



OBPS_20250529

unesco

Intergovernmental
Oceanographic
Commission

IOC Ocean Best Practices System (OBPS) Monthly Meeting

29 May 2025
08:00-09:00 UTC
[ONLINE]



2025

29 May 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 29 May 2025.


Suggested citation:

IOC Ocean Best Practices System (OBPS), Monthly Meeting, 29 May 2025.
[ONLINE] Paris, UNESCO/IOC/IODE, 7pp. 2025 (OBPS_20250529)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Workshop Survey and Webinars	2
2. IOC Virtual Meeting Planning Discussion	2
3. Repository Content Guidelines	3
4. European Commission-Ocean Best Practice and Standard System Project Update	3
5. IOCBPS Strategic Planning and Collaboration	4
6. Next Meeting Topic Suggestions	4
7. Close Of The Meeting	4

Summary of Actions

- **Action 1:** Interested SG members to respond to [this Doodle](#) for a meeting to discuss the workshop format survey results.
- **Action 2:** SG to respond to the Annual meeting [Participation Poll](#), if not done yet.
- **Action 3:** SG to provide any comments if relevant on the [Version 4 Repository Content Guidelines](#)
- **Action 4:** Jay P. to organise a meeting in July with Zoe (EC policy officer) and OBPS to discuss effective collaboration pathways.
- **Action 5:** SG to contribute to the Strategic Planning Session 2 in this link to  Miro by the 6th of June.

1. WORKSHOP SURVEY AND WEBINARS

Rebecca explained that the Workshop survey is closed now, and a meeting will be organised in the next weeks to look at the results and reshape the workshop format for 2026. A proposal will be presented at the SG-OBPS-VI Annual meeting. Patricia added that the organization of the OBPS webinars, called Ocean Practices Dialogues, led by Jose M., is progressing, and a date for the first webinar has been set to the 22nd of July 2025. About events, Justin B. suggested considering Ocean Sciences in Glasgow as a potential location for future in-person events.

Action 1: Interested SG members to respond to [this Doodle](#) for a meeting to discuss the workshop format survey results.

2. IOC VIRTUAL MEETING PLANNING DISCUSSION

The annual meeting format was briefly discussed, with Patricia presenting a survey on preferred meeting formats (in-person, virtual, or hybrid). The budget allocated for travel to the Annual meeting is limited and uncertain, and therefore, there will not be funds available to cover SG members to travel to the meeting. So far, 13 responses have been received, with 5 members expressing preference for in-person attendance, 5 preferring the hybrid option and 3 preferring fully virtual. Emma suggested it should be held either virtual or hybrid format due to budget constraints and uncertainty about the new IOC members' availability. If virtual the meeting should be stretched over 5-6 days with 2-3 hours of discussions each day to accommodate different time zones. Emma reported that while there is positive support from several IOC sections to join OBPS, the exact budget and mechanism for funding are still unclear due to UNESCO's budget cuts. The group will reconvene after the IOC assembly to coordinate voluntary contributions from the different sections that join.

Action 2: SG to respond to the Annual meeting [Participation Poll](#), if not done yet.

3. REPOSITORY CONTENT GUIDELINES

Pauline presented the latest version [Version 4 Repository Content Guidelines](#), which has been refined based on previous feedback, and requested that the Version 4.0 Content and Practice Criteria section should now be updated with Version 4.0 on the OBPS Website Repository webpage, Policy and Terms of Use. Patricia confirmed that this version is being used and would make the edits on the OBPS website.

Jay raised concerns about the repository's operational stability and queried whether the enhancements prepared under the ETT Contract would be implemented under the DSpace upgrade contract. The ETT enhancements include the implementation of the vocabularies: Marine Regions and EOV and automated citation generation and enhancements to the metadata help text, none of which are part of the DSpace software upgrade. Patricia explained that the upgrade contract is set to begin on June 2nd until August 8th, and it is hoped that the DSpace software upgrade vendors will include the ETT enhancements but it is not part of their contract and is not guaranteed. Plans to address long-term technological strategies will be discussed on the strategic plan sessions in the next months. Patricia will organise a meeting with work packages 2 and 3 once the contract is signed, to discuss the planned upgrades for the repository.

Action 3: SG to provide any comments if relevant on the [Version 4 Repository Content Guidelines](#)

Action 3.1: Patricia to update the Content and Practice Criteria section of the OBPS Website Repository webpage, Policy and Terms of Use, with the info in Version 4.0.

4. EUROPEAN COMMISSION-OCEAN BEST PRACTICE AND STANDARD SYSTEM PROJECT UPDATE

Jay Pearlman showed the slides that he presented yesterday at the EC-OBPSS workshop. These discussed the European Commission's Ocean Best Practices and Standards System project, highlighting its focus on interoperability and trust in ocean observation methods. He explained that the project is in its first year, focusing on the development, with 2 more years to go, that will focus on the operations, with the repository production version to be moved to VLIZ. He explained the differences between EC-OBPSS and OBPS (see figure below), where the main difference is that the EC repository will hold primarily practices on ocean observation and data, at Level 4,5 of the maturity model from Mantovani et al 2024.

Characteristics	EC-OBPSS	OBPS
Content Scope	Ocean observation and data	Ocean observations, data, modelling and applications
User Base	Primarily Europe	Global
Maturity of Documents	Better and Best Practices (Levels 4 and 5)	Full range of maturity: good, better, best (Levels 3, 4 and 5)
Metadata Profile (pattern)	Rich metadata including sensor, platform, EOVS, SDG, adoption, etc.	Rich metadata including sensor, platform, EOVS, SDG, adoption, etc.
Complementary Repository Services	OBPS provides this service to EC-OBPSS	DOI, Machine readability, document and metadata templates
Use statistics	Europa analytics	Google analytics and number of views/downloads
Training	Not planned	Training videos, webinars, workshops and courses

The discussion focused on comparing the European Commission's repository system with OBPS), highlighting differences in scope and functionality. Pearlman explained that both systems are complementary. Emma said there are concerns about potential duplication. There is a need for better interoperability between regional and global systems. Patricia pointed out the need to define how to guide users on where they should now search and submit documents, having 2 repositories. Emma raised concerns about the European Commission investing heavily in their own system without supporting the core OBPS, suggesting that the OBPS may need to change its role if funding continues to shift. Virginie VDV. expressed her concern about potential confusion with 2 existing ocean best practice repositories, and specifically, she pointed out the problem for document version updates. She agreed with Emma that collaboration and upgrading the current system would have been preferable instead of building a new system.


Emma emphasized the need to finalize a position on the European Commission system before its launch, suggesting a meeting in September after briefing Zoi in July. The group agreed that further discussions are needed to ensure these systems work together effectively, with a focus on creating a memorandum of understanding between different networks and addressing issues of metadata, user interface, and unique identifiers.

Action 4: Jay to organise a meeting in July with Zoi (EC policy officer) and OBPS to discuss effective collaboration.

5. OBPS STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION 2

Justin B. introduced the Strategic Planning session 2, focusing on the future of IOC-OBPS in relation to other entities, urging participants to envision the organization's role in 2030 and identify urgent challenges. The question to answer is: **In the next 5 years (by 2030), How do you envision the future role and scope of the IOC OBPS evolving?** In the context of: IOC Programmes and Activities, ODIS, EC-OBPSS, AISBL, Development of best practices and others.

The group agreed to contribute to the board by the end of the following week, with Rebecca, Patricia, and Justin tasked to create a one-page summary for feedback.

Action 5: SG to contribute to the Strategic Planning Session 2 in this link to  Miro by the 6th of June.

6. NEXT MEETING TOPIC SUGGESTIONS

The next meeting was proposed to focus on two main topics, the EC-OBPS-OBPS collaboration proposal, with adding a column between the 2 columns on the figure above, identifying the key elements on the differences and complementary task to be clearly identified. The other topic will be the Endorsement process, after Jay has provided the input from ICES last meeting.

7. CLOSE OF THE MEETING

The meeting closed at 09.20 UTC.

ANNEX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS [ONLINE]

Jay PEARLMAN
Director, FourBridges
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

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

George PETIHAKIS (Co-Chair)
Research Director
Institute of Oceanography
Hellenic Centre for Marine
Research, Crete
Main Building of HCMR, Former
U.S. Base,
Gournes, P.O.Box 2214,
Heraklion, Greece

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

Emma HESLOP
Programme Specialist
Intergovernmental Oceanographic
Commission of UNESCO,
7, place de Fontenoy 75732
Paris cedex 07 France

Aileen TAN SHAU HWAI
School of Biological Sciences
Universiti Sains Malaysia
Penang, Malaysia

Virginie VAN DONGEN-VOGELS
Oceanography and Shelf
Processes
Australian Institute of Marine
Science,
PMB 3 | Townsville MC QLD 4810
| Australia

Rebecca ZITOUN
Integrated Marine Observing
System
University of Tasmania
Private Bag 110, Hobart, TAS
7001 Australia