



Fourth Annual Meeting

Director's Report for 1996-97

Requested Actions

- i) Approve and accept Director's Report.
- ii) Approve EuroGOOS Policy with regard to FP5, and authorise Officers to act on behalf of EuroGOOS.
- iii) Approve schedule for producing the EuroGOOS Plan (See Agenda Item 12).
- iv) Approve actions to be taken during 1998 Year of the Ocean.
- v) Approve Regional Task Team Reports.
- vi) Note allocation of time, resources, and travel by EuroGOOS Secretariat.
- vii) Approve publications schedule.
- viii) Encourage staff secondment to EuroGOOS Secretariat.
- ix) Support where possible projects submitted to MAST-3 for funding as operational oceanography.
- x) Agree Annual report 1997 to be based on Report style of 1996, up-dated by 1997 Annual Meeting results, plus new list of EuroGOOS Projects for Annexe.
- xi) Suggestions for improving communications.
- xii) Members to provide up-dated list of EuroGOOS Projects for Annual Report.
- xiii) Leaders of WGs, TTs, and Projects to notify Secretariat of planned meetings in 1998.

(New Procedure for funding publications: See Publications Costing Annexe to Treasurer's Report).

1. Progress during the year

In the 12 months December 1996 to December 1997 EuroGOOS formulated its Plan for the next 4-8 years, based on the directions established in the Strategy.

We have lobbied strongly for the preservation of a strong marine science and technology component in FP5, and specifically pressed for line items which would support operational oceanography and forecasting.

DGXII MAST issued a further call for proposals relating to operational oceanography. There has been a strong response to this call involving many from EuroGOOS Members, but also many others. Members are urged to encourage support where possible for EuroGOOS proposals.

The 12 EuroGOOS projects which have been developed gradually during the last 1-2 years were brought together for a large-scale parallel workshop at the Météo France centre in Toulouse in September. The Workshop was a success, and confirms the vigour of the various project teams, and the soundness of their objectives.

After the last Annual Meeting the outstanding number of actions identified for the EuroGOOS Subsidiary bodies and the EuroGOOS Office was over 100. The great majority of these commitments have been carried out, and this is a credit to all the Member Agencies and the personnel who participate in EuroGOOS. (See Annex 1).

Drafting is complete on several essential EuroGOOS documents, and almost complete on many others. There are eight publications in the pipeline. While EuroGOOS has definitely moved from the status of an analysing body to an operational project organisation, publications are still our lifeblood. We have to communicate. We have to communicate plans, ideas, and results. In the age of the mandatory Website, we are still judged by the quality of documents which important people see and read. EuroGOOS needs a better way to approve, finance, and distribute its publications.

EuroGOOS has grown rapidly in the three years since foundation. Subject to confirmation at the Annual Meeting (See Document EG97.53 for Applications) six new agencies have applied to join this year, bringing our numbers to 31 Agencies from 17 Countries.

The EuroGOOS Office depends upon the generous support of IFREMER (France), and NERC (UK). Without this support EuroGOOS would not exist. The staff are heavily committed to the numerous meetings, projects and publications which have been launched, and at the Officers Meeting in April 1997 it was stressed that EuroGOOS Member Agencies which agree to provide the Chairmanship or other leadership for groups or projects should try to provide more secretariat back-up, and not assume that the EuroGOOS Office can provide all the organisational overheads. Similarly, Working Groups and Task Teams are encouraged to appoint Members who can give the Chairman extra support. It may seem unnecessarily bureaucratic to call these people Vice-Chairmen, etc., but it is important that the Chairmen and Project Leaders each know that they have a core team with whom to share the work. The success of EuroGOOS has created more work than can be carried out at one centralised small office.

1998 is the Year of the Ocean. The following options are open to EuroGOOS for the exploitation of public and political interest in the sea during this year:

- i) Include 10-20 sq m exhibit on EU stand for whole LISBON Expo. Consider contents and cost.
- ii) Participate in "European Marine Science and Technology Days", 25 May 1998, Lisbon.
- iii) Organise 2-day conference jointly with GOOS Project Office "back-to-back" for September 1998 in Lisbon at an Expo pavilion.
- iv) Ignore Lisbon Expo. Concentrate at national level only at home.
- v) Use national exhibits at Lisbon Expo.

2. European politics, Netherlands EU Presidency and FP5

Following the 1996 Annual Meeting of EuroGOOS the Netherlands Government held the EU Presidency, and RIKZ provided the link to submit documents on oceanographic research and operational oceanography during the negotiations and discussions on FP5. We are very grateful to RIKZ and to the Netherlands Ministry for Culture, Education, and Science for their support of operational oceanography. The FP5 documents have appeared in various up-dates, and have been submitted to the European Parliament. Paul Gray is acting on behalf of EuroGOOS to keep informing MEPs who are interested in the environment about the potential benefits from operational oceanography and forecasting. The issue throughout these negotiations has been to ensure that the environment-climate-global change topics are given a reasonable proportion of budget in relation to the other life sciences, medicine, and biotechnology. Lobbying is still required on details.

3. The Plan

This will be discussed under Agenda Item 12. About 50% of the text had been received by 10 November and I thank those authors who contributed promptly. Other sections should be available before the Annual Meeting.

4. Membership

See Agenda Item 11.

There are 6 applications for Full or Associate Membership. I have corresponded at length with representatives of Agencies in Spain, Turkey, Russia, and Portugal, to arrive at appropriate applications. The applications from Netherlands and Denmark were arranged with minimum of correspondence. There are no outstanding negotiations concerning Membership, although it would still be useful to involve Iceland.

The growth of Membership is very encouraging.

5. Task Teams: the Regions

Arctic

The Arctic Task Team met at the Hague, and again at the Toulouse Forum in September 1997. A set of objectives has been defined (see Document EG97.35). The agencies of EuroGOOS in the Arctic Task Team have submitted a proposal to DGXII with other agencies. The proposal lists EuroGOOS as a supporting organisation. Now that Roshydromet has applied to join EuroGOOS, there will be a broader range of interests in the Arctic region.

Baltic

Baltic GOOS held its first meeting in May 1997, and its second in Toulouse in September. The Baltic is a sea area which already has a highly developed system of collaborative national and multi-national organisations. Nevertheless, the GOOS/EuroGOOS objectives have introduced a new approach to systematic monitoring, modelling, and forecasting, which agencies on the Baltic coast have found useful.

North West European Shelf

The NWSTT held meetings in May 1997 and in Toulouse in September. The Task Team has revised its ToR (Document EG97.26, Agenda Item 14). The objective is to launch a pilot project to test an operational observing and modelling system in about 2001, preceded by a planning phase which would be financed as a Concerted Action (Document EG97.35).

Mediterranean

The Mediterranean Task Team has held frequent meetings during the last 12 months to plan and design the Mediterranean Forecasting System Pilot Project. The proposal for this has been submitted to DGXII as a Shared Cost project.

Nadia Pinardi, Leader of the MFSP, has requested that the design of the MSFPP be published as a EuroGOOS Report.

Atlantic

The Atlantic Task Team met for the first time in September 1997, chaired by Christian Le Provost. The level of interest was very high, and the first meeting specified the agenda for a Workshop on Atlantic Forecasting which was held at SOC, UK, on 30-31 October, and co-sponsored by the US Office of Naval Research, London. The Workshop was attended by 32 people, including participants from 6 European countries and the USA. 20 papers were presented and 4 drafting groups prepared recommendations. The report will be published as a EuroGOOS Document.

6. Publications

The following publications are either ready for printing, or will be ready within 1-2 months. See Annexe to Treasurer's Report for comments on the best way to finance publications. See Document EG97.59 for details of status of each publication and estimated cost of design and printing.

The EuroGOOS an, extended version
 Marine Technology Survey
 SAWG and TPWG reports - 30-50 pages each, (link to Plan as Annexes?)
 Mediterranean Forecasting System Pilot Project
 Proceedings of the First EuroGOOS Conference, The Hague
 Atlantic Workshop, Report
 Annual Report 97. Standard Cover/ folder for documents
 Data Requirements Report and Web Pages

7. Communications

Communications with Members are by:

- Progress Reports sent out by post, every 3-6 weeks.
- Interim Progress Reports circulated by e-mail only, and a few faxes.
- Special circular letters or notices by e-mail or post.
- Information displayed on the EuroGOOS Web Page (open to non-Members)

Web Page- designed by Elisabetta Masetti, working well.
 Added most important documents for the Toulouse Forum.
 Adding Technology Survey Data Base, via connections to EA.
 Possibly adding Data Requirements Survey.

8. Meetings

Officers, 7-8 December 1996; 14 April 1997; 12 September 1997.
 SAWG, April, SOC, 11 December.
 Baltic GOOS, 26-27 May, Copenhagen
 NWSTT, May, Bracknell, UK
 MFS - 5 meetings since April 1996, especially key meeting at Toulouse
 Arctic, Toulouse
 Data Assimilation, 1998
 Toulouse, Projects, all, 11-12 September 1997
 Atlantic, Toulouse, 30-31 October, SOC
 TPWG, 10 September, Toulouse, 11 December, Athens.
 Project Leaders, 11 December, Athens.

9. Travel by Secretariat, and Meetings attended, Dec 96-Dec 97

Director, N C Flemming

February	18.2.97	Visit DG XII, Brussels, Discuss MAST and FP5
	20.2.97	Meeting at Imperial College with GOOS Plan staff
March	1.3.97-5.3.97	Chair GOOS Coastal Workshop, Miami
	14.3.97	Visit RIKZ to discuss publication of proceedings, and lobbying on FP5
April	21.3.97	Meeting of SeaNet, at Brest, IFREMER, France
	14.4.97	Officers Meeting, Imperial College, London
	22-26.4.97	J-GOOS Meeting, Miami
May	29.4.97	SAWG Meeting to review Draft of "The Science Base for EuroGOOS"
	17-21.5.97	Speak and chair session at Singapore OI-Pacific
	26-27.5.97	Attend WESTPAC NEAR-GOOS meeting in Bangkok
June	30.5.97	DG XII meeting on Telematics and the Environment
	5.6.97	Bracknell, North West Shelf TT Meeting
	11.6.97	Attended UK FCO Meeting on marine science policy in Europe
	13.6.97	ESA meeting in Hamburg on the economic case for coastal monitoring
	24-25.6.97	MAST-PROMISE meeting at Heathrow hotel
	26-27.6.97	DG XII meeting on technological support for FP5 environment programme
July	Paris, I-GOOS meeting at UNESCO	
	29.6.97-4.7.97	IMC Oristano, Workshop on ocean forecasting
September	30-31.7.97	Paris, IOC Workshop on the Mediterranean; visit to OECD Megascience
	9.9.97-12.9.97	TPWG Meeting and EuroGOOS Projects Forum, Toulouse
October	14-15.9.97	OECD Megascience Forum planning meeting
	28.10.97	Portsmouth, Ocean Modelling workshop
November	30-31.10.97	EuroGOOS Atlantic Workshop, Southampton
	3-4.11.97	ICSU, Paris, GOOS P
December	25-27.11.97	GOOS Capacity Building in the Mediterranean, Malta
	10-13.12.97	Annual Meeting, Athens

Deputy Director, Michel Gauthier

Month-date	Object	Location	Funded
March 16/21	SOC EG-Secretariat	Southampton -UK	IFREMER
March 19	Marine Instruments Forum	Alton UK	IFREMER
April 6/11	SOC EG-Secretariat	Southampton -UK	IFREMER
May 10/15	Ol'97 Presentation on « The CZ and Regional seas of Europe: European priorities & European strategy ».		IOC
May 26/30	SOC EG-Secretariat	Southampton -UK	IFREMER
May 28	Northwest Shelf Sea TT meeting	Bracknell - UK	IFREMER
June 2/6	SOC EG-Secretariat	Southampton -UK	IFREMER
June 5	IACMST International Review meeting	London - UK	IFREMER
June 25/26	Presentation of EuroGOOS at the I-GOOS-IOC Paris	Paris - FR	
Aug. 18/22	Presentation of EuroGOOS at the UN- SPREP South Pacific Research Environment Programme and Sea Level Rise meeting.		ORSTOM/EU.
Sept.10/12	EG-Projects FORUM	Toulouse - FR	IFREMER
Sept.13	EG Med. Forecasting System WG	Toulouse - FR	IFREMER
Oct. 27/31	SOC EG-Secretariat	Southampton -UK	IFREMER
Oct.30/31	Meeting of the Atlantic Pilot Project T.T	Southampton -UK	IFREMER
Nov.13	Seminar on GOOS. Presentation of the European co-operation in the GOOS. Institut Océanographique.	Paris - FR	
Nov.18	Presentation of EuroGOOS at the Marine Analytical Chemistry for Monitoring and Oceanographic Research. MARC'H MOR/IUEM	Brest - FR	IFREMER/IUEM
Nov.20	Round Table conference « RIO » Rencontre Instrumentation Océanographique.	Brest- FR	IFREMER
Dec. 10/12	EuroGOOS Annual meeting	Athens -Greece	IFREMER

S M Marine

10-12 September EuroGOOS Projects Forum, Toulouse

10-12 December Annual Meeting, Athens

10. Staff Secondments

It has been agreed in principle that secondment of staff to work with the EuroGOOS Secretariat is a very efficient way of increasing the efficiency of EuroGOOS, while possibly assisting the seconded staff to learn more about operational oceanography at the European scale.

In December 1996 CNRS Italy seconded Camilla Zoncu to work at SOC for two weeks.

Discussions are in hand for further secondments from various Members during 1998.

11. Summary and conclusions

EuroGOOS has had a very successful year with energetic contributions from Members, strong participation at the Météo France Toulouse Forum, and good provision of text for important documents. The launch of the Atlantic Task Team is a very significant development for the future. Membership is expanding steadily. The growth of activity and consequent workload on participants at many levels, in the EuroGOOS Office, and the Leaders and Chairmen of WGs and TTs is becoming a problem, and extra sources of support are needed.