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Steering Group for the IOC Ocean Best Practices System (SG-OBPS)

Monthly Meeting

14 June 2023

12.00-13.00 UTC

[ONLINE]



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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 SG-OBPS meets monthly online.

This report is the record of the online meeting for 14 June 2023

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1. Opening of the meeting

George Petihakis (Co-Chair SG-OBPS) introduced the meeting and identified it was a decision meeting in the quarterly rotation. It was noted there were 11 SG members present, which for any decisions would constitute a quorum. A complete list of the meeting participants is shown in Annex I. Apologies were received from Cora Hoerstmann; Rachel Przeslawski; Peter Pissierssens, Rebecca Zitoun; Edwin Mwashanga; Juliet Hermes. All participants agreed the session should be recorded https://drive.google.com/file/d/1C8IX9bR1m3-8qRkRDB1-7bZjPMEtR_60/view?usp=drive_link

2. SG Outputs Record

It had been agreed at the annual meeting in December to remind members at each monthly meeting to log their activities, articles, presentations, etc. in the [Outputs spreadsheet](#). This record contributes to the metrics dashboard and also the necessary annual reporting.

Action

SG members to routinely record their OBPS outputs [Outputs Spreadsheet](#)

3. SG-OBPS-V Annual Meeting

Pauline Simpson(PS) reported that following the Doodle poll, the SG-OBPS-V annual meeting would be held **6-8 December 2023**. The preference is for an in-person meeting, but the majority of members would be unlikely to fund themselves, so it will be virtual unless external funding is identified, when it could be hybrid.

Action:

- c) Consider locations for a physical meeting; but at the same time obtain consent from IODE and GOOS that Oostende or Paris could be offered as location options. (PS)
- d) Create a spreadsheet for SG members to complete indicating their preferences for the annual meeting
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1o_NMvIs1mQ8s8LDMFyGkepztTwB7TkElet4iyDwrRk/edit?usp=drive_link preferences

4. Project Updates

- a) Jay Pearlman (JP) reported that Lucie Cocqempot et al had submitted a proposal for an Ocean Decade Project which is a continuation of the work of TT22-01: Coastal Observations in Under-Resourced Countries. It has been approved and will be hosted under the Ocean Practices for the Decade Programme.
- b) ILIAD Digital Twin of the Ocean Project has a Summer School which will be held in Morocco, Sep 2023 and will provide training for people in field work and observations particularly relating to aquaculture and the coastal environment. We were invited to give a lecture/course on best practices which would set discussion on best practices for the field work. Cora Hoerstmann has volunteered to lecture on behalf of OBPS.

Frank Muller-Karger (FMK) following on from the Ocean Decade Project information took the opportunity to discuss the OBPS involvement in the Ocean Decade Vision 2030. JP had made two enquiries to the DCU requesting OBPS to join in some way but received no reply.

There are ten challenges with ten Working Groups (in fact eleven because there is also

an overarching/interlinking WG) The Working Groups will be expected to write a White Paper to present at the Ocean Decade Conference, Barcelona, April 2024. Each WG has two co-leads; FMK and Aileen Tan Hwai (both SG members) co-lead the WG for Challenge 2: Protect and restore ecosystems and biodiversity. Edem Mahu (another SG member) co-leads WG 9.

Rene Garello (RG) reminded that the OBPS Workshop VII is structured around the Ocean Decade Challenges and this was the opportunity for closer collaboration. FMK wants to use the 2023 Workshop for his WG to meet and did not see the opportunity to offer to lead a Challenge session in the Workshop Call for Abstracts. PS explained the Call for Abstracts submission is via the google form linked in the Call, and on that form is the question whether they offer to lead a Challenge track session; it is also on the webpage. She agreed to make the invitation for leading a session more explicit on the workshop webpage and in the Workshop generic flyer which would be used for the Registration Call.

FMK offered to email each of the Challenge WG leads and alert them to the Workshop Challenge Tracks and he agreed to also supply the emails to RG. ICES (Neil Holdsworth) was identified as a possible lead because he had also indicated in the Interest to Participate that he was interested in leading a session (Challenge 0).

Johannes Karstensen (JK) queried whether the workshop sessions for specific groups, for example OASIS, was being offered as in previous workshops. He had submitted an abstract on *Moored observations on OceanSITES*, thinking specific topic sessions would be offered as before

RG responded that this is not the structure at the moment but we need to see what is submitted for the workshop and then redesign the workshop structure but maybe the focussed sessions could be embedded in one of the Challenge Tracks.

JP informed that there is a Challenge session on Ocean Observing where JK requirement could be accommodated. FMK reminded that at the moment there are no co-leads for that Challenge WG.

FMK recommended that these selected focussed sessions should be incorporated into the 2023 workshop structure perhaps as parallel meetings.

JK recommended that Workshop 2023 should leverage both OBPS and the Challenges. It would be good to continue the option of creating focussed workshop sessions within the annual workshop since it is part of OBPS branding and services.

Registration will be needed soon and this programme structure discussion will help to progress. PS informed that previously EventBrite was used for registration, but there is a suggestion that the Workshop will be hosted on the AirCentre Network platform (that has an excellent registration process) with a possible QiQoChat link. RG is meeting with AirCentre (Jose) and Ben Roberts next week.

Action

- e) Workshop webpage to contain **specific** invitation to lead Challenge Tracks (PS)
- f) Workshop structure to accommodate focussed workshops as a separate/parallel event be investigated (RG/CH)
- g) FMK to email all Challenge WG leads alerting them to the opportunity to lead the workshop Challenges Tracks
- h) Progress a decision on which workshop platform to use (RG)

5. Best Practices and Standards

JP reported on the work being done by Sigi Kluckner(SK) under the CAPARDUS Project to assess automatic translation using 6 different AI Translation tools particularly for non-major languages (Greenlandic and Inuktitut). The report, which will be available

soon, found that English, French and German were widely supported but there is less support for Danish, Norwegian, Swedish, Finnish, Dutch and even less for Fijian (Fiji); Kalaallisut (Greenland); Inuktitut (Canada). The six OBPS endorsed practices are being used as test cases for English to French, German, Spanish and Portuguese. These would be uploaded to the OBPS record but there is a QA step to be implemented.

JP added that SK is working to create an Ocean Standards Group within IEEE.

6. Endorsement Advocacy

PS reminded members that in the 2023 Work Plan there was a deliverable for advocacy material to be generated to support recruitment of additional OBPS Endorsement Expert Panels (GOOS is the only one at present). There is a small budget and she was looking for volunteers to join a small task team.

Action:

PS to send out a call for SG volunteers to work on recruitment methodology for additional Endorsement Expert Panels and specifically invite WP5 to contribute

7. Website redesign

Rachel Przeslawski (RP) had sent her apologies but had reported:

Over the next 2 weeks, the SG will have a few WordPress themes to vote on, we'll finalise menu structure; compile suitable images, and decide on what we want on the home page. RP will prioritise content as follows: 1) home page, 2) primary pages, 3) secondary pages, 4) tertiary pages. For the home page in particular, she encourages everyone to add their needs/wants to the wishlist here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1a6lBxu02H9u-KTnJDtGc3jILvvSGaXH9UL6R79OACTg/edit?usp=sharing>

Action:

Email SG a reminder to contribute to the wish list and website structure (RP)

8. OBPS Forum

Mark Bushnell (MB) explained that an OBPS Forum <https://forum.oceanbestpractices.org> had been implemented some years ago. There had been initial problems with 'trolls', but also uptake had been almost non-existent. With the advent of the OceanPractices Community of Practice and OceanPractices Network forums as new communication channels, it was felt there was no longer a need to continue with the OBPS Forum.

Action:

Following a motion to terminate the OBPS Forum; it was **unanimously approved** by all members present to request IODE IT to take down the OBPS Forum site (MB)

9a. ADAPT Project Update

Ana Carolina Peralta Brichtova (ACP) reported on a newly commenced project ADAPT (not an acronym) which she will be coordinating. ADAPT will provide training, and support collaborative participatory development of guidelines on ocean observation and best practices, using the Caribbean as a pilot region (Partners INVEMAR Colombia, and Saint George University Grenada). It is funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD). In order to create the basis for implementing local monitoring programmes and improve the application of adequate and up-to-date oceanographic methods and technologies, the project will promote in-person workshops covering basic topics in ocean observation identified through a

survey of major needs in capacity development according to a regional network of Member States. The workshops will provide high-quality educational resources, which will foster the development of an online training course on OTGA. These experiences will be documented and serve as a guideline to promote similar efforts in the future. The ultimate goal of the project is to promote the adoption and adaptation of ocean best practices and methodologies to regions of limited infrastructure to suit their capabilities and regional context in terms of monitoring and managing their marine territories, while maintaining, as much as possible, the interoperability of ocean observations.

9b. Best Practices embedded in University Curricula

ACP explained that SG member Carol Mazzuco who is WP7 co-lead and who has just taken up the post of IODE Training Coordinator, would be working on this 2023 Work Plan Deliverable to work with universities to integrate best practices teaching in academic curricula and field training.

FMK mentioned that Steve Davies at OBPS Workshop VI was very supportive of this initiative and also perhaps this topic should be included in the OBPS Workshop VII

Action

- c) Carol Mazzuco to follow up with Steve Davies, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, CA and Juliet Hermes, SG member.
- d) Rene Garelo and Cora Hoerstmann (workshop co-chairs) consider the inclusion of this topic in the 2023 Workshop

10. Any Other Business

A comment from FMK encouraged the OBPS to find more channels to interact with IODE and GOOS. He feels we are operating in a vacuum. How do we engage better and persuade other groups to follow the ideas we are talking about? We infiltrate other groups but there is no reciprocity from other groups to assist OBPS work.

Action:

Arrange a discussion within SG (Co-Chairs)

JP mentioned the work being led by Cristian Munoz Mas on an OceanPractices Federated Network (OPFN) - a Work Plan Deliverable. The network will be supported by ODIS Architecture and the search interface will be accessed through the Ocean InfoHub search interface as well as individual providers search interfaces. Work is moving forward with two pilot partners FAO and ICES.

11. Close of Meeting

George Petihakis thanked the members for their contributions and reminded that the next meeting was **Wed 12 July 2023 at 12.00 UTC**.

The meeting closed at 13.08 UTC

ANNEX I

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