

Report on BOOS Activities in 2013

Contact

Urmas Lips, Chair, urmas.lips@msi.ttu.ee

BOOS members and change in membership

Germany – BSH, IOW;
Lithuania – EPA;
Denmark – DMI, FCOO, DCE AU;
Estonia – MSI; EMI
Finland – FMI, SYKE;
Poland – IOPAS, UG, MIG, IMGW-PIB;
Latvia – LEGMA, UL;
Sweden – SMHI;
Russia – NWRAHEM, SPb SOI
Associated Members:
Russia – RSHU;
Germany – HZG;
Lithuania – KU.

According to the BOOS MoU the goals and objectives of BOOS are to:

- coordinate, harmonize and develop operational oceanographic observation, information and forecasting systems for the Baltic Sea,
- maintain real-time and near real-time exchange of observational data and forecasts among partners to increase the capability of the partners to do the best possible operational products serving societies,
- provide data and forecasts to protect the marine environment, conserve biodiversity and monitor climate change and variability,
- provide high quality data and long time-series required to advance the scientific understanding of the Baltic Sea,
- improve and further establish services to meet the requirements of environmental and maritime user groups,
- harmonize and increase the quality of user-oriented operational systems,
- optimize the production costs of public products and services by sharing the workload,
- co-operate with HELCOM and other relevant bodies with the aim to avoid duplication of work and to maximize mutual assistance,
- identify new users for operational oceanographic products,
- further develop the market for operational oceanographic products,
- develop BOOS pursuant to EuroGOOS and GOOS principles and
- promote BOOS members interests at pan-European scale through, e.g. EuroGOOS, and in-cooperation with other ROOSs

Main achievements during the last year

- New versions of BOOS MoU and HIROMB agreement adopted at the Annual Meeting in May 2013
- Argo-float deployed in the Baltic Sea; glider tested in the Baltic and a new profiling buoy with additional sensors (Chl a , phycococynin, turbidity, O₂) designed and tested
- New ferrybox line between Riga and Stockholm in operation for one season
- FINO platforms are equipped with new radar gauges from RADAC for wave and water level measurements
- Multi-model-ensemble for SST, SSS and transports for the North Sea and the Baltic Sea based on all available model results from NOOS and BOOS partners
- BOOS Newsletter published twice a year (both, on the web site and as paper copies)

Plan for next year

- Implementation of BOOS Vision 2015
- Drafting and adopting the BOOS agreement on operational observations
- Further development of NRT observations – new moorings with profilers, new wave buoy in the eastern part of the Baltic Proper, tests of gliders and profiling drifters etc
- Further development of multi-model-ensemble products
- Including BOOS observing systems and products into the revised Baltic Sea monitoring and assessment programme
- Further development of BOOS information system – BOOS web site / data presentation / news / newsletter etc
- Active participation in designing and implementing Copernicus marine service, especially for the Baltic Sea region
- Work with the members in order to get more EuroGOOS AISBL members from the Baltic Sea region

Relation to major projects

- BOOS members are participating in a number of international projects to develop operational oceanographic services in Europe and in the Baltic Sea area: MyOcean2, Jerico, SeaDataNet2, SIDERI/EuroARGO; Geo-Seas, Eurofleets2, Marcoast2, GES-REG, Aquamar, eSurge, OPEC, BaltAdapt, SOROS, GROOM, MOMENT, THESEUS, CHEMSEA, CoBios, MIMIC.
- Some of the listed projects are related to development of BOOS members' contribution to the implementation of EU Directives, such as Marine Strategy Framework Directive and to implementation of the HELCOM's Baltic Sea Action Plan.
- BOOS members contribute to EMODnet.

Challenges and problems

The main challenges and problems are related to:

- Available resources – major part of funding is coming from national budgets, development of the system is depending on different levels of resources available in countries or on the funding from EU projects;
- It is difficult to secure that the observations are performed and data available, e.g. when instruments fail, it takes time to replace them;
- Situation is not clear about the future Copernicus marine service yet; especially in regard of the in-situ component.