Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
Reports of Meetings of Experts and Equivalent Bodies

IODE Steering Group for OBIS (SG-OBIS)

Sixth Session
JAMSTEC/Global Oceanographic Data Center (GODAC), Okinawa, Japan
1-3 February 2017

Action Paper/Draft meeting report

This document will be the main working document for the 6th session of the SG-OBIS. It includes (i) the draft introductory text that will be used for the meeting report and (ii) (in yellow) the draft action items, decisions and recommendations.

Participants in the Session are requested to carefully read this document as well as other working documents.
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1 OPENING OF THE SESSION AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND TIME TABLE

• Prof Eduardo Klein SG-OBIS Co-Chair will open the session and thanks the local organizers.

• Dr Shirayama will provide welcoming words on behalf of the local host JAMSTEC

• Mr Hosono Takashi will provide local practical details.

Draft recommendations/decisions:

SG-OBIS adopted the agenda and time table with or without revision.

The SG-OBIS decided/recommended/requested/agreed/welcomed/reiterated....
2 OBIS PROGRESS REPORT

2.1 OBIS SECRETARIAT REPORTING

- Mr Ward Appeltans and Mr Pieter Provoost will provide an update on the intersessional activities at the OBIS secretariat.

Proposed action items 2017-2018:

Draft recommendations/decisions:

The SG-OBIS decided/recommended/requested/agreed/welcomed/reiterated.....

2.2 OBIS NODE REPORTING

2.2.1 OBIS Node reporting tool and OBIS Node page

WORKING DOCUMENT: OBIS NODE PAGE MOCKUP

- Sky Bristol will present the draft OBIS node page and reporting tool (http://iobis.org/survey/ and http://iobis.org/survey/results/).

- In addition, for discussion:
  - Status of the data queue tool in GitHub
  - Status of the dataset data and metadata quality: http://iobis.org/reports
  - Status of orphaned datasets: http://iobis.org/explore/#/node/0

Draft recommendations/decisions:

The SG-OBIS decided/recommended/requested/agreed/welcomed/reiterated.....

2.2.2 OBIS Node health status check and exit strategy

WORKING DOCUMENT: OBIS Node Health Status Check and Exit Strategy

WORKING DOCUMENT: Draft list of inactive OBIS nodes (shared at meeting, after agreeing on the OBIS Node Health Status Check and Exit Strategy)

- Mr Eduardo Klein will present the draft OBIS Node health status check and exit strategy
- Mr Ward Appeltans will list the OBIS nodes that would currently fall under the category of inactive nodes.

Draft recommendations/decisions:

The SG-OBIS decided/recommended/requested/agreed/welcomed/reiterated.....
2.2.3 Asian OBIS Node strategy

- Mr Hosono Takashi will present the status of the strategy to strengthen OBIS in Asia.

**Draft recommendations/decisions:**

The SG-OBIS decided/recommended/requested/agreed/welcomed/reiterated.....

2.2.4 Report on GBIF collaboration

**INFORMATION DOCUMENT:** Survey results OBIS nodes and GBIF

**WORKING DOCUMENT:** status OBIS nodes in GBIF

- Mr Ward Appeltans reminded us that on 13 October 2014, IOC and GBIF signed a letter of agreement in which the two parties recognized the two initiatives (OBIS and GBIF) as complementary with common goals (in particular OBIS’s role in marine biodiversity data). Together they agreed to work towards maximizing the quantity, quality, completeness and fitness for use of marine biodiversity data, accessible through OBIS and GBIF, amongst other things.

- At the 4th SG-OBIS session (February 2015), the SG recommended that GBIF should harvest OBIS tier-2 nodes if they could also harvest marine datasets from GBIF. It was not recommended that iOBIS set up a separate IPT for GBIF to harvest, since this would mean a duplication of effort.

- At that time, 5 out of the 14 OBIS nodes served their data to GBIF directly. Currently 13 OBIS nodes are registered at OBIS. In addition, the two tier-3 OBIS nodes serve data via their tier-2 node and one OBIS node provides their datasets to GBIF via their national GBIF node. 12 OBIS nodes are not registered at GBIF.

- Two OBIS nodes indicated they have harvested marine datasets from GBIF.

- The OBIS nodes requested following issues to be addressed:
  - GBIF enforcement of CC-0, CC-BY, CC-BY-NC
  - Lack of visibility of OBIS (networks can only be added to datasets by GBIF)
  - Replacement/removable of old OBIS datasets
  - Mismatch of OBIS vs GBIF mandatory DwC terms, such as scientificNameID
  - GBIF asked to remove the absence records from OBIS-USA

**2.2.4.1 Potentially new OBIS nodes from the GBIF network of publishers**

**WORKING DOCUMENT:** potential new OBIS nodes

- Mr Ward Appeltans will report on potential new OBIS nodes based on a review of GBIF publishers. The SG-OBIS-5 (May 2016) recommended the OBIS Secretariat to look into potential new OBIS nodes based on marine publishers in GBIF for areas where OBIS lacks coverage. An analysis of datasets with over 90% marine records
that are not yet in OBIS, resulted in a list of 86 publishers in GBIF. This list does not take into account geographic coverage. Collectively, this represents nearly 500 datasets and around 7 million records.

- Three options should be considered (none of them are mutually exclusive):
  
  - The OBIS co-chairs or OBIS secretariat contact these GBIF publishers and ask if they would like to become involved in OBIS as an OBIS node
  - An OBIS node establishes a data sharing relationship and harvests and processes the marine datasets of these GBIF publishers
  - An OBIS node, after consultation, endorses the GBIF publisher and requests iOBIS to harvest the marine datasets from their IPT/DiGIR (based on the “marine, harvested by iobis” indication in the EML additional metadata field). The GBIF publisher is treated as an OBIS data provider and falls under the responsibility of the OBIS node. The OBIS node should report back the OBIS QC report and make an arrangement on how to correct any mistakes.

**Draft recommendations/decisions:**

The SG-OBIS decided/recommended/requested/agreed/welcomed/reiterated.....

2.3 OBIS TASK TEAM REPORTING

2.3.1 OBIS governance task team

- Eduardo Klein will report on the OBIS EC meeting held on 8-10 November 2016 at the IOC project office for IODE, Oostende, Belgium.

- To discuss:
  
  - Status of business model canvas to map current activities, identify gaps, document what OBIS is etc. This will be done via an online tool [here](#) (need account). Training link [here](#) (need account).

**Proposed action items 2017-2018:**

- Develop OBIS Business Model Canvas during a few online meetings using the online tool. Need volunteers to contribute.
- Assess progress of OBIS work plan and intervene when necessary
- Next OBIS EC meeting, possibly November 2017, venue?

**Draft decisions/recommendations:**

- The SG-OBIS decides to abolish the GovTT to be replaced by OBIS EC.
• The SG-OBIS requests the OBIS EC to present the results of the OBIS business model canvas before or at the next SG-OBIS session.

The SG-OBIS decided/recommended/requested/agreed/welcomed/reiterated.....

2.3.2 OBIS data task team

• Philip Goldstein will report on the OBIS data TT activities:
  o Compliancy of 7 required OBIS terms.
  o OBIS-ENV-Data pilot project results

• For discussion:
  o Make OccurrenceID a required term (as in GBIF)?
  o Allow fossil data in OBIS?

Proposed action items 2017-2018:
  o Submission of OBIS-ENV-DATA proposed standard to the IODE Ocean Data Standards and Best Practices project for adoption by IODE and share on http://www.oceandatapactices.net.

Draft recommendations/decisions:

The SG-OBIS welcomed the proposed OBIS-ENV-DATA standard for combined datasets and thanked the OBIS-ENV-DATA consortium for their excellent work done.

The SG-OBIS recommended OBIS Nodes to apply the OBIS-ENV-DATA standard in those cases that environmental and/or biological measurements, as well as sampling event methodology information, are available.

The SG-OBIS decided/recommended/requested/agreed/welcomed/reiterated.....

2.3.2.1 OBIS Event Data for Scientific Applications

WORKING DOCUMENT Pilot Project Proposal: OBIS Event Data for Scientific Applications

• Sky Bristol will present the plans submitted as part of a new IODE pilot project proposal: OBIS Event Data for Scientific Applications.

• To discuss:
  o Need a chair for this pilot project
  o Need partners to join this project (note GBIF already expressed interest)

Proposed action items 2017-2018:
• Link with Biodiversity data integration RDA group
• See pilot project work plan
Draft recommendations/decisions:

The SG-OBIS decided/recommended/requested/agreed/welcomed/reiterated.....

2.3.3 OBIS capacity development task team

WORKING DOCUMENT: OBIS Training Strategy 2017-2021

- Mrs Leen Vandepitte will report on the training activities during the past intersessional period and will present the draft OBIS training strategy 2017-2021.

- OBIS training courses in 2016:
  - OBIS-INDEEP deep-sea training workshop, 25-28 October 2016 in Belgium
  - OBIS training course Administración de Datos Biogeográficos Marinos (Contribuyendo al Uso de OBIS), 26-30 September 2017 in Colombia

Proposed action items 2017-2018:

- OBIS training course (Spanish), UNAM Mexico, 27 Feb -3 March 2017
- OBIS training course (French), Senegal, April 2017
- OBIS/GCRMN Coral Reef training workshop, ? October 2017
- Update OBIS manual (in multiple languages), in particular on:
  - OBIS-ENV-DATA standard and practices
  - Step-by-step guidelines for dataset processing
  - Short tutorials on new OBIS tools
- Develop partnerships (e.g. earth science, RDA, others?) to magnify our reach in training.

- To discuss:
  - New OBIS CD-TT chair
  - OBIS training strategy 2017-2021

Draft recommendations/decisions:

The SG-OBIS decided/recommended/requested/agreed/welcomed/reiterated.....

2.3.4 OBIS taxonomy task team

- Mrs Leen Vandepitte will report on the activities of the Taxonomy TT:
  - Report on the QC activities of non-matching names in OBIS
  - Report on status of last SG recommendation

Proposed action items 2017-2018:

- Continue working through the backlog of non-matching names in OBIS
- Continue providing support to OBIS nodes when non-matching names occur

- To discuss:
Need for clarity to whom we should send the feedback (provider or node
manager; cfr. confusion on the current email action)
Agree on deadline for responses on taxonomic QC report (e.g. 2-3 months)

Draft decisions/recommendations:
The SG-OBIS reiterated (i) the decision that scientificNameID is a mandatory term in OBIS;
(ii) the recommendation that node managers can contact the TaxTT to get help in matching
the taxon names and (iii) that it is the task of the OBIS nodes to perform the taxon
matching.
The SG-OBIS decided/recommended/requested/agreed/welcomed/reiterated.....

2.3.5 OBIS technical task team

WORKING DOCUMENT: Draft OBIS2.0 Reengineering project

- Pieter Provoost (OBIS data manager) and Bart Vanhoorne (EurOBIS) will report on
  the status of the hardware/software infrastructure and the issues encountered.
- Sky Bristol will present the OBIS 2.0 - Reengineering Project.
- To discuss:
  - Status mirror at INCOIS?
  - Metadata in OBIS (workflow through IMIS)

Proposed action items 2017-2018:

Draft recommendations/decisions:
The SG-OBIS decided/recommended/requested/agreed/welcomed/reiterated.....

2.3.6 OBIS science advisory task team

INFORMATION DOCUMENT: OBIS collaboration with CBD, GEOBON, GOOS and status of
BBNJ

- Ward Appeltans will report on the status of BBNJ PrepCom and the IOC IWG on
  BBNJ.
- Eduardo Klein will report on the collaboration with the CBD (EBSA, COP13, SOI) and
  their needs in training and information sharing.
- Eduardo Klein will report on the collaboration with GOOS BioEco and GEO BON
  MBON and their needs from OBIS.
• To discuss:
  o How can we revive the OBIS SATT? Revise membership, [Terms of Reference](#)?
  o Closer collaboration with IPBES

Proposed action items 2017-2018:

Draft recommendations/decisions:

The SG-OBIS strongly encourages IOC Member States to continue supporting the national, regional and thematic OBIS nodes, which they host, that contribute data, technical infrastructure and scientific expertise that can support the BBNJ and other relevant international processes.

The SG-OBIS decided/recommended/requested/agreed/welcomed/reiterated.....

2.3.7 OBIS communication and outreach task team

• Ward Appeltans will report on the communication/outreach activities.
  o OBIS newsletter
  o OBIS twitter
  o OBIS blog with use cases tied to OBIS library

• To discuss:
  o OBIS dataset of the month
  o Guidelines from CoML on Communication & Outreach Strategy (Klein)
  o OBIS promotion by data journal publishers (Ward)
  o Annual statistics on:
    ▪ New or improved spatial and temporal coverage
    ▪ New or improved taxonomic coverage
    ▪ New statistical fidelity due to increased coverage or improved data quality
    ▪ New contributing institutions and PIs
    ▪ New connections to monitoring networks

Proposed action items 2017-2018:

Draft recommendations/decisions:

The SG-OBIS decided/recommended/requested/agreed/welcomed/reiterated.....
2.4 OBIS Progress Strategy

- Mr Eduardo Klein will introduce this agenda item.

- To discuss:
  - How to increase data volume, especially for the more recent years:
    - Link with biodiversity monitoring programmes (Results on biological monitoring from GOOS Survey: [http://dev.iobis.org/goos](http://dev.iobis.org/goos))
    - Citizen Science (Kevin MacKay)
  - Strengthen OBIS Task Teams
  - Data Archeology (Nicolas Bailly)

3 OBIS Funding Strategy

- Ward Appeltans will introduce this agenda item and requested to review the page on [http://iobis.org/about/sponsor/](http://iobis.org/about/sponsor/).

- Current OBIS proposals under the IOC CD fund:
  - Capacity development in ocean observation data analysis and product visualisation to enhance the ocean science – policy interface (IOC-CDF-2016-002)- [download](#)
  - Capacity development in marine science communication to enhance the ocean science – policy interface (IOC-CDF-2016-001)- [download](#)

- Current call for proposals that can contribute to the objectives of OBIS:
  - NASA Earth Science Division call (ROSES-2016 A.50) to advance specific elements of the GEO Work Programme 2017-2019
  - European Horizon 2020 (SC5-18-2017) novel in-situ observation systems to advance the in-situ component of GEOSS and the EU Copernicus programme (link with GEO BON)

- Donations
  - Serge Martin (The great explorers)

- To discuss:
  - Resource needs and funding options

4 OBIS WORK PLAN 2017-2018

5 ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS, WORK PLAN AND REPORT

6 DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION

- Date: Spring 2018?
- Place: ?
7  ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8  CLOSING OF THE SESSION