



THE INTERNATIONAL OCEAN CARBON COORDINATION PROJECT

A joint project of Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research and Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO and an affiliate program of the Global Carbon Project.

*International Project Office:
Ul. Powstańców Warszawy 55,
81-712 Sopot, Poland
Tel.: +48 (0)58 731 16 10
Fax: +48 (0)58 551 21 30
Web: www.ioccp.org*

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*Observations Coordination Group (OCG)
Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS)
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)
United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization
7 place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07-SP, France*

Dear GOOS OCG,

We, the International Ocean Carbon Coordination Project and the GOOS Biogeochemistry Panel, are hereby requesting that the Surface Ocean CO₂ Observing Network (SOCONET) be accepted as an emerging network of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS).

Urgent, deep and sustained emission reductions are needed to peak and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, to reach net zero by 2050, as agreed by the 196 Parties to the Paris Agreement. The concentrations of GHGs in the atmosphere are regulated by both emissions and uptake by the land and ocean. However, ocean CO₂ uptake varies significantly in time and space and a large number of high-quality continuous measurements is needed to monitor and predict the ever-changing scales and patterns of the air-sea interactions and to monitor and predict any adverse impacts of this uptake such as ocean acidification.

SOCONET informally approached OCG several years ago with the intention to formalize its connection to GOOS, but ultimately the pCO₂ community decided at the time, that it was not ready to move forward with a formal GOOS network. However, developments in the last few years created an urgent need to transform our ability to deliver an integrated global surface ocean carbon monitoring system. The key change in the landscape driving this decision is the WMO-led Global Greenhouse Gas Watch activity which specifically identifies a need to implement SOCONET as the first step towards the ocean carbon information system needed for its delivery. At a recent meeting of nearly 100 ocean carbon scientists representing most existing groups involved in SOCONET, it was decided that now was the time to enhance our ability to deliver the required information by formalizing SOCONET under GOOS OCG auspices (see [Declaration on Operationalising the Surface Ocean Carbon Value Chain](#)).

We hope that this letter and the attached "SOCONET network attribute report" assures you that SOCONET is well positioned to provide significant value to GOOS and beyond. We look forward to hearing the feedback from the GOOS OCG and are happy to provide further information if needed.

Sincerely,

Maciej Telszewski, GOOS Biogeochemistry Panel, IO PAN, Poland

Adrienne Sutton, Co-Chair of GOOS Biogeochemistry Panel, NOAA-PMEL, USA

Veronique Garçon, Co-Chair of GOOS Biogeochemistry Panel, IPGP, France

Richard Sanders, Expert on Surface Ocean Biogeochemistry Observations of the GOOS BGC Panel, NORCE, Norway