

EOOS Governance:

Steering Group, Resource Forum, Advisory and Operations Committees

Approved Terms of Reference – 1 October 2019

About this document

This document lays out the governance of EOOS from 2019 onwards. It sets out the new objectives of the Steering Group, Advisory Committee, Resource Forum and Operations Committee, including their membership, roles and responsibilities.

Background

Since 2015 the European Marine Board (EMB) and European Global Ocean Observing System (EuroGOOS) worked in partnership to advance EOOS by promoting the integration of Europe's complex and fragmented ocean observing capacity. The EOOS [Steering Group](#) (SG) was established in early 2016 to guide the development of EOOS, focusing on the development of the EOOS Strategy and Implementation Plan and the EOOS corporate identity and the website. The SG is co-chaired by EMB and EuroGOOS.

Within the scope of this collaboration, a wider stakeholder group, or [Advisory Committee](#), was set up at the end of 2017 to advise on the EOOS Forum (8 March 2018, Brussels; co-organized by EuroGOOS and EMB Secretariats and funded by EuroGOOS) and the EOOS Conference (21-23 November 2018, Brussels; co-organized by the EMODnet, EMB and EuroGOOS Secretariats, and funded by DG MARE). The Advisory Committee has now evolved into a more permanent Advisory Committee for EOOS post-2018. The AC is co-chaired by EMB and EuroGOOS. EuroGOOS will take responsibility for SG meeting scheduling, decision implementation and note keeping, and EMB for AC meeting scheduling, decision implementation and note keeping. In addition, the EOOS SG proposed that an additional Resource Forum and Operations Committee would be needed to enable EOOS to succeed.

EOOS Governance from 2019 onwards

From 2019 onwards is proposed that EOOS governance includes:

- Steering Group: top level of the EOOS governance approving all decisions;
- Advisory Committee: advise the Steering Group to bring together broader stakeholders;
- Resources Forum: represent the ministries and funding organizations (including private funders) coordinating/conducting/funding ocean observing activities in Europe;
- Operations Committees: represent the diversity of ocean observing implementers at national, regional and pan-European levels.

All committees will meet regularly, with the SG meeting on average twice a year, and the other committees once a year as required to advise the Steering Group on the EOOS development and propose actions. The SG (or at least its chairs) will be observers to all committees, and the committee meetings could be coordinated with those of the SG. The mandate for committees' membership will be 4 years. The members of the next SG will be selected by the current SG and the members of the next AC, RF and OC might be suggested by the current AC, RF and OC but will be approved by the current SG.

1. EOOS Steering Group

The EOOS SG should be a small group to allow quick and responsive operation. In 2016, the first membership of the SG included five individuals invited in their expert capacity and two SG co-chairs supported by their offices. In 2017, two more members were added to allow broader representation from the European Commission. The 2018 SG membership and objectives are given in Appendix 1. European Commission members have been active as SG members. In SG discussions it was noted that perhaps a more appropriate role post-2018 for EC members would be in the Advisory Committee (see section 4). Existing experts would remain, and the SG have considered others including the head of the EMODnet Secretariat representing a key European data network.

It is therefore proposed that the EOOS Steering Group membership from 2019 would be:

EOOS Steering Group Members:

- Glenn Nolan, European Global Ocean Observing System, EuroGOOS (Co-Chair)
- Sheila Heymans, European Marine Board, EMB (Co-Chair)
- Operations Committee Chair (TBD)
- Resources Forum Chair (TBC - Thorsten Kiefer, JPI Oceans Executive Director invited)
- Pierre-Yves Le Traon, Mercator Ocean International and Ifremer, France
- George Petihakis, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research, HCMR, Greece
- Isabel Sousa Pinto, CIIMAR/MBON, Portugal
- Jan-Bart Calewaert, EMODnet

Supporting the Steering Group and coordinating the EOOS communications:

- Dina Eparkhina, European Global Ocean Observing System, EuroGOOS

The 2018 EOOS SG objectives (Appendix 1) were all achieved by the end of 2018. Post 2018 the EOOS Steering Group set new objectives, which is led by the EOOS SG chairs.

Post-2018 EOOS SG objectives are to:

- Guide EOOS governance;
- Drive the EOOS implementation and track its performance;
- Engage with key stakeholders to maintain support for EOOS;
- Communicate EOOS to the wider community;
- Approve EOOS pilot projects;

- Provide links between EOOS and relevant international initiatives (e.g. GOOS).

Roles and responsibilities of the Steering Group

The SG members will commit to attend the EOOS governance meetings, deliver inputs and recommendations, enable dialogue and communication across the EOOS stakeholders, and act as the EOOS ambassadors.

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The EOOS SG is co-chaired by the EuroGOOS Secretary General and the EMB Executive Director. The chair is supported by dedicated EuroGOOS staff members (approximately 0.5 FTE per annum across several staff). EuroGOOS and EMB will continue supporting the SG as follows:

- Convene SG meetings and write the reports (EuroGOOS);
- Coordinate the implementation of the SG decisions (EuroGOOS);
- Coordinate the EOOS communications and outreach (EuroGOOS);
- Support the EOOS events (EuroGOOS and EMB);
- Support chairs of all the committees (EuroGOOS and EMB).

EuroGOOS has ear-marked a budget to support EOOS activities. It is suggested that EuroGOOS and EMB hold the SG co-chairs on an open-ended basis, while SG members are appointed for a certain period, e.g. 4 years.

2. EOOS Advisory Committee

An Advisory Committee advise the EOOS SG and ensure a broad stakeholder representation in the EOOS governance. The Advisory Committee is co-chaired by EMB and EuroGOOS (the chairs of the SG) and SG members will be observers on the Advisory Committee.

The members of the AC will work towards the EOOS objectives as set out in the EOOS Strategy and Implementation Plan.

The members of this Advisory Committee will include:

- Sheila Heymans, European Marine Board, EMB (Co-Chair)
- Glenn Nolan, EuroGOOS (Co-Chair)
- Catherine Boyen, Biological Station Roscoff, France/ Euromarine Network
- Neil Holdsworth, ICES
- Corine Locket, SHOM / Service Hydrographique et Océanographique de la Marine, France
- Nadia Pinardi, Bologna University / Copernicus
- Henrik Steen Andersen, European Environment Agency
- Albert Fisher, GOOS
- Urmas Lips, HELCOM
- Magdalena Balmaseda, ECMWF
- Susana Salvador/Jo Foden, OSPAR Commission (invited)
- Gaetano Leone, Barcelona Convention, UNEP-MAP (invited)

- Halil Ibrahim Sur, Black Sea Commission (invited)
- Koen Verbruggen, Geological Survey of Ireland (invited)
- Martin Pastoors, Pelagic Freezer-Trawler Association (to be invited)
- European Open Science Cloud (TBC)
- Other Industry – as needed

Observers:

- EOOS SG members and supporting staff:
 - o Operations Committee Chair (TBD)
 - o Resources Forum Chair (TBC - Thorsten Kiefer, JPI Oceans Executive Director invited)
 - o Pierre-Yves Le Traon, Mercator Ocean International and Ifremer, France
 - o George Petihakis, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research, HCMR, Greece
 - o Isabel Sousa Pinto, CIIMAR/MBON, Portugal
 - o Jan-Bart Calewaert, EMODnet
- European Commission as and when needed (Richard Gilmore/Fabienne Jacq, European Commission DG GROW; Sigi Gruber/ Marco Weydert, European Commission DG RTD; Agnes Robin, European Commission DG RTD (Research Infrastructures); Iain Shepherd/Andreea Strachinescu, European Commission DG MARE, David Connor, DG ENV)

Supporting the Advisory Group:

- Ángel Muñiz Piniella, EMB

The Advisory Committee Objectives are to:

- Provide information about events and developments relevant to EOOS;
- Advise on the process of gathering user requirements from their sectors;
- Enable the EOOS implementation plan where practicable;
- Advise the EOOS Steering Group about changes in the landscape, programmes' funding, new drivers and feasibility and scientific foresight;
- Advise on mapping, infrastructure and human capacity development;
- Identify shared priorities and advise on the EOOS added value.

Roles and responsibilities of the Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee (AC) represent a core group of representative stakeholders and they serve in their capacity as experts, not representing a specific organization, project or initiative.

The AC members commit to attend the AC meetings, deliver documents/recommendations, support the AC actions, and enable communication interface between their organizations and the EOOS SG.

The AC is co-chaired by the Executive Director of EMB and EuroGOOS Secretary General. The EMB secretariat will organize meetings and write reports and follow up on the agreed actions.

EMB and EuroGOOS will support the AC as follows:

- Convene SG meetings and write the reports (EMB);
- Coordinate with SG (EMB and EuroGOOS);

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- Support the EOOS events (EuroGOOS and EMB).

The EMB and EuroGOOS hold the AC chairs on an open-ended basis. The AC membership will regularly be reviewed and approved by the SG. SG members are observers to the AC meetings. Once set-up, further experts can be added to the AC upon specific recommendation or identified need by both the AC and the SG.

3. EOOS Resources Forum

The EOOS Resources Forum will help with the long-term sustainability of ocean observing in Europe. This forum should include national and European funders of ocean observing. It is proposed that the forum be led by the Executive Director of JPI Ocean (TBD).

The members of this Resources Forum will include:

- JPI Oceans Executive Director (Chair) – TBC
- Industries
- Foundations / donors
- Torsten Thiele (Global Ocean Trust) – To be invited
- National funding agency representatives or directorate of main European marine centers.
- RIs : EMBRC, EuroFLEETS/ERVO, EuroARGO, ICOS, EMSO, Danubius, Jerico

Observers:

- EOOS SG members and supporting staff
- Operations Committee chair

Supporting the Resources Forum:

- JPI Oceans secretariat TBD
- EuroGOOS/EMB

The Resources Forum Objectives are to:

- Engage with the EOOS process;
- Advise on opportunities and risks and propose possible mitigation strategies for long-term funding of ocean observations;
- Communicate relevant strategic funding opportunities for EOOS;
- Enable the EOOS implementation plan where relevant and practicable;
- Advise the EOOS Steering Group about changes in the funding landscape European and international level; and
- Identify shared priorities and advise on EOOS added value.

Roles and responsibilities of the Resources Forum:

The Resources Forum (RF) include a core group of funders and RF members serve in their capacity as ocean observation funders representing a specific organization or initiative.

It is proposed that the Executive Director of JPI Oceans chair the RF (TBD). The JPI Oceans Secretariat will support the RF (TBD) in close collaboration with the Secretariat of EuroGOOS.

The members of the RF will work towards the objectives of EOOS as set out in the EOOS Strategy and Implementation Plan.

It is suggested that JPI Oceans hold the RF chair on an open-ended basis. The FC membership will regularly be reviewed and approved by the SG. SG members will always be observers to the RF. Once set-up, further experts can be added to the RF upon specific recommendation or identified need by both the RF and the SG.

4. EOOS Operations Committee

The EOOS Operations Committee will help with the long-term sustainability of ocean observing efforts in Europe and will progressively implement EOOS. This committee should include national operators of ocean observing systems and infrastructure. It is proposed that this committee be led by EuroGOOS.

The members of this Operations Committee will include:

- EuroGOOS ROOS Chairs (5)
- RIs : EMBRC, EuroFLEETS/ERVO, EuroARGO, ICOS, EMSO, Danubius, Jerico
- EuroGOOS Task Teams (they are aligned with JCOMM OCG and focus on European contributions)
- Hydrographic offices
- Reinvigorated GOOS Focal Points
- Other “implementers” to be identified – national operators, implementers?

Observers:

- EOOS SG members and supporting staff
- Advisory Committee and Resource Forum chairs

Supporting the Resources Forum:

- EuroGOOS secretariat TBD

The Operations Committee Objectives will be to:

- Provide information about relevant strategic opportunities for EOOS;
- Specify system requirements to meet user needs sustainably;
- Enable the EOOS implementation plan where relevant and practicable;
- Advise the EOOS Steering Group about changes in the ocean observing landscape at European and international level;
- Contribute to mapping of infrastructure, technology and human capacity;
- Identify shared priorities and advise on EOOS added value.

Roles and responsibilities of the Operations Committee:

The Operations Committee (OC) include a core group of implementers that serve in their capacity as experts, not representing a specific organization, project or initiative.

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The EuroGOOS Secretary General will chair the OC. The EuroGOOS Secretariat will support members of the OC, will convene the Committee and shall draw up an agenda and circulate it together with working documents well in advance of meetings and write the reports on these meetings. The Secretariat will follow up on the agreed actions by implementing them or by ensuring that the responsible parties undertake the actions promised. The members of the OC will work towards the objectives of the OC, SG, and EOOS in general, as set out in the EOOS Strategy and Implementation Plan.

It is suggested that the EuroGOOS Secretary General hold the OC chair on an open-ended basis. The OC membership will be regularly reviewed and approved by the SG. SG members will always be observers to the OC. Once set-up, further experts can be added to the OC upon specific recommendation or identified need by both the OC and the SG.

Appendix 1: 2018 Steering Group

The current members of the Steering Group are:

EOOS Steering Group members:

- Glenn Nolan, Steering Group Co-Chair, EuroGOOS
- Sheila Heymans, Steering Group Co-Chair, European Marine Board, EMB
- Pierre-Yves Le Traon, Mercator Ocean and Ifremer, France
- George Petihakis, Hellenic Centre for Marine Research, HCMR, Greece
- Isabel Sousa Pinto, CIIMAR, Portugal
- Jacky Wood, JPI Oceans
- Richard Gilmore/Fabienne Jacq, European Commission DG GROW
- Sigi Gruber/ Marco Weydert, European Commission DG R&I
- Iain Shepherd, European Commission DG MARE

Supporting the Steering Group:

- Dina Eparkhina, EuroGOOS
- Kate Larkin, European Marine Board, EMB

The current EOOS SG objectives are:

- Provide strategic guidance and advice on EOOS development; - achieved
- Define and sign-off on EOOS branding and website; - achieved
- Develop EOOS consultation document and collect stakeholder feedback on it; - achieved
- Develop the EOOS strategy and implementation plans; - achieved
- Conduct initial engagement with key stakeholders to gain support for EOOS – achieved.

Appendix 2: Events Advisory Committee

The current members of the Events Advisory Committee are:

- Phil Weaver (Events Advisory Committee Chair), EMODnet Steering Committee Chair
- Catherine Boyen, Biological Station Roscoff, France/ Euromarine Network
- Neil Holdsworth & Mark Dickey-Collas, ICES
- Pierre-Yves Le Traon Mercator Ocean / Ifremer, France
- Corine Lochet, SHOM / Service Hydrographique et Océanographique de la Marine, France
- Jan Mees, European Marine Board
- George Petihakis, European Global Ocean Observing System, EuroGOOS
- Nadia Pinardi, Bologna University / JCOMM / Copernicus
- Susana Salvador, OSPAR Commission
- Isabel Sousa-Pinto, CIMAR, Portugal
- Joaquín Tintoré, SOCIB, Spain
- Koen Verbruggen, Geological Survey of Ireland
- Jacky Wood, JPI Oceans
- Ricardo Serrão Santos, Member of the European Parliament
- Richard Gilmore & Fabienne Jacq, European Commission DG GROW
- Sigi Gruber, European Commission DG RTD (Marine Resources Unit)

- Agnes Robin, European Commission DG RTD (Research Infrastructures)
- Iain Shepherd, European Commission DG MARE
- Glenn Nolan (EOOS Steering Group Chair) & Dina Eparkhina, EuroGOOS
- Sheila Heymans (EOOS Steering Group Chair) & Kate Larkin, European Marine Board
- Jan-Bart Calewaert & Selene Alvarez Pena, EMODnet Secretariat

Current Events Advisory Committee Objectives:

- Guide the development of the EOOS Forum and Conference Programmes;
- Provide input and feedback on the structure, sessions, focus talks, panel discussion topics and speakers;
- Act as ambassadors of the Conference, assisting with the announcement and promotion of the event by alerting key stakeholders to get involved;
- Provide information about other relevant events and/or strategic developments which need to be taken into account;
- Provide input for the preparation and fine-tuning of the EOOS Conference Message.