



Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
Reports of Meetings of Experts and Equivalent Bodies

**Executive Board
of the IOC-WMO-UNEP
Intergovernmental Committee
for the Global Ocean Observing
System (I-GOOS Board-VI)**

**Sixth Session
7 - 9 December 2010
Paris, France**

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IOC-WMO-UNEP-ICSU/I-GOOS Board-VI
Paris, December 2010
English only

ABSTRACT

The 6th session of the Executive Board of the IOC-WMO-UNEP Intergovernmental Committee for the Global Ocean Observing System (I-GOOS Board) was held in Paris, France, on 7 – 9 December 2010. On the first day the board assessed the decisions and outcomes that had arisen from the I-GOOS Board-5 and I-GOOS-IX meetings and decided on a specific set of actions to follow up on during the intersessional period. Most of the meeting addressed the questions of streamlining the governance of GOOS. A draft resolution on the future organization of GOOS was prepared for consideration by the IOC 26th Assembly in June 2011. The agenda and preparations for I-GOOS X were also discussed

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SUMMARY	Page
OPENING AND WELCOME.....	1
REVIEW OF I-GOOS BOARD-V and I-GOOS IX ACTIONS	1
Discussion on future organization of GOOS.....	3
<i>1.1 Role of GRAs in GOOS.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>1.2 Developing GRAs in the Polar Regions.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>1.3 Preparation of Preliminary Draft Resolution for 26th IOC Assembly.....</i>	<i>5</i>
PREPARATIONS FOR I-GOOS-X	6
ANY OTHER BUSINESS	7
<i>1.4 DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION.....</i>	<i>7</i>
CLOSURE OF THE SESSION.....	7
LIST OF ACTIONS	8

OPENING AND WELCOME

The Chair, Shao Hua Lin (China), opened the meeting at 09h00 on 7 December 2010 and welcomed the participants. Participants included the elected and ex-officio members of the board, guests of the Chair, including the co-chair of the regional council, and secretariat staff. The vice chair from Ivory Coast, Kouadio Affian, was unable to attend. The Chair thanked the members for attending and the secretariat for the generous arrangements. The Chair then asked for any comments on the agenda. The GRC co-chair suggested adding a section on the GRAs. The revised agenda was adopted.

The GOOS Project Office Director introduced the meeting documents. They included the OceanObs'09 working group framework consultative draft paper and results of the consultancy by Jim Baker to look at the interactions between IOC and WMO.

REVIEW OF I-GOOS BOARD-V AND I-GOOS IX ACTIONS

The Chair reviewed the actions arising from the 5th I-GOOS Board meeting and the I-GOOS IX Assembly. The agreed status of these actions is listed below. The actions of the I-GOOS Board V were all considered finished, with the exception of item 7 about GOOS outreach. The board noted that outreach is a continuous on-going action which had many successes during the past year, including publication of the GOOS, Sea Level Rise and Arctic, Summaries for Policy Makers, events at GEO and COP-16 and other regional workshops.

The board noted that those actions that required action by Member States were not finished. The board noted that stronger engagement by the member states is necessary to complete these tasks.

Actions from I-GOOS Board V

- Action 1.** Chair (François Gérard) to inform I-GOOS members of the existence of Baker Report [Done 10/6/09]
- Action 2.** GPO Director to ask the IOC Executive Secretary to mention Baker Report in his speech to Member States, inform them that it can be provided to any of them on request, and ask for their comments on it to be sent to Keith Alverson at IOC and Geoff Love at WMO by September 1. The Executive Secretary should emphasize in presenting this plan to IOC Member States that this is an informal process and that it is parallel to the process being carried out at WMO. [Done 9/6/09]
- Action 3.** The Chair to inform I-GOOS members that their 'national reports' should come in discussion after presentation of agenda items 4.2 and 4.3. If there are numerous reports requested, a separate session after the hours of the regular meeting can be added. In any case these national reports should be limited to no more than 3 minutes each. [Done 10.6.09]
- Action 4.** The Chair to reinstate ABELOS and IODE on the agenda as items 6.3 and 6.4 before Member States are asked to approve the agenda. [Done 10/6/09]
- Action 5.** The GPO Director to inform Peter Pissierssens that he is strongly requested by the I-GOOS Board to present the IODE agenda item [Done 9/6/09]

- Action 6.** Secretariat to request the Executive Secretary in the opening speech to the Assembly to include the following text: “A study to examine the cooperation and interactions between UNESCO/IOC and WMO in the implementation of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) was carried out by Dr James Baker. His report provides a number of recommendations some pertaining to JCOMM and its role in the implementation of GOOS. IOC will make this report available and ask Member States to comment on it before 1st September 2009. WMO has similarly asked its member states to comment on the report. IOC and WMO will develop a joint overview of the responses as input for the JCOMM-3 meeting in November 2009.” [Done 13.6.09]
- Action 7.** USA Vice Chair, Margarita Gregg, in collaboration with GSSC Chair, Ralph Rayner, and the GPO, to develop a strategy for the marketing of GOOS. The summary for policy makers document, and its distribution will be part of this larger strategy. Deadline: for presentation to the next meeting of the Board (March 2010)
- Action 8.** GPO to send a circular letter to IOC member states containing the existing list of GOOS points of contact and/or lead agencies and requesting either confirmation of these national GOOS point of contact or new nominations. The letter should further make countries aware of the web based national database under development. [Done, CL-2328, Jan. 27, 2010]
- Action 9.** GRC Chair to inform GRAs of the existence of the circular letter [done]
- Action 10.** GPO to email all GOOS focal points when I-GOOS-IX meeting report is published. The body of the email should highlight the actions expected of Member States contained in the report. [Done, 31 December, 2009]
- Action 11.** Board members to assess the Baker report text and to review WMO member and IOC Member States comments in advance of the next Board meeting (March, 2010), and at the Board meeting to prepare a statement on the report to be presented by the Chair to the IOC Executive Council in June, 2010. In addition, Board members will review the comments received by IOC and WMO and prepare an initial draft response on behalf of the Board to the JCOMM meeting Nov 4-10, 2009. [Done JCOMM meeting]
- Action 12.** Board to send comments on the draft summary for policy makers to Thorkild Aarup. [Done, June 30, 2009]
- Action 13.** GPO to account for comments of the Board and then arrange for translation of the summary for policy makers into several languages, printing, and distribution to IOC and GOOS points of contact. Deadline: Prior to next meeting of the Board [Done Summer, 2010]
- Action 14.** Board members to review the Summary for Policy Makers and provide minor revisions to the document. [Done 30 June, 2009]

Actions from I-GOOS IX

- Action 1:** Member States to improve GOOS participation in the GEO/GEOSS process by exploring opportunities to provide funding support, including personnel secondments, for more coordination and active engagement of the GOOS in GEO.
- Action 2:** Member States to inform GSSC of national needs and priorities for GOOS outreach and advocacy activities. (Next GSSC)

- Action 3:** Member States to report to PICO on national priority activities in support of the Coastal Implementation Plan.
- Action 4:** GOOS Regional Alliances to report on regional observation priorities and participate actively in the development and review of the Coastal Module Implementation Plan.
- Action 5:** GSSC and PICO to prioritize a step-wise implementation list of variables to be observed within Coastal GOOS.
- Decision 1:** The committee notes the necessity of setting up National GOOS Committees, so as to gain the benefits of their establishment and full participation in the GOOS Programme.
- Decision 2:** I-GOOS recommends the adoption of the formulation for the thermodynamics and equation of state for seawater TEOS-10 and endorses the related recommendation of IODE-XX.4.
- Decision 3:** I-GOOS considered the budget and programme document, provided the secretariat with guidance on improving and refining it, and approved the proposed programme and budget for the 2010–2011 biennium.
- Decision 4:** Ms Shao Hua LIN was elected as Chairperson of I-GOOS by acclamation. Furthermore Prof Kouadio AFFIAN, Dr Margarita GREGG, Dr Alexander POSTNOV and Admiral Hector SOLDI were elected Vice-Chairpersons of I-GOOS by acclamation.

DISCUSSION ON FUTURE ORGANIZATION OF GOOS

The Chair opened the discussion of the future organization of GOOS by reviewing the Planning, Implementation and Governance of GOOS during the intersessional. The I-GOOS Board had begun discussion of the Baker consultants report through telecom meetings. It was decided to coordinate a response to the report with WMO and request Member States for comments. The board requested a joint review with JCOMM, but this was not accepted by WMO and JCOMM as the consultants review was not an officially requested review of JCOMM. The Board decided to revise approach and report on the issues and the Ocean Obs '09 integrated framework report to the IOC 26th Assembly. The Board took the decision to hold a single day I-GOOS the day before the start of the IOC 26th Assembly, and to request from the IOC officers a half day dedicated to GOOS at the IOC Assembly.

Action 1: *GPO (Keith Alverson). Deadline: December 2010. Ensure that the IOC officers at their January 2011 meeting are made aware of the Executive Council decision to have a half day of IOC Assembly dedicated to GOOS [Done]*

Following the Chair's background introduction, two presentations from invited guests were given about the follow-up activities to the OceanObs'09 held in Venice, Italy 2009.

Julie Hall presented the "Vision for OceanObs09", Global information for societal needs. The societal needs met by an ocean observation network have grown and the products and services of the system must grow as well. The Ocean Obs'09 conference clearly called for nations to implement plans for the ocean observing systems and increase efforts to improve upon the systems. There is now a need to identify requirements for non carbon biogeochemical and biological observations, based on key variables. A new framework is

needed to design how development should go forward. A task team was formed to recommend how to evolve and preserve the systems.

The board noted that the OceanObs'09 recommendations for the coastal areas were not as comprehensive as for the open ocean. But progress on coastal issues was made.

Eric Lindstrom presented “A Framework for Ocean Observing”, a preview of the results of the OceanObs'09 task team on an integrated framework for sustained ocean observing. Within the framework the interpretation of “ocean” includes coasts and the assertion that framework methodologies will apply to both. Within the framework “requirements” drive the processes governing observation needs, which result in products. The observations and instrumentation are guided by the identification of Essential Ocean Variables and operational systems to produce the EOVS. The societal benefits and identified issues addressed by the products in turn drive a re-examination of the requirements. Thus a continuous feedback loop assures the relevance and completeness of the systems. Weather & Climate have been the societal drivers to date, and produced the Essential Climate Variables of the GCOS. Now OceanObs'09 has put forward many more issues and drivers than just climate for the observation systems. It is very useful to associate these enhanced drivers with the international conventions that can set national priorities. Conventions are agreements that embody global needs, but an exclusive reliance on conventions for driver justification may miss local needs. The governance requirements for the framework include the need for oversight and expert panels to evaluate Essential Ocean Variables. The EOVS focus of the framework defines sampling strategy. Implementation communities, given EOVS sampling needs, standards and best practices are able to respond unambiguously to the requirements. There is thus a need for a high level body to lead the member states down this path from issues to implementation.

The framework is actually the way the GOOS and GCOS are doing work in the climate community now and bears considerable resemblance to early GOOS implementation plans. We are trying to extend that working framework toward the biogeochemical communities. A greater emphasis on interaction with the conventions will require targeted intervention and involvement. The GSSC has been working toward to this philosophy, with decreased emphasis on universal member state involvement, in favor of targeting system support. In addition this means working with interested member states to increase representation of GOOS by member states at conferences of parties. Future funding and growth strategies for GOOS and GCOS will differ from the past, and will require more awareness of the changing landscape of science, research and operational science funding.

Action 2: *GPO (Albert Fischer). Deadline: April 2011. Make OceanObs09 framework document an information document for the IOC Assembly.*

1.1 Role of GRAs in GOOS

Hans Dahlin, co-chair of GOOS Regional Association Council, reviewed the state of the GRAs and future plans to increase GRA involvement and support of GOOS. GRAs are the response of GOOS to the reality that ocean governance differs radically between Member States and regions. Focused regional projects require local involvement and thus GRAs are needed. However some GRAs have come to think that the GOOS and IOC are funding agencies. This is not a useful situation. IOC is a science coordination body, not an operational body. But GOOS and GRAs should be operational, and thus need different governance methods. JCOMM has proven quite capable of governing the operational needs for the climate and weather components, but probably will not suffice for coastal and biogeochemical GOOS. The GRAs need guidance on this. Some board members dissented

to the operational only view, emphasizing the strong role research scientists continue to play in the development and maintenance of the GOOS.

The Fifth GRA forum is planned to be held alongside the EuroGOOS meeting in Sopot Poland, Oct. 2011. The GRC and the GRAs take the responsibility of planning for the forum.

Action 3: *Ralph Rayner. Deadline: October 2011. Aid the 3rd October 2011 GRF, by informing the GRF of GOOS objectives and plans. GSSC and PICO to aid planning of the GRF. GOOS Board to prepare presentation for GRF. GSSC and PICO to present coastal implementation plan to GRF.*

1.2 Developing GRAs in the Polar Regions

The IOC assembly has asked for better cooperation with Southern Ocean research. "as regional contributions to GOOS". GOOS Board has been tasked by the IOC Assembly to examine whether SOOS should be a GRA. Representative of SOOS queried the GPO as to advantages and purposes of SOOS applying to become a GRA. SOOS has established itself and now has a secretariat. SOOS differs from other GRAs by being an open-ocean research programme, with few local human impact issues.

Action 4: *GPO (Keith Alverson) to inform Steve Rintoul, January 2011. The board notes the SOOS plan with satisfaction. The board welcomes the desire of SOOS to ultimately become a GRA under condition of compliance with the GOOS regional policy and that SOOS will be open to scientists from all nations currently or potentially involved with observation in the Southern Ocean. SOOS welcome to attend the GRF and the OOPC [Done]*

1.3 Preparation of Preliminary Draft Resolution for 26th IOC Assembly

The board debated the future of the I-GOOS and summarized their conclusions in a draft resolution to be considered by the IOC Assembly in June 2011. The Strengthening and Streamlining GOOS Draft Resolution, S&S DR, was drafted by five elected member state representatives on the I-GOOS board (China, Peru, USA, Russia, Cote d'Ivoire) as well as the GSSC chair (Ralph Rayner), the chair of the GOOS regional council (Hans Dahlin), and the chair of the OOPC and the post OceanObs'09 working Group (Eric Lindstrom) with full consensus.

In order to strengthen and streamline the governance and guidance of GOOS, as requested by the Member States at the Executive Council, the board is suggesting that I-GOOS be dissolved and the intergovernmental oversight of GOOS be given directly to the Assembly. Concurrently, the GSSC and its subsidiary panels, which serve as expert panels reporting to I-GOOS, will also be dissolved. In place of these bodies, a single 'GOOS board' made up of both member state representatives and experts will be formed to carry out intersessional activities for GOOS between IOC Assemblies. This decision appears consistent with the need to streamline GOOS governance mechanisms as highlighted, for example, in the Baker report.

The board also strongly recommended that the IOC Member States take sole ownership of GOOS without co-sponsors. The co-sponsors, ICSU, WMO and UNEP, will be invited to continue cooperation with GOOS activities, but will relinquish governance responsibilities solely to IOC.

Both these suggested changes are consistent with the recommendations of the external

review of GOOS carried out in 2003 (GOOS report No. 128, March 2003). They are also consistent with the suggestions of Neville Smith in his chapter 'The Future' in the IOC 50th Anniversary volume (pp. 295-296). In his words: "A solution may in part be through removing a layer of (intergovernmental) process and, perhaps even more radical, for the IOC to step up and take clear and explicit ownership and responsibility for the GOOS. The JCOMM would provide an assured path for coordination with the WMO and mechanisms other than joint sponsorship could be used to ensure effective coordination with the UN and international systems."

Both of these changes are made in the hope of raising the level of Member States engagement and stewardship of GOOS specifically through the IOC.

PREPARATIONS FOR I-GOOS-X

The Board discussed a proposed Agenda for the I-GOOS-X meeting in detail. Due to the shortened duration of the I-GOOS X meeting (one day only, June 20th, 2011), no non-mandated reports will be requested. Most of the time is allocated to member state discussions of the S&S draft resolution and a potential draft resolution of GOOS workplan to be submitted at the IOC Assembly. The agenda and timeline of actions to accomplish leading up to the I-GOOS X is attached in Annex III.

- Action 5:** *GPO (Forest Collins). Deadline: January 31st 2011. Circular letter inviting MS to the I-GOOS will not include the draft DR. It will include the agenda and the request for nominations.*
- Action 6:** *GPO (Keith Alverson). Deadline: April 15th 2011. Submit S&S DR for inclusion in IOC Assembly Action Paper. Include two paragraphs overview. DR including TOR to be included in action paper.*
- Action 7:** *GPO (Keith Alverson). Invite two experts to speak on behalf of GOOS to the IOC Assembly. One to be nominated by Framework Group. Other by Board. (See timeline)*
- Decision 1:** *I-GOOS Board will not hold a meeting in Washington. Finalizing of DR and TOR will be by email. If required I-GOOS Board can hold a teleconference by decision of chair.*
- Decision 2:** *GSSC meeting to be delayed pending outcome of Assembly.*
- Action 8:** *GPO (Forest Collins). Deadline: April 2011. Invite all Framework sponsors to Assembly as observers.*
- Action 9:** *GPO (Forest Collins). Deadline: February 2011. Send DR and TOR to GOOS Points of Contact (see timeline notes)*
- Action 10:** *Ralph Rayner to ensure PICO plan is delivered by April 2011.*
- Action 11:** *Board Members to provide any final comments on DR and TOR to GPO by January 10, 2011.*
- Action 12:** *All Board Members and guests to discuss with their member state representatives to the Assembly regarding the DR and TOR and try to enlist these members as the potential sponsors of the DR: Cote d'Ivoire and Ecuador to bring forward a candidate for GOOS Board from their regions to be nominated.*

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1.4 Date and place of next session

The Board may meet as required via teleconference in spring before finalizing the D.R..

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

The Chair, Shao Hua Lin, thanked the Secretariat for the facilities and preparation of the documents. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 17h30 on December 9, 2010.

LIST OF ACTIONS

- Action 1:** GPO (Keith Alverson). Deadline: December 2010. Ensure that the IOC officers at their January 2011 meeting are made aware of the Executive Council decision to have a half day of IOC Assembly dedicated to GOOS.
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- Action 2:** GPO (Albert Fischer). Deadline: April 2011. Make OceanObs'09 framework document an information document for the IOC Assembly.....
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- Action 3:** Ralph Rayner. Deadline: October 2011. Aid the 3rd October 2011 GRF, by informing the GRF of GOOS objectives and plans. GSSC and PICO to aid planning of the GRF. GOOS Board to prepare presentation for GRF. GSSC and PICO to present coastal implementation plan to GRF.5
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- Action 5:** GPO (Forest Collins). Deadline: January 31st 2011. Circular letter inviting MS to the I-GOOS will not include the draft DR. Will include the agenda. Will include request for nominations.6
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- Action 7:** GPO (Keith Alverson). Invite two experts to speak on behalf of GOOS to the IOC Assembly. One to be nominated by Framework Group. Other by Board. (see timeline) GPO to contact and make arrangements.....6
- Decision 1:** I-GOOS Board will not hold a meeting in Washington. Finalizing of DR and TOR will be by email. If required I-GOOS Board can hold a teleconference by decision of Chair.6
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ANNEX I

AGENDA

OPENING AND WELCOME

REVIEW OF I-GOOS BOARD-V and I-GOOS IX ACTIONS

DISCUSSION ON FUTURE ORGANIZATION OF GOOS

- 1.1 Role of GRAs in GOOS*
- 1.2 Developing GRAs in the Polar Regions*
- 1.3 Preparation of Preliminary Draft Resolution for 26th IOC Assembly*

PREPARATIONS FOR I-GOOS-X

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 1.4 DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION*

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

LIST OF ACTIONS

ANNEX II

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Chair:

Shao Hua LIN
Director-General
National Marine Data and Information Service
93 Tianjing City Rd, Liu Wei Rd
P.O. Box 74
Hedong District
300171 Tianjin
China
Tel: + 86 22 2401 0803
Fax: + 86 10 2401 0926/ 86 22 2401 0820
Email: shlin@mail.nmdis.gov.cn

Hans DAHLIN
GRC Chair
EuroGOOS Director
Swedish Meteorological and
Hydrological Institute, Norrköping,
Folkborgsvägen 1
SE-601 76 Norrköping
Sweden
Tel: +46 11 495 83 05
Fax: +46 11 495 80 01
Email: hans.dahlin@smhi.se

Board Members, GRC Chair and GSSC Chair:

Dr. Margarita GREGG (vice-chair)
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration Office of Oceanic and
Atmospheric Research
1100 Wayne Avenue, Suite 1202
Silver Spring MD 20910
United States
Tel: +1 301-713-3270
Fax: +1 301-713-3300
Email: Margarita.Gregg@noaa.gov

Dr Alexander POSTNOV (vice-chair)
Deputy Director
Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and
Environmental Monitoring, Moscow
State Oceanographic Institute
6, Kropotkinskiy Lane
MOSCOW
Russian Federation 119034
Tel: +7 499 246 01 67
Fax: +7 499 246 72 88
Email: a_postnov@mail.ru

Almirante Hector SOLDI (vice-chair)
Secretary General
Permanent Commission for the South Pacific
Complejo Comercial Albán Borja,
Edificio Classic, Piso 2.
Guayaquil, Guayas
Ecuador
Tel: + 2221202
Email: hsoldi@cpps-int.org

Ralph RAYNER
GSSC Chair
IMAREST
80 Coleman Street
London EC2R 5 BJ
United Kingdom
Tel: +44 20 7382 2600
Fax: +44 20 7382 2670
Email: Ralph@ralphrayner.com

Guests:

Mrs Julie HALL
Assistant Regional Manager
National Institute for Water & Atmospheric
Research
Private Bag 14901, Kilbirnie
Wellington 6241
New Zealand
Tel: +64 4 386 0300
Fax: +64 4 386 0574
Email: j.hall@niwa.co.nz

Dr Eric LINDSTROM
Physical Oceanography Program Scientist
NASA Headquarters
Earth Science Division, Room 3D74
Science Mission Directorate
NASA Headquarters
Mail Suite 3B74
300 E Street SW
Washington DC 20546
United States
Tel: +1 202 358-4540
Fax: +1 202 358-2770
Email: eric.j.lindstrom@nasa.gov

Board Member Not-Attending:

Kouadio AFFIAN
Director of CURAT
22 BP 582 Abidjan 22,
Côte D'Ivoire
Tel: +225 22 44 52 70
Fax: + 225 22 44 52 70
Email: k_affian@yahoo.fr

Secretariat:

Keith ALVERSON
Head, Ocean Observations and Services
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
of UNESCO
1 rue Miollis
75732 Paris Cedex 15
France
Tel: +33 (0) 1 45 68 40 42
Fax: 33 (0) 1 45 68 58 13
Email: k.alverson@unesco.org

Thorkild AARUP
Email: t.aarup@unesco.org

Justin AHANHANZO
Email: j.ahanhanzo@unesco.org

Albert FISCHER
Email: a.fischer@unesco.org

Thomas F. GROSS
Email: t.gross@unesco.org

ANNEX III

I-GOOS X Agenda and Timeline

- (January 2011) Circular Letter: Invitation to I-GOOS X, includes list of countries and agenda
- (1 February) Thorkild Aarup to write for GPO to GOOS points of contact, sending information DR and TOR. Cover letter will refer to Executive Council decision to strengthen and streamline GOOS, the stagnation of deployment of observing system, the Baker report and OceanObs'09 Framework document, and indicate this is the I-GOOS Board's proposed response.
- (15 April) Include in IOC Assembly Action Paper a two paragraph overview noting board approval, and the Strengthening & Streamlining DR.
- (20 June) I-GOOS X Agenda
- Presentation by Chair
 - Consideration of two Draft Resolutions for Assembly
 - DR1: Program of work for GOOS 2012-13
 - DR2: Strengthening and Streamlining GOOS
 - Proposed Decision: I-GOOS approves the DR's
 - Set up Drafting Group to submit Program of Work DR1 (if necessary)
 - Set up Nomination Committee
 - Nominations [on the understanding these names will be forwarded to the Assembly regional groups in the event the S&S DR succeeds]
 - Reappoint Chair (China) and Russia and USA
 - New South American and African vice-chairs
 - Proposed Decision: I-GOOS suggests members for Board if adopted.
- (~24 June) Assembly ½ day on GOOS:
- Presentation by Chair (including S&S DR, and implementation rate)
 - Discussion by Member States
 - Presentations on Ocean Observation Successes and Opportunities. Answering the question as to why this S&S DR is a good idea.
 - One presentation will be given by nominee of the Framework Group.
 - Why remove coastal/open ocean distinction?
 - Why include both research and operational observations in GOOS?
 - Why extend to biological and biogeochemistry?
 - Another presentation by one political level 'user' on why they need GOOS.
 - Presenter to be decided by board – send thoughts to chair by January 30. Chair to inform GPO of choice.
 - Possible third presentation from representative of one of the international conventions demonstrating their needs for GOOS.
 - Discussion by Member States II
 - Decision by MS to adopt the draft Resolutions.