



OBPS\_20250917

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Commission

# **IOC Ocean Best Practices System (OBPS) Monthly Meeting**

17 September 2025  
08:00-09:00 UTC  
[ONLINE]



2025

OBPS\_20250917  
17 September 2025  
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 the delivery of the work plan.

This report is the record of the online meeting on 17 September 2025

Suggested citation:

*IOC Ocean Best Practices System (OBPS), Monthly Meeting, 17 September 2025*  
[ONLINE] Paris, UNESCO/IOC/IODE, 8pp. 2024 (OBPS\_20250917)

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## Summary

We discussed ongoing technical issues with the repository, including frequent downtime and problems with AI bots harvesting content, while exploring potential communication strategies and solutions to address these challenges. We reviewed the repository upgrade timeline and beta testing progress. We also discussed strategic planning efforts, including upcoming opportunities for community feedback and the migration of the current repository to a new server, while acknowledging the need to stabilize the repository and establish new relationships with various organizations.

### 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

The meeting commenced at 08:00 UTC. Apologies were noted from Virginie Van Dongen-Vogels, Frank Muller-Karger, M. Jose Luiz Moutinho, Rebecca Zitoun, and Jay Pearlman. The session was recorded with attendees' consent ([see recording here](#)). A list of participants is included in Annex I.

### 2. REPOSITORY

We discussed ongoing issues with the repository, particularly its frequent downtime due to problems with AI bots harvesting content from the repository. Patricia and Pauline reported that user emails had been received. The EDS is still operational but linking back to the DSpace Repository did not work because the DSpace Repository was down more than it was available. Pauline reminded that using the Explore Document tab on the EDS record display would provide access to the EDS full text copy. She confirmed that she had requested adding a banner or apology message to the DSpace Repository and EDS but Arno reported it was not feasible as it could further delay response times. The group agreed on the need for some form of communication about the problems, with suggestions to post an apology on the website and LinkedIn. Emma suggested that we communicate the operational issues in a neutral way, without providing specific details.

**Action:** Patricia to add a note on the OBPS Website landing page and post on LinkedIn

Justin explained that it is important to understand where the harvested content is going and its potential impact, while Pauline noted that this is a global problem affecting repositories. It was discussed whether the bot activity could be seen as a form of a KPI, filtering the accesses to the repository from human or AI interactions. Regarding this, Arno noted that AI bots are scraping content from the repository without proper attribution or citation. He explained that these bots operate as root users and ignore existing bot control systems, making it impossible to track or control them effectively. Justin noted that proper citation mechanisms would be important for understanding the impact of AI-reused content in the future for credited AI bots while restricting uncredited ones, and noted that current AI systems lack the sophistication to differentiate content from multiple sources.

The team also discussed the repository upgrade and beta testing progress. Patricia presented a timeline from D2T, the subcontractor responsible for upgrading DSpace. Both Pauline and Patricia are currently testing the upgraded software and will meet with D2T later today to review the issues identified so far. The project timeline will then be discussed and adjusted, taking into account the one-week delay in the current plan.

### **3. SG ANNUAL MEETING**

We discussed rescheduling the SG Annual Meeting from October to early December due to time constraints and the need to renovate the SG with new members from the IOC. Emma explained that this process would take approximately three weeks, including recruiting new members and inviting current members to express their interest in remaining. Justin proposed to include members from the European Commission Best Practices and Standard System and the Ocean Practices AISBL, with Emma suggesting this should be addressed after the relationship with them is clearer.

### **4. STRATEGIC PLANNING**

We discussed the progress on strategic planning, with Justin reporting that while delays occurred due to role changes, Patricia has created [this two-page summary](#) that needs review by the SG by the end of the month. Justin noted that the session to present the OBPS Strategy at the AGU Ocean Sciences meeting in Glasgow next February 2026 needs to be updated by October 4th to finalize the session description and speakers. This session will be used to gather community feedback. Next steps on the Strategic planning are conducting a SWOT analysis, potentially including external experts for stakeholder input.

**Action:** SG to review [this two-page summary](#) of the Strategic Planning Sessions by the end of September.

### **5. OCEAN PRACTICES DIALOGUES**

The first webinar organised by Jose M. with Sahar Stevenson-Jones as a speaker is scheduled on the 6th of October. Registration link is here:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_GKN9QgB1Qcu5Rdu9oof2Yw#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_GKN9QgB1Qcu5Rdu9oof2Yw#/registration)

## 6. CLOSE OF THE MEETING

The meeting closed at 09:00 UTC.

## ANNEX I

### LIST OF PARTICIPANTS [ONLINE]

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