

Future Global Ocean Observing System –built on Requirements, promoting Alignment, delivering Relevant Information.

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Since the OceanObs' 09 Conference, the ocean observing community has been improving coordination and collaboration amongst physical, biogeochemical and biology/ecosystem communities. Significant progress has been made through the introduction of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) Framework for Ocean Observing in 2012. Societal and scientific requirements for sustained observations have been captured in Essential Ocean Variables (EOVs), many of which are also essential climate variables (ECVs, defined by the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) reporting to the UNFCCC). Defined and emerging disciplinary EOVs are based on analysis of feasibility and impact, and how they deliver the needed data for scientific questions and societal requirements.

With advances in observing technology, and the definition of EOVs, clear opportunities exist to improve the coordinated planning and implementation of observing activities measuring across the three disciplines and all relevant temporal and spatial scales, eventually leading to truly fit-for-purpose observing system design.

GOOS works directly with several formal bodies programmatically connected to IOC-UNESCO, WMO as well as the WMO-IOC JCOMM to integrate ocean observation information into the GCOS Implementation Plan in support of the UNFCCC, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Group on Earth Observations, and other international and intergovernmental strategies.

In our opinion, a direct communication and coordination with regional communities such as JpGU is necessary to fully connect the opportunities arising on the decision and policy-making arena with technical developments occurring globally and regionally.