OBPS_20250430

unesco

Intergovernmental
Oceanographic
Commission

IOC Ocean Best Practices System (OBPS)

Monthly Meeting

30 April 2025
16:00-17:00 UTC
[ONLINE]

Ocean best practices

2025

OBPS_20250430

30 April 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 30 April 2025.

Suggested citation:

IOC Ocean Best Practices System (OBPS), Monthly Meeting, 30 April 2025. [ONLINE] Paris, UNESCO/IOC/IODE, 7pp. 2025 (OBPS_20250430)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING 2
2. STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION 2
3. REPOSITORY CONTENT GUIDELINES 2
4. AOB 2
5. CLOSE OF THE MEETING 2

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

The meeting commenced at 16:00 UTC. Apologies were noted from Emma H., Rebecca Z., Carolina P., and Virginie VDV. The session was recorded (see recording here). A list of participants is included in Annex I.

2. STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

In this session, Justin B. guided the group to provide feedback on the existing Strategy and on the top 3 Priorities to build on the new 2030 OBPS Strategy. The feedback was captured in a Miro board at this link. Justin explained how to work with the two boards: one with current strategic objectives and another blank for future strategy. The goal is to review the current strategy, identify elements to take forward, and discuss what's missing. The process involves input feedback using the notes, to then vote using the tool in Miro called “dot voting” on those notes. However, since only 9 members were present at the meeting, the dot voting is postponed for a future session, or by email. Justin also mentioned the need to include more stakeholders, such as IOC programmes representatives in the process.

Action 2.1: Patricia to organise another strategic session next week to invite others that could not attend to provide their input.

3. REPOSITORY CONTENT GUIDELINES

Patricia C. presented the Repository Content Criteria: for New Submissions and Retrospective Review**.** She explained the evolution of a guideline content criteria table, which has evolved from 8 questions to a clearer and easier-to-use table with 5 criteria. Version 3 of the Content Guidelines was tested on the 195 documents from the CAPARDUS Collection, and Patricia shared the results of this review. The review using the Content Guidelines with V1 and V2 showed 100/195 documents did not comply with the Repository content guidelines. From these, 87/100 (not compliant documents) and 65/95 (compliant documents) did not need a 3rd reviewer (Reviewer 1&2 agreed). Patricia retested the 195 documents against Version 3 of the guidelines, where 100/100 withdrawn documents did not comply with Version 3, the same as in Versions 1-2. With Version 3, there were still 7 documents from the 95 retained documents that did not comply with Version 3 for the review by Patricia. This is because these are not a method, but standards, for example, that are not fitted for the method criteria table on the Guidelines. Pauline cautioned against overusing statistics

from this collection, as it was not representative of the repository. She explained that the CAPARDUS Collection was known to be outside the scope of the repository but it was an EU Project that expanded its requirements after starting the project and the setup of the Collection. It was always intended that the Collection would be migrated to an external Arctic Practices System, but the CAPARDUS Project finished without that system being developed. Once the CAPARDUS Criteria exercise is finalised, Jay P who was Task Leader on CAPARDUS will take this discussion forward and offer a zip file of the records and full text for any future Arctic Practices System development. Patricia also discussed the need for more reviewers to further review the repository content.

Method Criteria: Frank MK. and Jose M. questioned the optional fields from the table, explaining that a practice should always have the potential to be used for others, and list any required tools, software, etc, for the practice to be replicable. Other comments agreed on this and proposed to make these fields also mandatory.

Two documents from the CAPARDUS collection are about the freshwater environment, and the team discussed the acceptance of non-marine documents in the repository. Frank emphasized the importance of including limnological practices related to freshwater systems. Johannes explained the importance of focusing on what the community wants and limiting activities accordingly. Gercende suggested reconsidering the order of criteria, noting that starting with "Objective Definition" may exclude older reference documents that don't explicitly define methodologies. Jose argues that evidence of potential use should be the primary criterion, as there's no point in including practices that won't be used. Jay agrees that documents should meet at least a basic level of maturity to be included and suggests rewording the first criterion to accommodate different types of documents. Johannes reflects on the original intention of the repository to be a comprehensive collection supporting convergence processes, rather than only including high-level practices. Patricia suggested to Justin B. to address these issues in the strategy. Pauline suggested revisiting the subject scope to make sure freshwater is included. It is confirmed that the present Subject Criteria Version 3 states: *The OBPS has a global geographic and habitat scope, extending from the deep waters to the surface of the open ocean, to coastal, estuarine, brackish, and* ***freshwater*** *environments and includes the air-sea interface and atmospheric processes relevant to air-sea interactions.*

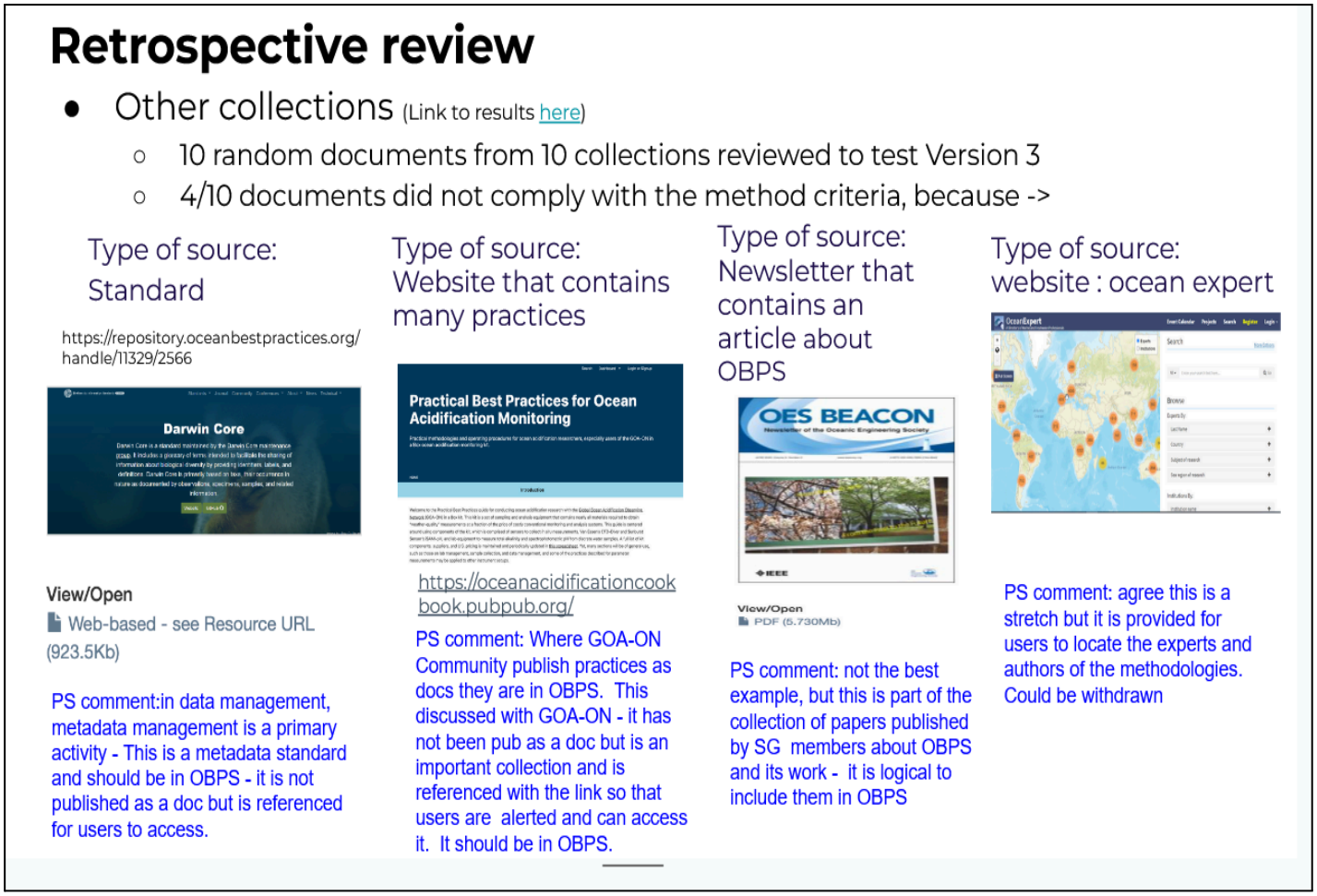
Another example of an acceptance criteria was non-open-access documents. For example, in the CAPARDUS collection, there is this non-open-access document: https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0308597X17305043?via%3Dihub. (*Development of best practices for scientific research vessel operations in a changing Arctic: A case study for R/V Sikuliaq).* Patricia wondered if non-open-access documents should be in the repository or not. Justin Buck discussed the importance of openness and transparency, mentioning that we should check what the IOC policies are, and Edem suggested that documents should be accessible if they meet the criteria. Pauline reminded that Open Access refers to the **License of a document** (eg Creative Commons) which informs what a user can do with a document. OBPS can provide a link to a publisher's website, which provides content sufficient for the user to

know if it is a citation that should be pursued elsewhere (this is particularly relevant for standards

that are mostly behind a paywall). Frank commented that FAIR does not mean Open Access.

Patricia also did a review of 10 documents from 10 collections to test version 3. Link to the results are here: Content_Criteria_Excercise . She discussed the limitations of the method criteria table to assess other types of sources. From these 10 documents, 4 documents did not comply with the criteria because they are a:

- Standard: https://repository.oceanbestpractices.org/handle/11329/2566
- Websites
- Ocean expert: https://repository.oceanbestpractices.org/handle/11329/1583
- Pointing to many practices: https://repository.oceanbestpractices.org/handle/11329/1134



Patricia suggested the guidelines should specify that the method table is only fitted for one type of practice, to retain other types of sources that are relevant for the repository, and that guidelines for these should be developed. Jay highlighted that

many documents included descriptions and comparisons of a number of practices and recommended that the Method Criteria be amended to accommodate this, at the same time agreed to review what Patricia considered it excluded, for example the

Dublin Core metadata standard. Johannes agreed, emphasizing the need for a federated network to better manage these sources. Pauline and Katherina shared their experiences for the GOA-ON record that Patricia considered did not fit the table's criteria. It was explained that these were important GOA-ON Practices that the community wished to share, and even though not issued as documents warranted an entry in OBPS to guide users to the resource. OBPS policy includes citations/links to web-based resources. This highlights the challenges in defining and categorizing certain types of sources and the possibility of omitting important practices by applying a literal interpretation of the criteria. Frank expressed concerns about the quality and accuracy of some sources, particularly those that have not undergone peer review. The team agreed to further review and discuss these issues.

Action 3.1: Patricia will look into the IOC policies and the Core Trust Seal certification requirements for repositories to elucidate this question.

4. AOB

The next meeting was proposed to focus on two main topics, with a five-minute summary of key updates for the SG if there is an update about the IOC-OBPS Proposal. Patricia asked for an update on the status of the AISLB and if Jay can provide an update on what is the relationship between the European Commission OBPS and OBPS in the next meeting, as it was recently communicated that in a month, this will be demonstrated. Another topic proposed is the endorsement process, but Jay noted that it may not be ready yet.

5. CLOSE OF THE MEETING

The meeting closed at 17.30 UTC.

ANNEX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS [ONLINE]

Frank MULLER-KARGER
Institute for Marine Remote Sensing/IMaR
College of Marine Science
University of South Florida
140 7th Ave. South St Petersburg, FL 33701, United States of America

Jay PEARLMAN
Director, Four Bridges
Port Angeles, WA 98362
United States of America

Patricia CABRERA
OBPS Project Manager
IOC Ocean Best Practices System
Navas de Tolosa 1 23003 Jaén, Spain

Pauline SIMPSON
OBPS Repository Manager
IOC Ocean Best Practices System
IEEE France

M. Jose Luiz MOUTINHO
Nations Enablement & Joint Expeditions
Bldg 2, 3220,4700 KAUST
Thuwal 23955-6900, Saudi Arabia

Justin BUCK
British Oceanographic Data Centre,
National Oceanography Centre
6 Brownlow Street,
Liverpool. L3 5DA
United Kingdom

Edem MAHU
Marine and Fisheries Sciences
University of Ghana
P. O. Box LG 25, Legon
Accra. Ghana

Gercende COURTOIS DE VICOSE
Calle Juan de Quesada, 30,
35001 Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain

Johannes KARSTENSEN
Scientist
Ocean Circulation & Climate Dynamics: Physical Oceanography
GEOMAR | Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel
Duesternbrooker Weg 20, 24105 Kiel, Germany

Katherina Schoo
Associate Project Officer - Ocean Acidification
Ocean Science Section
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO,
7, place de Fontenoy75732 Paris cedex 07, France