



Global Ocean Observing System



# Session 5: GOOS reform - Structure and governance

## 5.2 GOOS Regional Alliances Role

# 1. GRA brainstorming discussions

## Questions:

- 1) What are the general strengths of the GRA community and value to GOOS, and why should GRAs remain a part of GOOS?
- 2) What benefit or value does GOOS offer to the GRAs? How can we improve the alignment and interaction between GRAs and GOOS? Are there opportunities to increase engagement from the GRAs with GOOS components?
- 3) How might GRA structure, governance and processes need to evolve to deliver both the GRA mission and the GOOS mission, including necessary components and observing priorities, standards based data recommendations, and engagement with key stakeholders and member states? Are GRAs in the right form to advance GOOS priorities?

# A few key points raised during discussion

- Differentiate the roles and niches of **GRAs** (coordination and facilitation) VS **NFPs** (promote and support)
- GRAs are diversified - different focus (coastal/EEZ VS open ocean; phy VS multidisciplinary), uneven capacity and unclear mandates across GRAs
  - Categorise GRAs
  - Keep flexibility while harmonise the missions
- No clear governance - e.g. lack of clear pathway to become a GRA!
- Need to have a clear understanding of 'what is GOOS?' and then thinking about the alignment.
- Needs to have a clear Terms of Reference of GRA
- GRA-NFP linkage mapping - strengthen GRA's role in building relationship with MS

## Major uptake:

- To update the GOOS Regional Policy with clear ToR, government and procedures of GRAs, aligned with GOOS V&M.

## 2. GRA -SC Joint Session

### Questions:

1. Do you agree that GRAs should be part of the GOOS structure?
  - On the organisaiton chart - Is this the right place for GRAs?
2. Do you agree that there should be some level of reporting to GOOS SC?
  - Which key results should GRAs be responsible for?
3. What should be the minimum requirements that are set by GOOS (Member States) that GRAs commit to?
  - e.g. All GRAs should agree to the vision of GOOS?
  - In 5 years where do you see your GRA connecting to GOOS?
4. What should be the minimum requirements that are expected of GOOS from GRAs?

## 2. Major Uptakes from GRA-SC Joint Discussions

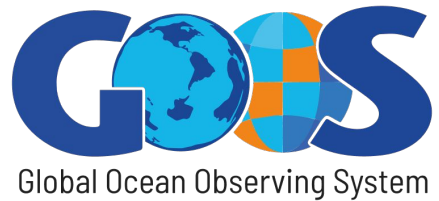
- GRAs agree they are an integral part of GOOS. Following discussion of the proposed reporting structure in the GOOS reform report, GRAs suggested language changes (GRAs should appear as 'GOOS Regional Council') but generally agreed GRAs appear in the right place in the structure.
- GRAs discussed the proposed reporting elements (objectives and key results). It was agreed with the SC that a 5th objective focused on delivery areas would be added, that GRAs would be added to the reporting elements table, and that the key results as listed are not appropriate for GRA reporting. GRAs committed to draft a set of key results appropriate for GRA reporting.
- Minimum requirements set by GOOS (Member States) that GRAs commit to:
  - **GRAs support the vision and mission of GOOS, and considered adding a statement to reinforce this.**
  - **GRAs will report to GOOS on key results via the GRA Council, improving communication.**
  - **GRAs commit to collecting data, QC, sharing data and technology transfer**
  - **GRAs commit to improve communication with other GOOS components (eg. NFPs)**
- Minimum requirements expected of GOOS from GRAs:
  - **GOOS to support linking with funding opportunities and connection with donors**
  - **GOOS to support access to capacity development, data sharing and new technology access**
  - **GOOS to set up global priorities on areas of common ground**
  - **GOOS to link GRAs with MS. Met offices in the region**
  - **GOOS needs to have a mechanism to link different components of GOOS.**

# Next steps

- GRAs will refresh the Terms of Reference, acknowledging that while each GRA is unique in their structure and priorities, they also commit to the GOOS vision, mission, and objectives.
- GRAs will review their vision and mission statements in order to verify alignment with GOOS vision and mission.
- GRAs will define minimum requirements aligned with GOOS Strategy that all GRAs can commit to; they will also define specific minimum requirements and contributions from individual GRAs considering their differences.

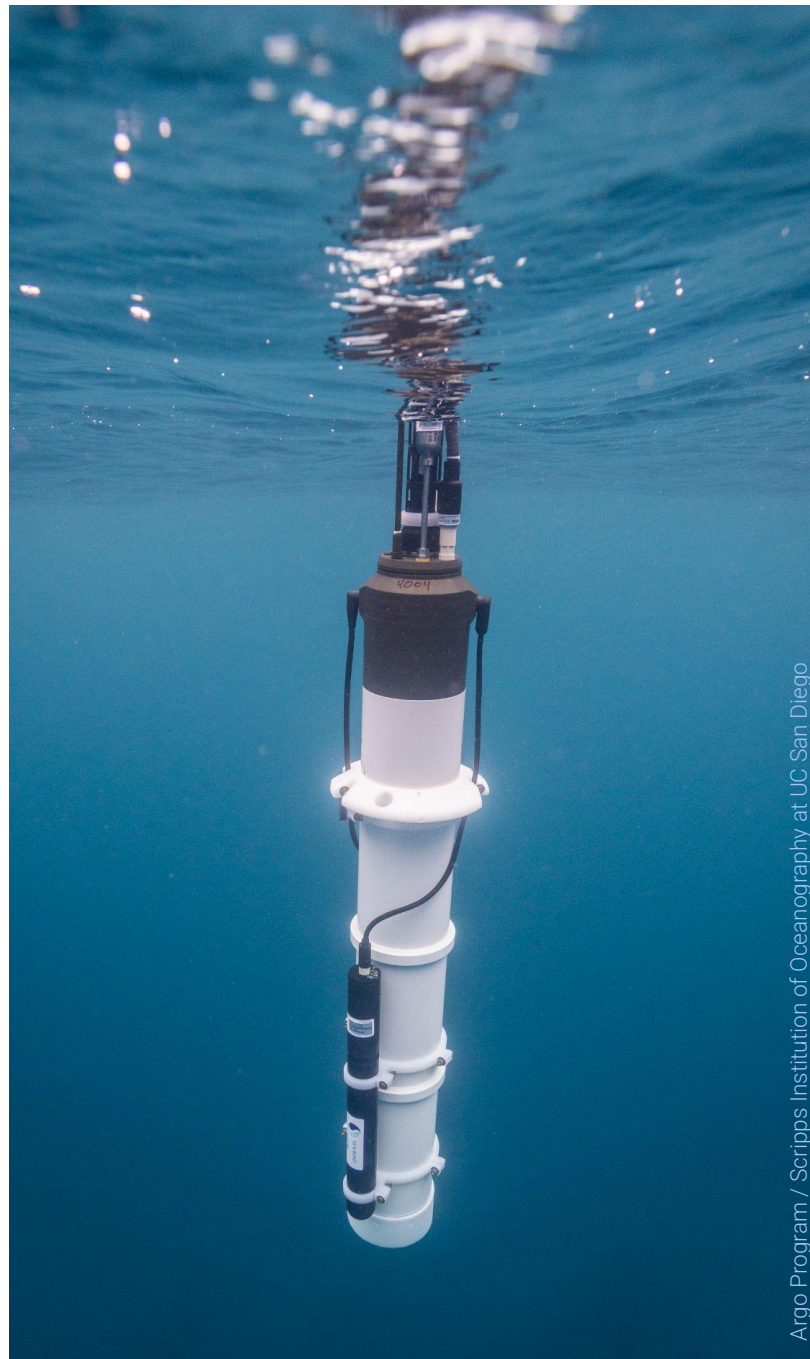
# Two key questions for the SC

- Will GRAs have opportunities to provide input to the next round of GOOS reform recommendations, in particular the GRA-related content that will be presented to the IOC in June 2026?
- Where does GOOS SC see the interaction with GRAs in 5 years?



# Thank you

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



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