



Global Ocean Observing System



# GOOS Regional Alliance (GRA) Council Meeting

2025.10.16

# Agenda

## 1. GOOS Updates

- 1.1. GOOS Workplan 2025-2027
- 1.2. GOOS Governance Reform
- 1.3. Communication update

## 2. GRA Council Updates

- 2.1. Action items updates from GRA Forum XI and SC-14 (Alvaro Scardilli)
- 2.2. GRA Reporting Template (Jing Li)
- 2.3. Updates on Benefits of Ocean Observing Catalog (BOOC) (Laura Gewain)

## 3. GRA application areas

- 3.1. Introduction (Alvaro Scardilli)
- 3.2. Ocean Teacher Global Academy (OTGA) Introduction (Ana Caroline Mazzuco)
- 3.3. Discussion

## 4. Preparation of GRA Forum XII

## 5. AOB





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# 1. GOOS Updates

**Joanna POST**

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Director Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS)

Acting Head International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE)



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# 1.1 GOOS Workplan 2025-2027

# GOOS Steering Committee

## Focus 2025-2027

GOOS SC-14 Report  
IOC-WMO/GOOS-SC-33/s

### I. Core Coordination and Collaboration

### II. Observation system design and development

- A. Expert Panels
- B. Carbon and GHG Plan
- C. Biodiversity Plan
- D. EOV-led Ocean Indicators
- E. RRR and Evolving GBON

### III. Strengthening data integration and delivery

- A. Observations Coordination
- B. IOC Data Architecture

### IV. System implementation

- A. At national and regional level
  - 1. National Focal Points
  - 2. GOOS Regional Alliances
- B. And applications
  - 1. ETOOFS
  - 2. Engagement on applications, including forecasting
  - 3. Early Warning for All

### V. Outreach and Partners

- A. Projects
- B. Partners
- C. Communications

### VI. Reform

Evolve GOOS Governance

Focus directly linked to

# The Global Ocean Observing System

2030 Strategy



# GOOS Steering Committee

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- A. At national and regional level
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Task Team on NFP Implementation Guidelines

Task Team on ETOOFS

Task Team on GOOS engagement with EW4ALL

### V. Outreach and Partners

- A. Projects
- B. Partners
- C. Communications

Task Team on GOOS Projects

Task Team on Engagement with Private Sector

Activities are continuing as per the focus shown as well as 5 focused task teams

### VI. Reform

Evolve GOOS Governance



# A-33 Requests to GOOS Observations in National Jurisdiction

- Requests GOOS to raise awareness of the marine scientific research (MSR) process, such as through relevant communications, including appropriate links to information;
- Also requests GOOS to consult with its networks, and relevant UN organizations and stakeholders, including DOALOS, on the feasibility of revising the 2010 DOALOS "Marine Scientific Research. A revised guide to the implementation of the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea" and report back to it at its 34th session; (*GOOS sec tasked to follow up*)
- Requests the GOOS Steering Committee to provide a draft proposal on the actions that IOC could take to address the challenges, identified by the working group, for the Ship-of-Opportunity Programme to the IOC Executive Council at its 59th session, with the aim to present a proposal for consideration by the IOC Assembly at its 34th session; (*OCG tasked to follow up*)
- **Invites IOC's regional subsidiary bodies and GOOS regional alliances to act as intermediaries between national authorities and research networks and facilitate awareness of the MSR clearance process by offering consistent technical advice and guidance, as well as coordinating efforts to streamline procedures among countries with similar regional characteristics;**

# JCB: Global Basic Observing Network

## Objective

- Evolving WMO GBON with GOOS to include additional ocean variables
- Evolving joint understanding of an 'Ocean Basic Observing Network' encompassing all GOOS delivery areas

## Progress

- First meeting of the subgroup 9 September
- Key issues discussed: Scope Creep, System Alignment, Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ), Connecting Expert Teams within IOC and WMO, Financing, Data sharing, Trust and transparency
- Next meeting (October): discussion during the next session on application areas and what we would include under a GBON was received positively. In addition, developing a list of expert groups to interview, with a set of consistent questions. Other topics for future discussion include trust, transparency, financing, and tracking mechanisms.





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# 1.2 GOOS Reform

# GOOS Reform - Accenture

## DELIVERABLE I (22/08/2025)

- \* Detailed project plan and approach to the work expected as part of the work and to be coordinated with the GOOS director and team.

## DELIVERABLE II (26/09/2025)

- \* Mission and Scoping Review identifying what is the unique value proposition of GOOS. The deliverable will include GOOS' role, goals and the key activities it will undertake to achieve its mission.

## **DELIVERABLE III (10/10/2025)**

- \* Structure detailed Review across all the constituent internal components of GOOS as detailed in Terms of References. The deliverable will include a gap analysis with respect to the mission and scope as defined under Deliverable II highlighting areas where change may be required.

## DELIVERABLE IV (30/11/2025)

- \* Initial draft of proposal for revised GOOS. The deliverable will include the following components:
  - Organizational design for GOOS staff
  - Key principles GOOS' ways of working
  - Revised governance structure for GOOS' committees, accountability mechanisms and decision-making principles

## DELIVERABLE V (31/12/2025)

- \* Submission of final Proposal following feedback from relevant stakeholders



# The Secretariat's forward-focused mission statement outlines its essential role in delivering coordinated action and strategic outcomes for GOOS

Support stakeholders with implementation of effective observation systems

Support continuous improvement of ocean observing system to meet changing scientific, environmental, and technological needs

Facilitate worldwide coordination and data sharing for a unified, comprehensive ocean monitoring value chain

Be receptive to the GOOS components, sponsors, member states, users, and the broader ocean observation ecosystem

Build a robust and adaptable system that can withstand disruptions and deliver long-term, reliable data

To **enable** and **evolve** a **globally integrated, responsive, and resilient** ocean observing system for **thriving communities** and a **healthy ocean**

Ensure essential data are ultimately transformed into actionable insights to support resilient societies and protect ecosystems – turning science into real-world impact while advancing blue economy



# The OKRs operationalize the GOOS Secretariat's mission, breaking it down into strategic priorities and measurable outcomes

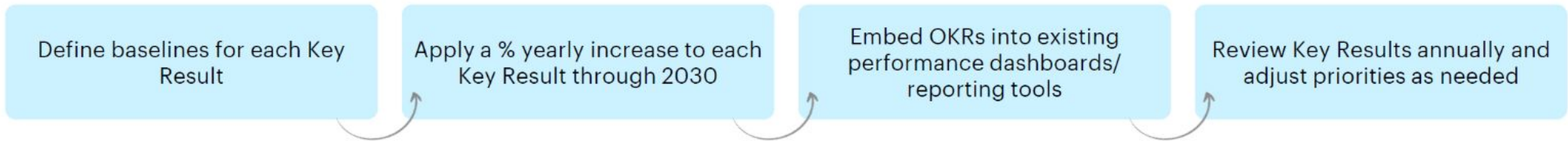
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To enable and evolve a globally integrated, responsive, and resilient ocean observing system for thriving communities and a healthy ocean

99

|                   |  |  |  |   |
|-------------------|--|--|--|---|
| <b>Objective</b>  | <b>Enable ocean observing system</b>                         | <b>Evolve globally integrated ocean observing system</b>                                 | <b>Be responsive to member states, scientific community, and users</b> | <b>Ensure resilience of the global ocean observing system</b> |
| <b>Key Result</b> | <b>% observing systems with interoperable EOVS dataflows</b> | <b># of member states contributing to and sharing data from ocean observing networks</b> | <b># of co-developed initiatives or products with stakeholders</b>     | <b>% increase in GOOS funding and commitments</b>             |

## Next steps for OKRs implementation



# By acting on its strategic choices, the Secretariat will be empowered to adapt its operational focus for greater impact and sustained relevance

## FROM...

## ...TO



Reacting to the **immediate** needs of the ocean observing community



Shaping and **advising** the global ocean observing agenda



Viewing the **scientific community** as the primary stakeholder



Being agile and responsive to **member states, the scientific community, and users of ocean observation**



Relying on **member state contributions** for funding



**Sustaining public funding** from diversified member states, supplemented by growing financial and in-kind contributions from **non-traditional actors**



Operating under a **broad-based sponsorship structure** (e.g., IOC, WMO, UNEP, and ISC)

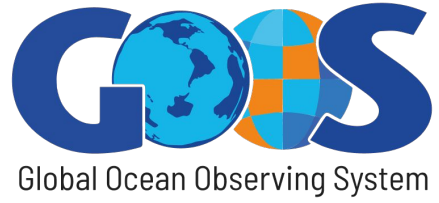


Engaging with **key strategic sponsors** (e.g., IOC, WMO), supported by a broader coalition with clearly defined **roles and priorities**

# Prioritized roles aligned with strategic choices will enable the Secretariat to advance its mission and better support the ocean observing community

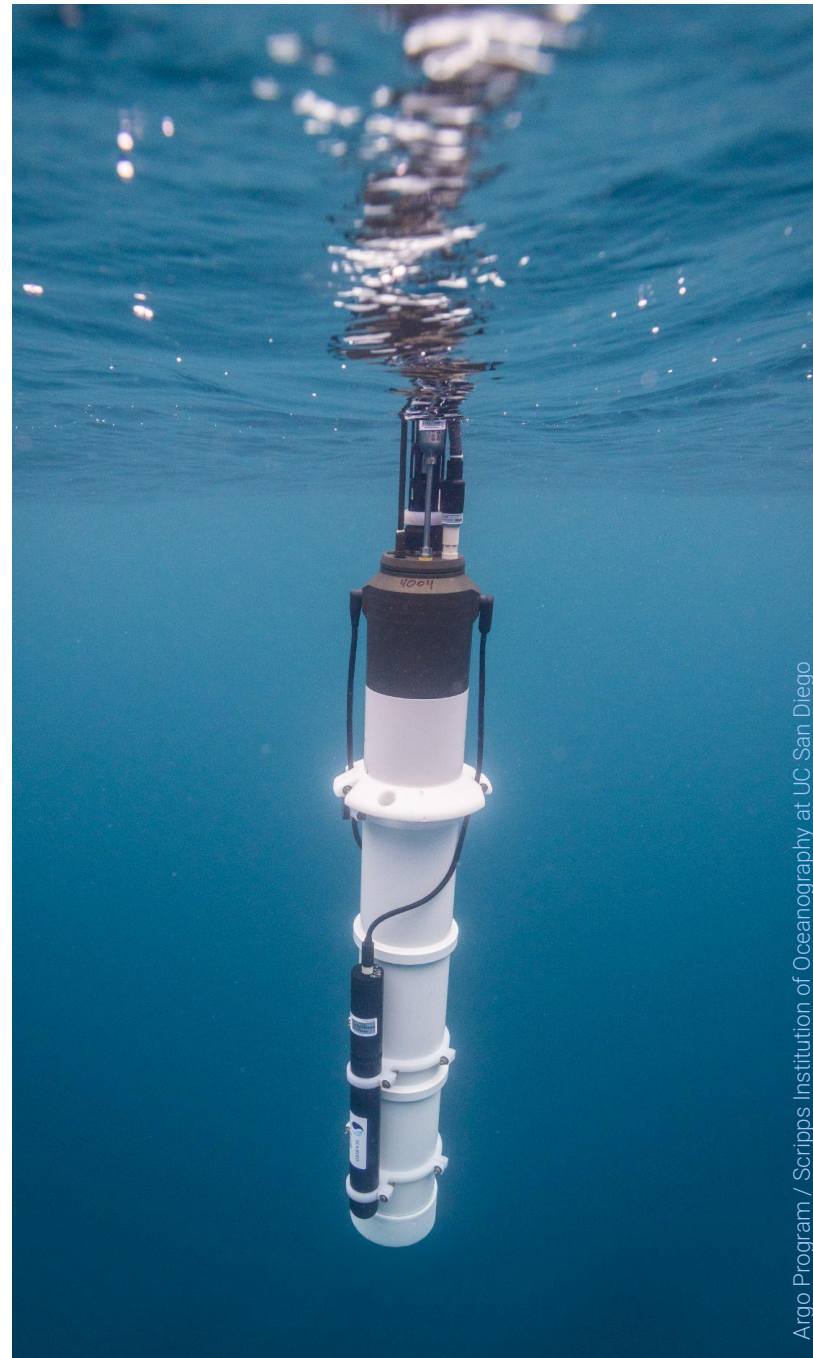


1) In coordination with Ocean Decade

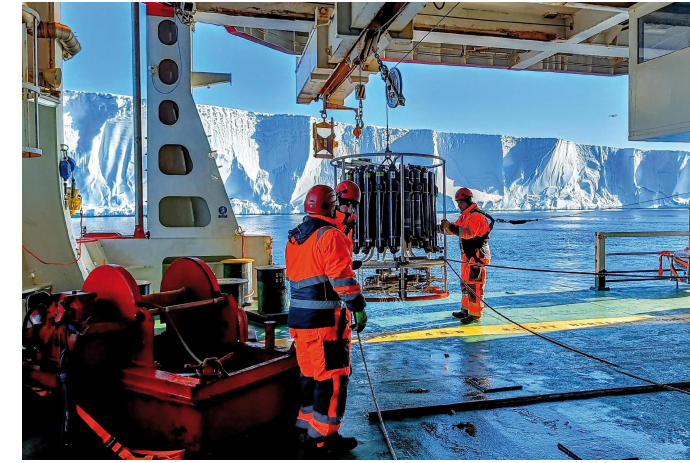


# Thank you

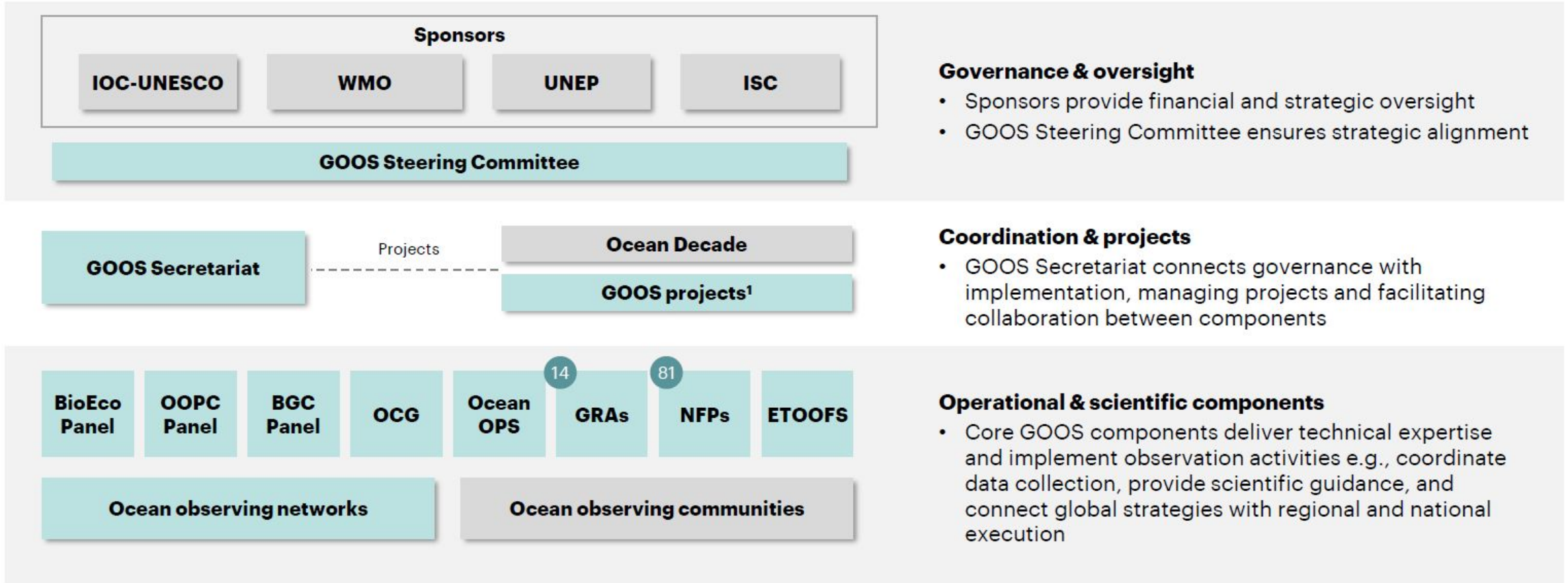
[goosocean.org](http://goosocean.org)



Argo Program / Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego



# To support strategic redesign, we analyzed the structure to understand how the different components collectively deliver on the GOOS mission



# Number of GRAs/NFPs

**GOOS**

**Outside GOOS**



## The GRA TOR presents opportunities to enhance and specify its scope, and to clarify interactions, particularly with NFPs and the Secretariat

|                                     | Score  | Key findings   |
|-------------------------------------|--------|--|
| <b>Purpose / mandate</b>            | Medium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Clear alignment with GOOS mission</li> <li>✗ Heavy overlap with NFPs, especially for “National System” structured GRAs</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Scope of responsibilities</b>    | Medium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Detailed list of responsibilities focused on GRA’s role with the GRC</li> <li>✗ Responsibilities tend to be more aspirational than clearly defined</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Structure &amp; governance</b>   | Medium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Governed by the GOOS Regional Council with the role to coordinate between GRAs and the GOOS Secretariat and SC</li> <li>✓ Clear mandate for bi-annual GOOS Regional Forums</li> <li>✓ Outlines GRA annual report requirement</li> <li>✗ Lack of financial stability, as the GRC is funded by the GRAs</li> <li>✗ Uneven “voice” as some countries are participating in multiple GRAs</li> <li>✗ Wide variation of GRA structure and entity types</li> </ul> |
| <b>Membership &amp; composition</b> | Low    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Dynamic coverage of coalitions of nations and/or institutions</li> <li>✓ Specified term length for GRC Chair</li> <li>✗ Loose qualification and approval criteria to onboard new GRAs</li> <li>✗ Qualification process and membership approval is not clearly outlined</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Interactions</b>                 | Low    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ GRC chair serves as an ex officio member of the GOOS SC</li> <li>✓ Encouragement for GRAs to collaborate with expert panels, observing networks, national ocean observing systems, etc.</li> <li>✗ Unclear interaction with NFPs, GOOS secretariat and IOC Sub-Commissions</li> </ul>   |
| <b>TOR vs. reality gaps</b>         |        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ Wide variation of structure (Political Consortium, Basins and Regions, SIDS, Thematic, National Systems) and entity types (Inter-governmental, Government, Non-Governmental Organizations, Institutions, IOC Sub-commissions, National Marine Agencies) for GRAs</li> <li>✗ The 14 GRAs vary in maturity levels and frequently lack the capabilities to deliver on the responsibilities outlined in the TOR</li> </ul>                                      |

