

Interagency Ocean Observation Committee (IOOC) Metrics for Ocean Observing Systems (MOOS) Task Team

Scope of Work

March 26, 2018

Goals and activities of the task team

Metrics are tools for supporting actions that allow programs to evolve toward successful outcomes, promote continuous improvement, and enable strategic decision making.¹ Additionally, they are now utilized as a means of communicating program aims, status, and progress. The proposed purposes for developing a set of ocean observing metrics for the Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) include:

- Characterizing the scope and nature of IOOS
- Gauging progress toward achieving established goals

Metrics could also help monitor and evaluate the status of U.S. observing activities at-large, which can then be used to assess IOOS and determine how adjustments to smaller programs can improve the system. These metrics should reflect indicators related to essential observing variables (EOVs)—physical, chemical, or biological—to help understand how well elements of the ocean domain are observed in time and space, determine vulnerabilities and opportunities in observing systems, and inform management and policy decisions to promote oceanographic research and operations. Detailed metrics relating to the management of individual observing networks are not necessarily the aim of this effort, and are left to agency programs to develop and utilize.

The Interagency Ocean Observation Committee needs to commission a task team of propose an alternative mechanism that will:

1. Determine the audience for metrics,
2. Develop suggestions for a suite of measurable and repeatable metrics and/or indicators,
3. Recommend a process for agencies to contribute towards those metrics,
4. Consider/recommend pilot metric development projects,
5. Suggest ways to assess the impact of metrics on the target audience; and
6. Recommend next steps towards moving beyond pilot metrics.

¹ <https://www.nap.edu/read/11292/chapter/5>

Timeline and responsibilities

- Literature review and audience scope (2 months)
- Develop initial list of metrics (3 months)
- Expert workshop (5 months)
- Final recommendations (2 months)

Resources Required

Staff and Facilities: IOOC support staff with the assistance of the Consortium for Ocean Leadership will provide basic logistical requirements to facilitate meetings and conference calls.

Budget: Up to \$40,000 initial request from IOOC for potential travel support for expert workshop participants and possibly cover facilitation services for design and implementation of the surveys and workshop.

Membership/Representation

The task team shall consist of a minimum of three representatives from at least three of the interested IOOC member agencies and operate with the approval/oversight of the IOOC. All officially recognized task team members can vote. Non-voting participants may be invited to help achieve specific task team objectives only.

Approval Process/Reporting

The IOOC will be the final approval authority for the scope of work and products for the Metrics for Ocean Observing Systems Task Team.

- The IOOC Co-Chairs will initially review the final scope of work and proposed products and approve them for review by the IOOC.
- During the time the task team is active, any questions and issues that cannot be resolved by internal consensus will be presented to the full IOOC for resolution.
- The task teams will provide written or verbal updates at every IOOC meeting and as needed to the IOOC Co-Chairs.

Frequency

The frequency of meetings will be as agreed by the group to achieve the activities in a timely manner. The frequency of meetings should be reviewed by the IOOC Co-Chairs within a three-month period initially, and as part of a periodic review thereafter.

Sunset Date

Task team will remain constituted until March 26, 2019, unless disbanded sooner or extended.

A review of the Scope of Work will be undertaken after the first six months initially, and then extended as agreed to upon review thereafter, to ensure continuing relevance to IOOC goals.

Members

Federal Members

- NOAA (David Legler, Krisa Arzayus, Jennifer Bosch, Emily Smith)
- NASA (Paula Bontempi, Laura Lorenzoni)
- NSF (Bob Houtman, Xujing Davis)
- USACE (Tyler Hesser, Marin Kress)
- BOEM (TBD)

Non-Federal Participants

- Rebecca Pearson, GLOS
- Josie Quintrell, IOOS Association