urgent meeting to be arranged if a selection decision cannot be made by email (PS)

4. SG Membership and call for Co-Chair Elect

Co-Chair Elect 2025-2026

In line with OBPS Governance procedures, an email was sent on 02 July 2024, inviting any member of the SG to let the Co-Chairs know if they were interested to be nominated. There had been no response.

Discussion ranged on a nomination of names; headhunting; and a public call.

ACTIONS

4.1 The SG to be asked to propose names for the Co-Chair Elect roles - a Spreadsheet

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1aoOC8So_Kh9xetI2dulTcn-V8NWRjHrszQ_gVHEdEsk/edit?usp=sharing is provided for names to be recommended by SG members and if adding more than two a priority should be indicated. This would be followed by a personal contact to the names by the Co-Chairs

4.2 If two candidates are not agreed, a public call will be made during September 2024

SG Membership

Before discussion on calls for new Steering Group Members, Pauline Simpson took the opportunity to report for the record that Mark Bushnell and Edwin Mwashinga had resigned from the SG with effect from the end of June 2024.

Juliet Hermes has provided notice that she would be resigning at the SG-OBPS-VI meeting, Nov 2024.

Discussion identified member groups that could contribute eg. EMODnet and GOOS OCG who could provide possible names but it was finally agreed there would be a call made in the August 2024 NewsFlash, in line with the previous SG membership call in 2022. Copy would need to be submitted by 30 July. A draft for the Co-Chairs to review would be made available on the GDrive <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rPs5Cf5AHbIUdmnhHrAeQxO3mBcVHP-bG-jDeOPdV2c/edit?usp=sharing> It was highlighted as before that CV and statement of interest would be requested and the call should indicate the topics and areas of SG contribution that were being sought to strengthen OBPS

ACTIONS:

4.3 An SG Membership call would be made in the August 2024 edition of the NewsFlash. Copy submission by 30 July 2024 (PS)

5. SG-OBPS-VI 12-14 November 2024

George Petihakis reported that Members had indicated their funding possibilities on the annual meeting [spreadsheet](#). Less than half the members were able to find their own funding support and it was decided on that basis that the annual meeting would be hybrid, particularly since it would be the meeting when Co-Chairs Elect took up their roles..

A request for a booking of a meeting room at Unesco Paris has been in place since February and chased by GOOS and now IODE, but no response has been received. IODE has provisionally booked a meeting room in Oostende. However, it was pointed out that there is the OceanPredict Symposium – 18-22 November 2024 in Paris immediately after SG-OBPS-VI and it was therefore preferable for those that could travel to be located in Paris. Meeting accommodation other than Unesco was recommended with a suggestion of Laboratoire de Météorologie Dynamique a CNRS joint research unit, hosted by École polytechnique (X), École Normale Supérieure (ENS) and Sorbonne Université (SU), but there might be a need to have a session on OBSEA4CLIM during the meeting for that hosting to be agreed. POST MEETING: Unesco have responded with a room offer

ACTION:

5.1 On the basis of the spreadsheet the Co-Chairs decided SG-OBPS-VI should be hybrid.

5.2 Alternate accommodation would be sought at Laboratoire de Météorologie Dynamique/Sorbonne (JK)

6. Work Package 2: Operations (Repository) Activity Report

Pauline Simpson, Repository Manager explained that the Repository was a major component of the OBPS and this WP dealt with two aspects of its maintenance - content and technology.

Technology

Long term issues have been identified with both the DSpace repository (for example DOI automatic issue) and the AWS Enhanced Discovery Service. The

OBPS budget from IOC has a small amount (\$8500) allocated for repository maintenance but that covers very little so most of the repository maintenance and enhancements have to be funded by identifying external projects when that is possible. A contract for DSpace fixes is currently in place and the contractors are waiting for the IODE IT support to assist with access and implementation. In addition there are a number of repository enhancements identified in the 2024-2025 work plan which again will have to wait for external funding to be identified.

Content

There are now 2195 records in the repository - a significant increase in the last two months is due to work on adding Standards for the new CINEA Standards and Best Practices for Ocean Observation project (EC_OBPSS) for the European Commission. This work has also taken forward the application of the new Ocean Practices Maturity Assessment [a paper in *Frontiers in Marine Science* is soon to be published]. The Content scope of the repository has been updated <https://repository.oceanbestpractices.org/page/terms> The OBPS has over 2000 records and the majority of those are indisputable 'methodological' documents. However, deciding if a document is sufficiently 'methodological' for inclusion in the repository is a subjective decision and different people can disagree. There have been comments to this effect, and to address these a review of repository collections has commenced. It was agreed a more detailed methodology criteria should be provided to reduce subjective evaluation. The WP contributes to the following projects: EC_OBPSS, Iliad Digital Twins of the Ocean, Blue Cloud 2026 and OBSEA4CLIM.

ACTION:

Arrange a meeting to discuss **objective** criteria for methodologies in the repository (PS)

7. Work Package 3: Advanced Technology and Interoperability Activity Report.

Cristian Munoz Mas WP Co-Lead, further explained the EC-OBPSS project which is requiring significant effort from WP3 and 2. It includes the development of a new EC Repository containing best practices and standards that the EC could recommend. This design work will provide the opportunity for re-engineering the OBPS which is based on older technology. He also mentioned the work on the strategic Federated Network (FedNet) and reported the proposal for FUST funding had been unsuccessful. There are likely to be other opportunities for funding and he confirmed the FedNet partners ICES were formatting their data, for inclusion.

8. Work Package 4: Publications, Convergence and Endorsement Activity Report.

Virginie van Dongen-Vogel, WP Co-Lead reported that she had joined *Frontiers in Marine Science Best Practices Research Topic* as an Associate Editor and was

trying to recruit article submissions. Johannes Karstensen reported that he

had stepped down from the WP and requested his name be removed from the list of leads.

ACTION:

[Remove Johannes Karstensen name from this WP \(done\)](#)

9. Work Package 5/6: Communication, Outreach and Community

Engagement

Virginie van Dongen-Vogel reported the main activity (Item 10) and included a reminder of the need for content for the August issue of NewsFlash

10. Workshop VIII Update

Virginie van Dongen-Vogel, reported that she and Stefania Cilberti (Workshop Co-Chairs) and the Planning Committee, were consolidating the agenda and firming up on Keynote speakers and session leads. [Registration](#) was now available and calls were going out through the various communication channels including the August NewsFlash.

11. Activity Log: [Outputs, Conference & Workshops...](#)

Pauline Simpson covered the monthly reminder that OBPS maintains an [activity log](#) of publications, presentations, workshops which SG members have been involved with, that included an OBPS component. This is an important metric which the project provides in the Annual Report to the IOC Sponsors (IODE and GOOS). SG members were asked to regularly log their contributions and upload the file to the folder and spreadsheet please. George Petihakis provided the presentation that was given at JERICO GA. This call also includes logging documents that have [cited OBPS](#) and Frank Muller-Karger wondered whether the Ocean Decade Vision Papers should be included in this citation log since many of them mention best practices and OBPS. Jay Pearlman confirmed that he and Rebecca Zitoun had compiled a spreadsheet and that most of the Vision Papers had mentioned best practices.

ACTION:

[SG members to maintain their OBPS activities in the spreadsheet \[activities log\]\(#\)](#)
[Jay Pearlman to provide the details of which Vision Papers should be logged as citing OBPS](#)

12. Work Package 7: Ocean Practices for the Decade Activity Report.

Ana Carolina Peralta was not able to stay for this part of the agenda. She had reported some continuing issues in partner contracts for the ADAPT Project due to new formatted Forms that UNESCO sent to IOCARIBE; the old Forms apparently were not suitable for the purpose and all the partnership agreement documentation preparation had to start all over again. As a consequence the training in Colombia has been postponed with a potential delay in the timing of the training course in Grenada, but otherwise the planning of the training

course content is progressing well.

13. Work Package 8: Ocean Practices for the Decade Activity Report.

Rebecca Zitoun was unable to attend but emailed that there was nothing new to report apart from two more Ocean Decade Hosted projects that joined Ocean Practices last week.

14. Work Packages Task List and Volunteers

Rebecca Zitoun emailed that she is still waiting WP Leads adding tasks they would like volunteers to take on on the [spreadsheet](#)

ACTION: WP leads to add tasks to the [spreadsheet](#) and RZ agreed to contact WP leads individually

15. Close of the Meeting

George Petihakis thanked all Members for their meeting participation. The meeting closed at 13.15 UTC.

ANNEX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS [ONLINE]

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