



Global Ocean Observing System



Session 5.3: Infrastructure Coordination Group

Session chairs: Albert Fischer and Emma Heslop

15th GOOS Steering Committee meeting | 25-27 March 2026 | Hyderabad, India

Comments from OCG

Comments from BioEco Panel

Summary of comments

Comments

- There is need for a clearer, agreed articulation of what the goal/mandate of the ICG actually is.
- OCG contributes much more to GOOS and the data providers than just data and infrastructure.
- GOOS must articulate to the IOC Exec Council exactly what resources are needed to undertake this.
- The ambition to coordinate all ocean observing data providers, including the biological community, is substantial, and the time and resources required should be honestly assessed against what is realistically deliverable. Need to revise ICG scope with full understanding of its implications.
- OceanOPS is currently a 10-person joint center. They are the operational arm of the GOOS Secretariat, their visibility shouldn't be dissolved into the ICG, and they simply cannot take on this expanded scope without a dedicated budget and additional people power
- the reform places a huge emphasis on the ICG as a "data provider" and explicitly tasks OceanOPS with aggregating actual data alongside metadata. Moving from metadata tracking to hosting actual data is a substantial addition to OceanOPS's current mandate

- There is a voluntary collaborative nature of a small number of Member States in many of these global networks. They are perhaps missing mechanisms to agree on requirements, identify commitments, to measure progress and identify future risk, and fully engage users.
- The ICG would have to be structured internally in a way that separated global networks from others while allowing for strong cross-talk and integration.
- Identify and codify clear functional links between INFCOM and GOOS structures, particularly ICG. Consider if the JCB is needed in this context, or whether it can be rescoped to exclude Infrastructure issues (data issues may not be covered in GOOS though).
- The ICG, at least the part connected to global high-seas-spanning observing networks and OceanOPS sharing data in real time, should ideally maintain strong connections into various INFCOM bodies.
- Explicit mention (and making connections) of GSOP and CEOS would seem important.
- How should the relationship between the ICG and the national observing network be regarded?

Integration with IODE

- Missing clear understanding of the connection with IODE (OBIS and ODIS)
- The “merged into a single component” language must be corrected to clearly state that IODE coordinates with the ICG through representation, not merger. IODE’s governance as an IOC programme body reporting to the IOC Assembly is not negotiable.
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Comments - integration with BioEco

- Expanding OceanOPS and the ICG to handle biology, coastal data, and enhanced metadata standards requires a reality check on resourcing. The BioEco panel is already under-resourced
- The BioEco Panel is already working alongside OceanOPS and the OCG to improve metadata flows for biological observing data, and we agree that this integration makes sense. Could build on this existing capability rather than construct new coordination structures.
 - The BioEco Panel, OBIS, and external partners already hold the expertise, relationships, and community recognition that ICG will need.
- This pathway can be strengthened and resourced through the reform and will simplify GOOS to the outside world and improve delivery of information. OCG's operational approach can assist in reducing the complexity of biological data.
 - this approach to breaking down silos between physical, biogeochemical, and biological observations is highly commendable and marks a significant leap forward for the community.
- OBIS is already well-positioned in this space: it specialises in ocean biodiversity data and is deeply connected to biological observing communities through its global network of OBIS Nodes.

From BioEco Panel

Implementation proposal: BioEco data coordination

Scenario 1 - Proposal is kept as is:

- Develop transition plan in close collaboration with the BioEco Panel
- Include at least one OBIS representative formally within the ICG, and establish a dedicated paid position to work across the BioEco Panel and the ICG, connecting these two components
- Some biological observing communities are already well-coordinated and represent an accessible entry point for early ICG engagement. These communities should be prioritised for initial outreach, with care taken to respect the identities and branding they have established independently.

Scenario 2 - Keep known OCG structure but add Bioeco data to the remit:

- Develop an explicit plan to encompass biological observing within the current remit of the OCG and OceanOPS, with OBIS as an essential and formally recognised partner throughout.
- Scope out the technology and data system improvements required to support biological data within this expanded framework, as these needs are distinct from those of physical and biogeochemical observing.
- Establish a dedicated paid position to work across the BioEco Panel, OBIS, and the OCG/OceanOPS, ensuring coherent coordination across all components.



Break out groups

Discussion questions:

- What should be the scope of the ICG?
- What are its outputs?

Homework

Mission, Scope and Accountability:

- Each GOOS component to place examples of potential contributions to the objectives in the table:
[Accountability Mechanisms work](#)
- **Mathias, Gabrielle, Alvaro, Emma, Mathieu:** Create a new objective 5 draft around service areas, delivery impact, thriving community and ocean health, etc. and reconcile objectives 3 and 5. (have ready for DAY 2 reporting)
- **Albert, Joanna and Champika:** to meet and look at alignment and provide comments for the objectives as homework and have ready for DAY 3 reporting? Or DAY 2?

GOOS and its “users”

- All participants to help identify users: [Who are the users?](#)

Closing day 1

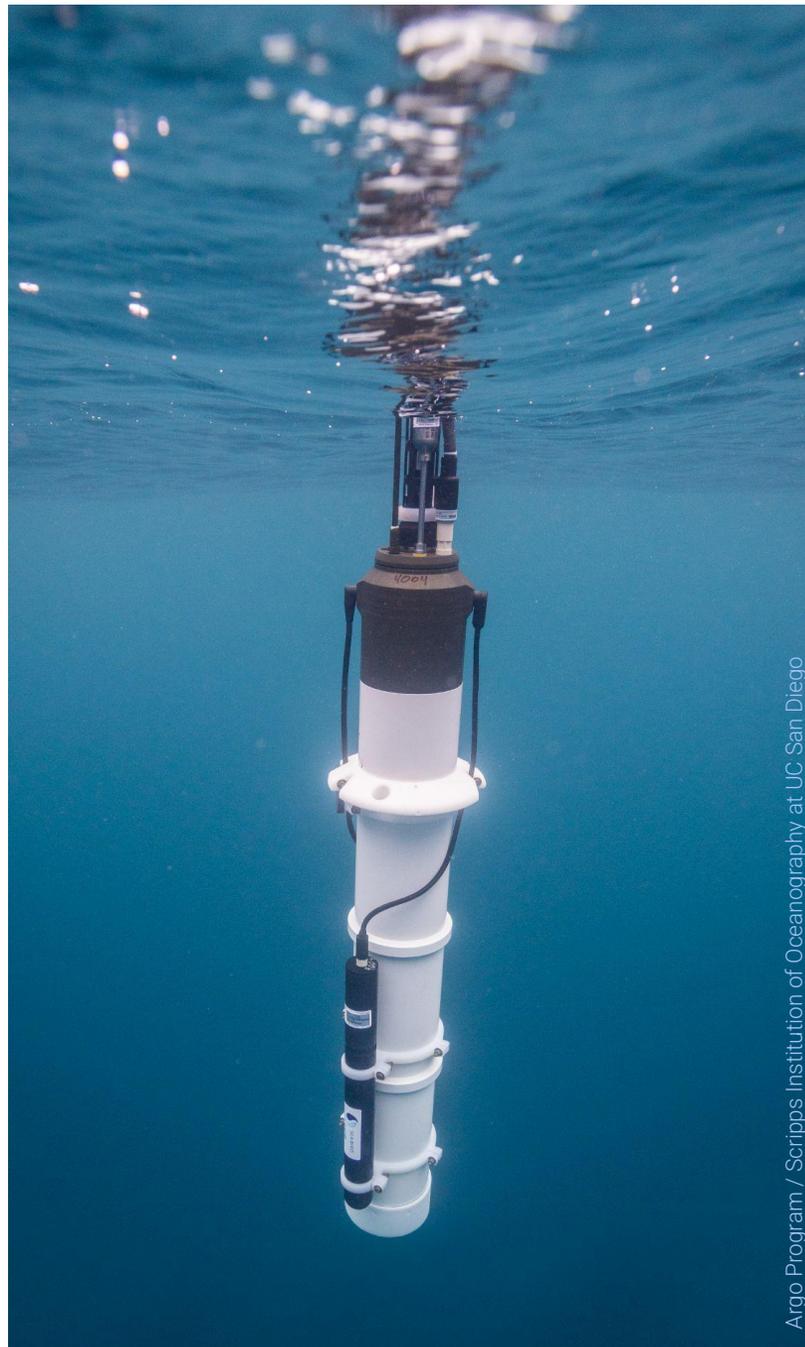
Reporting back from groups and discussion - DAY 2

Decisions



Thank you

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Argo Program / Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego

