

Agenda

- Programme and budget 43 C/5
- Planning process for the 44 C/5
- More efficient, effective and inclusive governance
 - Governing body meetings
 - Sub-groups
 - Partnerships
 - Procedures and programme execution

1. Update on the Programme & Budget 2026-2027 (Draft 43 C/5)

Update on 43 C/5 Budgeting process

Total UNESCO Expenditure Plan: \$ 534.6 M

IOC at 3% : \$ 16.2M or -23% vs 42 C/5

\$ 31M of additional funding from UNESCO MCA/WCF surplus

IOC request \$1.5M for Observations & data/tsunami resilience – decision pending



Joint meeting of Commissions

[Item 3.2 of the revised agenda](#)

43 C

General Conference
43rd session, Samarkand 2025

43 C/13
10 November 2025
Original: English

ADOPTION OF THE APPROPRIATION RESOLUTION FOR 2026–2027

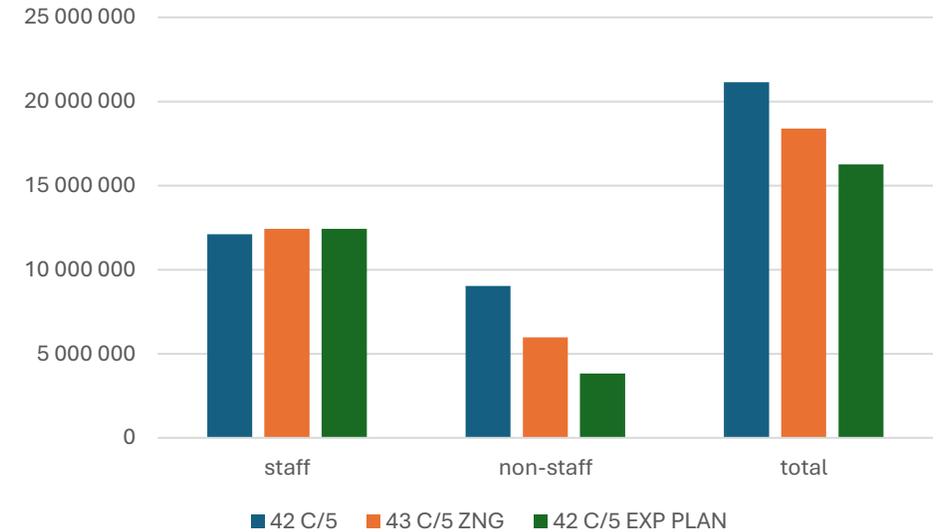
From 42 C/5 to 43 C/5 Expenditure Plan – key figures

42 C/5:

Staff	\$ 12 102 087 = 57%
Non-staff	\$ 9 032 599 = 43%
Total	\$ 21 134 686

43 C/5 Expenditure Plan:

Staff	\$ 12 347 860 = 76%
Non-staff	\$ 3 902 209 = 24%
Total	\$ 16 250 069



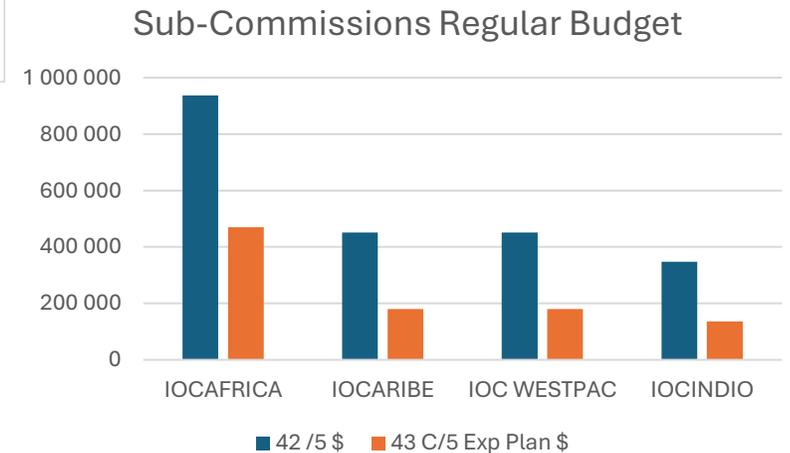
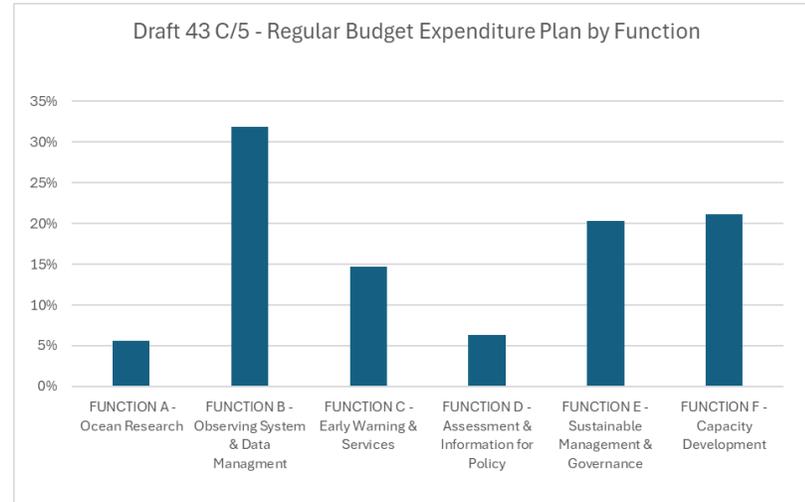
IOC Expenditure Plan Proposal

Assembly resolution: maintain 42C/5
Regular Budget Staff of **34.5 posts**

Keep prioritization determined by
Assembly in 42 C/5

Reallocating IOC contribution to
Intersectoral output (Ocean Literacy)
to RSB core capacity development
budget

Keeping priority to IOCAFRICA and
contribution to SIDS/EWS
intersectoral output



Regular Budget situation as of today

- UNESCO Regular budget & Expenditure Plan to be approved by the UNESCO Executive Board in April
- \$ 100 M advance approved by the General Conference will cover 4 months of salaries, fixed and incompressible costs (ex. Operating costs, Statutory meetings etc)
- \$ 152 K were allocated to IOC for Executive Council preparations and HQ & Sub-Commissions operating costs
- Out of the total of 34.5 regular budget posts, 8.5 are currently vacant (25% vacancy rate)
- Recruitment now launched, appointments will only be possible after the budget is approved

Initial assessment of impacts of reductions

Examples of impacts:

- Evolution of GOOS through implementation of 2025 – 2027 workplan
- IOC Data Architecture conceptualisation and implementation
- StoR and GOSR scope and dissemination strategies
- CD in regions: move to more online training
- SOPM Strategy implementation
- Development of SDG data portal for SDG 14.3.1 and 14.a
- Development of Tsunami EWS for volcanic activity & landslides

Need for reinforced resource mobilisation efforts:

- End use related needs
- Fundamental observation, data, science needs

2. Planning process for the Draft Programme & Budget 2028-2029 (Draft 44 C/5)

44 C/5 - Draft Programme and Budget for 2028-2029

- Preliminary proposals by the IOC Executive Secretary to be presented to the Executive Council in June 2026, building on :
 - Preliminary feedback from Regional Subsidiary Bodies meetings in 2026
 - IOC & the Future of the Ocean Consultation Process
- Regional Subsidiary Body meetings in the remainder of 2026 will inform programme design further
- IOC Executive Council's decisions will guide the Secretariat's submissions in the UNESCO process (November 2026 – January 2027), in consultation with IFAG in the intersessional period
- IOC Assembly will make the final decision in 2027

IOC and the Future of the Ocean: Phase 2 Consultation Process

Phase 2 of the consultation process will be an important input to the 44 C/5 process. Work is underway to:

- Shortlist priority issues (based on phase 1, Assembly decisions, Ocean Decade priorities, UN80)
- Map key global/regional providers of ocean science, data, services, and tools in each priority area
- Undertake online regional dialogues with MS & in-depth partner interviews
- Assess IOC's current and potential scope of action in each priority area & identify strategic opportunities and challenges – not least at regional level
- Develop forward-looking options and scenarios for IOC engagement including focused analytics for each RSB and including consideration of 'optimal staffing' to inform reporting on 'Vision for strengthening IOCAFRICA and other IOC RSBs (Resolution A-33/DR.[3.3.1])
- Report periodically to IFAG and the 59th Session of the IOC Executive Council

3. More efficient, effective
and inclusive governance

3.1 Review of the working methods of IOC Governing Bodies

Improving efficiency and effectiveness in IOC governance – proposals following consultations with IOC Officers

Strategic and Substance Proposals:

- Strategic agenda for and reporting to Governing Body (GB) sessions structured around Results Framework
- Updated cycle will allow focus of RSB and TSB sessions to be on priorities and needs that can inform programming discussions at EC & Assembly
- Financial assessment of implications of all decisions and resolutions during RSB, TSB, EC and Assembly, including creation of new sub-groups => align decisions to available resources
- Information for Member States to encourage participation in GB meetings
- Clear, advance guidance on roles, rules and interventions to reduce length and focus on issues
- Co-designed guidance documents on roles of RSB/TSBs and links to EC and Assembly processes



unesco

Intergovernmental
Oceanographic
Commission



2021
2030 United Nations Decade
of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development

Improving efficiency and effectiveness in IOC governance - proposals following initial consultations with IOC Officers

Operational Proposals:

- Limit duration of EC and Assembly while considering need to fit in Committee meetings
- Shorter reports and interventions & hold dedicated sessions for RSB/TSBs before GB meetings for detailed reporting and discussion (make recordings available online)
- Retain option for online editing of decisions by MS during GB meetings
- Hold voting during Assembly in parallel to plenary sessions to take less time from plenary
- Make better use of online / hybrid meeting options
- Up to date information on IOC focal points
- Timely preparation and translation of GB documentation
- Update IOC Manual including definitions and parameters of sub-groups



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Next Steps

- Discussion paper will be circulated in the week of 23 February 2026
- IOC Officers to consult within their electoral groups on proposed measures before 13 April 2026
- Draft Working document for 59th Session of Executive Council prepared and discussed at next IFAG
- Working document finalized for discussion at 59th Session of Executive Council

Next IFAG meeting 23 April 2026: 1 – 3pm Paris time

3.2 Streamlining of Secretariat supported sub-groups

Streamlining Secretariat supported sub-groups

1. Inventory and categorization of all sub-groups (working groups, expert groups, Committees, task teams, donor mandated groups etc.) now completed with a total of **180 groups**
2. Apply criteria to all sub-groups and create preliminary proposals for streamlining:
 - Alignment with IOC mandate and Results Framework
 - Impact and output – usefulness to Member States
 - Resource needs & gaps (financial and staff needs)
 - Group origins e.g. GB/donor mandate and operational considerations
3. Consult with relevant partners on proposals to retain, disband, merge or adapt type of support to sub-groups - example from CD/OL GoE ‘merge’ from 2025 Assembly and initial thinking for IODE and IPHAB
4. Discuss proposals with IFAG in April as part of overall discussion on governance effectiveness & efficiency (group specific proposals & general recommendations for existing & new groups)
5. Include proposals in documentation to 59th Session of Executive Council

An in-depth, critical look at two case studies.

For illustration purposes at this stage.

Work in progress.

IODE
IPHAB

Current Governance Structure

IOC Secretariat

IOC Assembly & Member States

Defining needs & priorities for global oceanographic data exchange

IODE Committee

National Oceanographic Data Centres & Associated Data Units

IODE Management Group

Key members: Co chairs of IODE, Programme Components and Programme Activities

19 groups

- 1 IODE Committee
- 1 IODE Management Group
- 13 Programme Components and Activities (11 have Steering groups)
- 4 IWGs

Programme Component:

Ocean Data and Information System (ODIS)

Ocean Data and Information System ODIS Operations Group

Programme Component:

Ocean Biodiversity Information System (OBIS)

Programme Component:

Ocean Teacher Global Academy (OTGA)

Programme Activities

1. Aquadocs
2. Global Oceanographic Data Archaeology and Rescue (GODAR) project*
3. Global Ocean Surface Underway Data (GOSUD) project
4. Global Temperature and Salinity Profile Programme (GTSP)
5. International Coastal Atlas Network (ICAN)
6. International Quality Controlled Ocean Database (IQuOD)
7. Quality Management Framework (QMF)
8. Ocean Expert
9. World Ocean Database (WOD)*

Intersessional Working Groups

1. IWG Advancing Ocean Data Sharing for Sustainable Development in Areas Within National Jurisdiction (IWG-DSNJ)
2. IWG on the development of the IOC Data Architecture
3. IWG Group to Enact a Rapid Response Mechanism for Emerging Issues
4. IWG for restructuring the ODIS Programme Activities

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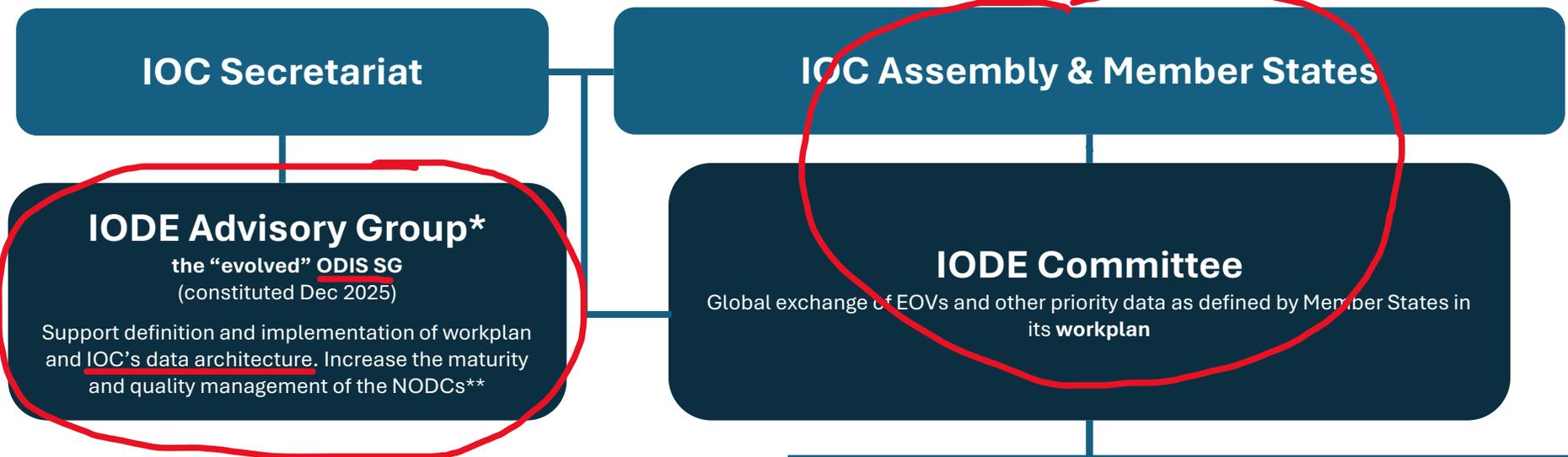
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Possible adapted Governance Structure



- 11 groups**
- 1 IODE Committee
 - 1 IODE Advisory Group
 - 1 Core Programme (OBIS) Steering Group
 - 7 Associate Programmes (5 Steering Groups)
 - 1 IWG

Core

Ocean Biodiversity Information System

IODE Programmes

Associate

Aquadocs

Global Ocean Surface Underway Data (GOSUD) project

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Global Temperature and Salinity Profile Programme (GTSP)

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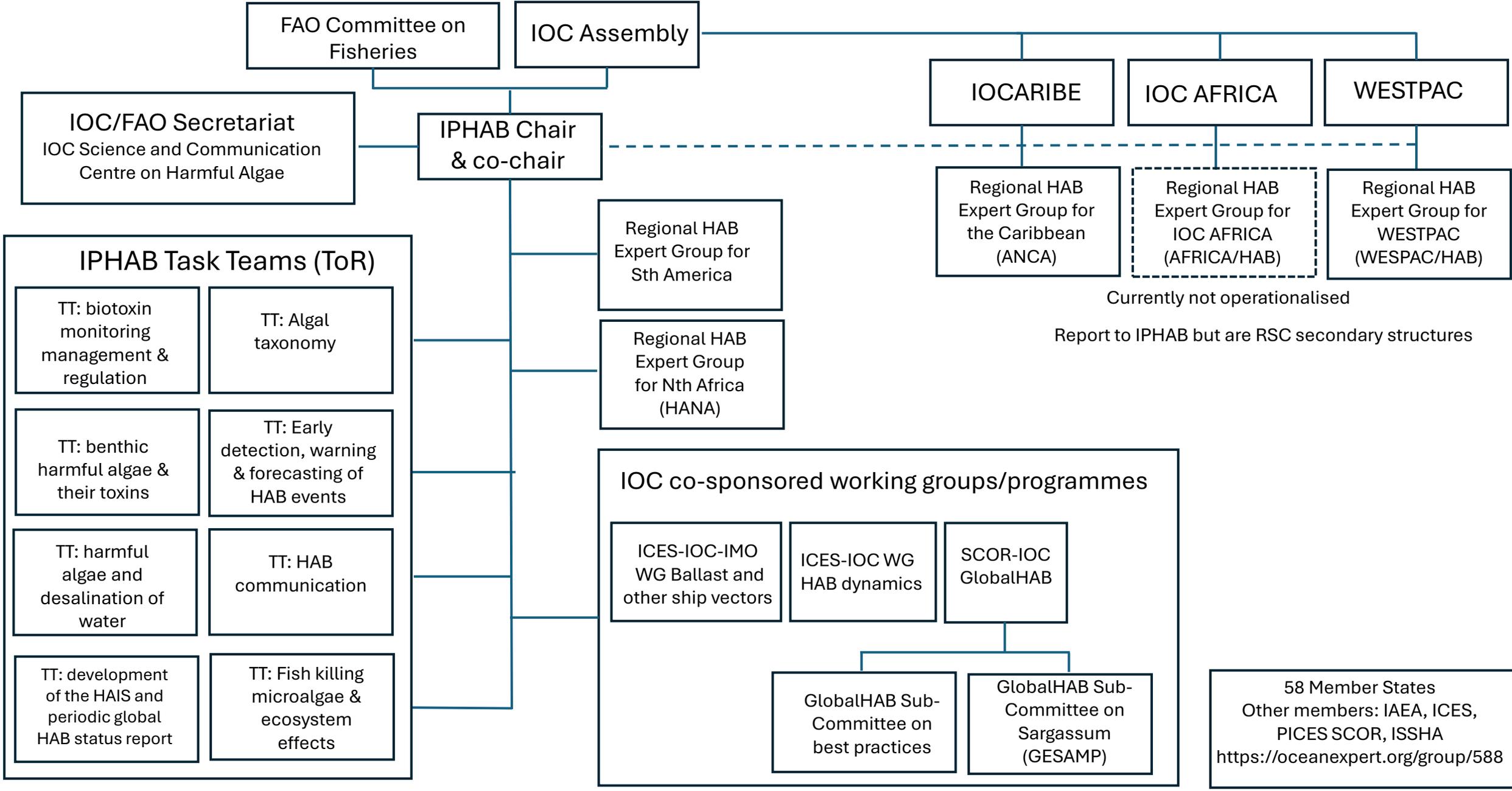
World Ocean Database (WOD)

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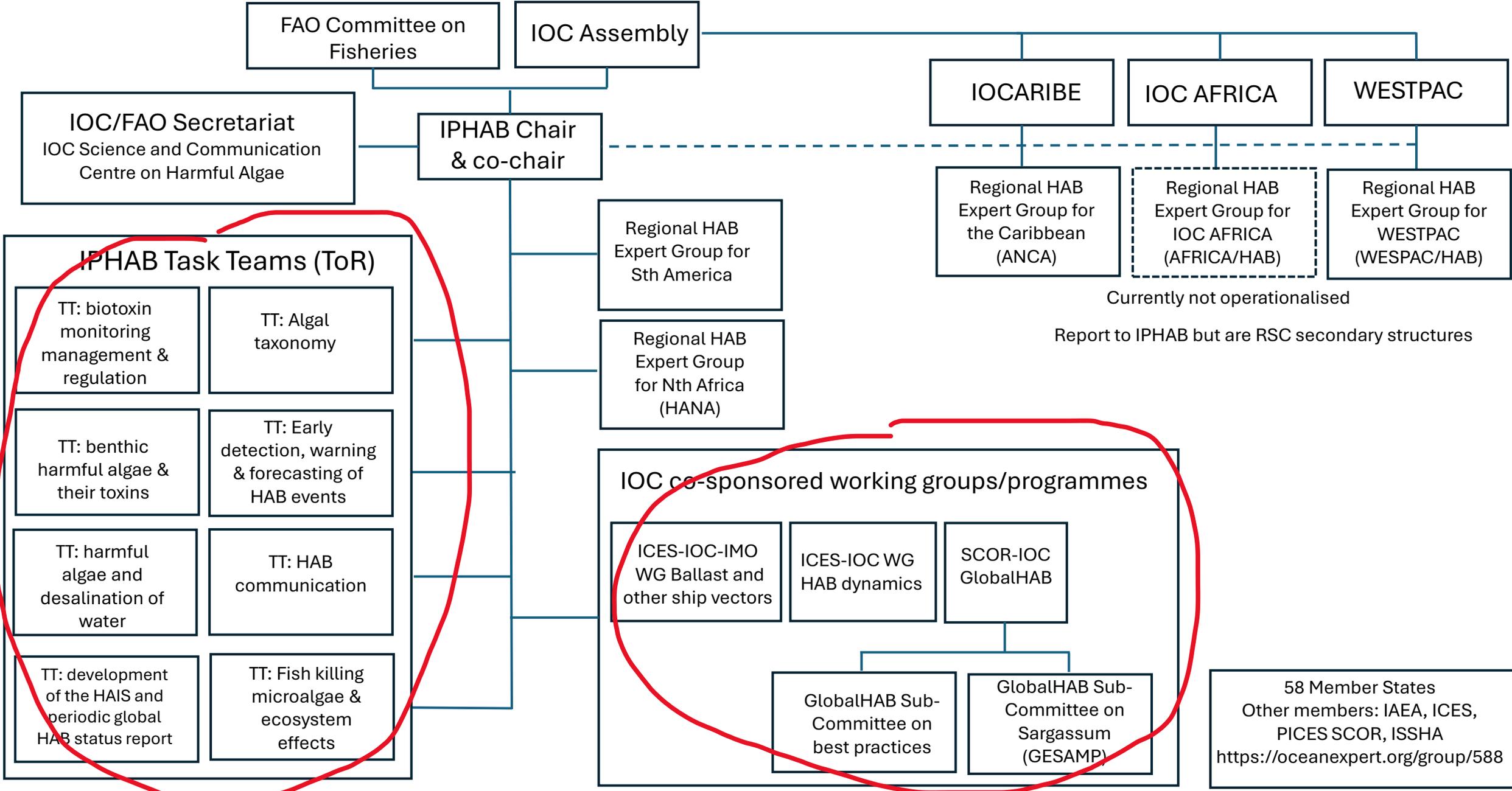
1. IWG on Advancing Ocean Data Sharing for Sustainable Development in Areas Within National Jurisdiction (IWG-DSNJ) 2025-2027

* ODIS will be reviewed and incorporated as needed in the IOC data architecture plan, which will be developed in consultation with Member States (2026-2027).
 ** The Quality Management Framework for NODCs (QMF) will be integrated as a Task Team of the IODE Advisory Group.

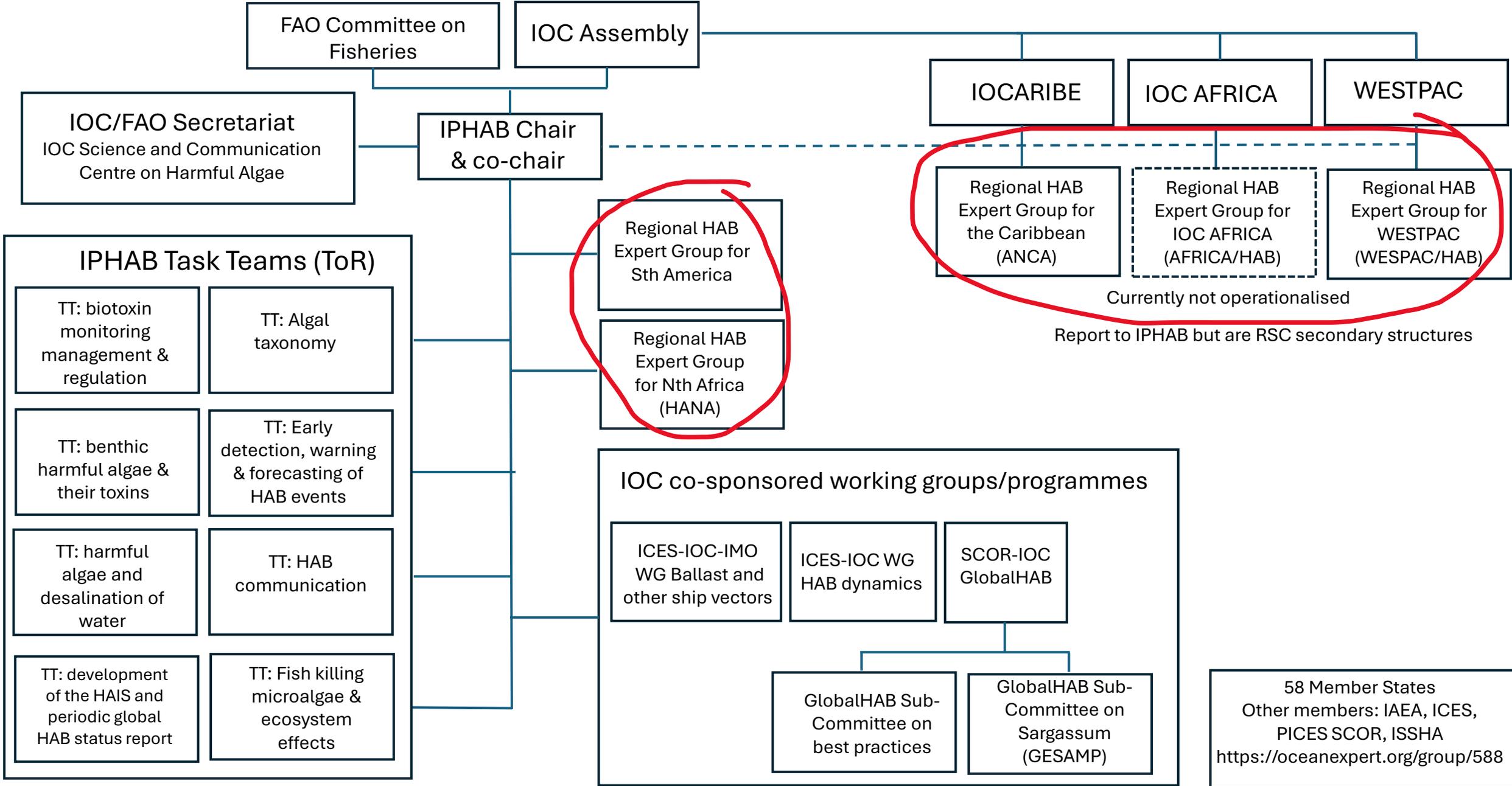
IOC-FAO IPHAB: Current governance structure



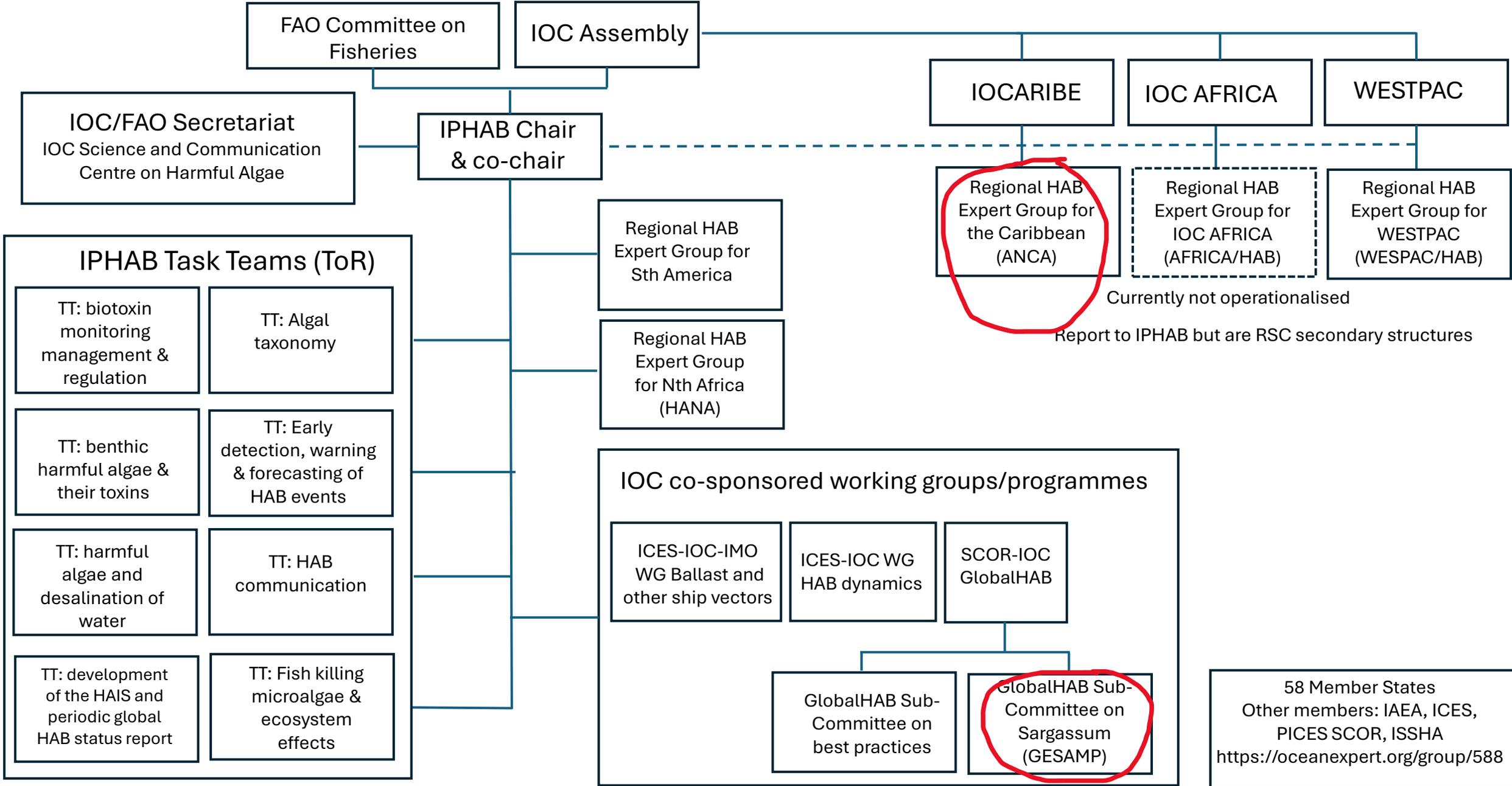
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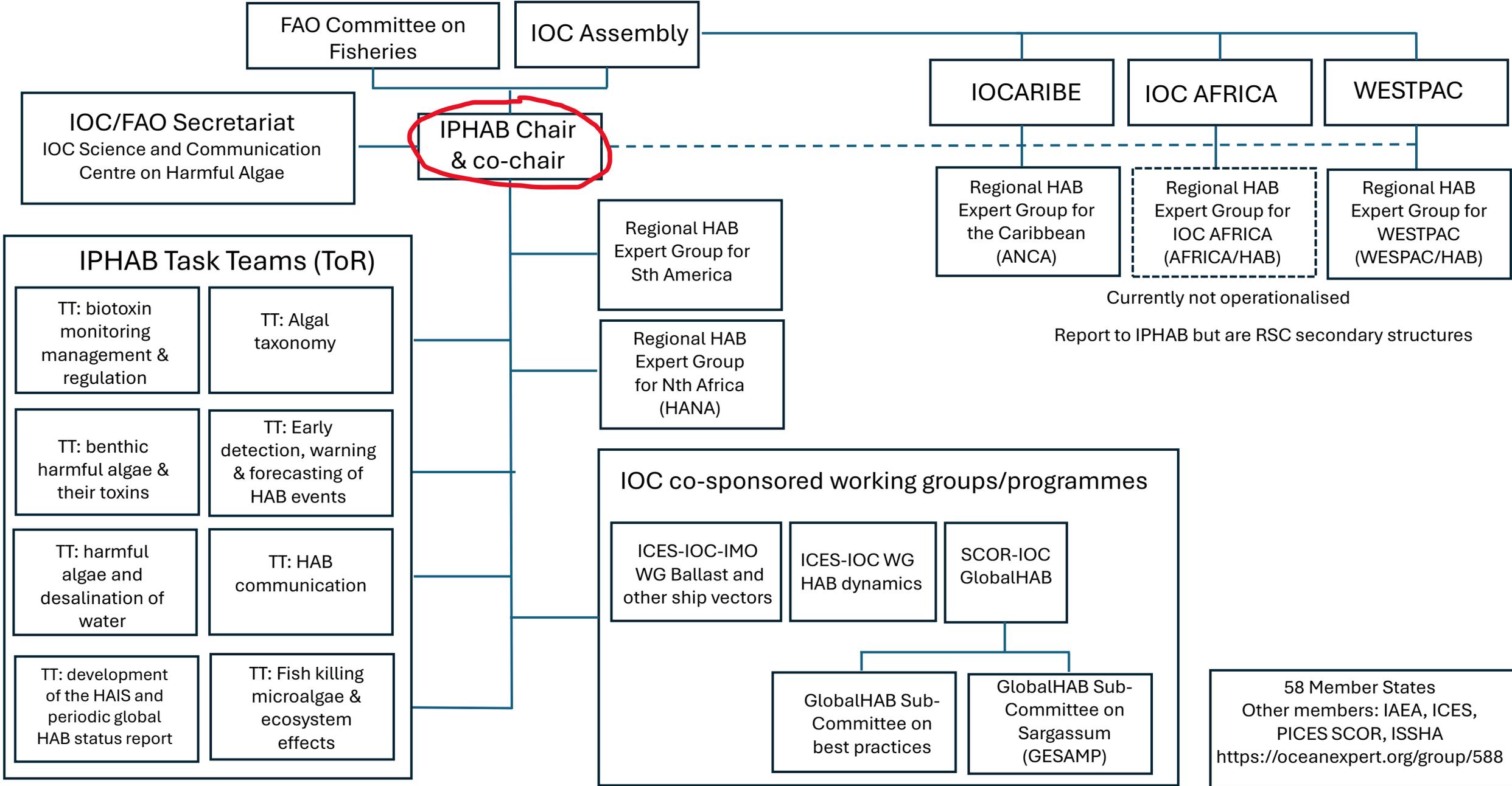
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IOC-FAO IPHAB: Current governance structure



IOC/FAO Secretariat
IOC Science and Communication
Centre on Harmful Algae

IPHAB Chair & co-chair

IPHAB Task Teams (ToR)	
TT: biotoxin monitoring management & regulation	TT: Algal taxonomy
TT: benthic harmful algae & their toxins	TT: Early detection, warning & forecasting of HAB events
TT: harmful algae and desalination of water	TT: HAB communication
TT: development of the HAIS and periodic global HAB status report	TT: Fish killing microalgae & ecosystem effects

Regional HAB Expert Group for Sth America

Regional HAB Expert Group for Nth Africa (HANA)

Regional HAB Expert Group for the Caribbean (ANCA)

Regional HAB Expert Group for IOC AFRICA (AFRICA/HAB)

Regional HAB Expert Group for WESTPAC (WESPAC/HAB)

Currently not operationalised

Report to IPHAB but are RSC secondary structures

IOC co-sponsored working groups/programmes

ICES-IOC-IMO WG Ballast and other ship vectors

ICES-IOC WG HAB dynamics

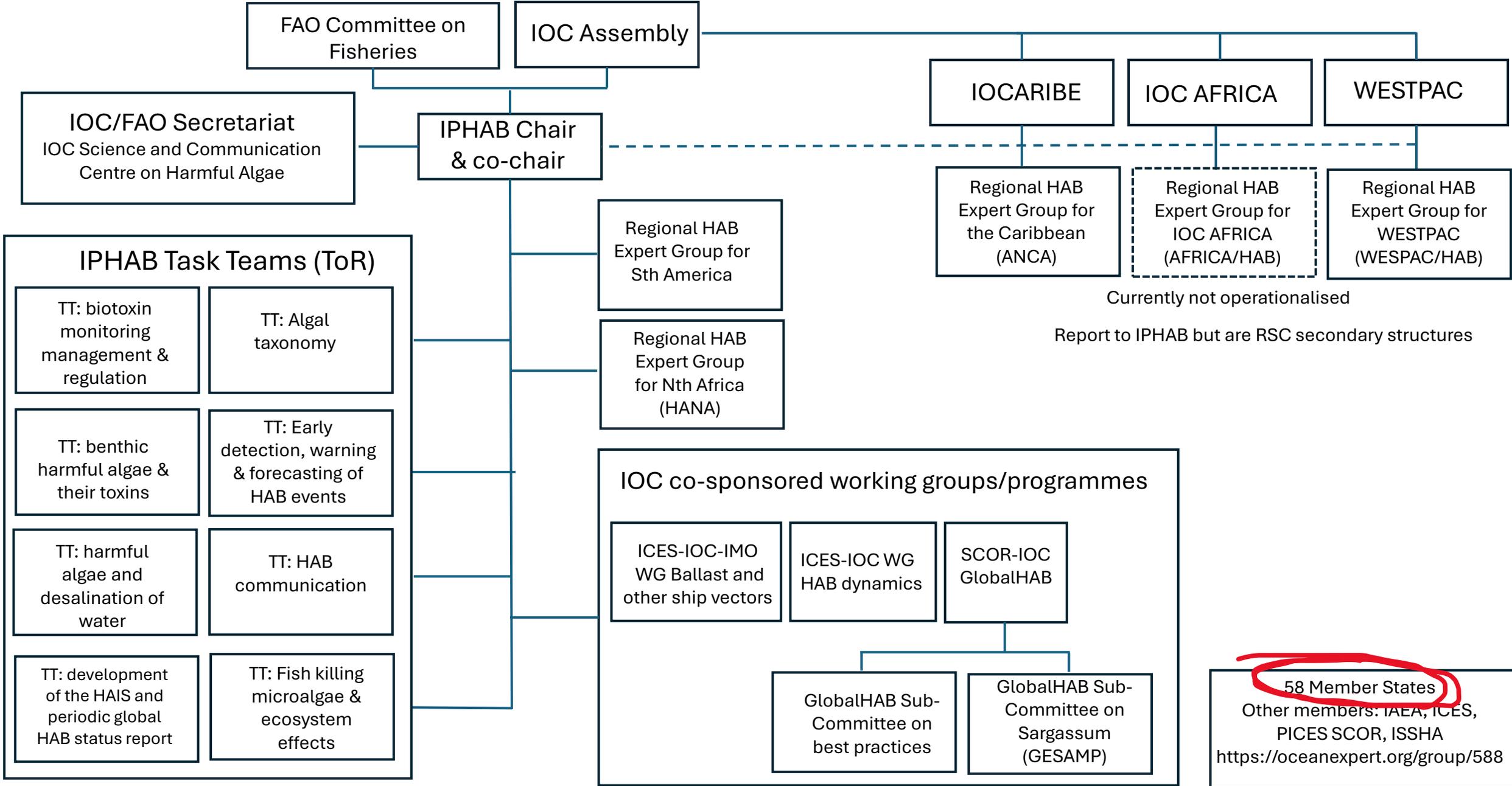
SCOR-IOC GlobalHAB

GlobalHAB Sub-Committee on best practices

GlobalHAB Sub-Committee on Sargassum (GESAMP)

58 Member States
Other members: IAEA, ICES, PICES SCOR, ISSHA
<https://oceanexpert.org/group/588>

IOC-FAO IPHAB: Current governance structure



3.3 Partnerships

Partnerships

- Streamlining and optimization of partnerships will be a next priority
- Issues include:
 - Numerous partnerships of varying types, sizes and degree of alignment with IOC mandate
 - Reactive rather than proactive approach to new partnerships
 - Limited staff capacity for engagement to optimize impact due to staff capacity
 - Numerous partnerships bring no or few tangible benefits (\$ or in-kind) to IOC but bring significant benefit to partner (e.g. logo association)
- Need to analyse status quo and develop systematic processes to prospect partnerships, design for impact and track benefits

3.4 Procedures and Programme Execution