

IOC Circular Letter No 3017

(Available in English, French, Russian, Spanish)

IOC/VH/PP/pp

26 November 2024

To : IOC National Official Coordinating Bodies for liaison with IOC
IODE National Coordinators for Oceanographic Data Management
IODE National Coordinators for Marine Information Management
IODE NODC Contact points
Contact points of IODE Associate Data Units
Contact points of IODE Associate Information Units

C.c. : Co-Chairs of the IOC Committee on IODE
Chair of the GOOS Steering Committee
Permanent Delegations/Observer Missions to UNESCO of IOC Member States
National Commissions for UNESCO in IOC Member States
Officers of IOC and of Major Subsidiary Bodies

Subject: Twenty-eighth Session of the IOC Committee on International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE-28) and Third International Ocean Data Conference (IODC-3), Santa Marta, Colombia, 10–14 March 2025

On behalf of the IODE Co-chairs, Dr Paula Correa Sierra and Ms Lotta Fyrberg, I have the pleasure of inviting you to participate in the 28th intergovernmental session of the IOC Committee on International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE), to be held from 12 to 14 March 2025 at the Instituto de Investigaciones Marinas y Costeras (INVEMAR), Santa Marta, Colombia. For further information and access to the documentation, please visit the meeting's website at <https://oceanexpert.org/event/4258>. The provisional agenda and the timetable of the session and conference are attached.

The IODE session will be preceded on 10–11 March 2025 by the 3rd International Ocean Data Conference (IODC-3), which will focus on new developments in the field of oceanographic data and information management and exchange.

We wish to draw your attention to the provisional list of participants on <https://oceanexpert.org/event/4258#participants>, which is based on the official lists of IODE NODC contact points, IODE ADU contact points, IODE AIU contact points, IODE national coordinators for data management, IODE national coordinators for marine information management.

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We would appreciate being informed by the IOC focal points of the composition of the national delegations attending the IODE session and/or IODC-3 conference. If possible, please provide full names and OceanExpert identifiers (e.g. <https://oceanexpert.org/expert/6552>). The Secretariat will include all names provided in the list of participants for the session.

IODE NODC contact points, IODE ADU contact points, IODE AIU contact points, IODE national coordinators for data management, IODE national coordinators for marine information management who plan to attend the events should ensure that their names are included in the official communication sent by the IOC focal point.

The scientific conference preceding the session will allow members of the IODE community (and invited guests) to present new challenges and opportunities in the area of oceanographic data and information management and exchange. A call for abstracts will be sent out shortly. Information on the conference and its programme will be made available through <https://oceanexpert.org/event/4257> and <https://oceandataconference.org>.

To enable us to make the necessary arrangements for the session, your response before 11 December 2024 will be appreciated. Responses should be addressed to Mr Peter Pissierssens, Head of the IOC Project Office for IODE (e-mail: p.pissierssens@unesco.org). I would like to remind you that the participation of national delegations in IODE sessions is self-funded and is part of the national contribution to the IODE programme. Funding for participation in the IODC-3 may be available.

With the assurances of my highest consideration, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

[signature]

Vidar Helgesen
Executive Secretary

Enclosures (2): IODE-28 Provisional Agenda
IODE-28 Provisional Timetable

1/ IODE-28 Provisional Agenda

Limited distribution

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION (of UNESCO)

Twenty-eighth Session of the IOC Committee on International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE-28)

INVEMAR, Santa Marta, Colombia, 12–14 March 2025

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. **OPENING**
2. **ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS**
 - 2.1 Adoption of the agenda
 - 2.2 Designation of a rapporteur
 - 2.3 Session timetable and documentation
 - 2.4 Establishment of sessional working groups
 - 2.5 Practical arrangements for the session
3. **REPORTING ON THE PAST INTER-SESSIONAL PERIOD (2023-2024)**
 - 3.1 Progress report on the IODE-27 work plan (2023-2024)
 - 3.1.1 **Outcome of IOC-32**
 - 3.2 IODE Contribution to the implementation of the IOC Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2029
 - 3.3 Status of the IODE network
 - 3.3.1 New NODCs, ADUs, AIUs, accredited NODCs, ADUs, AIUs
 - 3.3.2 Reporting summary of NODCs, ADUs, AIUs
 - 3.3.3 Review of NODC health status within the IODE network
 - 3.4 Progress reports of IODE programme components, activities and projects
 - 3.4.1 IODE Programme Components
 - 3.4.1.1 *Ocean Data and Information System (ODIS)*
 - 3.4.1.2 *Ocean Biodiversity Information System (OBIS)*
 - 3.4.1.3 *OceanTeacher Global Academy*
 - 3.4.2 IODE Programme Activities
 - 3.4.2.1 *AquaDocs*
 - 3.4.2.2 *GODAR*
 - 3.4.2.3 *GOSUD*

- 3.4.2.4 *GTSP*
- 3.4.2.5 *ICAN*
- 3.4.2.6 *IQuOD*
- 3.4.2.7 *OBPS (IODE/GOOS)*
- 3.4.2.8 *ODISCat*
- 3.4.2.9 *OceanExpert*
- 3.4.2.10 *IODE Quality Management Framework (QMF)*
- 3.4.2.11 *World Ocean Database (WOD)*
- 3.4.3 IODE Projects
 - 3.4.3.1 *OBIS: PacMAN (FUST)*
 - 3.4.3.2 *OBIS: BioEcoOcean: Co-Creating Transformative Pathways to Biological and Ecosystem Ocean Observations*
 - 3.4.3.3 *OBIS: DTO-BioFlow: Integration of biodiversity monitoring data into the Digital Twin Ocean*
 - 3.4.3.4 *OBIS: eDNA Expeditions in marine World Heritage sites*
 - 3.4.3.5 *OBIS: eDNAqua-Plan: A Plan towards an eDNA reference library and data repository for Aquatic Organisms, navigating Europe towards the next generation biodiversity monitoring*
 - 3.4.3.6 *OBIS: MARCO-BOLO: MARine COastal BiODiversity Long-term Observations*
 - 3.4.3.7 *OBIS: MPA Europe: Marine Protected Areas Europe*
 - 3.4.3.8 *ODIS: Ocean InfoHub (FUST)*
 - 3.4.3.9 *ODIS/OBIS: Biodiversity Data Hub for the High Seas (NORAD 2023)*
 - 3.4.3.10 *OTGA – OceanTeacher Global Academy Phase 2 (FUST)*
- 3.4.4 Implementation report of revised IODE Rules of Procedure for IODE activities
- 3.4.5 Report of the inter-sessional working group on the review of IODE structure and working methods
 - 3.4.5.1 *Future of the IODE Associate Information Units (AIUs)*
- 3.5 Progress report on the IODE Quality Management Framework
- 3.6 Progress report on joint activities or cooperation with IOC programmes and other partners
 - 3.6.1 IOC Ocean Science
 - 3.6.2 IOC Ocean Observation and Services (GOOS)
 - 3.6.3 IOC Tsunami Resilience
 - 3.6.4 IOC Marine Policy and Regions
 - 3.6.5 IOC Sub-Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States (IOCAFRICA)
 - 3.6.6 IOC Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (IOCARIBE)
 - 3.6.7 IOC Sub-Commission for the Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO)

- 3.6.8 IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC)
- 3.6.9 ISC World Data System (WDS)
- 3.6.10 Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts - ASFA (FAO)
- 3.6.11 International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers (IAMSLIC)
- 3.6.12 Joint WMO-IOC Collaborative Board (JCB)
- 3.6.13 European Commission

- 3.7 Outcome of, and follow-up to the International Ocean Data Conferences
- 3.8 Reporting on the implementation of the IOC Strategic Plan for Ocean Data and Information Management (2023-2029)
- 3.9 Implementation report of the IOC data policy and terms of use (2023)

4. IODE CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT: CONTRIBUTIONS OF IODE TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IOC CD STRATEGY (2023-2030)

- 4.1 OceanTeacher Global Academy
- 4.2 IODE mentoring
- 4.3 IOC OceanTraining internships 2024-2025
- 4.4 IODE cooperation with IOC regional sub-commissions
 - 4.4.1 Future of the Ocean Data and Information Networks (ODINs)
- 4.5 Report on assistance to NODCs, ADUs, AIUs to establish ODIS nodes

5. IODE COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

- 5.1 New IODE web site
- 5.2 IODE outreach and communication activities during the past inter-sessional period (2023–2024)
- 5.3 Proposed outreach and communication activities for 2025–2026

6. THE FUTURE OF IODE

- 6.1 IODE contributions to the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development
 - 6.1.1 Report on the activities of the DCO for data sharing
 - 6.1.2 Implementation report on decade actions submitted by IODE
 - 6.1.3 Implementation report on decade actions submitted in cooperation with IODE
 - 6.1.4 Proposals for new IODE activities/actions in the UN Ocean Decade 2025-2026
 - 6.1.5 Report on the participation of IODE in the UN Ocean Decade Conference (Barcelona, April 2024)
- 6.2 Renewal of the MoU between the Flanders Marine Institute and IOC regarding the IOC Project Office for IODE (2027-2031)

7. INTRODUCTION OF WORK PLAN AND BUDGET (FINANCIAL RESOURCES 2025–2027)

- 7.1 UNESCO regular programme financial resources remaining for the biennium 2024-2025
- 7.2 UNESCO regular programme financial resources expected for the biennium 2026-2027
- 7.3 IODE Human Resources (current and required)
 - 7.3.1 UNESCO Regular Programme, Government of Flanders staff contribution and extra-budgetary project staff

7.3.2 Internships and Secondments

7.4 Confirmed extra-budgetary revenue for 2025-2027

7.5 Other resource opportunities for 2025-2027

**8. PROPOSED WORK PLAN AND BUDGET
FOR THE NEXT INTER-SESSIONAL PERIOD (2025-2026)**

8.1 IODE programme components and activities

8.2 proposals for new IODE programme components, activities and projects

8.3 Proposed IODE Work plan and budget 2025–2026

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

10. DATA AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION

11. ELECTION OF THE CO-CHAIRS

12. IODE ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS 2025

13. ADOPTION OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

14. ADOPTION OF THE SUMMARY REPORT

15. CLOSURE

2/ IODE-28 Provisional Timetable

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Ostend, 26 November 2024
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INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION (of UNESCO)

Twenty-eighth Session of the IOC Committee on International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE-28) and Third International Ocean Data Conference (IODC-3, 10–11 March 2025)

INVEMAR, Santa Marta, Colombia, 12–14 March 2025

	Monday 10 March	Tuesday 11 March	Wednesday 12 March	Thursday 13 March	Friday 14 March
08:30-0930	Registration		Registration		
09:30-11:00 (90 min)	Scientific Conference	Scientific Conference	1. OPENING 2. ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS 3. REPORT ON THE PAST INTER- SESSIONAL PERIOD	4. IODE CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT 5. IODE COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH 6. THE FUTURE OF IODE	10. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION (IODE-XXVIII) 11. ELECTION OF THE CO- CHAIRS 12. IODE ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS 13. ADOPTION OF DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
11:00-11:30	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK and meeting with PermDels	BREAK	BREAK
11:30-13:00 (90 min)	Scientific Conference	Scientific Conference	3. (CONTINUED)	6. (CONTINUED)	14. ADOPTION OF THE SUMMARY REPORT 15. CLOSURE
13:00-14:30	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH (Sessional working groups)	LUNCH (Sessional working groups)	
14:30-16:00 (90 min)	Scientific Conference	Scientific Conference	3. (CONTINUED)	6. (CONTINUED) 7. INTRODUCTION TO WORK PLAN AND BUDGET	
16:00-16:30	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK	BREAK	
16:30-18:00 (90 min)	Scientific Conference 1700-1800 Decade event	Scientific Conference: Conclusions	3. (CONTINUED)	8. PROPOSED WORK PLAN FOR THE NEXT INTER-SESSIONAL PERIOD 9. AOB	
		RECEPTION			