

GOOS National Focal Points

Description

The Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) National Focal Points will be a focal point for communication between GOOS and the national organisations and individuals involved in your Member State's sustained ocean observing system infrastructure. The overarching objective of the GOOS National Focal Points will be to promote and support nationally and regionally coordinated strategies for the implementation of a sustained *global ocean observing system that delivers the essential information needed for our sustainable development, safety, wellbeing and prosperity*.

The GOOS National Focal Points will promote and support the work of GOOS at the national level through supporting the implementation of a Global Ocean Observing System and publicising opportunities for engagement with GOOS activities within the national context. It is important for GOOS National Focal Points to foster connections at a national level between elements involved in ocean observing and government stakeholders and beneficiaries of ocean information, towards achieving GOOS strategic goals. It will also be important to foster connections with national data, modelling, and ocean assessment activities, in order to support the delivery of ocean information to key national users.

It will be the role of the GOOS National Focal Points to ensure that national needs and gaps related to sustained ocean observing systems are brought to the attention of GOOS Core Team¹; and to report to GOOS on national plans, implementation status, and response to GOOS international priorities.

Where a national ocean observing system exists, the National Focal Point will liaise with, or be from this system. Where multiple national systems exist, GOOS suggests that the National Focal Points advocate for a national ocean observing committee or 'hub', if one does not already exist, to capture the potentially broad range of activities and connections.

The GOOS National Focal Points will advocate for sustained national ocean observing system activities that contribute to the GOOS.

Terms of Reference

The specific responsibilities of the GOOS National Focal Points are to:

¹ The GOOS Core Team are the global panels and bodies that support, coordinate, structure and build GOOS; they enable each part of the system to contribute to its highest capacity. The Core Team consists of the GOOS Expert Panels (OOPC, BGC Panel and the BioEco Panel), the Observations Coordination Group (OCG), the global ocean observing networks, OceanOPS, the GOOS Regional Alliances (GRAs), the Expert Team on Operational Ocean Forecasting Systems (ETOofs), and GOOS Projects. Oversight is provided by a multinational Steering Committee and the GOOS Office supports the Core Team. See www.goocean.org.

1. Work at national levels towards implementation of the GOOS strategic goals², and support the alignment of national activities in broader international and regional ocean observing activities, assuring synergy and increasing efficiency
2. Develop a **national hub** for the coordination of integrated ocean observing across disciplines and sectors, possibly through establishing a GOOS national committee. Connection with the following would be appropriate:
 - a. Representatives of national ocean programmes or systems, across open ocean, coastal, physical, biogeochemical and biological realms
 - b. National representatives of GOOS networks
 - c. National representatives of GOOS Regional Alliances (GRAs), where relevant
 - d. National representatives of the International Oceanographic Data Exchange (IODE) for data and capacity development
 - e. National Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO representatives
 - f. Government departments with an interest in ocean issues
3. Advocate for national investment in sustained ocean observing systems
4. Promote nationally and/or regionally coordinated strategies and implementation for a sustained ocean observing system delivering the needed information to users.
5. Promote the work of GOOS at the national level:
 - a. Strengthen and develop communications with national and regional stakeholders,
 - b. Promote GOOS plans and documents where relevant,
 - c. Publicize opportunities for engagement with the GOOS Core Team and actions
 - d. Promote national FAIR ocean data practices, in communication with IODE national focal points and national data structures
 - e. Maintain contacts with other relevant national committee's such as for Global Climate Observing System (GCOS)
6. Ensure that national needs, capability and gaps related to sustained ocean observing systems are brought to the attention of GOOS, and work with GOOS towards developing a regular reporting to IOC on the status and future plans of national ocean observing system activities that contribute to GOOS, leveraging any existing reporting.
7. Participate in GOOS organised meetings for the National Focal Points.

Benefits of the National Focal Point role

The benefits of the GOOS National Focal Points to the Member States and the global ocean observing system are outlined below:

² www.goosocan.org/2030Strategy

- Increased opportunities for national activities to align and contribute to global initiatives, which makes individual national action more effective, and can also lower cost and increase efficiency
- Availability of identified national advocates or focal points to demonstrate the economic and socioeconomic value of sustained ocean observations, and to support long term funding mechanisms at national levels
- Focal points will develop a national ocean observing 'hub' or committee, if one does not already exist, which will strengthen the communication and planning for a national system that is fit-for-purpose, integrated and sustained (see note below)
- Provide visibility of the national ocean observing contribution in a global context
- Provide an identified pathway to communicate with GOOS around national needs, which will support the development of a fit for purpose and responsive ocean observing system
- Strengthening national and global ocean observing systems through learning and sharing with other GOOS National Focal Points
- Potential to increase ocean observing system efficiency and scope through regional cooperation around projects or shared resources, leading to cost saving and opportunities to build capability or skills exchange
- Strengthen and streamline global ocean observing through coordination across GOOS, IOC and other structures

Benefits of a national ocean observing committee or 'hub'

The ocean observing landscape is frequently complex at national level, with many national actors and different thematic and domain specific projects and programmes. **A national committee or hub** can create an opportunity for exchange and to strengthen the voice, and coordination, of potentially scattered observing components. It supports advocacy on the need for sustained funding and what this could look like. A national committee or ocean observing hub is an opportunity to develop a mandate (e.g. ToRs) that further aligns its work with the benefits to nations and national players.

GOOS support to the National Focal Points role

To support the GOOS National Focal Points in undertaking their work GOOS will:

- Promote and highlight the importance of the GOOS National Focal Point role
- Create a forum for exchange with GOOS and other National Focal Points
- Provide visibility of national contributions to GOOS through OceanOPS
- Regularly communicate with National Focal Points and provide materials to support their work
- Report to National Focal Points annually on status of the GOOS
- Using feedback on national needs and gaps, develop an synthesis for GOOS action