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IOC Ocean Best Practices System (OBPS) Meeting

17 April 2024
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[ONLINE]



2024

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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 delivery of the work plan

This report is the record of the online meeting for 17 April 2024

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ANNEX 1 - LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

1. Opening of the Meeting

George Petihakis (Co-Chair) opened the meeting and welcomed participants. A complete list of the meeting participants is shown in Annex I. Apologies were received from Rene Garello; Peter Pissierssens; Emma Heslop; Rachel Przeslawski, Ana Carolina Peralta and Frank Muller-Karger. All participants agreed the session should be recorded, available [here](#)

2. Strategic Plan 2021-2025 - updated 2024 version

Pauline Simpson (PS) Project Manager explained that at the annual SG-OBPS-V in December 2023, the IOC Co-Sponsor Programmes, IODE and GOOS had submitted an 'Orientation Document' identifying their perspectives on OBPS activities. The recommendations from that document were presented by them at the meeting and it was noted that some of the recommendations were already in place or in progress. Although a new strategic plan is due in 2025, to address the recommendations of the IOC co-sponsors, and acknowledging the significant progress made in some OBPS strategic outcomes and international activities increasingly impacting the OBPS and its services, an interim 2024 Strategic Plan update was agreed as an SG-OBPS-V action. PS reported that the Strategic Plan [update 2024](#) had been completed and submitted to the IOC Co-Sponsors on 12 April 2024.

3. Advisory Board - membership

George Petihakis (GP) reminded members of their approval at SG-OBPS-V in December 2023, to establish an OBPS Advisory Board. He informed that the [ToR](#) had been updated to reflect the number of meetings per year as 'normally once per year, but with a maximum of two', rather than 'two meetings per year'. GP shared the [spreadsheet of responses to the call for membership](#) which was still small, but the closing date is not until 31 May 2024, and also the list of [SG personal recommendations for membership](#) of the Advisory Board and invited SG to add their own recommendations. GP confirmed that the proposed number of members of the Advisory Board is 8. Jay Pearlman had made some membership invitations to senior research representatives at the Ocean Decade Barcelona Conference the week before, and was asked to record those names which he had invited and who had accepted to join, so that we know how many vacancies remain to be filled.

ACTION:

3.1. JP to complete the Advisory Board personal recommendation spreadsheet, with details of which of the names he had actually invited and who had already agreed.

3.2. SG was invited to add their own Advisory Board membership recommendations to the [spreadsheet](#) particularly addressing global representation before 31 May 2024

4. GOOS SC and GRA meetings

Jay Pearlman (JP) reported that Johannes Karstensen (past Co-Chair) had represented OBPS at both these meetings. In his absence JP shared the feedback.

A comment from the GOOS Regional Alliance (GRA) meeting was that OBPS and its work with best practices and standards is being recognised. How GRA and OBPS can better work together was discussed during a breakout, but it was acknowledged that GRA needs to organise its work on best practices and standards before OBPS can have a relationship.

For the GOOS SC meeting, Emily Smith (GOOS) had put together a presentation which summarised the project presentations from the GRA meeting. Projects were requested to submit questions beforehand and OBPS had submitted a question about its future position within the core GOOS infrastructure. A number of GOOS SC members supported that OBPS become part of a core GOOS infrastructure but it was recognized that GOOS should redefine that structure to accommodate activities that were no longer 'projects'. JP reported that he had spoken to Emma Heslop in Barcelona, and a meeting between the Co-Chairs and GOOS was to be arranged.

5. Repository Policies and Terms of Use updated - content scope

Pauline Simpson (PS) reported that one of the recommendations from the IOC Co-Sponsors at SG-OBPS-V, was to enhance the documented description of the content scope for document inclusion into the repository. A draft had been made available to SG for review and the final version had now been uploaded to the [Repository Policies and Terms of Use](#) and included in the *Guidelines for Depositors*.

6. Science Policy Methodology Task Team

Jay Pearlman (JP) reported he was approached by Peter Haugan at the Ocean Decade Barcelona Conference, for OBPS to consider collecting practices on science policy. JP then raised the suggestion with senior research representatives at the conference, and confirmed there was interest in participating in an OBPS Task Team to consider the inclusion of Science Policy Methodologies in the repository. JP listed some science policy topics and PS commented that there were already documents under some of those science policy areas (for example Marine Protected Areas (MPA) and also that Peter Pissierssens at SG-OBPS-V had suggested the repository should include documents on the 'Science Policy Interface' at SG-OBPS-V and a few documents had been added. PS supported the establishment of the Task Team particularly noting its relevance to agenda item 5.

Comments made concerning methods relating to science policy:

Justin Buck - there needs to be space for other documents that cover the core topic and commented that there are documents that would not be identified as methodology documents, but should be considered for inclusion.

Edem Mahu - it was important to include documents on how the policies are documented and being used.

Mark Bushnell - We have always said OBPS addresses the full value chain. I think that includes policy.

Members present agreed this new task team should be established.

ACTION:

Terms of Reference for the establishment of an OBPS Task Team on 'Science Policy' to be presented to SG at the next meeting before an application with recommended members is presented (JP)

7. Metadata Auto ingest and prioritisation

Justin Buck reported on discussion within WP3 on the requirement for metadata automated ingest for the repository which was already on the roadmap. He confirmed solutions are technically feasible and available and would lower the barrier for depositing into the repository. PS supported the implementation and cited where this functionality would support the inclusion of the OBPS metadata particularly multiple authors and ORCID. The item is in the 2024 Work Plan and Budget requirements, but is among items that must be funded by external project funds. The meeting agreed this functionality should be implemented and JP indicated that project funds could be identified.

ACTION:

WP3, working with Co-Chairs for funding, to progress and implement this requirement (JB, PS +)

8. Endorsement Guidelines - new flyer

Mark Bushnell and Jay Pearlman acknowledged and thanked Rachel Przeslawski and her organisation's designer Louise Bell, in providing the [new flyer](#) in an amazingly short time. It has already been used at the Ocean Decade Barcelona conference and now also in preparation for advocacy for recruiting new endorsement entities. The endorsement guidelines and flyer have been added to the OBPS website

9. Ocean Maturity Model paper

Jay Pearlman shared a [presentation](#) on a paper [An Ocean Practices Maturity Model: from Good to Best Practices](#) submitted to *Frontiers in Marine Science: RT - Best Practices in Ocean Observation*. The lead authors are Carlo Mantovani and Jay Pearlman and OBPS co-authors, Rachel Przeslawski, Mark Bushnell and Pauline Simpson with others. The work began in the JERICO S3 project, to figure out a maturity model in the JERICO Deliverable, 5.2. Motivated by the often asked question 'what is a best practice' and building on the JERICO S3 work,

many months had been spent identifying the criteria for a 'best' practice with the challenge of what defines good-better-best practices. JP walked us through the maturity model which provides criteria for 5 levels and also star ratings.

Comments:

Justin Buck recommended a flyer is needed for visualising the model

Cora Horstmann - The BP4BP Manual includes maturity and wondered whether it would be helpful to compare BP4BP and the ocean maturity model

- JP agreed this should be done

Cristian Munoz Mas - Level one will complement the document inclusion policy

- PS agreed the policy should be enhanced once the maturity model paper is published and also commented it would also need to be reflected in a repository metadata update .
- JP added that the maturity model required a more sophisticated methodology feedback mechanism and confirmed enhancement to the existing feedback function was listed as a repository requirement

Aileen Tan Shau Hwai - asked who will rank the methodologies.

- JP confirmed the creator would rank the methodology and OBPS would record that in the metadata.

ACTION:

9.1. The paper is linked in this agenda item for SG to provide comments over the next month, **but JP requested it should not be shared outside SG since it has been submitted for peer review**

9.2. Once the paper is published - a. enhance the repository document inclusion policy (content scope) to add the maturity model information ; b. progress enhancement of repository metadata fields and c. implement more sophisticated feedback mechanism (already being investigated) (PS)

George Petihakis was called away for an emergency and Rebecca Zitoun (RZ) (Co-Chair Elect) chaired the rest of the meeting

10. DOOS Annual Meeting May 2024

Jay Pearlman announced that the Deep Ocean Observing System (DOOS) will hold their [annual meeting in May 2024](#) and have invited OBPS to provide a presentation on best practices and standards. A volunteer presenter (virtual) was requested; JP offered to help with creating the presentation and RZ emphasized that any SG member could volunteer - the presenter did not have to be from the Co-Chairs Group.

ACTION:

SG to be canvassed again for a virtual volunteer presenter (PS)

11. How to share information on who in SG are attending/presenting at conferences/workshops etc

Agenda item 10 highlighted the lack of information on upcoming conferences, workshops etc and who from SG were attending. It was suggested to create a spreadsheet and call for updates at each monthly meeting.

Post meeting (PS) - this is a technique used for updating the Work Plan; Outputs and SG-OBPS-V Actions etc and regrettably so far, is not overly successful

ACTION:

Create a spreadsheet for logging upcoming conferences, workshops etc and who from SG is attending (if any). Include a reminder in the monthly meeting agenda for SG to update. (PS)

12. Course Curricula (CM)

Unfortunately, the WP7 Co-Leads were unable to attend the meeting and it was agreed to move this agenda item to the OBPS meeting on 15 May 2024.

ACTION:

PS to add this item to the agenda for OBPS Meeting, 15 May 2024.

13. UN Ocean Decade Conference Barcelona, April 2024 - report

Rebecca Zitoun (RZ) reported on the conference held 9-12 April and side events immediately before. The conference schedule was very full (hectic!) and everyone reported having problems participating in all events. OBPS was represented by RZ and JP; other OBPS members also attended in other capacities; others attended online. She highlighted that many high level speakers mentioned best practices and standards and urged that now we have the attention on OBPS we need to maintain that momentum. She learned at the conference that there were many volunteers who wanted to join OBPS and as an example contribute to the NewsFlash.

Comments on those who had attended in various capacities:

Katherina Schoo - the networking and conversation opportunities were great and KS appreciated being left with new impulses and meeting new people not usually seen at high level conferences. There was so much talk about BP and maturity not maturity levels but how to discern what practices are needed - what are the gaps and needs for emerging technologies

Aileen Tan Chau Hwai - agreed it was hectic trying to attend so many high level events and the problem of parallel sessions.

Edem Mahu - was involved in presenting the White Paper for Challenge 9: Skills, knowledge and technology for all. She was pleased to note that so many of the White Paper topics were being discussed/addressed at the conference

ACTION

13.1. Create a worksheet for each work package and task team to put together a their task list for tasks/actions they want to complete this year - with the aim of

making an aggregated list available to be circulated to interested volunteers.
(PS)

13.2. RZ to supply a volunteers list?

14. AOB

Jay Pearlman reported that a new project CINEA Standards and Best Practices in Ocean Observation had just started with a kick off meeting this week

15. Close of the Meeting

All Members were thanked for their meeting participation. The meeting closed at 13.15 UTC

ANNEX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS [ONLINE]

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