

Call for applications: OCG Vice Chair Data & Information

The Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) is seeking applications for Vice Chair Data & Information for its Observations Coordination Group (OCG).

GOOS is the global lead for ocean observing coordination. Its OCG works to guide and strengthen the implementation of GOOS and relevant aspects of WMO and IOC observing systems through coordinating across the global ocean observing networks (see the OCG Terms of Reference, membership, governance, and operating principles [here](#)). The number of GOOS networks and the work of the OCG is expanding. The stakeholders are also widening, which includes increasing connections and opportunities for OCG with the private sector. Over the next few years GOOS will be undergoing reform to strengthen the position of the OCG in GOOS. The role of Data & Information Vice Chair is vital to guide the efficient and well structured data and information flow within this context.

GOOS works with its contributing nations, observing networks, institutions, and community of scientists, technicians and practitioners to strengthen the global ocean observing system through standards, best practices, FAIR data implementation, and co-design. Its aim is to deliver a fit-for-purpose ocean observing data and information delivery system. GOOS connects with partners and policy instruments around climate, weather, biodiversity, coastal resilience and a sustainable economy to ensure that the global ocean observing system meets stakeholder needs for ocean information.

In order to guide and strengthen the implementation of GOOS including the WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS), the OCG identifies, coordinates and develops relevant initiatives across the global ocean observing networks. There are now 13 mature GOOS networks and 4 emerging networks, and the OCG also manages the Work Plan of the IOC-WMO Joint Operational Centre – [OceanOPS](#) – which provides services to IOC and WMO, and is the international coordination center for tracking, monitoring and supporting the GOOS observing networks.

The role of the OCG Data and Information Vice-Chairperson is to coordinate data management activities of interest to GOOS, under the guidance of the Observations Coordination Group and the GOOS Steering Committee, to which it reports. The role will work across the GOOS ocean observing networks and integrate with relevant strategies and systems under WMO and IOC, as well as with the Biological and Ecological data flows currently overseen by the BioEco Panel. In particular, the Vice-Chairperson is responsible for guiding the GOOS Observing Networks in OCG towards the implementation of the OCG Cross-Network Implementation Strategy.

The [OCG Data Strategy](#) is a forward looking, yet practical strategy for networks. It is based on 4 key elements: federation, data endpoints, minimum metadata and support at national level for

key data aggregation points. The Strategy is consistent with the WMO Information System (WIS) and outline for the IOC Data Architecture and the Ocean Data and Information System (ODIS) of IOC. It was adopted as a framework for GOOS at its Fifteenth Steering Committee. Moving forward, the data strategy framework needs to evolve to support GOOS data delivery that includes BioEco data flows, in close collaboration with the BioEco Panel and IOC Ocean Biodiversity Information System (OBIS) to ultimately deliver a cross GOOS Data infrastructure.

The OCG Vice Chair Data and Information is an active role and requires someone who has experience in ocean observing and ocean data management as well as experience with ERDDAP and knowledge of WIS and IOC programs - particularly of IOC's International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE). It is anticipated that the role will take 10% of a normal working week. The Vice Chair is a member of the OCG Executive and will evolve the work in collaboration with the OCG Co-Chairs and the OCG Vice Chairs for WMO and Standards and Best Practices, OceanOPS and the IOC and WMO secretariats. The role is supported by the IOC, and WMO, secretariats.

The ideal candidates will have management experience in ocean observing and ocean data, knowledge of the work of WMO/WIGOS, GOOS, OCG, and the global ocean observing networks. The set of attributes and skills that GOOS is seeking are laid out in Annex 1, and the commitments in Annex 2. The OCG Vice Chair Data and Information is appointed for a term of up to 5 years. It is anticipated that the role will be appointed in late September 2026.

The candidate cannot hold a leadership position in an observing network.

Application process

Applicants are kindly requested to send their CV and covering letter, indicating how they meet the required experience and skills, as outlined in Annex 1. In addition, applicants are requested to include confirmation that they have, or anticipate receiving, permission from their employer (as relevant) to undertake this role.

Please send applications via email to Ms Olena Titorchuk (o.titorchuk@unesco.org) no later than 20 September 2026. Any questions about the role can be addressed to cgallage@wmo.int.

The selection will be made in late September 2026, and candidates will be invited to interview for appointment in mid October 2026.

Annex 1

Terms of Reference for the OCG Vice Chair WMO/WIGOS

The tasks of the Vice Chairperson include:

1. Working with networks, OceanOPS and national partners to implement the OCG Data Strategy across GOOS ocean observing networks, including:
 - a. Support integration with other key frameworks (i.e., WIS, IOC Data Architecture including OBIS, ODIS).
 - b. Support evaluation of the minimum metadata passport categories with networks and OceanOPS, adding or adjusting as needed to meet the needs of GOOS and data users.
2. Chair the OCG Data Task Team, which generally meets every 3 months, to implement and evolve the OCG Data Strategy across the ocean observing networks and dialogue with networks about their issues and advances.
3. Work with GOOS OCG Co-Chairs and members, contribute towards evolving the work of the OCG through attending OCG Executive Team management decisions, meeting planning, reporting on progress, leading relevant actions relating to the OCG Workplan
4. Identify necessary data related actions; recommend and encourage development of pilot activities; and coordinate activities/actions identified in OCG and WMO workplans
5. Evolve the Data Strategy Framework to support GOOS data delivery and cross-walks with BioEco data flows and physical data from biological and ecological observing, in close collaboration with the BioEco Panel and OBIS.
6. Continue to develop the OCG Data Strategy as needed to support networks in delivering consistent, open and FAIR data to users
7. Interact with ERDDAP Steering Group with regard to GOOS needs, and keep an eye on evolving technology in general.
8. Represent GOOS OCG and/or data work as appropriate at committees/meetings, etc.

The Vice Chair will work closely with OceanOPS, and with other OCG members and representatives, WMO, and IOC.

Expertise required

- Experience with the curation and management of oceanographic and marine meteorological in situ data
- Experience with GOOS, the work of the OCG, and one or more of the GOOS observing networks.
- Experience with ERDDAP

- Experience and knowledge of common data formats (NetCDF, etc) and metadata standards and conventions (CF, Darwin Core, Schema.org, etc)
- Understanding of controlled vocabularies
- Familiarity with WMOs GTS and WIS2.0, as well as IODE and its ODIS
- Experience or exposure to regional or international observing and data coordination would be advantageous.

Skills required

- Ability to communicate with diverse stakeholders.
- Analytical thinking and decision making.
- Systems thinking and a system-wide perspective is important.

Experience that would be advantageous

- Appreciation of the ocean observing value chain and the needs of users.
- Experience with curation and management of biological and ecosystem data (or similar)

Annex 2

Commitments and practical information

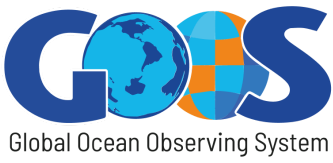
The OCG includes the two Co-Chairs, the Vice Chairs of Data Management, Standards and Best Practices, and WMO/WIGOS, the OceanOPS Manager, representatives from the IOC and WMO secretariats, an Expert on Stakeholder Alignment, and the leadership of the 13 mature global ocean observing networks and 4 emerging networks. See the OCG Terms of Reference, membership, governance, and operating principles [here](#).

Meetings:

- The OCG meets annually, generally in person, for 3.5 days to report on progress, discuss emerging topics, make decisions, and develop the annual work plan.
- There are also 3 OCG Roundtables (online) per annum, these are forums to evolve the OCGs work and interact on emerging issues.
- The OCG Executive Committee, which includes the Co-Chairs, Vice Chairs, OceanOPS, ECOP/developing country focal point, and representatives from IOC and WMO secretariats, meets biweekly online to evolve actions, Task Teams, plan meetings, respond to questions and issues as they arise, and track work plan.

Other commitments

- The Vice Chair Data and Information leads the OCG data Task Team, with WMO and IOC secretariat support, to evolve the data work of the OCG with the networks.



- The Vice-Chair Data and Information will also participate in selected WMO and/or IOC meetings as appropriate to ensuring alignment and connection

The role requires on average approximately 10% of a normal working week.