



Proposal for a new Working Group

EuroGOOS Working Group for Sea Level

Sea level observations and forecast are the first operational oceanographic services. In some European areas the first known oceanographic scientific publication is on sea level. Today analyses of sea level change and surge warnings are among the most required oceanographic services. High frequency real time observations are increasing as part of the early warning systems for tsunamis. The Global Sea Level Observing System, GLOSS, has been established by IOC and is part of the Global intergovernmental work. The head of the Permanent Service for Mean Sea Level, PSMSL, proposed several years ago that a EuroGLOSS should be established. A EU-funded project ESEAS had the objective to develop a network of European sea level experts with nationally responsible agencies as members. The network continued to exist after the project, but as for many projects decreasing governance and funding has caused a very low activity level. A recent GLOSS meeting has encouraged the revival of the European Network of Sealevel Experts.

Terms of Reference

EuroGOOS will establish a Working Group for Sea Level with the following ToR for its first year. The working group will during 2012 meet under the chairmanship of Per Knudsen with support of the EuroGOOS Office, and with the following tasks:

1. Review the achievements of the ESEAS project and its succeeding activities in order to find the proper mandate for the working group.
2. Review existing sea level activities in Europe to avoid overlap or to establish co-operation.
3. Define the EuroGOOS Role in the sea level service and how to best work together with other disciplines producing sea level information.
4. Report on other related subject that the working group finds important.
5. Propose Terms of Reference for the following year(s).
6. Report back to the EuroGOOS autumn Board Meeting.

The working group will focus on the science and technology for sea level service, and is expected to act as a network of excellence. Co-ordination of observations and data exchange is supposed to be handled by the ROOSs and TACs.

Potential participants:

- Experts from EuroGOOS members.
- Experts from other organisations responsible for national sea level service.
- Experts from non-oceanographic organisations involved in sea level observations or services.
- Representatives for GLOSS and NEAMTWS.