

INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(of UNESCO)

**Twenty-eighth Session of the IOC Committee on International Oceanographic Data
and Information Exchange (IODE-28)**

12-14 March 2025

IODE-28 ACTION SHEET

Para number	Adopted Action	Responsible/ deadline	Comments
30	The Committee instructed the Management Group to review the list of uncompleted action items and decide on whether these should be included in the action sheet for the next inter-sessional period.	IODE MG 2025 (DL: tbd)	
50	The Committee welcomed progress with implementation of the IOC Medium-Term Strategy (2022-2029) at its halfway mark but requested the secretariat in consultation with the IODE Management Group to (i) identify relevant KPIs and (ii) to take into consideration the need for collaboration with other IOC programmes bearing in mind the cross-cutting nature of ocean data and information management and sharing.	IODE Secretariat/IODE MG (DL: next IODE MG)	
62	The Committee called on NODCs and ADUs to apply for accreditation as a “quality seal” demonstrating that the data services provided are of the highest quality standards.	IODE Secretariat (DL: asap)	IODE Secretariat to send out email to NODCs and ADUs
64	The Committee stressed the importance of hosting an NODC and urged IOC Member States that have not yet established an	IODE Secretariat (DL: asap)	IODE Secretariat to send CL to Member States

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	NODC to do so to ensure their ocean data are shared globally and that their national ocean scientists have easy access to the global ocean data commons.		
89	The Committee urged all low-scoring NODCs and IOC focal points to contact the IODE Secretariat to discuss actions that may improve their performance.	IODE Secretariat (DL: asap) Low-scoring countries (DL: IODE MG)	IODE Secretariat to contact low-scoring countries to start discussions
90	The Committee instructed the Secretariat to undertake the remedial actions as listed in Table 2 of Document IOC/IODE-28/3.3.3.	IODE Secretariat (DL: asap)	
91	The Committee approved the recommendations to improve health check criteria as detailed in Document IOC/IODE-28/3.3.3 and instructed the Secretariat and Co-Chairs to revise Document IOC/IODE-28/3.3.3 for discussion by the next meeting of the IODE Management Group.	IODE Secretariat/IODE Co-Chairs (DL: IODE MG)	
113	The IODE Committee welcomed the mention of OBIS in the CBD's Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (CBD/COP/DEC/15/5), specifically to provide complementary indicators related to joint scientific papers (capacity to use data) and growth in marine species occurrence records (capacity to deliver data) and requested that OBIS develops robust indicators and guidelines for State Parties on how to use OBIS in their national reporting to the CBD.	IODE/OBIS Secretariat (DL: asap)	
126	The Committee invited existing and new ODIS partner organizations to join the IODE network as IODE Associated Data Units (ADUs) to share their	ODIS partners (DL: asap)	ODIS manager to contact ODIS partners

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	own expertise with, as well as benefit from the expertise within the IODE network.		
128	The Committee urged all Member States to participate in the Ocean Data and Information System via the creation of ODIS Nodes to increase the visibility of their data holdings to the world, and to enable improved and more efficient access to global Ocean data.	IODE Secretariat (ODIS manager): send CL to IOC MS (DL: asap) IOC Member States (DL: asap)	
129	<u>Recommendation IODE-28/3.4.1.2:</u> Revision of the Terms of Reference of the Ocean Data and Information System (ODIS)	IOC programmes, IOC regional subsidiary bodies and partner organizations (DL: asap)	
129	<u>Decision IODE-28/3.4.1.2:</u> Restructuring the ODIS Programme Activities	Decides to convene IWG for Ocean Data and Information System Activities (IWG ODIS-Act). .. initial members of this IWG will include representatives of the ODIS Steering Group and the ODIS Programme Activity Steering Groups. The ODIS Steering Group will draft the terms of reference for the IWG ODIS-Act, Invites nominations for the IWG ODIS-Act from IODE Committee Members. (DL: asap)	
147	The Committee recommended that the OTGA Steering Group should develop a Resource Mobilization Strategy and take action on its implementation.	SG-OTGA (DL: asap)	
158	The Committee instructed all IODE activities to contribute research and informational documents to AquaDocs.	IODE activities (DL: asap)	

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159	The Committee invited institutions and organizations with limited capacity to host their own repository to use AquaDocs.	IODE Secretariat to send out email (DL: asap) IODE NODCs, ADUs, IODE national coordinators (DL : asap)	
170	The Committee decided to rename GOSUD to “Underway Sea Surface Salinity Data Archiving Programme Activity” (GOSUD).	IODE Secretariat: correct naming on IODE web site (DL: asap)	
178	The Committee decided to rename GTSP to “Global Temperature-Salinity Profile Programme Activity” (GTSP).	IODE Secretariat: correct naming on IODE web site (DL: asap)	
193	The Committee proposed that an agenda item be included in the IOC-33 agenda, including a draft decision that will re-establish OBPS as proposed above (para 192). A drafting group for the draft decision should be established, composed of representatives of the IOC programmes and RSBs, as appropriate.	IODE and GOOS Secretariat (DL: 31/3/2025)	
194	The Committee urged the IODE community to further document their methodologies and best practices and share them in the Ocean Best Practices System.	IODE NCs for data management, information management, NODCs, ADUs, IODE programme components, IODE programme activities (DL: asap)	
198	The Committee instructed NODCs and ADUs to create or update their ODISCat record(s) which firstly ensures the visibility of their institution’s data sources to the world, and secondly, is the first step to joining ODIS.	NODCs, ADUs (DL: asap)	
214	The Committee instructed the SG-QMF to elect a new Chair as soon as possible	SG-QMF (DL: next meeting SG-QMF)	

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215	The Committee instructed the SG-QMF to revise the IOC Manuals and Guides 67, IODE Quality Management Framework for National Oceanographic Data Centres and Associate Data Units, to include the additional accreditation requirement for CTS certified centres	SG-QMF (DL: IODE MG)	
218	The Committee referred discussions on how IODE can facilitate the continuity of WOD data and services to the IODE Management Group.	IODE MG (DL: during next IODE MG)	
227	The Committee welcomed the successful implementation of the PacMAN project and recommended that its results and developed practices should be used as examples for similar projects by Member States.	IOC Member States and IODE/OBIS Secretariat (DL: asap)	
228	The Committee commended the successful implementation of the eDNA Expeditions project and recommended that IOC Member States and partners support its continuation and expansion, both geographically and over time. Furthermore, it encouraged future eDNA initiatives to collaborate with OBIS and share DNA-derived species occurrence data with OBIS to enhance global marine biodiversity monitoring.	IOC Member States and IODE/OBIS Secretariat (DL: asap)	
234	The Committee instructed all IODE programme components and programme activities to prepare documentation for the next meeting of the IODE Management Group detailing how the new Rules of Procedure have been adopted in their management structure.	IODE programme components/IODE programme activities (DL : next IODE MG)	
243	The Committee tasked the Management Group to monitor the implementation of the new	IODE MG (DL: at next IODE MG)	

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	structure and to identify any issues that need attention.		
249	The Committee instructed the AquaDocs Programme Activity to engage with The International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers (IAMSLIC) and marine libraries in sharing (meta)data with IODE through the establishment of an ODIS Node or through document submission to AquaDocs	SG- AquaDocs/IAMSLIC (DL: asap)	
253	The Committee decided that the IODE Secretariat and the Ocean Science Section continue to work together to deliver commitments against Assembly decisions, IOC responsibilities associated with custodianship of SDG14 indicators and agreed joint activities.	IODC Secretariat/ Ocean Science Head of Section (DL: continuous)	
254	The Committee decided that the IODE Secretariat and the Ocean Science Section work together on a joint resource mobilization effort to support activities requiring extra-budgetary funding for implementation	IODC Secretariat/ Ocean Science Head of Section (DL: continuous)	
265	The Committee encouraged IODE NODCs and ADUs to reach out to their GOOS Regional Alliance (GRA) and National Focal Point (NFP) counterparts to coordinate on integrated data delivery to GOOS and ODIS, and vice versa, welcomed that GOOS will reach out to its NFPs and GRAs to encourage and enable their outreach to IODE NODCs and ADUs	IODC NODCs, ADUs, GOOS Secretariat (DL : asap)	
272	The Committee welcomed the new pilot initiative (PTWS Minimum NTWC Competency Framework), and instructed that these courses (and related tasks) should be included in OTGA training planned for 2025.	IOC TSR Secretariat, IODE/OTGA Secretariat (DL: asap)	

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279	The Committee requested the IODE representatives on the WG-SOPM to report back to the IODE Community on relevant activities and requests from the SOPM Programme.	IODE representatives on the WG-SOPM (DL: continuous)	
280	The Committee urged IODE data centres as well as its three Programme Components OBIS, ODIS and OTGA to actively participate in, and contribute to, the development and implementation of science-based, sustainable ocean planning and management activities and invited the IODE programme to collaborate with the IOC Secretariat's SOPM team for the development of a first pilot initiative that can inform and fine-tune the design of targeted, future IODE data and information knowledge products for SOPM	IODE data centres, OBIS, ODIS, OTGA Secretariats, IODE Secretariat (DL : asap)	
290	The Committee further requested IOCAFRICA and IODE to develop a structured strategy for long-term engagement, ensuring that African ocean data systems are fully integrated into global frameworks and contribute effectively to regional and international decision-making.	IOCAFRICA Secretariat/ IODE Secretariat (DL: asap)	
301	The Committee agreed to the request [from <i>IOCARIBE</i>] to explore options for further cooperation beyond OTGA and ODIS during the 2026-2027 biennium, including the development of a regional OBIS network.	IOCARIBE Secretariat/ IODE Secretariat	
303	The Committee acknowledged the importance of collaboration with IOCINDIO and requested IODE Programme Components to support data architecture efforts (similar to EMODNet / MEDIN) in the region, with the help of	IODE ODIS, OBIS, OTGA/ IOCINDIO Secretariat (DL: asap)	

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	RSB funded CD programmes supported or hosted by OTGA RTCs, C2Cs and NODCs and ADUs (ODIS, OBIS nodes) already established in the region.		
306	The Committee regretted the absence of a report from IOC/WESTPAC and urged IOC/WESTPAC to submit a report on IODE related activities in their region.	IOC/WESTPAC Secretariat (DL: asap)	
317	The Committee encouraged its NODC and ADU data repositories to join the WDS membership and welcomed cohort activities that assist additional ocean data repositories in its member states to achieve the CoreTrustSeal certification	NODCs, ADUs (DL: asap)	
318	The Committee recommended that WDS and IODE collaborate to increase data repository contributions and to demonstrate value of its federated data systems, ODIS and OBIS.	IODE Secretariat, WDS Secretariat (DL: asap)	
319	The Committee instructed the IODE ODIS Programme Component to work with the WDS members and secure technical interfaces between WDS members and ODIS, ensuring all ocean-relevant content is discoverable and accessible in both systems.	IODE/ODIS manager and SG-ODIS Chair; WDS Secretariat (DL: asap)	
320	The Committee thanked the WDS for its ongoing work to enhance the capabilities, impact, and sustainability of our data repositories worldwide, and encouraged IODE data centres and programme components to collaborate on objectives of mutual interest such as data preservation, sustainability, FAIR data and indigenous data governance.	IODE NODCs, ADUs and WDS Secretariat (DL: asap)	

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321	The Committee acknowledged that participation in International Data Week and the WDS Members Forum on 13-16 October 2025 in Brisbane will be an important venue for IODE representation.	IODE Secretariat and IOFDE Co-Chairs considering participation (DL: October 2025)	
337	The Committee noted the following experts expressed interest in joining the JCB subgroup on data management: Pier Luigi Buttigieg (ODIS), Thierry Carval (GTSP) and Gael Forget (IQUOD) and welcomed submissions of expressions to join within the next four weeks in order to start the organization of the first meeting.	IODE Secretariat to contact all IODE NCs DM, NODC contacts, ADU contacts (DL: 21 March 2025) IODE experts to contact IODE Secretariat (DL: 14 April 2025)	
340	The Committee strongly recommended NODCs and ADUs in Europe to consider involving IOC/IODE as a partner in future EU project proposals and to encourage their scientific organizations to do the same and to contact the IODE secretariat for guidelines.	IODE NODCs, ADUs (DL: continuous)	
341	The Committee recognized that other (in-kind) sources can co-invest in IODE activities and requested the IODE Management Group to track and report on and acknowledge these in the next session.	IODE MG (DL: continuous)	
342	The Committee expressed its desire to continue the series of IODC Conferences and requested the IODE Management Group to make a decision depending on available resources and practical feasibility.	IODE MG (DL: during next IODE MG)	
366	The Committee invited Member States and IOC programmes to provide input on the progress towards delivery	IOC Member States, IOC programmes (DL: continuous)	

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	of the strategic objectives of the Strategic Plan(*). (* IOC Manuals and Guides No. 92 (IOC Strategic Plan for Ocean Data and Information Management (2023–2029))).	IODE Secretariat: send out CL to Member States asking for input. (DL: continuous)	
369	The Committee noted the importance of the IOC Data Policy and Terms of Use (2023) and called on Member States to use the policy as a basis for national policies on oceanographic data exchange and to ensure maximum compliance with the policy.	Member States (DL: continuous)	
370	The Committee requested the IOC Secretariat to promote the IOC Data Policy and Terms of Use (2023) via its communication channels including its website	IOC Secretariat (communication unit) (DL: asap)	
377	The Committee acknowledged the action accomplished and invited other NODCs and ADUs to express interest in collaborating as mentors or the need of mentoring in their own institution.	See 377	
378	The Committee recommended that IODE open another call for invitation to all NODCs and ADUs to participate in the mentoring.	IODE Secretariat (IODE/OTGA manager): to contact NODCs, ADUs (DL: asap)	
384	The Committee welcomed the updates on the 2024 cohort of the UNESCO-IOC Training Internships and expressed its support in promoting the call for the 2025 cohort of the internships.	OTGA	
389	The Committee endorsed the continuation of the collaborative action between IODE and IOC RSBs, and requested yearly collaborative meetings inviting all IODE PCs and PAs to participate	IODE Secretariat and RSB Secretariats to organize annual meetings (DL: continuous)	
390	The Committee encouraged the community to keep their	IODE community (DL: continuous)	

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	OceanExpert account up to date to allow IOC programmes including IOC CD to inform the experts in the region on planned CD activities registered in OceanExpert and the IOC CD Hub (https://oceancd.org/) and platforms across the ODIS federation.		
396	The Committee recommended that IOC RSBs and ODINs jointly develop an action plan and report on the reactivation of the ODINs in relation to IODE activities within their regions through the RSBs, and requested the IODE programme components and activities to orient their activities accordingly.	IOC RSBs, ODINs	
397	The Committee requested the OceanExpert programme activity to provide a document tag for RSB documents to facilitate their discovery and use.	OceanExpert manager (DL: asap)	
405	The Committee urged IODE Structural Elements to join the growing ODIS network	NODCs, ADUs (DL: asap)	
411	The Committee congratulated the IODE secretariat on the new website and recommended regular content reviews to keep the site dynamic.	IODE Secretariat (DL: asap)	
420	The Committee instructed the IODE Secretariat to focus on IODE and the various programme components and activities in its communication actions, while also instructing IODE programme components and activities to appropriately acknowledge IODE, when participating in network events.	IODE Secretariat/ IODE PCs (DL: continuous)	
421	The Committee requested the IODE community to contact the relevant programme component, activity and project	IODE community (DL: continuous)	

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	managers to share news with the IODE Secretariat.		
422	The Committee invited IOC regional sub-commissions to actively disseminate data and information activities in their own languages by recognizing IODE as a partner in their communication efforts, and also as an outreach strategy, to encourage ocean scientists to join the IODE community through OceanExpert.	IOC RSB Secretariats (DL: continuous)	
429	The Committee instructed IODE programme components and IODE programme activities to actively promote IODE in events and communications and invited other IOC programmes to recognize IODE as a partner in their communication efforts.	IODÉ programme components, IODE programme activities ; IOC programmes (DL : continuous)	
441	The Committee agreed on the important role of ODIS and OBIS as systems, and requested that the role of NODCs and ADUs are recognized in the emerging IOC data architecture.	IODÉ and GOOS Secretariat (DL: asap)	
452	The Committee welcomed the achievements of the DCO for Ocean Data Sharing during 2023-2024 and looked forward to continued and intensified collaboration between IODE and the DCO for Ocean Data Sharing in 2025-2026.	IODÉ Secretariat; DCO for data sharing (DL: continuous)	
453	In response to the survey conducted by the DCO-ODS the Committee urged NODCs and ADUs to work with Decade Actions and DCO-ODS to archive data and make metadata available to ODIS.	NODCs, ADUs (DL: continuous)	
454	In further response to the survey conducted by DCO-ODS the Committee called for volunteers to assist DCO-ODS	Named volunteers to assist DCO-ODS in updating IOC M&G 73 (DL: asap)	

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	in finalising an update to the IOC Manuals and Guides No. 73 : Guidelines for a Data Management Plan . The following members responded: Dan Lear (OBIS), Sissy Iona (Greece), Mark Hebden (UK), Chris Moulton (OSPAR), Lennert Tyberghein (Belgium), Pier-Luigi Buttiegieg (ODIS), Francisco Arias (Colombia), Laura Hanley (CEFAS-ADU), Alessandra Giorgetti (Italy), Patricia Cabrera (OBPS).		
457	The Committee thanked eDNA expeditions and PacMAN projects for their achievements and encouraged the other IODE led Decade Actions to continue and invited the Committee to join new calls for Decade Actions.	IODE led decade actions; IODE community (DL: asap)	
474	The Committee recommended the eDNA expeditions Decade project to continue in a second phase if funding sources come available recognizing the enormous value of these expeditions to the global biodiversity community in establishing pipelines and processes from eDNA collection to product development.	OBIS Secretariat (DL: IODE-29 for 2 nd phase)	
478	<u>Recommendation IODE-28/6.2.5: Advancing Ocean Data Sharing for Sustainable Development in areas within national jurisdiction</u>	establish an inter-sessional working group to facilitate and promote implementation of this recommendation, with terms of reference as attached in Annex to this Recommendation (IODE Secretariat to start arrangements) (DL: asap)	
485	Decision IODE-28/6.2.6: Establishment of an IODE Inter-sessional Working Group to Enact a Rapid Response	establish an inter-sessional Working Group to Enact a Rapid Response Mechanism for	

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	Mechanism for Emerging Issues	Emerging Issues (IWG-RRM) (IODE Secretariat to start arrangements) (DL: asap)	
486	The Committee requested the IWG-RRM addresses with high priority the fact that some WOD services have recently ceased and that IODE programme components and activities and many other programmes worldwide depend on data and services from WOD	IWG-RRM	
509	The Committee requested the IOC Assembly to invite the Government of Flanders (Kingdom of Belgium) to continue its support of the IOC Project Office for IODE and invited other Member States to complement the support to allow further development of the IODE, its activities, products and services.	IOC-33 (DL: June/July 2025)	
510	<u>Recommendation IODE-XXVIII.6.3: THE UNESCO/IOC PROJECT OFFICE FOR IODE IN OOSTENDE, BELGIUM</u>	See 507	
512	The Committee requested the IODE Co-Chairs to prepare a brief statement for the IOC-33 (June-July 2025) on the outcomes of IODC-3.	IODE Co-Chairs (DL: IOC-33)	
513	The Committee requested the IODE Co-Chairs to present the executive summary and recommendations of IODE-28 and coordinate with GOOS on the presentation of the work on the IOC Data Architecture to the IOC-33.	IODE Co-Chairs (DL: IOC-33)	
523	The Committee thanked the Government of Flanders (Kingdom of Belgium) for continuing to provide three full-time staff members to the IOC Project Office for IODE and invited the Government of	PO Head/ IOC Executive Secretary (DL: early 2026)	

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	Flanders (Kingdom of Belgium) to continue this support.		
525	The Committee requested that the new administrative support position should be funded from staff cost as from the next biennium.	IOC Executive Secretary (DL: asap)	
526	The Committee regretted the delay in recruiting the OBIS data manager position and called on the IOC Executive Secretary to start the new call before the end of 2025.	IOC Executive Secretary (DL: asap)	
528	The Committee requested the IOC Executive Secretary to create an administrative support position for IODE.	See 524	
531	The Committee called on Member States to consider seconding, either at the IOC Project Office for IODE, in Oostende, Belgium or in-kind (working from their usual place of work) in order to strengthen the IODE Secretariat.	IOC Member States (DL: asap)	
538	The Committee urged the IOC Executive Secretary to elaborate on the temporariness of the current situation and to ensure that a permanent solution is realized as soon as possible, since a long duration of the current situation may reflect adversely on IODE and IOC in the relationship with the hosting entity VLIZ and the Government of Flanders, while it may also affect the process of the renewal of the MoU between VLIZ and IOC	IOC Executive Secretary (DL: asap)	
540	The Committee strongly urged IOC Member States to follow Flanders' example and establish long-term funds-in-trust agreements to support UNESCO Science Activities.	IOC Member States (DL: asap)	
541	The Committee called on its members and parent institutions to involve IODE in	IOC Member States (DL: continuous)	

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	project proposals that include data or information management elements as appropriate.		
542	The committee recognized the support through other funding instruments through national or regional mechanisms and requested to include these contributions in the annual reports of the NODCs, ADUs and IODE programme components, activities and projects.	NODC contacts, ADU contacts (DL: annually)	
550	The Committee noted with appreciation the in-kind support provided by all IODE NODCs and ADUs, OTGA RTC/STCs through their individual and joint activities, to the sharing and exchange of data and information and requested the IODE Management Group in consultation with the IFAG to track and report on and acknowledge these in the next session.	IODE MG, IFAG (DL: as needed)	
551	Recommendation IODE-28/8.4: IODE Workplan and Budget 2025-2026	IODE community (DL: IODE-29)	
555	The Committee invited member states to consider hosting the next IODE Committee session in 2027.	IOC Member States (DL: March 2026)	
557	The IODE Committee requested the IODE Management Group to discuss the next IODC including the format and allocation of resources	IODE MG (DL: during next IODE MG)	
567	The Committee requested its Co-Chairs and the IODE Secretariat to make editorial corrections as necessary, taking into account the discussions held during the session.	IODE Secretariat, IODE Co-Chairs (DL: 31/3/2025)	

