18th SESSION IOCARIBE

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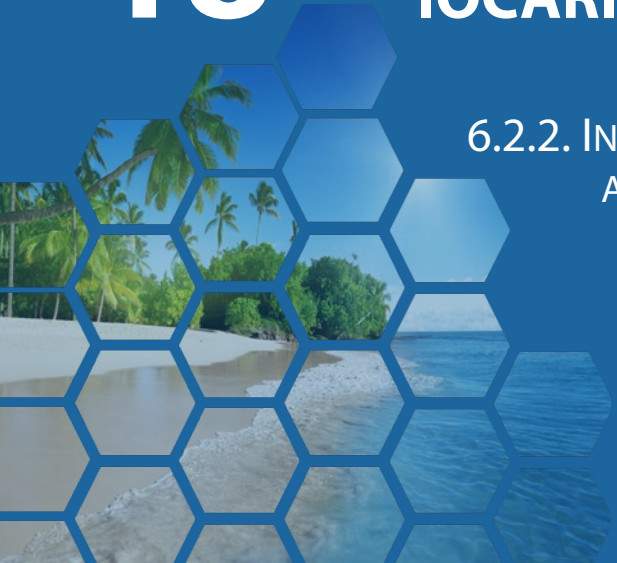

6.2.2. International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE)

Paula Cristina Sierra-Correa, PhD
Co-chair IODE

Brasilia, Brazil
April 23–25, 2025

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6. Review of regional programmes, projects, working groups and future directions

6.2.2 IODE

Paula Cristina Sierra-Correa, PhD
Head of Marine Data and Information – INVEMAR
Co-Chair IODE 2025-2027

Background

- The programme "International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange" (IODE) of the IOC of Unesco was established in **1961**. Its purpose is to enhance marine research, exploitation and development, by facilitating the exchange of oceanographic data and information between participating Member States, and by meeting the needs of users for data and information products.
- The IODE system forms a worldwide service oriented network consisting National Oceanographic Data Centres (NODCs), Associated Data Units (ADUs) and Associated Information Units (AIUs).
- This network has been able to collect, control the quality of, and archive millions of ocean observations, and makes these available to Member States.
- **The Core of IODE is ODIS/OIH, OBIS, OTGA**

Programme Components

OBIS OCEAN BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION SYSTEM

- **Ocean Biodiversity Information System** (OBIS): is a global open-access data and information clearing-house on marine biodiversity for science, conservation and sustainable development (**https.//www.obis.org**)

ODIS

- **Ocean Data and Information System** (ODIS): provides an interoperability layer and supporting technology to allow existing and emerging ocean data and information systems, from any stakeholder, to interoperate with one another. This enables and accelerates more effective development and dissemination of digital technology and sharing of ocean data, information, and knowledge (**https://oceaninfohub.org/odis/**). The ODIS-architecture development is being supported by the OIH (**https://oceaninfohub.org/**)

OTG@ OceanTeacher Global Academy

- **OceanTeacher Global Academy** (OTGA) supports a network of Regional and Specialised Training Centres delivering training to meet the needs of IOC Programmes and contributing to the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (**https://classroom.oceanteacher.org/**)

Recommendations

- ✓ Recommend the establishment of national working groups that identify end use products and services (e.g. for decision making support) and then identify the data and information required to provide these, followed by identifying the ocean observing required. But also OBIS and ODIS will play a role to discover already existing data and information that are needed.

- ✓ In addition, call on all IOCARIBE member states to establish NODCs or ADUs, and to refresh their data/information management capabilities. It has to be recognized that for SIDS, establishing fully fledged NODCs may not be possible. Instead they could establish small ADUs or agree to collaborate with each other.

- ✓ The IODE-28 Committee welcomed the request to support the integration and use of data and information from national projects within IOCARIBE Member States, as well as from the Secretariat's projects and programs, focused on addressing the region's needs

Recommendations

- ✓ The IODE-28 Committee agreed to the request to explore options for further cooperation beyond OTGA and ODIS during the 2026-2027 biennium, including the development of a regional OBIS network.
- ✓ OTGA can assist in the capacity development and continuous professional development.
- ✓ The IODE-28 Committee noted the request to support the IOCARIBE region in the development and implementation of a plan for Caribbean SIDS and island territories to maximize their benefits from, and contributions to, ocean data and information management, using a value chain approach.

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THANK YOU
MUCHAS GRACIAS
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