



The Global Ocean Observing System

Update from GRAs and Report out from 11th GRA Forum

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U.S. IOOS | NOS | NOAA

Key Meeting Objectives

Discuss and examine challenges, barriers, and opportunities to strengthen links and collaboration with respect to GOOS Regional Alliances (GRAs)

- Progress / Challenges / Status over the last two to three years;
- How GRAs are engaged and contributing to the following?
 - 'UN Decade of the Ocean' the GOOS Strategy 2030, the GOOS Programmes/projects, and other GOOS initiatives.
 - GOOS Structures, panels, new GOOS National Focal Points, as well as the private sector and industries;
- Strategies to strengthen and revitalize GRAs and improve how we each try to deliver data, products, and services to the benefit of partners and users;
- How to coordinate between GRAs to evolve capacity and sharing of knowledge?
- How GRAs engage more effectively with other
- GRA priorities, actions, and leadership (chair and vice chairs) for the next two years.



Key points from the Forum

- Alvaro Scardilli (OCEATLAN - Argentina) elected as Vice Chair of the GOOS Regional Council
- Clear need for better communication structures -
 - between GRAs, AND also between the GOOS Office and the GOOS Steering Committee, AND with the GRAs and with the GOOS National Focal Points
 - Overall need communicate what is GOOS and why it's important?
 - GOOS Secretariat to develop a communications toolkit
- Data management standards - ongoing need to advance and coordinate
- One way we could facilitate intra-coordination for the regions is to identify thematic priority areas - plan to have a **meeting of the GRAs in late summer** to advance activities.



Key points continued...

General agreement GRAs need:

- to evolve governance and revise terms of reference (GRA Policy)
- better connections to GOOS structures (Panels, projects, & networks and intra-GRA communication)
 - Some GRAs to better connect with IOC sub commissions (IOCARIBE, Africa and WestPac)
- better clarity of GOOS priorities and linkages to UN Ocean Decade, and where GRAs may be able to add expertise
- financial support to assist with capacity building
- better coordination across the GOOS structures

Between the GRAs,

- desire to increase partnerships and sharing of best practices.
- Desire to identify common issues in order to work collaboratively to advance ocean observing capability.
- GRAs also desire to strengthen linkages with neighboring GOOS Regions.



Reactions/recommendations to the GOOS SC

1. Need help with messaging the need for ocean obs and coordination and prioritisation of GRAs
2. Recommendation to better address data management and data standards
3. How far down the value chain do we want to go in GOOS?
 - a. We have eg ETOOFS in GOOS and other operational services but we maybe shouldn't be producing services, do we need clearer ToRs?
4. Where do GRAs want to sit in the value chain?
 - a. Driven by the funders, which is very user driven. Agreed we do need to consider the user needs. But how can GOOS help build up the observations systems in the regions but not necessarily do the whole value chain. Define the ocean enterprise and be clear what GOOS doesn't do
5. WMO synergies

