



Notes

Meeting	Discussion - how can EuroGOOS support the continued implementation of GMES Marine Services?
Date/time	4 October 2011 18.00
Venue	IO-PAN, Sopot
Participants	35 EuroGOOS members and MyOcean core partners

1. Introduction

The EuroGOOS Director Hans Dahlin welcomed the representatives of EuroGOOS members and other MyOcean partners. A group within MyOcean is working on the concept of a European Centre for Ocean Monitoring and Forecasting (ECOMF). EuroGOOS needs to be involved in order to increase collaboration at the European level. The meeting provided an opportunity for an open discussion and also to express concern or ideas about what could be done instead.

Pierre Bahurel had already presented the ECOMF concept at the EuroGOOS Conference plenary session and structured the discussion with 3 key questions.

2. Do we need ECOMF?

It is not yet sure if ECOMF will be a sustained follow-on from MyOcean2. This depends on the decisions of the GMES User Forum and the success of an ECOMF bid. An ECOMF bid is a EuroGOOS opportunity to influence how operational oceanography will be organised in the future. If EuroGOOS doesn't take the initiative then somebody else might take it instead.

The expectation is that the EU nations through the Commission will financially support ECOMF.

EuroGOOS has two alternatives - either to try to be part of the future or to leave it for some other organisation and lose cooperation with oceanographic services.

The general feeling was that EuroGOOS wants to be involved in the GMES solution and wants to be involved in the initiative being taken.

3. Do we understand the plan?

Would it be more natural to have EuroGOOS as coordinator of observations and to supply this data to ECOMF as a forecasting centre? EuroGOOS is a partner in the EMODnet project that is working to strengthen the regional data collection activities. This is the most efficient way to coordinate in situ observations.

What about the ROOSs and their work? This is where most of the important work is done for the marine environment.

ECOMF has to involve all member states, even small ones. ECOMF cannot be a closed club with a limited number of members; there must be trust and clear rules that are followed.

It is very important that every stakeholder (EuroGOOS member) feels that there is something in it for them.

ECOMF should support national downstream services in all European countries if it is to be sustainable.

ECOMF will need to be able to show what added value it will bring and how it will work alongside existing services.

We should avoid any situation where a EuroGOOS member sees ECOMF as a threat. ECMWF has considered this and has some practical rules so that it doesn't impinge on members' domains.

A network of marine centres with 27++ is needed but this is separate from the ECOMF production centre.

4. Are we clear with EuroGOOS roles?

Nearly all the ECOMF core members are already EuroGOOS members. ECOMF should capitalise on the past 15 years of EuroGOOS.

Good coordination, a good network and a strong unified voice will help secure our future.

It was felt that there would be problems if ECOMF is not open to all EuroGOOS members who want to be involved. EuroGOOS can take on a role in the ECOMF structure and for that we need to have consensus from members.