

# IOC-SOPM Strategy 2025-2030 Implementation Plan 2025-2027

## Summary & Status

**21-23 May 2025**

First Intergovernmental Session of the IOC Sub-Commission for the  
Central Indian Ocean (IOCINDIO-1)

United Arab Emirates



# Context

- **32nd Session IOC General Assembly** (Decision A-32/Dec.4.7)
  - Inception SOPM work
- **57th Session IOC Executive Council** (Decision EC-57/4.3)
  - Presentation Draft IOC-SOPM Strategy
  - Establishment SOPM Working Group
- **February, March, April 2025**
  - SOPM Working Group meetings (online & in person)
- **33rd Session IOC General Assembly**
  - Presentation final documents for adoption
- **Linkage to IOC Consultation Process – IOC and the Future of the Ocean**

# Why we need SOPM

- Accelerating pressures
- Fast growing ocean economy
- International targets
- Fragmented governance
- Limited uptake of science and knowledge in sustainable ocean decision-making -> ***IOC Foundational mandate***

# What is SOPM?

- A comprehensive strategic and **future-oriented framework** designed to guide decision-making about the sustainable use and conservation of a nation's entire ocean resources
- **Unifying umbrella** for ocean-related governance
- **Whole-of-society** and **whole-of government** approach
- Based on **robust scientific**, indigenous and local **knowledge**

# Target Audience

- **Decision-makers** and professionals **responsible for the planning and management of ocean areas** and their resources across IOC Member States
- Scientific institutions, NGOs, academia and other stakeholders

# Mission, vision & objectives

- **Vision**        IOC Member States equipped to implement knowledge-based SOPM
- **Mission**      Support decision-makers in implementing SOPM by facilitating uptake of data, advancing knowledge products and strengthening capacities by 2030
- **Four strategic objectives**

# Five Expected Outcomes

- **Strengthened ocean planning and management** policy approaches underpinned by science-based tools & evidence
- **Enhanced integration** of ocean observation, **data & knowledge** in decision-making
- Elevated coherence and **consistency across sectors, boundaries and the land-sea** interface
- **Increased** knowledge and **capacity** of stakeholders
- Improved integration of **climate change adaptation, mitigation and coastal resilience**, and biodiversity conservation



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# Implementation Plan 2025-2027

- **Activities**
  - Establishment of **global network of decision-makers** (end-users in the IOC value chain)
  - **Communicating SOPM** & IOC's role
  - **Map out decision-makers'** science & data **needs** for SOPM, including availability & gaps in IOC data
  - Sharing good practices, technical **guidance & capacity** development
  - **SOPM Pilot in 1-3 Member States**  
*+ fundraising coordination/implementation*
- **Implementation**  
IOC-wide programmes & regional Sub-commissions  
+ Ocean Decade SOP Programme & relevant external partners
- **Evaluation/Update**  
SOPM Working Group / Bi-annual



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# Timeline & Next Steps

18 April	SOPM Working Group sign off Strategy & IP
May	Publication documents IOC website
27 June	Documents presented for adoption at 33rd Session IOC Assembly