

16th Observations Coordination Group (OCG-16)

The **Sixteenth Observations Coordination Group (OCG-16) Meeting** will take place from **07 to 10 April 2024 hosted by IFREMER, Brest, France.**

Updates from the intersessional work will be discussed and new objectives set, plus new areas discussed for inclusion in the OCG work plan. Please make sure to check the agenda below, and the details on the sessions for the key questions that will be addressed, background documents to review and the key outcomes. An emphasis has been placed on having time for discussion at this OCG meeting, and key discussion areas anticipated will be around OceanOPS, data and metadata implementation status, requirements, networks data usage in regional and global models. All up to date materials can be found on the event web page - [here](#).

The Observations Coordination Group will host one additional engagement as a part of the OCG-16 meeting, providing opportunities to engage and exchange with network experts and IOCARIBE representatives about regional observing system in the Caribbean:

- IOCARIBE Session - morning Wednesday 09 April

Please note that each OCG network is expected to provide a network report and have a poster for the poster session. Reports should be submitted by **Monday 24 March 2025**.

OBJECTIVES

- Identify actions and major lines of work for OCG 2025-2027, with resource required
- OceanOPS Work Plan, SLA framework & planning for new strategy to 2030
- Assess development of emerging networks
- Identify the data and metadata work towards the IOC Data Architecture and WIS2
- Assist IOCARIBE in planning for a regional ocean observing system. Using the Caribbean as a test case to look at the connection between GOOS OCG networks and GOOS Regional Associations - how do we respond, are the right connections there to address regional identified priorities, Sargassum, Tropical Cyclones, etc.
- Develop the framework for assessing network maturity, health, health and risk, and agree the OCG network/subnetwork list

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS to review prior to OCG-16

- Network report document (March 24)
- Network posters - paper and electronic (March 31)
- OceanOPS Annual Plan & Budget (March 24)

- Service Level Agreement Document & Letter of Agreement Template (March 24)

OUTCOMES

- GOOS OCG Work Plan

Logistics

Please review this document for additional [logistics](#).

For any local information and help please contact Emanuela Rusciano [erusciano@ocean-ops.org]. For OCG related inquiries contact Emma Heslop [e.heslop@unesco.org], cc Ann-Christine Zinkann [ann-christine.zinkann@noaa.gov] and Champika Gallage [cgallage@wmo.int].

Guests:

- Representatives from IOCARIBE-GOOS, the GOOS Regional Alliance for the Caribbean and Latin America, hosted by the IOC regional subcommission IOCARIBE
- Experts from the forecasting community

Timetable Overview

Time	Monday [April 07]	Tuesday [April 08]	Wednesday [April 09]	Thursday [April 10]
9:00 - 10:30	1 Opening 2 OCG Update 3 GOOS & WMO Update	7 OceanOPS	9 IOCARIBE-GOOS, supporting regional priorities	12 EOV Views
Coffee break (10:30 - 11:00)				
11:00 - 12:30	4 Requirements implementation. RRR, Co-Design, GOOS Panels	7 OceanOPS continued SLAs	9 Continued	13 Communications GOOS / OCG (Report Card)
Lunch break (12:30 - 14:00)				
14:00-15:30	5 Network Posters	8 Data and Metadata: OCG implementation plan, IOC Data Architecture, WIS2, OCG Data TT	10 Longer term goals and OCG Objectives and Key Results (OKRs)	14 Summarized Actions and Reflections 15 Planning OCG, roundtables, TTs, OCG-17 and closing
Coffee break (15:30-16:00)				
16:00-17:30	6 Network issues & Risk index - emerging networks	8 Continued	11 Modelling and services input	
17:30 - end		OCG Group Dinner		

Chair:

Rapporteur:

16th Observation Coordination Group (OCG-16)

Annotated Agenda

Available at OCG-16 event webpage: <https://oceanexpert.org/event/4656>

DAY 1 – Monday 7 May 2025 | 09:00 – 17:30 (In local time GMT+2)

1. Welcome (15 min) – Joanna Post &

Welcome from – local host and GOOS

Aims: Welcome participants, adopt the agenda, meeting logistics, including posters and instructions for setting up.

2. OCG Update (30 min) – David Legler

Aim: Review the progress of intersessional work and highlight the key achievements; and provide updates on key OCG activities over the past year. Highlight topics/opportunities in which OCG should take action over the coming 2–3 years towards observing system development. Ensure engagement with networks needs and priorities.

[20 min presentation + 10 min discussion]

2.1 Update OCG actions and looking ahead – David Legler

3. GOOS & WMO update (45 min) – Emma Heslop & Albert Fischer

Aims: Updates from GOOS. Steering Committee meeting readout, preparation to the IOC Assembly, WMO Congress, including OBPS, communications and data initiatives.

[15 min presentation + 30 min discussion]

3.1 GOOS & WMO Updates – Emma Heslop & Albert Fischer

Discussion questions:

- Do the OCG networks ever have to communicate about GOOS or the work of the OCG – do they have what they need?
- Do the network leads read the GOOS Updates? Are they helpful? How do you get news about GOOS?
- 4 years into the GOOS 2030 Strategy, what are the biggest changes from your perspective, what are important priorities to consider? What could GOOS do better?

COFFEE BREAK – 10:30 – 11:00

4. Requirements implementation (90 min) - Champika Gallage, Emma Heslop, Ann Christine Zinkann, Maciej Telszewski and Audrey Darnaude (TBC)

Aims: Review the work on the WMO Rolling Review of Requirements process, following the review of the first Ocean Application Area Statement of Guidance. Reflect on the output and its relevance, and the next steps for GOOS and WMO, and the interaction with WMO GBON and 'ocean GBON'. The GOOS Co-Design Programme, development of requirements for emerging services, and interaction with WMO and GOOS processes. FromBioEco Panel and BGC Panel updates from actions at OCG-15 and news on Biodiversity and Carbon plans and how these initiatives will interact with the networks.

[30 min presentations + 60 min]

- 4.1 WMO Rolling Review of Requirements, Co-Design process - towards an ocean GBON - Champika Gallage, Emma Heslop & Ann Cristine Zinkann
- 4.2 BGC & BioEco Panels - update from OCG-16 actions (AniBOS/ surface Carbon) Carbon and Biodiversity Plans and timeline, and relevance for and interaction with OCG Networks

Discussion questions:

- How do these initiatives intersect with the networks - OCG?
- Did the intersections identified from OCG-15 lead to success?

Proposed action/decision

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LUNCH BREAK - 12:30 - 14:00

5. Network Posters (90 min) - All networks

Aim: To enable networks and OCG management to discuss progress, questions and any key issues affecting the networks. [The reports should be available by 24 March (2 weeks before OCG-16), so that GOOS, WMO, OCG Exec and networks can prepare for the discussions].

Network's posters will be displayed outside of the meeting room and inform the Network session in the afternoon. Please ensure that Posters are submitted ahead of time and bring a physical copy to the OCG meeting. There will also be a poster on the maturity/emerging

network metrics that have been under development (OCG-15 Action), and work towards a network 'health index'.

Background documents:

[Link to posters and network summary reports](#)

COFFEE BREAK - 15:30 - 16:00

6. Network issues & risk, emerging networks (90 min) - Mathieu Belbeoch

Aim: Look at any specific needs from the OCG Emerging Networks and report on their progress against the [network attributes](#). In addition hear an update on progress towards achieving the network attributes from the USV network, that is keen to be considered as an OCG emerging network.

Update from across the networks addressing requests for assistance with issues or opportunities related to networks plans for implementation, instrumentation, data management, testing, new sensors, coverage, capacity development, etc. Based on a summary taken from the Network Reports.

Discuss a framework for assessing risk of network issues (mission critical, long term decline...?) - what/how does OCG define and raise up the most pressing and/or critical issues, showing inherent weakness in the system that should be addressed.

[5 min presentations + discussion]

- 6.1 Emerging networks: Brief updates from emerging networks SMARTCables, FVON, SOCONET on progress on network attributes development, issues and next steps, and USV progress on network attributes development and discussion on emerging network status (45 mins)
- 6.2 All networks: summary of opportunities/issues from all network reports and discuss these and look at in framework for risk assessment (45 mins)

Discussion questions:

- Challenges and concerns - at network and/or cross-network OCG level?
- How could OCG support networks in facing these issues?
- How do we highlight significant risk - index - and communicate/take action on these?

Background documents:

[Link to posters and network summary reports](#)

Proposed action/decision

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ADJOURN - DAY 1

DAY 2 - Tuesday 8 April 2025 | 09:00 - 17:30 (In local time GMT+2)

7. OceanOPS (3 hours) - OceanOPS

Aims: This session will have a brief update on the OceanOPS activities, cover the finalized restructuring, priorities for the next year and next steps. The session will give a readout from the joint WMO/NOAA/Ifremer meeting, WMO/IOC/OCG Management Group work, status of Service Level Agreements (SLAs), European Project work and its anticipated contribution to OceanOPS/GOOS, and to seek feedback on priority areas for work over the next 12 months. In addition, OceanOPS will, with OCG and sponsors, define a path for OceanOPS to develop a new 5 year Strategic Plan (2026 - 2030), including metrics for tracking year to year progress. Note: EOV view detailed discussion is on Thursday -this will be part of the work plan.

SLA Aims: To give an overview of the Service Level Agreements developed over the past months, funding structure, services delivered in service levels and future development opportunities. OceanOPS SLA s - framework agreed and ensure baseline functionality - so that we all understand what we are doing and aim to be up and running by 2026.

[10 min presentations + 70 min discussion]

- 7.1 Brief OceanOPS progress with current Strategic Plan - Mathieu Belbeoch (10-15 mins scene setting)
- 7.2 SLA Overview: state of play of SLAs, cost/support structure - Jon Turton/Ann Zinkann

COFFEE BREAK - 10:30 - 11:00

- 7.3 Future planning for 2025-2026 activities: functions, developments, and work plan priorities - Mathieu Belbeoch
 - Main lines of work, priority actions, how European Projects fit
 - Budget overview and staffing
 - Collective/coordinated action around funding - what do networks need and how can we support network activity in this area, e.g marketing OceanOPS services, as discussed at OCG-15?
 - Risk management

7.4 Development OceanOPS Strategic Plan (2026 - 2030): outline a process and gather feedback through an interactive session - Emma Heslop

Discussion questions:

- How many networks are 'ready' to sign their SLAs, are there any major obstacles?
- How would you describe the benefits of OceanOPS services to a funder?
- What services of OceanOPS are of interest to potential national funders?
- What would be the impact on the network if OceanOPS did not exist?
- What would be the impact on the integrated system if OceanOPS did not exist?
- If you have to give an 'elevator pitch' on OceanOPS what would you say?
- Can we be more consistent and proactive in approaching national funders, should we approach national funders collectively?
- What new core services should OceanOPS provide (e.g. to all OCG networks, to GOOS, national funders, WMO)?

Proposed action/decision

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LUNCH BREAK - 12:30 - 14:00

8. Data strategy and its implementation (90 min) - Kevin O'Brien

Aim: To review the progress of the OCG Data Implementation Strategy, actions of the OCG Data Task Team and discuss its implementation across the OCG networks. This session will review the plans formed at the joint IODE-GOOS Data Workshop and subsequent work towards an IOC Data Strategy. Discuss key issues, barriers and planning for 2025-2026. Identify next steps for OCG implementation in the coming year, in the framework of an IOC Data Architecture, and cross GOOS data work. Including the work on minimum metadata (OceanOPS Passport) to gain a unique ID (WIGOS number) and onward tracking for GOOS, network and OceanOPS services. What are the ideal work flows, where are the gaps - drive work plan for implementation for the next year.

[40 min presentations + 50 min discussion]

- 8.1 OCG Data Implementation Plan & Data Task Team updates - Kevin O'Brien
 - Review results of OCG Data TT survey to networks

- Status and Roadblocks to OCG Data and Implementation Strategy - Kevin O'Brien

8.2 IOC Data Architecture concept and initial work - Emma Heslop

COFFEE BREAK - 15:30 - 16:00

[40 min presentations + 50 min discussion]

- 8.3 WMO and WIS 2.0 updates, developments and discussions
- WIS 2.0 progress in ocean domain (Tom Kralidis- remote)
 - DBCP and Argo examples of a WIS2.0/WIS 2.0 node and discussion around application for other networks, OCG, OceanOPS - Lance Braasch, Thierry Carval
 - ERDDAP example of WIS2.0 node (Kevin)
 - MCDS Update - David Berry, Champika Gallage

Discussion questions/issues:

- What are the barriers or blockages, what networks are struggling and can we make a specific plan to support?
- How can OCG help - highlight hotspots for action?
- How should data providers be acknowledged as data flows through the system and into products?
- How to have a uniform data license posture? Is this possible
- What would be the next steps to support networks in preparation for WIS2.0?

Proposed action/decision

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OCG-16 GROUP DINNER - 18:30-21:00 - Location to be confirmed (Brest)

DAY 3 - Wednesday 9 April 2025 | 09:00 - 17:30 (In local time GMT+2)

9. WORKSHOP - IOCARIBE-GOOS (details to be added soon)

Workshop agenda:

Aims:

COFFEE BREAK - 10:30 - 11:00

9. WORKSHOP - IOCARIBE-GOOS - Continued

LUNCH BREAK - 12:30 - 14:00

10. Longer term goals and objectives and expected/tracked Key Results (90 min) - details to be added soon

Aims:

Discussion questions:

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<p><i>Proposed action/decision</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•
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COFFEE BREAK - 15:30 - 16:00

11. Modelling and services input (90 min) - Ann Zinkann and Jon Turton

Aims: Panel discussion to follow presentations - with a key questions - 10 mins each presentations on CMEMS (TBC), ECMWF (Hao Zuo), NOAA (Vijay Tallapragada), CoastPredict (Nadia Pinaridi) modelling and services, presentations to consider the questions/issues below for discussion.

Some background on which observations various models use has been compiled by OceanPredict at <https://oceanpredict.org/observations-use/>

Panel (Hao, Vijay, Nadia, Ann & Jon) discussion - questions/issues for consideration:

- Which observations are presently being assimilated into which models and from which networks?
- Which observations are presently being used for model validation and from which networks?
- How do the various modelling centres access the observations (GTS, GDACs, CMEMS etc), are the present access means sufficient?
- Is the need for data EOV-based, network-based or platform-based?
- Is there a need for data products (EOV-based or network-based) as well as basic observational data/
- Why are not all GOOS network data being used in models, what are the issues (lack of availability, access, timeliness, concerns about accuracy etc)?
- Is there a disconnect between the modellers/data users and the networks/data providers?
- how can modelers communicate back to the networks/data providers on data quality issues (e.g. degradation over time) and on data needs?
- How will requirements change with AI-forecasting systems?

ADJOURN - DAY 3

DAY 4 - Thursday 10 April 2025 | 09:00 - 17:30 (In local time GMT-8)

12. EOVS Views (90 min) - Ann Zinkann, Thomas Latter

Aims: EOVS views - run an analysis on OceanOPS dashboard - miro on today, and miro on EOVS view of tomorrow, agree a set of (say 6 users) and congregate around those views we think they will need (e.g. depth, all networks, precision, geographic location)

[15 min presentations + 75 min interactive session]

- 13.1 Framework for developing EOVS views of GOOS - interactive session using Miro

Discussion questions:

- ...

Proposed action/decision

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COFFEE BREAK - 10:30 - 11:00

13. Communication GOOS / OCG - Laura Stukonyte & Emanuela Rusciano

Aims: GOOS has been undertaking a GOOS messaging and branding review, the aim of which is to enable all parts of GOOS to speak with one voice, including OCG and the networks, to improve the knowledge share of GOOS and increase branding consistency across GOOS. We will introduce the messaging work for feedback from the OCG before its launch in June 2025. There will also be an update on the 2025 Ocean Observing Report Card and discussion on changes and the online version.

[10 min presentations + 20 min]

- 14.1 GOOS Communication - Laura Stukonyte
- 14.2 GOOS Report Card - Emanuela Rusciano

Discussion questions:

- To be added

Proposed action/decision

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LUNCH BREAK - 12:30 - 14:00

14. Summarized Actions and Reflections (90 min) - David Legler and Emma Heslop

Aims: Run through the decisions, actions and recommendations across the sessions and adjust, synthesize, merge, and clarify. Develop some level of priority

Proposed action/decision

- Adoption of a set of OCG-15 decisions, actions, and recommendations

15. Planning for OCG-17 (60 min)

Proposition:

Dates: April/May

Proposed action/decision

- Suggested dates

Closing of OCG-16

Note: This agenda item can be modified based on the specific needs and focus of the meeting. The format, duration, and topics can be adjusted as needed.

Meeting Guidelines & Roles and Responsibilities

For in-person participants

- If you have a name tag from previous meetings please bring one to encourage reusing these.
- Please arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the meeting.
- Please ensure that you are engaging with both in-person and online participants.
- We encourage you to attend the workshops prior to the OCG meeting.
- Dress code: business casual.

For online participants

- Keep your microphone muted unless you are speaking. We will try to use video, unless it presents a problem for bandwidth, so join with your camera on.
- If you have a question or comment, please use the chat box to type your question/comment or indicate by raising your hand in order to be called upon by the moderator.
- Please be succinct in both your questions and answers.
- At the end of each item, please expect to be called upon to ensure all OCG members have had the chance to comment.
- The sessions will be recorded for the purpose of writing the report, and the recordings deleted afterwards.

Roles and responsibilities Chair, rapporteurs, online moderator

Chairs (indicated summary agenda)

- Introduce the speakers
- Engage in and guide the discussion
- Assist in guiding the discussion
- Make sure questions are addressed
- Wrap up the session with outcomes and actions, provide a summary of key discussion points and seek consensus if needed
- Keep agenda on track overall

Rapporteurs [indicated in detailed agenda]

- Write a summary of the key discussion points and ensure actions, decisions and recommendations are documented from the sessions - here
- Review Otter AI discussion paragraph when produced

Online Moderator (Champika)

- Monitor online participants for comments, questions, hands raised or problems
 - Be the interface in the room for online participants - facilitate their interaction
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