



Global Ocean Observing System



Session 7.1: GOOS National Focal Points (NFPs)

Caroline Cusack & Jing Li

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

Key updates (max 5 points)

1. **NFP nomination updates** - 81 GOOS NFPs in total!

Geographically: Group I (20/24) | Group II (8/14) | Group III (11/31) | Group IV (16/35) | Group V (26/48)

Gender: Female (25) VS Male (56)

Changes: **2025** (IOC CL#3024): 5 new countries; 12 updates | **2026** (Jan-Mar): 4 updates

1. **NFP survey responses (see slide#4) - 45 responses**

Communications & Support | National coordination | National Priority | NFP evolving roles | Advisory Group

1. **3rd NFP Forum** (27 October 2026, online, 39 NFPs + 5 Observers & 5 Sec)

- GOOS Updates | NFP Updates and NFP Survey Result | Communication Updates
- National report (Spain, Portugal, Indonesia, Malta, DR Congo, Chile)
- GOOS OCG & networks - working towards FAIR data (Emma Heslop)

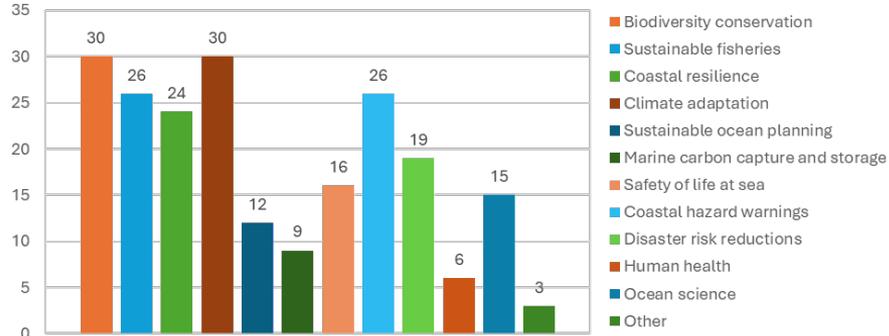
1. **NFP Implementation Guideline Development (via Task Team)** - Caroline



GRA & GOOS NFPs mapping

GRAs	# of MS	# of GOOS NFPs	Percentage
GRA: IMOS	1	1	100%
GRA: U.S. IOOS	1	1	100%
GRA: CIOOS	1	1	100%
GRA: OCEATLAN	3	3	100%
GRA: NEAR-GOOS	4	4	100%
GRA: GRASP	4	4	100%
GRA: Black Sea GOOS	6	6	100%
GRA: MonGOOS	12	10	83%
GRA: IOGOOS	17	15	88%
GRA: EuroGOOS	19	18	95%
GRA: SEAGOOS	21	14	67%
GRA: PI-GOOS	27	5	19%
GRA: IOCARIBE-GOOS	30	9	30%
GRA: GOOS Africa	38	22	58%

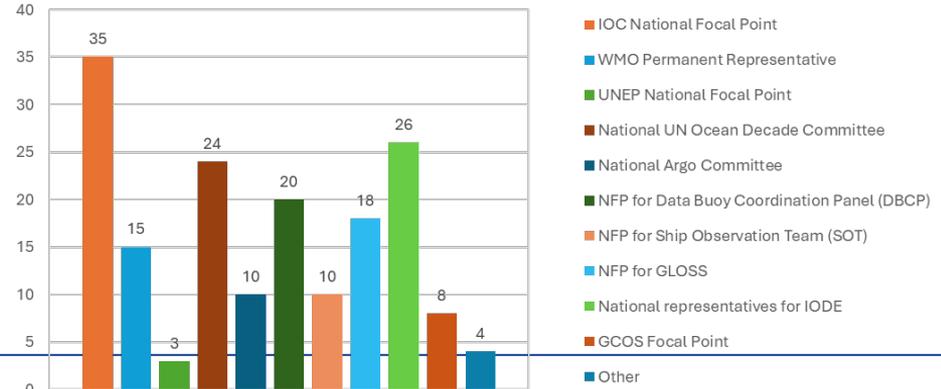
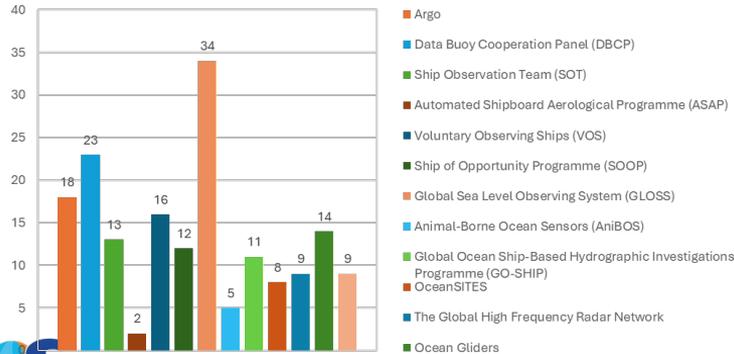
NFP Survey - key results



Supports needed from GOOS

- Training and capacity building (technical, management, fundraising)
- Support to connect to ocean observation networks
- NFP guidelines
- Communication toolkits
- Report template
- Information /resource/knowledge exchange platform
- Data management and dataflow

26 respondents (59%) answered **coastal areas** for this question.



NFP Implementation Guideline Task Team

GOOS NFP overarching objective

“promote and support nationally and regionally coordinated strategies for the implementation of a sustained global ocean observing system that delivers the essential information needed for our sustainable development, safety, wellbeing and prosperity”

ToR Link: <https://goosocean.org/document/32763>

Task Team - 18 members / 16 NFPs from 17 Countries

List (ordered alphabetically by first name; names underlined are coordinating the document content): Abed El Rahman Hassoun (OCG Standards & BPs, GEOMAR, Germany), Aldo Drago (Malta), Alvaro Scardilli (GOOS – SC, Argentina), Bope Bope Lapwon (DR Congo), Caroline Cusack (GOOS – SC, Ireland), Champika Gallage (WMO, Switzerland), Dana Alhouti (Kuwait), Hamad Alnashri (Saudi Arabia), Henning Wehde (Norway), **IODE/OceanOps rep – tbd**, Jing Li (Secretariat, France), Joao Vitorino (Portugal), Leonardo Moreno (Colombia), Manfred Zeiler (Germany), Matias Sifon (GOOS – SC, Chile), Nelly Florida (Indonesia), Pierre Yves Le Traon (France), Steffen Olsen (Denmark), Victor Komorin (GOOS – SC, Ukraine)



Progress

NFP Reporting Template

- Examples shared
- There is a section allocated to this in the implementation guidelines (WiP - work in progress)

NFP Messaging Guide

- GOOS secretariate produces an excellent **GOOS Communications Toolkit**
- Need to prepare bespoke slides for NFP new joiners (2026.04)

NFP Implementation Guidelines

- WiP - work in progress
- **NFP Guideline Structure:** Introduction ([link](#)); 2.1 Facilitate National Coordination ([link](#)); 2.2 Support National Connection and Contribution to GOOS ([link](#)); 2.3 Promote the work of GOOS at national level ([link](#)); 2.4 NFP Reporting ([link](#)); 3. Resources ([link](#)).

Please contact us if there is there anything you feel strongly about that should to be included in the “NFP Implementation Guidelines”



Next steps

1. Development of NFP Guidelines

March/April 2026

- Each section coordinator organises a writing team meeting.
- Joanna to help identify an expert from OceanOPS/IODE to join the TT

Late April 2026: All members of the task team to reconvene

June 2026 (Draft) | **July/August 2026** (Solicit Comments) | **October 2026** (Final Draft from TT)

1. Establish NFP Advisory Group

Up to 10 NFP reps + SC co-chairs (as needed) + GOOS Sec rep + IODE Mgmt group rep + **ETOOFS rep (?)**

1. Strengthen communication among NFPs

- Regularly solicit updates from NFPs and link to GOOS Quarterly bulletin
- In depth discussion with individual NFPs (Ireland, Germany, Australia, China,)

1. Keep GOOS NFPs up-to-date

- Via regular Circular Letters (biennial)



Two Key questions for the SC

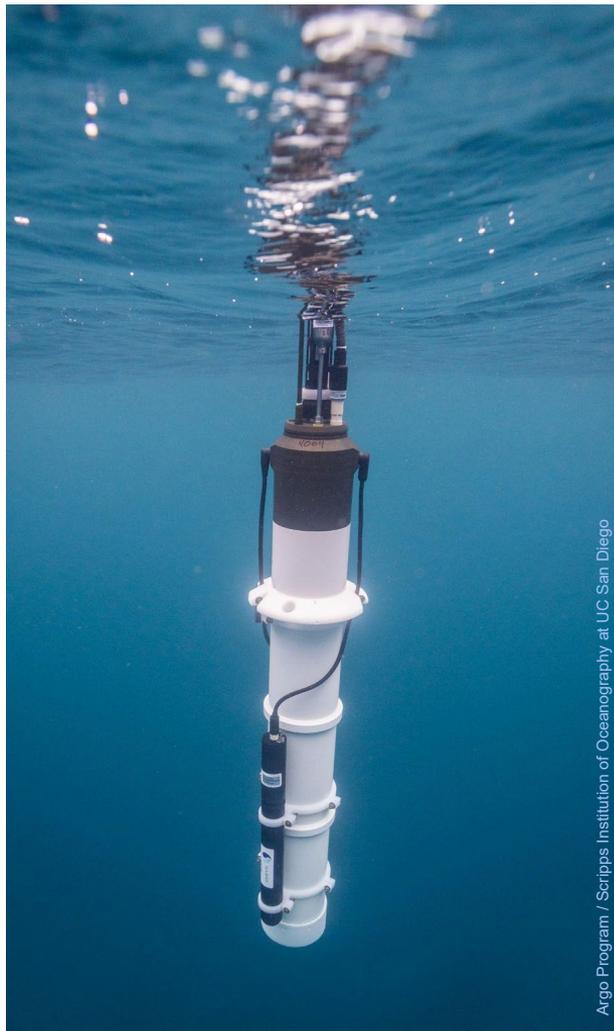
Since the influence and effectiveness of NFPs depend heavily on the level of support they receive from individual the Member States (MSs)

- **How can NFPs be empowered when they are assigned additional responsibilities or KPI-driven tasks?**
 - ◆ Strengthen the NFPs' role and interaction model to increase MS participation, improve national coordination, and enhance alignment with global standards.

- **Can you advise on what the NFPs should report to the GOOS SC?**
 - ◆ While the TT is working on this in the Implementation Guideline Section, other views are welcome.



**Thank
you** goosocean.org



Argo Program / Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego