



Global Ocean Observing System



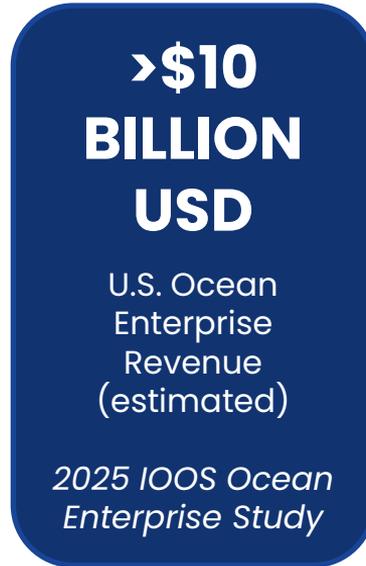
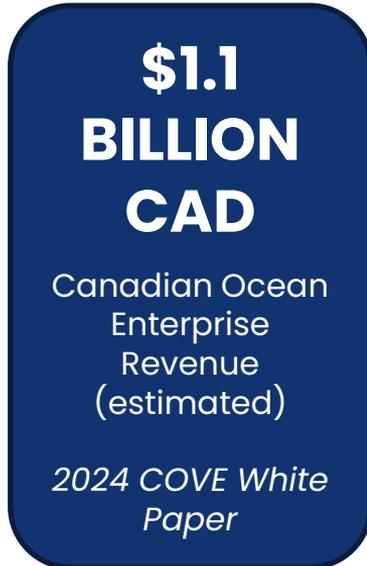
Session 7.9: Ocean Enterprise Initiative

GOOS-MTS-NOAA Partnership

Emma Heslop, IOC/UNESCO, Zdenka Willis, Hans van Summeren, Peer Fietzick, Donna ,
Jessica Snowden, Hadley

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

The Ocean Enterprise is a Growing Market Sector

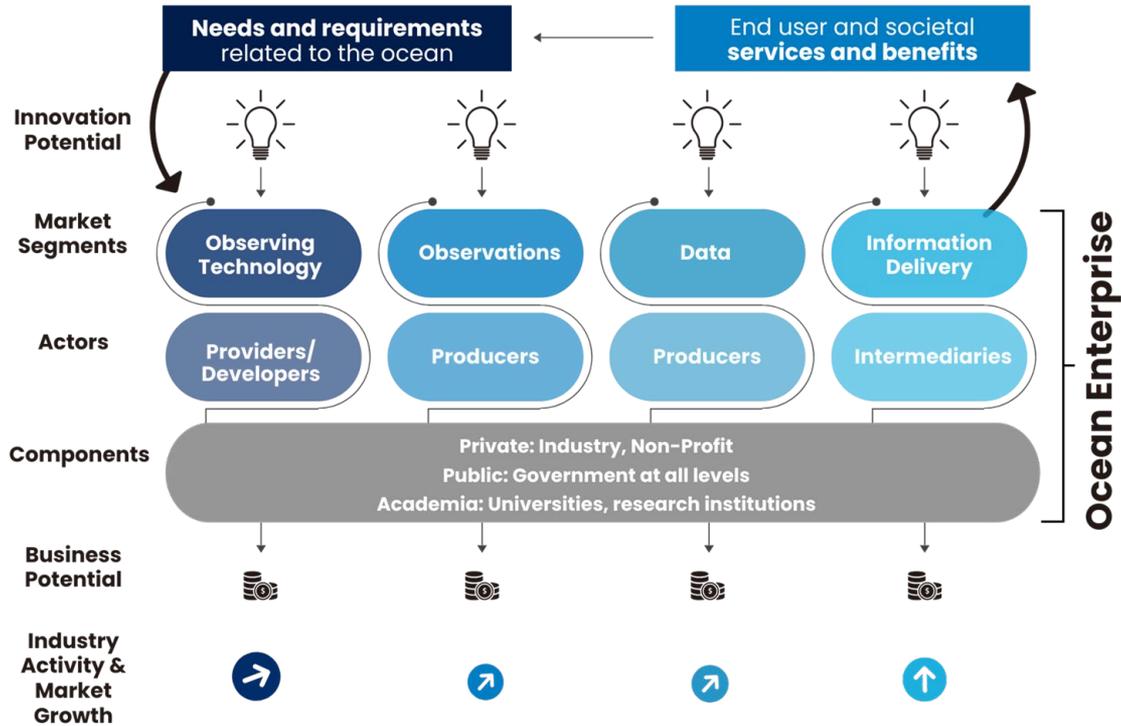


Impact Value of Ocean Enterprise Industry Annual Revenues

Challenge: Continuous update of the value of the Ocean Enterprise to attract investment



Ocean Information Value Chain



Mature Ocean Enterprise

Characterized by a 10-fold increase in both public and private investment in long-term ocean observation, as well as recognition that the ocean technology and information market contributes to a country's gross national product.



Ocean Enterprise Initiative

Empowering a Blue Future

Unleashing Innovation, Collaboration, and Economic Growth Across the Ocean Enterprise

Accelerating Opportunities in the Ocean Marketplace



Improving the Marketplace

Unlocking the ocean's economic potential through better data and emerging markets.



Cultivating Collaboration

Bridging public-private gaps to drive impact and innovation.



Shaping the Future

Investing in talent and infrastructure to sustain the ocean economy.



Ocean Enterprise Initiative 2024–2026



2024 Oceanology International - Dialogues on Carbon & Standards



2024 Tech Surge - Biodiversity observing



2025 Dialogues with Industry - HABs



2025/6 Dialogues with Industry - Ocean Observing of the future - Accessible Technology



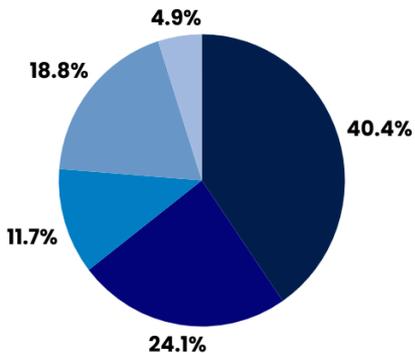
2025/6 Development of Blueconnex online ocean enterprise tool



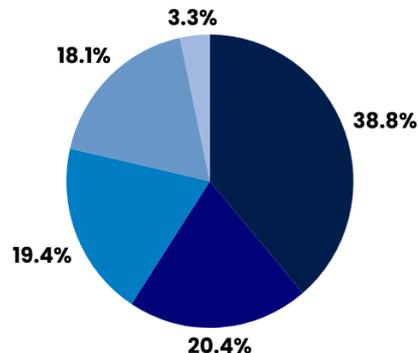
Participant and Observer Demographics

Dialogues with Industry

Total Attended: Participants
(n=205)



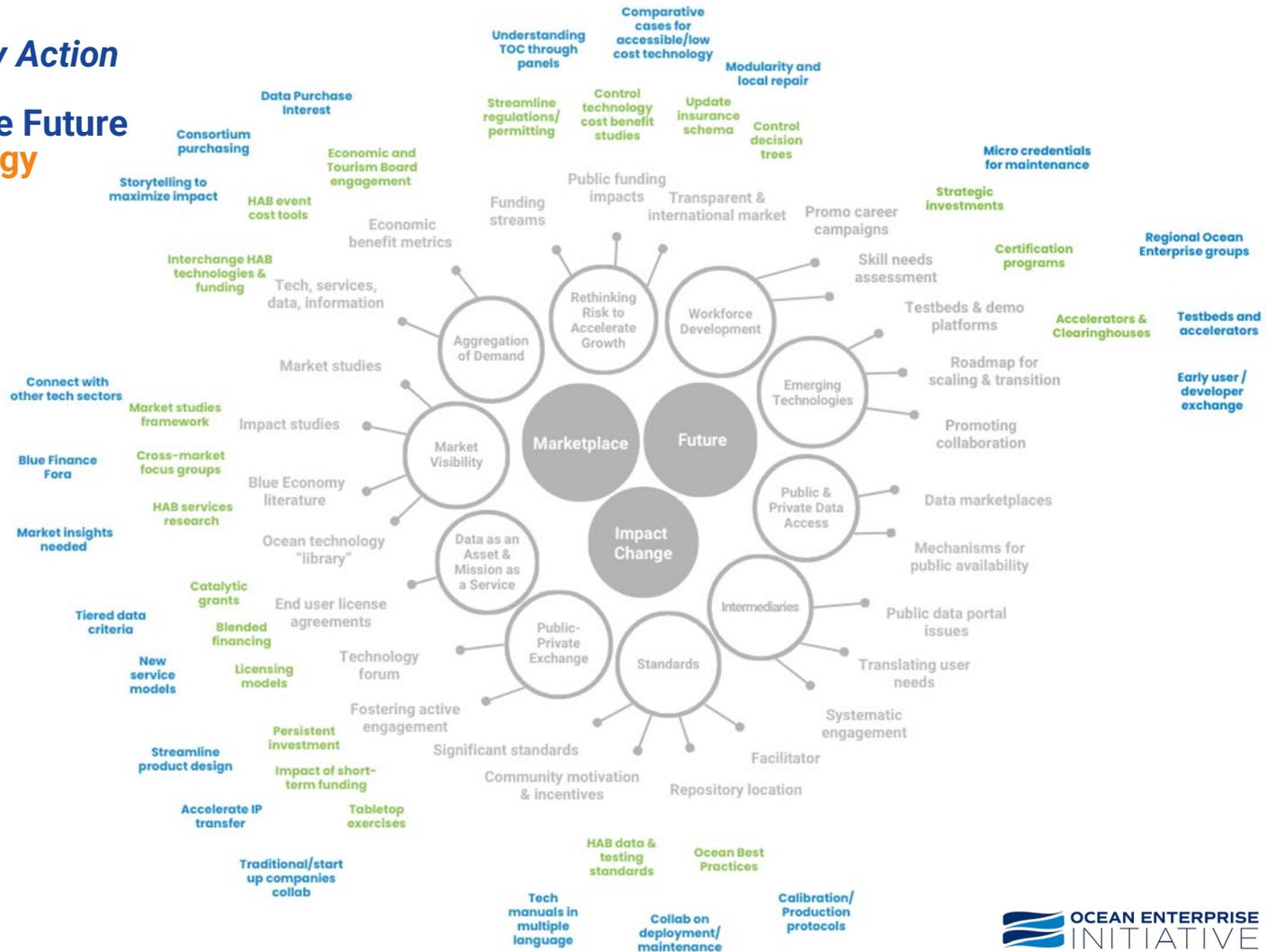
Total Attended: Observers
(n=1,147)



Dialogues with Industry Action Pathways

Ocean observing of the Future

- Accessible Technology Action Pathways





BlueConnex
connective intelligence for the ocean enterprise



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MAJOR **Investment Surge** February 18, 2026

Autonomous maritime sector sees record Q1 funding

CONFIDENCE:  0.91

ANALYSIS

The autonomous maritime sector recorded its strongest quarter in three years, with total disclosed funding reaching \$340M across 12 deals. Ocean Infinity closed a \$180M growth round to expand its Armada fleet, while Saildrone secured \$42M to scale Pacific observation missions.

This surge coincides with a 35% increase in media coverage of uncrewed surface vessels and a measurable uptick in corporate partnerships between major oil & gas operators and autonomy startups. Equinor and Shell both announced expanded autonomous inspection programs in their North Sea assets.

The convergence of funding activity, corporate adoption signals, and regulatory progress in Norway and the UK suggests the autonomous maritime sector is transitioning from early-stage experimentation to commercial scale deployment.

EVIDENCE BREAKDOWN

\$ Funding 2 movers

Total disclosed funding (USD) raised by organizations. Jumps highlight investment surges.

CATEGORY SHIFTS

↗ Ocean Infinity \$120M → \$300M

Total Funding

↗ Saildrone \$148M → \$190M

Total Funding

Media Momentum 1 mover

Volume of article and report mentions per technology. Higher values indicate increased industry attention.

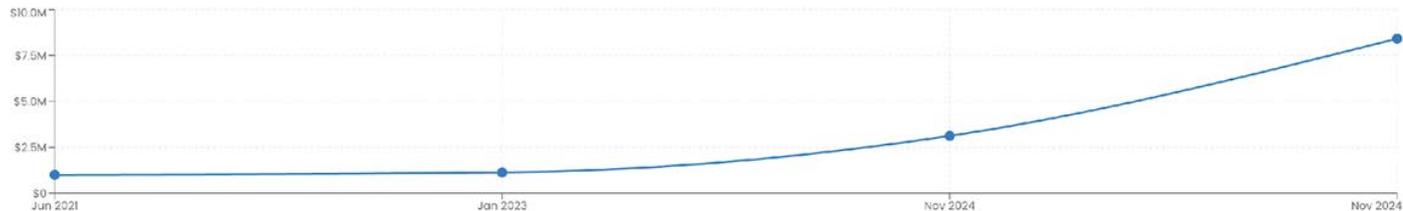
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The company operates on a platform-as-a-service model, providing stable, long-endurance USVs capable of deploying various sensor and system payloads for clients across the offshore energy, security, and marine conservation sectors [Dealroom](#). In August 2025, ACUA Ocean's 'Pioneer' USV became the first remotely operated uncrewed vessel in the UK to receive certification under Workboat Code 3 from Lloyd's Register [Company website](#). The company has secured £1.5 million in pre-seed funding co-led by StealthPoint and Britbots, and £4 million in R&D grants from UK government bodies including the Department for Transport and DEFRA [Dealroom](#). The company announced a planned merger with HydroSurv to form Blue Ocean Autonomy, aiming to offer a comprehensive range of USV systems for inland, nearshore, and offshore applications [Dealroom](#).

Funding History
1Y 2Y 5Y 10Y All


Date	Round	Amount	Lead Investors
Nov 2024	SEED	\$2.0M	British Robotics Seed Fund StealthPoint
Nov 2024	GRANT	\$5.3M	Government of the United Kingdom Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Jan 2023	SEED	\$130K	Net Zero Technology Centre
Nov 2021	SEED	—	Katapult Ocean
Jun 2021	GRANT	\$1.0M	

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Overview Technology Use Cases Similar Organizations Media

About

Natural England is an Executive Non-departmental Public Body (NDPB) of the UK government, responsible to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs [Dealroom](#). The organization's mandate is to protect and improve England's natural environment, including marine and coastal ecosystems, and to encourage public engagement with these surroundings [Dealroom](#). Natural England manages activities such as establishing coastal path access (including the King Charles III England Coast Path), releasing beavers for ecosystem restoration, designating protected sites and species, and providing guidance on landscape management, habitat conservation, and biodiversity [Company website](#).

Natural England administers nature reserves such as Lindisfarne National Nature Reserve and supports scientific research and community volunteer programs related to coastal and marine conservation [Company website](#). The organization also plays a role in balancing conservation with economic development, such as approving housing development plans in areas like North Sussex while protecting natural habitats [Company website](#). Natural England has made investments in ocean enterprise companies including ACUA Ocean, CatchCam Technologies, Bramble Energy, and Spire Global [Dealroom](#), signaling active engagement in the marine technology and ocean data sectors as part of its conservation and environmental monitoring mission.

TECHNOLOGY

- [Ecosystem Restoration Technologies](#)
- [Geospatial Mapping Tools](#)
- [Satellite and Remote Sensing](#)

LATEST NEWS

Investment to Expand Tidal Energy R&D Infrastructure in Scotland

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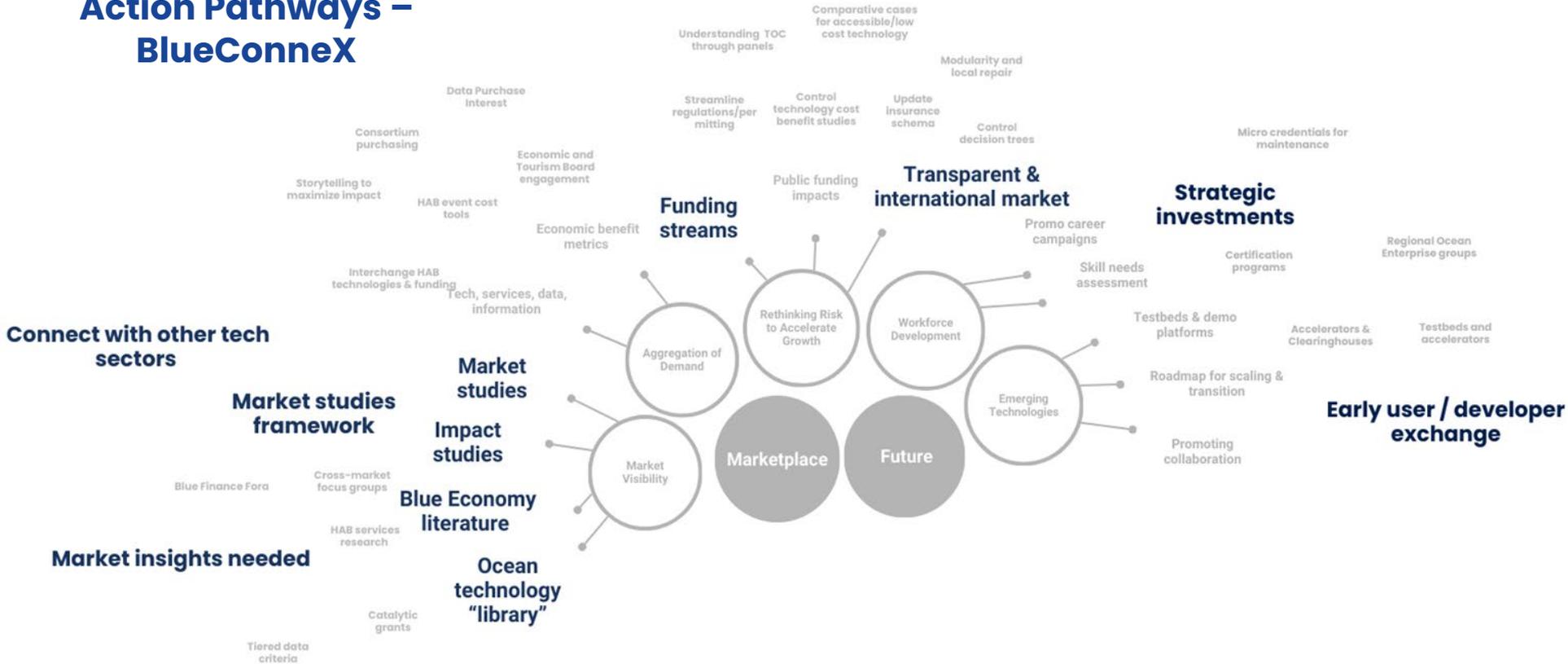
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Portfolio Companies (4)

Company	Round	Amount	Date
 ACUA Ocean	GRANT	\$5.3M	Nov 2024
 Bramble Energy	GRANT	\$8.3M	Apr 2023
 CatchCam Technologies	GRANT	\$230K	Jul 2022
 Spire Global	GRANT	—	Jul 2021

Dialogues with Industry

Action Pathways – BlueConnEX



Ocean Enterprise Initiative – Join us

+ Upcoming Platform Launch



+ Blue Finance Convenings

Join us at EarthX in April.



+ Dialogues with Industry: New series focused on Future Markets

Attend the virtual event in Fall of 2026.



+ Next Generation Marine Autonomy TechSurge

- Convening the uncrewed maritime systems community across platforms, sensors, and data **Join us in October in Washington DC.**



+ NOAA Ocean Enterprise Accelerator programming



+ The Tether – Connecting the Ocean Enterprise



Next steps

- Blueconnex platform launch - April 2026
- Dialogues with Industry: New series on Future Markets Q3 2026
 - Carbon
 - Dual Use
 - AI
- Blue Finance Convenings - at EarthX in April
- Next Generation Marine Autonomy TechSurge - October 2026
- NOAA Ocean Enterprise Accelerator programming

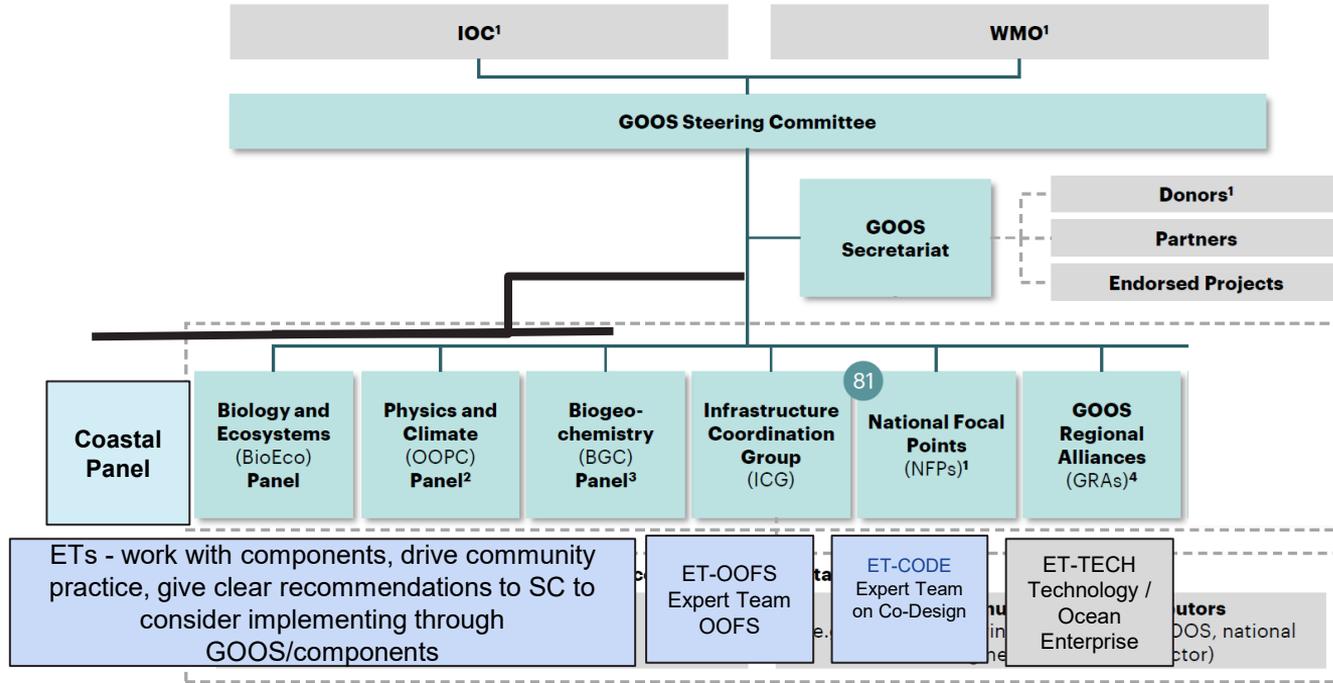


Two key questions for the SC

- What is the mechanism for GOOS to discuss recommendations, for example accessible technology? And decide where what and where to act - e.g. GRAs have interest in this area - EUROGOOS+ collaborations to move forward, other...
- GOOS should assist in working with other technology interested nations/regions (Europe, India, China?) to:
 - engage in creating a market report - give visibility to own Ocean enterprise sector - survey format available to follow
 - engage with OEI - support development of OEI globally, part of network, advise on topics, field experts for dialogues, consider tech surges/accelerators, give visibility to the Ocean Enterprise as a sector

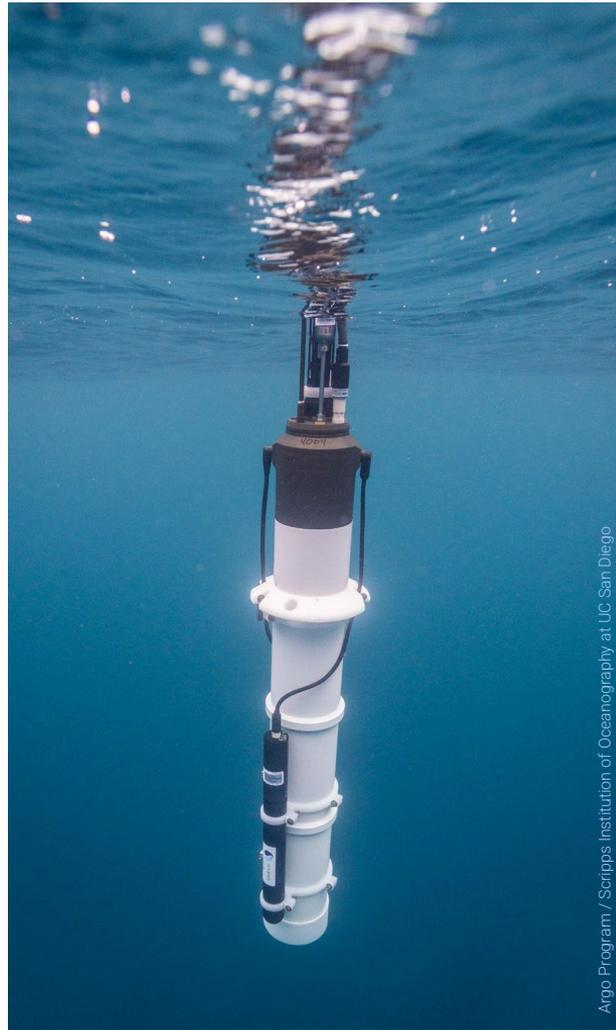
Next steps

Proposed GOOS reporting structure





**Thank
you** goosocean.org



Argo Program / Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego