



**Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
(of UNESCO)**

Annual Report 1998

Addendum

IMPLEMENTATION OF IOC GOVERNING BODIES RESOLUTIONS

1. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE NINETEENTH SESSION OF THE IOC ASSEMBLY

Part A of the Annual Report 1997 contains information on the implementation of all Resolutions during 1997. This Addendum provides updated information on the implementation of selected Resolutions covering 1998 to first half of 1999.

Resolution XIX-3: Ocean Mapping

The programme is being successfully implemented due to the support provided by IOC and its Member States. The study made by the Secretariat shows that indirect support to the IBC's development is approximately US\$600,000 for the last two years. All regional bathymetric charts were developed satisfactorily and the new IOC/IASC/IHO Editorial Board for the International Bathymetric Chart of the Arctic Ocean (IBCAO) was established. The first meeting of the Board was held in Copenhagen in October 1998. Member States such as France, the Russian Federation and USA equipped research vessels with geophysical sensors. The collaboration with other organizations dealing with bathymetric data collection and management and with ocean mapping has been strengthened. The Memorandum of Understanding between IOC and IHO was revised and the new version signed. To a large degree the success was due to the follow-up provided by the Technical Secretary for Ocean Mapping, whose position continued to be supported by the IOC.

Given current budgetary restrictions a permanent UNESCO staff post for Ocean Mapping has not been possible to establish.

Resolution XIX-6: Third Session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Global Ocean Observing System (I-GOOS)

In accordance with this Resolution the Assembly endorsed the Resolutions of I-GOOS-III, the implementation of which was going on as scheduled. The GOOS principles and strategic plan were fulfilled in January 1998 in the "*Strategic Observing System (GOOS), Version 1.0*" (IOC/INF-1091; GOOS 41) and are available on the GOOS Web site. A milestone in the GOOS development was the publication in September 1998 of the "*Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) Prospectus 1998*" (ISBN0-904175-39-1, GOOS publication 42). This year it will also appear on the GOOS Web site. To replace I-GOOS and the Strategy Sub-committee of I-GOOS, a new GOOS Steering Committee was established on the basis of a Memorandum of Understanding signed by IOC, WMO, UNEP and ICSU at the end of 1997. The newly appointed GSC held its first meeting in Paris in April 1998.

By the same Resolution, the Assembly approved the Recommendations of I-GOOS-III in accordance with which regional GOOS initiatives, such as MedGOOS, Pacific GOOS and IOCARIBE-GOOS had been formed. Three GOOS capacity building regional workshops have been implemented in Malta, the Southern Pacific and IOCARIBE. The one for South America is

now being considered. Euro GOOS has started the process of analyzing costs and benefits of GOOS and MedGOOS will hold a cost-benefits workshop in Rabat in November 1999.

To increase effectiveness in the GOOS planning and implementation a number of actions have been taken: the Coastal and Living Marine Resources GOOS panels have been formed and have held several meetings. Coastal GOOS is ready to interact with GTOS's coastal initiative when it takes shape.

The GOOS Planning Bodies decided, with the advice of GOOS sponsors, that the best way of obtaining a stronger agreement to and endorsement of GOOS would be through the IOC Assembly rather than by convening a GOOS Agreement Meeting. A resolution on this topic will be presented to the 20th Session of the IOC Assembly.

The Trust Fund for GOOS has been healthy through the period, strongly supported particularly by Australia, France, the Netherlands, Sweden, the UK and USA. Brazil, Japan and the USA have forwarded secondments. These contributions have helped to achieve a notable progress in the GOOS implementation. The Global Ocean Data Assimilation Experiment is now moving well ahead.

Resolution XIX-7: GOOS Capacity Building

By this Resolution developed countries were urged to increase their assistance for capacity building in developing countries. Little progress has been made on this front in the last six months.

Resolution XIX-8: Global Sea Level Observing System (GLOSS)

GLOSS is being gradually strengthened. Member States supported the costs of the 6th Meeting of the GLOSS Group of Experts in Toulouse in May 1999 and coordination has begun between GLOSS and the Climate and Coastal Modules of GOOS. A vacant post of Programme Specialist for GLOSS in the Secretariat has been filled with the nomination of Dr Thorkild Aarup from Denmark.

More needs to be done to strengthen the role of regional coordinators.

Resolution XIX-12: Activities of the IOC Regional Committee for the Southern Ocean (IOCSOC)

Apart from the discussion with SCAR and the development of GOOS plans for the Southern Ocean, there is no substantive progress to report, because of manpower and funding limitations.

Resolution XIX-14: IOC activities in the Caspian Sea

Since the adoption of the Resolution, new developments in the Caspian Sea and calls from the Member States of the region led the Executive Secretary IOC to take an initiative in implementing the instruction given to him by the 19th Session of the Assembly. In 1998, a cruise was implemented by the Cousteau Society in the Caspian Sea with support from IOC. The cruise

report is currently available in English and French. It is expected that a Russian version will be published by the end of the summer. A number of consultations were held in Paris on the state of the Caspian Sea environment and the issue was discussed at the International Forum Great Rivers 1999 supported by UNESCO. IOC, among other international organizations, was requested to take an initiative in formulating a plan of action for saving the Caspian sea. IOC was invited to cooperate in the implementation of the Caspian Sea Environment Programme currently being developed by the World Bank, UNEP, UNDP and others. A resolution on this topic will be presented to the 20th Assembly.

Resolution XIX-17: Synthesis-Assessment of Ocean Science

The IOC/SCOR/SCOPE Ocean Assessment was endorsed by the 31st Session of the IOC Executive Council. The workshop will take place in Potsdam on October 2-8, 1999.

**2. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE THIRTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

**Resolution EC-XXXI.1: The Development of an International Science Programme on
the Global Ecology and Oceanography of Harmful Algal
Blooms (GEOHAB)**

The IOC Executive Secretary was instructed to establish an international science programme on ecology and oceanography of harmful algal blooms in cooperation with SCOR, to prepare Terms of Reference for a joint GEOHAB Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) and to ensure that the Commission becomes a full partner of GEOHAB.

A committee has been established, composed of 18 members with three *ex-officio* members representing IPHAB, SCOR and IOC.

The GEOHAB SSC is scheduled to have its first meeting early in September at IFREMER, Brest (France). The IOC and SCOR Secretariats are working with the SSC to identify the resources to establish a GEOHAB Secretariat to develop and implement the programme. Funding for the operation of GEOHAB and the SSC in 1999 is secured through an ICSU grant as well as IOC and SCOR support.

On behalf of the GEOHAB SSC, the Asian Natural Environmental Science Centre (Japan), has reprinted 1300 copies of the GEOHAB plan for coordinated scientific research and cooperation to develop international capabilities for assessment, prediction, and mitigation of harmful algae. This support has allowed for the GEOHAB plan to be extensively distributed worldwide to increase the interest in, and potential participation to, GEOHAB.

Resolution EC-XXXI.2: Ocean Sciences in Relation to Living Resources (OSLR)

This Resolution was calling for a meeting of experts to be convened to review the IOC Programme on Ocean Science in Relation to Living Resources (OSLR) and to assist the Programme to identify a more coherent theme for the development of future activities.

ACTION: A meeting of a group of experts, including those from FAO, ICES, PICES and SCOR, is planned for August 1999. The meeting will help to provide the guidance by: specifying the role the programme should play; examining the links between OSLR and the IOC regional subsidiary bodies; further examining the links between OSLR and other related programmes and activities of the IOC such as GOOS, Integrated Coastal Area Management and Global Investigations of Pollution in the marine Environment; and identifying the scientific investigation required to understand emerging environmental issues such as the introduction of alien species *via* ballast water and the management of marine ecosystems including conservation of biodiversity in relation to ecosystem carrying capacity, resilience and monitoring parameters for sustainability indicators.

Resolution EC-XXXI.3: International Tsunami Warning System in the Pacific (ITSU) and other IDNDR-related Activities

- A. Publish the ITSU Master Plan for the years after 2000, well in advance of the next ICG/ITSU Session; to spare no efforts in increasing the ITIC effectiveness; to establish effective communication between IOCARIBE Secretariat and the Caribbean Member States on tsunami-related matters.

ACTION: ITSU Master Plan was finalized by the ITSU officers at the meeting held in Honolulu, Hawaii from 26-29 January 1999. The Plan has been given for publication. Reorganization of the ITIC is going on. Increase of the ITIC effectiveness was a special issue in the agenda of the meeting in Honolulu. IOC continues its support to ITIC through an annual contract. Results of the reorganization will be reported to ITSU-XVII, to be held in October 1999 in Seoul, Republic of Korea. In response to the invitation of the IOC Executive Secretary, 11 countries of the Caribbean Region nominated their contact points on tsunami-related matters. The Caribbean Tsunami Project proposal was formulated and endorsed by the IOCARIBE Regional Committee at its session held in April 1999. The project proposal will be available at the 20th Assembly as an information document.

- B. Experience gained by the ICG/ITSU in the Pacific should be freely shared with other regions provided such support does not detract from the successful implementation of the Tsunami Warning System in the Pacific; close cooperation was encouraged with other organizations and agencies in meeting the IDNDR objectives. Contribution to the IDNDR Forum was recommended; Member States were encouraged to contribute to the IOC Trust Fund in order to ensure the successful development of IDNDR-related activities.

ACTION: Experts from the ICG-ITSU assisted in formulating and commenting on the Caribbean Tsunami Project. The draft project was brought to the attention of the ICG/ITSU officers and was discussed at the meeting in Honolulu in January 1999. Cooperation with the IDNDR Secretariat, UNIDO, UNEP, IUGG and WMO on the IDNDR-related issues continued. IOC experts and staff took part in a few meetings where they had an opportunity to share the IOC experience in natural disasters mitigation and identify new methods of cooperation. Two IOC experts will take part in the IDNDR Forum in July in Geneva and give talks on the IOC Tsunami programme and Storm Surges proposal. In March 1999 the Chairman of the ICG/ITSU called on

the ITSU Member States to use the IOC Trust Fund arrangements for allocating funds in support of the ITSU Programme. In spite of all calls and encouraging statements by the IOC Governing Bodies the IDNDR-related activities remain strongly underfunded. The expansion of the Tsunami programme to other regions and the formulation of new projects related to IDNDR objectives, like the storm surges proposal, create the risk of dispersing our already thin resources, originally intended for the Pacific Ocean.

- C. The project proposal on storm surges for the northern part of the Indian Ocean was supported, taking into account comments made by the IOC Member States, WMO and those of the GOOS Coastal Model Panel; close liaison was encouraged between the organization and Member States; the Executive Secretary IOC was instructed: to recommend the national authorities of Member States of the region to bring this project to the attention of the international funding agencies, to organize a meeting in 1999 in order to identify a plan to support and implement the project in conjunction with the IOCINDIO Workshop on Storm Surges.

ACTION: In response to the Recommendation of the Executive Council the project proposal was modified to take into account concerns expressed by GOOS and WMO experts.

A meeting on a Storm Surges Proposal for the Northern Part of the Indian Ocean will take place in October 1999 in New Delhi, India. Member States, international organizations and funding agencies were invited to support the project and to take part in the meeting. The meeting will be preceded by the IOCINDIO Workshop on Storm Surges.

Resolution EC-XXXI.4: IOC Support of Efforts to Reduce Vandalism of Oceanographic Equipment at Sea

The Executive Secretary is to prepare a proposal for the Director-General of UNESCO, to be presented at the appropriate UN level, addressing the problem of vandalism of ocean buoys by fishing vessels, and encouraging appropriate action by the competent bodies, and is to bring this item to the attention of the 20th Session of the IOC Assembly.

ACTION: Preparations are in hand to bring this to the attention of the Assembly.

Resolution EC-XXXI.5: Marine Science and Observation Inputs into Integrated Coastal Area Management (ICAM)

It was decided to pursue the establishment of the IOC/ICAM programme and to structure the programme on five thematic areas: Inter-disciplinary Study of Coastal Processes for ICAM; Marine Scientific and Technological Information Systems for ICAM; Methodology Development in Support of ICAM; Monitoring Systems for ICAM; TEMA in Marine Sciences for ICAM. It was stressed that the ICAM strategy should be implemented through IOC regional mechanisms.

ACTION: In the framework of the thematic area on Inter-disciplinary Study of Coastal Processes for ICAM:

- IOC, jointly with LOICZ and START organized a workshop in Benin in November 1998 focusing on climate change and coastal processes in West Africa. 35 regional participants attended and the main output of the workshop will be the production of a book providing a state of the art outlook on coastal processes in the region.
- An expert consultation took place in January at the IOC Secretariat, on the Coastal Ocean Advanced Science and Technology Study (COASTS) programme. This was a preparatory meeting to the 2nd COASTS Interdisciplinary Global Workshop, which will be held in Paris, in June 2000.

In the thematic area on Marine Scientific and Technological Information Systems for ICAM:

- The IOC-NOAA-CSMP Web site on ICAM continues to be developed as new sections have been added. The World Bank has now joined the three initial sponsors and is supporting this project.
- IOC/ICAM has also reinforced its cooperation with IGU, and a consultation meeting was organized in Paris (20 May 1999). A cooperation programme was established and initial projects were identified.
- In terms of training, IOC/ICAM has sponsored 6 participants to attend the Coastal Zone 1999 Conference, and is the main sponsor of the Training programme in Modelling and Monitoring of Coastal Marine Processes, which will take place in India, Dehli (November 1999).

Resolution EC-XXXI.6: Pan-African Conference on Sustainable Integrated Coastal Management (PACSICOM) and the African Ocean Days (AOD 1998)

The IOC Executive Secretary was instructed to strengthen IOC's intersectorial coordinating role for the PACSICOM process; to assist African States to ensure that PACSICOM is an African-driven programme; to assist African experts in drafting and implementing the pilot projects with particular emphasis on the GOOS-Africa programme; to mobilize support for PACSICOM and AOD 1998 under UNSIA and UNADAF; and to facilitate the inclusion of PACSICOM recommendations in the plan of action arising from the ACOPS Meeting in Cape Town. The Member States and donors were urged to increase their involvement with PACSICOM.

ACTION: As requested by the above resolution, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission strengthened its role as a leading Unit within UNESCO for PACSICOM and fully supported the follow-up activities of PACSICOM, by:

- Co-organizing the Pan-African Workshop on Large Marine Ecosystem Initiatives in Africa and supporting the participation of four African scientists in the Workshop, Cape Town, 27-28 November, 1999.

- Participating in the Conference on Cooperation for the Development and Protection of the Coastal and Marine Environment in Sub-Saharan Africa, Cape Town, 30-November-4 December 1998 and by ensuring:
 - that PACSICOM, Maputo and the Cape Town Conference should constitute a unified and single process driven by the African States;
 - the participation of UNESCO and IOC in the two meetings of the Preparatory Committee for the partnership Conference for the African Process for the Development and Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment in Africa; 1st meeting: Nairobi, 2 February 1999; 2nd meeting: New York: 21 April 1999.
- Participating in the meeting of the PACSICOM Coordinating Committee, Abidjan, 25-27 February 1999. Taking into full consideration the specific tasks assigned to the Committee by PACSICOM, IOC contributed to the definition of new terms of reference transforming the Committee in the Working Group PACSICOM+5 to offer support to the Preparatory Committee.
- Co-ordinating the publication of the proceedings of the Technical Workshops of PACSICOM.

Resolution EC-XXXI.7: Priority Africa

The Executive Secretary IOC was instructed to establish a privileged partnership with STRC of OAU for ocean matters related to Africa; to facilitate the transfer and archiving of relevant marine data to African marine research institutions and universities; to sensitize donors to the need for the acquisition of modern technologies for marine data management, for the development of an African Network of National Marine and Coastal Data Centres, for the availability of well-equipped research vessels and ships-of-opportunity, for reinforcing the network of tide gauges, for training to manage remote sensing and other oceanographic data and to increase the number of land receiving stations; to allocate sufficient funding to facilitate the activities mentioned above; to establish a focal unit to coordinate the programmes devoted to Africa.

ACTION: Within the framework of the IODE Programme the following actions have been undertaken:

- Within the framework of the ODINEA (Ocean Data and Information Network for Eastern Africa) project (part of ODINAFRICA-I) considerable capacity building activities have been undertaken to assist IOCINCWIO Member States to develop National Oceanographic Data Centres (NODC) or Designated National Agencies (DNA). These activities included an ODINEA workshop (November, December 1998, Capetown, South Africa), provision of personal computers and operational funds (1998 and 1999).
- Support for participation in the GODAR review conference (July 1999) by experts from Africa.

- Within the framework of ODINAFRICA-I and its information component RECOSCIX-CEA support has been provided for the setting up of the RECOSCIX-CEA regional dispatch centre in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, as a precursor to the RECOSCIX-CEA network which will provide information services and develop data products.
- Within the framework of ODINAFRICA-I Internet access support has been provided to data centres in the IOCINCWIO region as well as to the RECOSCIX-WIO and RECOSCIX-CEA regional dispatch centres (1998 and 1999).
- A team of African experts, jointly with the IOC Secretariat, have developed the project proposal "Ocean data and Information Network for Africa, Second Phase" (ODINAFRICA-II) for submission to the Government of Flanders within the framework of the UNESCO-Flanders cooperation programme (2000-2004). The draft has been discussed with the Government of Flanders which has expressed interest. Reference was made to the IOC Executive Council resolutions and to the recommendations of the PACSICOM workshops (especially the GOOS-Africa workshop). The ODINAFRICA-II project will be Pan-African and as such involves both the IOCINCWIO and IOCEA regions. During the RECOSCIX-WIO review meeting (Mombasa, Kenya, April 1999) a representative of RECOSCIX-CEA also participated with the view to ensuring South-South knowledge transfer and to stimulate cooperation between the two regions.
- A focal unit of three people was established to coordinate the programmes devoted to Africa.

Resolution EC-XXXI.8: Integrated Global Observing System (IGOS)

It was recommended that IOC become a partner in the proposed IGOS Partners Forum.

ACTION: IOC is participating in the Forum pending the endorsement of the Assembly.

Resolution EC-XXXI.9: Inventories of Coastal Monitoring Systems

It was decided to hire an external expert to gather and compile information needed for the inventories. Member States were urged to provide additional resources to help fund this activity.

ACTION: An expert will start work in August 1999 part-paid through extra-budgetary funds.

Resolution EC XXXI.10: Global Ocean Observing System

Resolution required IOC to establish inter-sessional working-group to prepare recommendations concerning appropriate resources and levels of funding for the GOOS Project Office, and the acquisition of extra-budgetary funds for the GOOS Programme.

ACTION: The Working Group has been appointed and will report to the 20th Assembly.

Resolution EC-XXXI.11: 1998 International Year of the Ocean

The IOC Executive Secretary was instructed to continue efforts in increasing awareness of the need to protect the ocean and its resources, develop a plan of action for implementing the IYO follow-up activities, produce a CD-Rom presenting the activities of Member States in the IYO. He was also instructed to contribute on the IYO to the Annual Report of the Secretary-General of the UN General Assembly and to report on the IYO to the UNESCO General Conference in 1999 and to CSD. The Member States were urged to support efforts identified as the IYO follow-up activities.

ACTION: Numerous activities have been implemented as follow-up actions to the IYO. A plan of actions for implementing the IYO follow-up activities was formulated taking into account recommendations and comments. It is available for the IOC Assembly as Document IOC-XX/2 Annex 9. Production of a CD-Rom presenting the activities of Member States in the IYO and publication of educational materials developed during the IYO will depend on resources. These activities are included in the plan of actions mentioned above.

As recommended, inputs were provided to the Annual Report of the UN Secretary-General and achievements of the IYO were presented at the CSD session.

Resolution EC-XXXI.12: IOC Programme and Budget for 2000-2001 (Draft 30C/5)

In accordance with this Resolution, the IOC Programme and Budget has been based upon two major lines of action. The established nomenclature for the Regular Programme and extra-budgetary accounts does not permit the IOC Secretariat to provide the level of information requested by the *ad hoc* Study Group on DOOS-2. Improvements in the budgetary follow-up are being considered by the Bureau of the Comptroller of UNESCO (UNESCO/BOC) at the request of the Assistant Director-General of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (ADG/IOC).

Resolution EC-XXXI.13: Joint Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (J-COMM)

The Executive Council endorsed the proposal to form J-COMM and instructed the Executive Secretary to prepare appropriate documentation including a draft resolution for consideration by the 20th Session of the IOC Assembly.

ACTION: J-COMM has been endorsed by the WMO Congress in May 1999. The draft resolution has been prepared and will be considered for adoption by the IOC Assembly.

Resolution EC-XXXI.14: Progress Report of the *Ad Hoc* Study Group on IOC Development, Operation, Structure and Statutes (DOSS-2)

The Executive Secretary IOC has passed the DOSS-2 Report to the Member States for written comments and concerns they may have regarding the proposed new status of IOC contained in the DOSS-2 Report.

ACTION: Comments of Member States, received until 1 May 1999, have been compiled in a document and an agenda item on this issue is placed before the Thirty-second Session of the Executive Council, so that the views of Member States can be considered and a process adopted to facilitate the discussion at the IOC Assembly.

Resolution EC-XXXI.15: IOC Statement to the Seventh Session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development

The IOC Statement based on the notes annexed to the Resolution was presented by the IOC Chairman to the Seventh Session of the UNCSD and was distributed among the Session participants.