



Draft Strategy on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management



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2021 United Nations Decade
2030 of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development

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Background

- 1999 – **Establishment of Integrated Coastal Area Management Programme in 1999, by Assembly decision**
- 2009 – **First international guidelines on Marine Spatial Planning**
- 2011- **Development and update of the ICAM Strategy (2011, and recurrent item in subsequent Assemblies)**
- 2017 – **1st MSP Global Conference organised by IOC and start of partnership with European Commission (MSP Global and Joint MSP Roadmap to accelerate MSP globally)**
- 2021 - **2nd International Guidance on MSP as part of MSPGlobal initiative**
- 2022 - **Updated Joint MSP roadmap (2022-2027), endorsed by IOC 32nd Assembly**
- 2023 **Start of the process for developing IOC wide Strategy on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management**

Drivers for an IOC-Wide Strategy on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management



**Interconnected
global, regional and
national frameworks**



**Increasing national
legislations on ocean
governance & area-based
management plans**



**Increase science
provision into
integrated
approaches**



**Call to action by High
Level Ocean Panel
+ other Global agenda
(CBD, UNOC..)**

Why IOC must advance Integrated Coastal Area Management/MSP to Sustainable Ocean Planning and management



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Bringing together IOC's work in other areas of ocean management and planning into a coherent framework

Enabling the mapping & consultation of IOC's initiatives that contribute to national and transboundary sustainable ocean management.



Allowing IOC to address the specific needs of SIDS/LDCs, create deeper links with regional technical organisations, and operate regionally

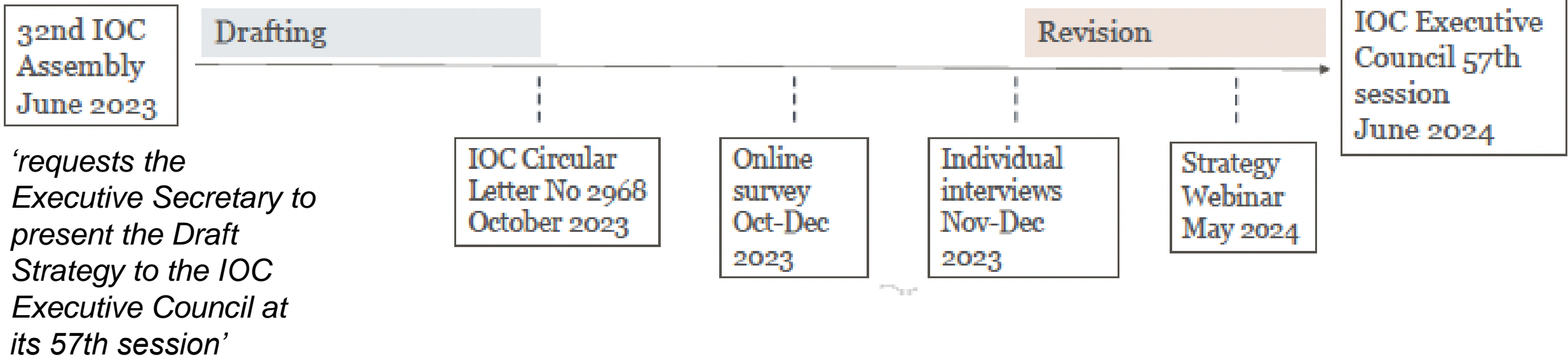


Support IOC MTS and IOS Action Plan. re Increasing IOC's contribution beyond the current MSP framework into broader blue economy discussions

Focus on guidance, standards setting, CD and knowledge provision (Not implementation)



Timeline for the development of the Strategy



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Fact finding

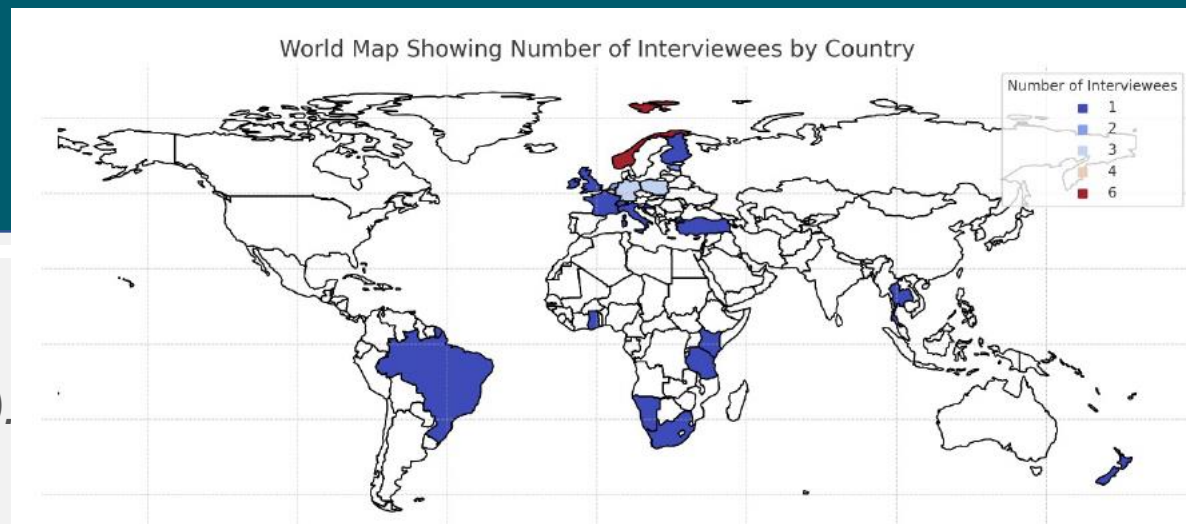
- 47 responses, predominantly from national Government representatives (34.7%), researchers (20.4%), and international/regional organisations (18.4%).

Area of expertise was ocean planning and management (67.3%), followed by natural sciences (40.8%), conservation and biodiversity (36.7%), and education (32.7%).

Participants were primarily from Europe and Africa, with a notable gap in the Asia-Pacific region. European regions, along with Sub-Saharan Africa, had the highest operational presence.

Interviews

- 17 interviews from various organisations related to ocean science and governance worldwide,
- Interviews highlighted IOC's strengths in leveraging networks, technical capabilities, expertise in ocean science-policy interface and M
- IOC strategy should focus on
 - policy and framework creation,
 - enhancing data accessibility and management,
 - capacity building, collaboration and communication,
 - regional engagement,
 - integration and innovation



Vision and Objectives

As presented in IOC/EC-57/4.3.Doc(1).Rev

Vision

“A comprehensive framework for delivering knowledge and capacities for sustainable ocean planning and management needs of IOC Member States.”

Strategic Objectives

1. Increased integration and mainstreaming of sustainable ocean planning and management approaches;
2. Improved observation, data, data frameworks and knowledge management for ecosystem-based management and sectoral applications;
3. Strengthened cross-sectoral and transboundary coordination;
4. Expanded capacity development.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

1

Increased integration and mainstreaming of sustainable ocean planning and management approaches

2

Improved observation, data frameworks and knowledge management for ecosystem-based management and sectoral applications;

3

Strengthened cross-sectoral and transboundary coordination

4

Expanded Capacity Development

OUTCOMES

1

SOP supported by science-based tools and evidence

2

Enhanced ocean observation and data-sharing to enable planning and policy processes

3

Elevated cross-sector and transboundary collaboration

4

Increased knowledge/capacity of Stakeholders

5

Integration of climate resilience and biodiversity conservation in ocean planning processes



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IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGY

1

Regional engagement and delivery through IOC RSBs

2

IOC programmes but also leveraging UNESCO expertise

3

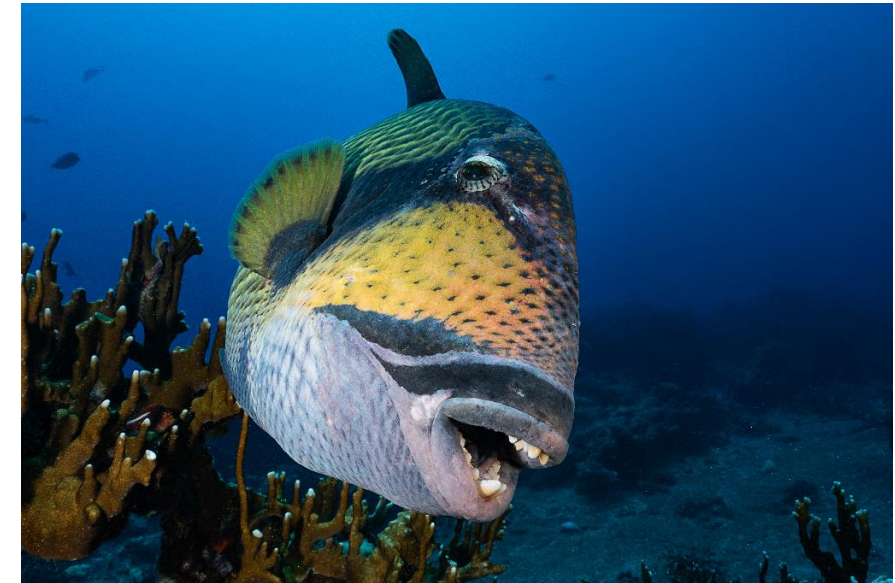
Strengthening cooperation with UN and non UN entities

4

Leveraging and contributing to Ocean Decade SOP Programme

5

Development of Implementation plan (ex, of Activities , initial mapping of IOC prog vs Objectives, funding requirements, assessment of user needs, tracking progress, ...)



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Issues expressed by MS at EC57

- How the SOP Strategy overlap with existing IOC efforts in science, obs, data, ... and the future of IOC discussion – perception of overlap / need to link both processes
- Strengthen the concept of ‘pulling together all existing work of the IOC under the umbrella of Sustainable Ocean Management and Planning’ (US)
- How will the Strategy be resourced, particularly where there are gaps to fill (lack of expertise or active programmes)
- How the strategy contributes to the HLP, need to avoid overlap but also leverage political leadership
- Need for IOC to be user-driven, focus on provision of IOC outputs to support SOPM
- Supports consideration/adoption by the whole IOC constituency (ie Assembly)

Terms of Reference the IOC Working Group on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management (WG-SOPM)

Membership: Experts nominated by MS and representatives of IOC Programmes

- 1. Revise the draft SOPM Strategy in line with the discussions at the 57th session of the IOC Executive Council, as reflected in the report and annexes, and present a revised version for consideration by the IOC Assembly at its 33rd session;*
- 2. Identify activities related to ocean planning and management across all IOC programmes, addressing specific programme-related issues as well as emerging issues;*
- 3. Propose a SOPM implementation plan to be considered by the IOC Assembly at its 33rd session;*
- 4. Ensure coordination with the Decade Programme of Sustainable Ocean Planning, and its interim advisory group.*

IOC Working Group on Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management (WG-SOPM)

Circular Letter 3005 (2024) constituted the WG

41 experts nominated by 26 MS (G-I : 8; G-II: 2; G-III: 3; G-IV: 6; G-V: 6)

In-person meeting of the working group – 4-6 March 2025, Paris

Expected decision from the IOC Assembly:

- Adoption of the Strategy and Implementation plan
- New mandate for WG- SOPM as advisory body for the implementation of the Strategy



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Thank you



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