



INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(of UNESCO)

Thirty-third Session of the Assembly
UNESCO, 25 June–3 July 2025

Item 4.6 of the Provisional Agenda

REPORT OF THE JOINT WMO-IOC COLLABORATIVE BOARD (JCB)

Summary

IOC [Resolution XXX-2](#) established the Joint WMO-IOC Collaborative Board, with terms of reference provided in the resolution. The quadrennial [WMO-IOC Collaborative Strategy](#) 2022–2025 guides the work of the JCB.

This document provides the update report from the JCB including prioritized work areas.

Financial and administrative implications: paragraph 15.

The proposed decision(s) is referenced A-33/Dec.4.6 in the Action Paper (document [IOC/A-33/2 Prov.](#))

Introduction

1. The IOC Assembly at its 30th session in 2019 adopted [Resolution XXX-2](#) which, along with the parallel Resolution 9 (Cg-18) of the 18th session of the World Meteorological Congress, created the Joint WMO-IOC Collaborative Board (hereafter JCB). The [WMO-IOC Collaborative Strategy](#) was adopted in June 2021 by WMO Executive Council-73 and IOC Assembly-31.
2. This report provides an update of the work of the JCB since the 57th meeting of the IOC Executive Council in June 2024.

Background

3. The JCB was established in 2019 to promote collaboration between the WMO and the IOC. It aims to advance collaboration across all aspects of the value chain, including observations, prediction, data management, research, and services for weather, water, climate, and ocean communities.
4. The JCB's work supports global commitments to disaster risk reduction, climate action, and sustainable development. It operates with consideration of the visions of both the WMO and the IOC, focusing on resilience to extreme events and the need for a healthy ocean. The JCB recognizes the complementary missions of WMO and IOC, with WMO emphasizing weather, climate, and water services, and IOC focusing on scientific understanding of the ocean and the interaction between the various systems.
5. By acknowledging key societal drivers related to risk and the economy, the JCB seeks to strengthen the partnership between IOC and WMO within an Earth systems approach. The JCB aims to promote collaboration through effective communication, the establishment of standards, the meeting of service needs, mutual support initiatives, capacity development, and regional approaches. The JCB plays a guiding and catalytic role in implementing these approaches.
6. The [WMO-IOC Collaborative Strategy](#) 2022–2025 was adopted by the WMO Executive Council in June 2021 at its 73th meeting and the IOC Assembly at its 31st session ([IOC Decision A-31/3.5.5](#)).
7. IOC Assembly [Decision A-32/4.9](#) requested the Executive Secretary to oversee the Joint WMO-IOC Collaborative Board self-evaluation review of performance, and report back on the findings to IOC Executive Council in 2024, which reviewed the performance through document [IOC/INF-1536](#).

Outcomes of the in-person meeting

8. The September 2024 meeting of the Joint WMO-IOC Collaborative Board ([JCB3 Part 2](#)) marked the first in-person gathering of its members since its establishment. The meeting emphasized the importance of more frequent gatherings, with the JCB agreeing to hold annual in-person meetings supplemented by virtual sessions. The primary aim of the meeting was to identify key priority areas for the JCB's efforts. This was determined through a multi-criteria analysis of potential topics identified by the JCB.
9. Prior to the in-person meeting, JCB members for observations, data, prediction, services, and regional areas, supported by the WMO and IOC secretariats, determined a list of topics representing the broad range of interests represented. Subsequently, during the meeting, members established criteria for ranking these priorities that included strategic alignment with the IOC and WMO collaborative strategy, socioeconomic impact, feasibility, user impact, potential for the JCB to make a difference, and future orientation. Members then ranked the priorities using a Likert scale, and the highest-ranked priorities were selected for further development.

10. The prioritized work areas were categorized as follows:

- a. **Global Basic Observing Network (GBON):**
Co-creating a definition of the Ocean GBON, incorporating additional ocean variables.
- b. **Data Management and Interoperability:**
Enhancing interoperability for an integrated observing and data system, improving data sharing between the WMO Information System (WIS) and the Ocean Data Information System (ODIS), and developing a structured approach to Marine Climate Data Systems (MCDS).
- c. **Coastal and Maritime Resilience:**
Strengthening coastal and maritime community resilience against hazards and supporting the United Nations Early Warning for All (EW4All) initiative, including through the inclusion of ocean-related hazards.
- d. **Capacity Development:**
Joint efforts in capacity development to enhance capabilities in both oceanography and meteorology. This involves merging training calendars establishing joint training centres and resources between WMO and IOC.

11. The JCB meeting highlighted the necessity for enhanced collaboration and strategic planning to address pressing oceanic and meteorological challenges. JCB also agreed to establish two subgroups to advance the work in two priority work areas: (a) GBON and (b) data management and interoperability.

Progress report

12. A short overview of the progress within each defined prioritized work area is provided below:

- aa. **Global Basic Observing Network (GBON):**
Terms of reference were prepared for the joint JCB subgroup on GBON and agreed with the JCB co-chairs and the memberships of the subgroup were determined. The group will start its work. The outcomes of JCB on GBON were presented and welcomed at the 14th meeting of the GOOS Steering Committee in February 2025 (cf GOOS-305).
- bb. **Data Management and Interoperability:**
Terms of reference of the JCB subgroup on data management were developed and subsequently endorsed by the International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange Committee at its 28th session in March 2025.
- cc. **Coastal and Maritime Resilience:**
IOC and WMO experts contributed to the report *Meteotsunamis: definition, detection and alerting services investigation* ([IOC Technical Series 200](#), 2025). For operational purposes these phenomena are the responsibility of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS), whereas scientific work may continue to be supported by IOC. The guidance on meteorologically-driven long ocean waves for NMHS' is under development by WMO. Furthermore, the 14th meeting of the GOOS Steering Committee formed a task team to develop a proposal on how to contribute to the EW4ALL initiative. (cf GOOS-305)
- dd. **Capacity Development:**
The IOC and WMO coordination includes the Global Campus Initiative and the Ocean Teacher Global Academy. IOC members formally joined the WMO Executive Council Capacity Development Panel as the JCB representative.

Proposed milestones

13. JCB members will meet in September 2025. Due to resource constraints, this will be a virtual meeting and will focus on providing guidance to the two subgroups working on GBON and Data Management and Interoperability.

14. JCB members will meet online in March 2026 to prepare reporting on results the IOC Executive Council at its 59th session in 2026.

Financial and administrative implications

15. The financial and administrative immediate implications of the activities for IOC fall within the parameters of the regular budget of IOC (42 C/5).