



OBPS_20250625

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IOC Ocean Best Practices System (OBPS) Monthly Meeting

25 June 2025
13:00-14:00 UTC
[ONLINE]



2025

25 June 2025
English only

ABSTRACT

The IOC Ocean Best Practices System Steering Group (SG-OBPS) meets annually at a face-to-face/hybrid/online meeting. During the intervening months, the OBPS convenes monthly online meetings to discuss progress and focus on the delivery of the work plan.

This report is the record of the online meeting on 25 June 2025.

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Summary of Actions

- **Action 1:** SG to respond to the Annual meeting [Participation Poll](#), if not done yet.
- **Action 2:** Patricia to prepare a one-page summary from Sessions 1 and 2 to be shared with the SG before the next meeting and with the Advisory board for their input.
- **Action 3:** Patricia to organise a working group with WP2-3 about the use limitations of metrics.

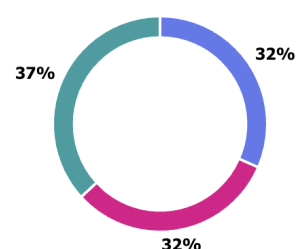
1. GENERAL UPDATES

Rebecca informs the group that the annual meeting is approaching in October. A [survey](#) has been sent out to check the ability to attend, as well as preferences for in-person or hybrid participation. The meeting is only a few months away, emphasizing the need for planning. The complexities of planning the October meeting include funding issues with the IOC and potential changes to SG membership. The survey results (Image below) are not conclusive, since 19/24 responses have been recorded so far, and there is an equal split between the 3 options. A decision should be taken soon so the planning of the Annual meeting can start afterwards. The conversation ended with a brief discussion about the upcoming IOC Assembly and its potential impact on the group's work.

1. What is your preferred mode of participation for the SG-OBPS-VII Annual meeting? (0 point)

[More details](#)

- **In person** – I would like to attend in person and I am able to cover my own travel and accommodation... 6
- **Virtual** – I prefer to join the meeting virtually. 6
- **Hybrid** – I prefer a mix of in-person and virtual participation, and will decide later if I can join in... 7




Patricia informed the group that there had recently been an information meeting from UNESCO to member states on UNESCO budget management. This session was public and can be viewed at this link: https://www.youtube.com/live/_bx7ApFO1uc?si=zao85WARYUdk9keZ.

Patricia informed the group that next **1st July 2025, 14:00-15:00 CEST**, Jay, Pauline, Rebecca, Virginie, Stefania, and Patricia will meet to review the [results of the Workshop survey](#) and plan a proposal for the workshop in 2026. If anyone else from the SG wishes to join this meeting, let Patricia know.

Action 1: SG to respond to the Annual meeting [Participation Poll](#), if not done yet.

2. WORK PACKAGE UPDATES

Patricia showed the  SG_OBPS_Action_List that was built together with the SG, during the last SG-OBPS-VI Meeting in November 2024, to review the status of various tasks from the list. The following incomplete tasks were discussed:

- Enhance social media communications channels: LinkedIn, YouTube for OBPS activities. **[In progress]**
 - Patricia mentioned working with a new volunteer, Michelia, to help with social media and communications.
- Complete a 3h university course on general best practices and applications [within 6 months]. **[In progress]**
 - Carolina Peralta reported that the self-paced course on best practices is ready for use on OTGA, and the plan is that it will be tested by Universities. Patricia to check the status of this with Carol Mazzuco.
- Design a new metrics report that links Repository users' country information to the number of institutions and or researchers per country (not population). **[Not started]**
- Investigate the possibility of using OE as a login authority for contributors logging in to DSpace
- Investigate the possibility of using OE-id to identify the authors (who do not have an ORCID in DSpace)
 - These 3 action points need to wait until the upgrade of the DSpace to start.
- Evaluate Repository Content **[In progress]**
 - CAPARDUS Collection reviewed
 - MISCELLANEOUS Practices Collection: 200 documents reviewed by Patricia. Ocean Decade Ambassadors (Talen and Laura) have volunteered to join the retrospective review group and provide additional review assessment of the documents. Preparation of the next batch of records for review from the Misc Practices Collection will be completed in early July.
 - To notify/publish this review process **[In progress]**

- The Guidelines for Repository Content Criteria have been recently published on the OBPS Newsflash. Patricia and Rebecca are working on a plan on how to handle the deletion of the documents, and how to communicate this to the authors.
- AI Testing for Document Validation. **Justin** outlined some approaches and initiatives he is involved with for AI, which might support the review of submissions against the agreed repository criteria **[In progress/Not started]**
- Translation of endorsed practices and investigation of translation-on-demand services, including AI Investigation. Pauline explained, this task covers completing the translation of the remainder (17) of the present 23 endorsed practices by the end of this year and a longer-term investigation of on-demand translation services, which are now becoming available. **[In progress/Not started]**
- Adapt the definition of good, better and best practice in Mantovani paper to see if concise and fit for OBPS. Example: best practice (is considered an endorsed practice). Endorsement proves the superior result across many other best practices within a community.
 - Jay and Pauline are working on refining the definitions of good, better, and best practices, with plans to discuss this with the steering group on the next meeting schedule on **11th July 2025**.
- Establish Agreement between IOC and AISBL - UNESCO standard agreement. **[In progress]**
 - **Johannes shared [this report](#)**, proposing that the methodology proposed is to accept IOC-OBPS as an ex-officio member in the OceanPractices AISBL and likewise, IOC-OBPS SG accepts OceanPractices AISBL as ex-officio. The status of “ex-officio membership” is provided to organizations that are for their internal reasons not eligible to become members. Ex-officio members can be invited to attend the General Assembly but have no right to vote.
- Establish a methodology of working between AISBL-OBPS- workflow for the projects. **[Not started]**
 - Rebecca and Patricia to develop a plan for this.
- Invite all IOC Programmes to participate in the SG-OBPS **[Not started]**
 - Waiting for the IOC Assembly results on the OBPS proposal.

WORK PACKAGE UPDATES

WP2: Pauline raised the critical issues with the repository technology, which has not been upgraded or maintained in five years, and in addition, is experiencing problems with AI bot attacks overloading the server. Arno has implemented Cloudflare as a security measure, but users are still facing difficulties with access and performance. The group also considered reaching out to other organizations to learn from their

experiences with similar problems. It is a known problem being experienced by repositories globally, and none have yet found a solution. The upgrade of the DSpace software is planned to start the contract in two weeks, it is hoped may solve some of the problems

WP7: Carolina reported on the successful implementation of the Spanish version of the ADAPT training workshop, which included participants from seven countries and achieved all project objectives. However, funding constraints have prevented the English version from being implemented due to budget cuts at UNESCO.

WP4: A meeting with ICES was held on the 23rd of June to discuss their feedback about the [OBPS endorsement process](#) proposed. ICES asked OBPS if there is a possibility to combine the metrics from OBPS and ICES to use these metrics for the requirement: “has been successfully used by multiple institutions”. Patricia pointed that using file visits is not an indicator to prove this requirement, and that this should be clarified.

The team also explored metrics for measuring the impact and adoption of best practices, with Justin highlighting the limitations of current metrics like downloads and citations. They agreed to form a working group to address this issue over the next 6-8 months.

Action 2: Patricia to organise a working group with WP2-3 about the use limitations of metrics.

3. STRATEGIC PLANNING

[Strategic Planning Session 2](#) did not get much input yet from the SG. Justin explains the importance of it, since it is crucial to capture everyone's views on this work. We highlighted the importance of sparing some time to answer this in the following weeks, to discuss the outcomes at the next meeting. Virginie explained that she had problems accessing the board. If anyone has problems, let Patricia know, and she will give you access again.

Strategic Planning next steps:

- Prepare a **one-page summary** highlighting key outcomes from Sessions 1 and 2.
- Share the summary with the **Advisory Board** to inform them and invite their input.
- Initiate a **SWOT analysis**.
- Draft Sections and work through each **Strategic priority** section by section.
 1. **OBPS and its role in the wider ocean practices development**
 2. Engagement with the user community
 3. Technology going forward
 4. Approaches for convergence of practices
 5. Making OBPS fit for the purpose
 6. Future governance

7. Future sustainability

Action 3: Patricia to prepare a one-page summary from Session 1 and 2 to be shared with the SG before the next meeting and with the Advisory board for their input.

4. NEXT MEETING TOPIC SUGGESTIONS

The next meeting was proposed to focus on two main topics, the Endorsement process and the Strategic Planning sessions 1-2 outcomes.

5. CLOSE OF THE MEETING

The meeting closed at 14:20 UTC.

ANNEX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS [ONLINE]

Jay PEARLMAN
Director, FourBridges
Port Angeles, WA 98362
United States of America

Patricia CABRERA
OBPS Project Manager
IOC Ocean Best Practices
System
Navas de Tolosa 1 23003 Jaén,
Spain

Pauline SIMPSON
OBPS Repository Manager
IOC Ocean Best Practices
System
IEEE France

Justin BUCK
British Oceanographic Data
Centre,
National Oceanography Centre
6 Brownlow Street,
Liverpool. L3 5DA
United Kingdom

Virginie VAN DONGEN-VOGELS
Oceanography and Shelf
Processes
Australian Institute of Marine
Science,
PMB 3 | Townsville MC QLD 4810
| Australia

Rebecca ZITOUN
Integrated Marine Observing
System
University of Tasmania
Private Bag 110, Hobart, TAS
7001 Australia

Johannes KARSTENSEN
Scientist
Ocean Circulation & Climate
Dynamics: Physical
Oceanography
GEOMAR | Helmholtz Centre for
Ocean Research Kiel
Duesternbrooker Weg 20, 24105
Kiel

Arno LAMBERT
IT Services Manager
UNESCO / IOC Project Office for
IODE
InnovOcean Campus
Jacobsenstraat 1, 8400
Oostende, Belgium

Ana Carolina PERALTA
BRICHTOVA
Institute for Marine Remote
Sensing/IMaRS
College of Marine Science
University of South Florida
140 7th Ave. South St
Petersburg, FL
33701 United States of America

M. Jose Luiz MOUTINHO
Nations Enablement & Joint
Expeditions
Bldg 2, 3220,4700 KAUST
Thuwal 23955-6900, Saudi Arabia