**GLOSS**

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1. Highlight the key network successes

GLOSS now has a functional Steering Group, which took some time to establish. We have had two meetings now and I think (others may disagree) that we have made more progress in the past two years than we made in the past two decades. Most recently we had a meeting in St. Petersburg, Florida, and made major progress in several areas, which I will report on here.

First, the group spent more than half a day working on a white board in order define a data structure that our five data centers could all agree to support, which illustrates the value of in person meeting. This would not have happened otherwise. This is the basis for the unified data access portal that we have been talking about for years without much progress. I view this as a major step forward for the GLOSS group.

Second, on the related issue we made significant progress on a plan for unified access to GLOSS data. Progress in this direction was interrupted by COVID, but we are back on track. In addition to deciding on the data structure we decided that the new system will be an ERDDAP-based system and the group agreed on a work plan to implement this system. We appreciate the OCG supporting Kevin O’Brien to attend our meeting to help with this item. I think we made great progress. Hopefully Kevin will agree, but he can speak for himself.

Finally, we discussed a substantial re-write of the GLOSS Implementation Plan, which should be adopted in the Fall of 2024 at the next GLOSS Group of Experts meeting. A major change that is being considered is a new definition of what it means to be a GLOSS station. At present the only GLOSS designation is as a “Core” station. The GLOSS Core Network station designation has been around for 40 years now and many countries are asking to have their regional network stations designated as core stations in order to obtain national funding. This is problematic for many reasons, but we are developing a new nomenclature that will preserve the GLOSS Core Network definition, but will also give our member states the opportunity to identify their regional network stations as GLOSS stations in order to improve their ability to maintain these networks with national funding.

1. How has the network advanced across the OCG Network Attribute areas[[1]](#footnote-1)

We have been hitting most of these marks for a long time now.

We are working on improving the documentation of our Best Practices. One advance in the past year is a co-sponsored workshop with the IAPSO CMSLT on Best Practices for Tidal Analysis that will be co-published with GLOSS.

1. Future Plans[[2]](#footnote-2) and Opportunities - at network and/or cross-network OCG level

Our biggest need is to fill gaps in the network. Africa in particular is a persistent problem, as it has been since the beginning of GLOSS. This problem is not going to be solved by the voluntary national contribution system that GLOSS is based on. Most of the African states do not have the resources needed to participate under this model. This requires some sort of central funding, which GLOSS does not, and has never, had.

GLOSS has created several work groups to consider future opportunities. First, we have created a group to examine new sensors. For example, there are a number of “low cost” sensors coming available, and there is a great deal of interest in GNSS reflectometry. These examples are interesting, but our opinion is that we should proceed deliberately. We have established two workgroups to consider these options. We have also established a workgroup to evaluate how we might use data archaeology to extend our time series backwards. After all, long time series are the GLOSS aim.

1. Challenges and Concerns - at network and/or cross-network OCG level

GLOSS has always relied on national contributions, which is a weakness.

The contributions are very heterogeneous, which needs to be addressed.

The wagon train can only move as fast as the slowest wagon.

1. Asks from OCG (Exec, networks, OceanOPS, and/or GOOS), perhaps related to the responses to parts 3 and 4 and how OCG can support your network

See numbers 3 and 4, please.

1. Recent publications, articles, etc. (if you want to share)

Nothing to report here.

1. <https://oceanexpert.org/downloadFile/45372> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Future plans on implementation, instrumentation, data management, test, new sensors, plan for new EOV/ECV observations, capacity development, etc. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)