GCOOS

Observing System Committee Report at GCOOS Parties Meeting
Proposed Action Plan

- Elect new Chair
- Review and revise Observing System Plan
  - Review changes due to new 5.01(c)3 status of GCOOS and near-future ability to own assets
  - Replace Ocean.US references with NOAA/IOOS Office references
  - Replace 7 Societal Goals of IOOS with 4 Themes of IOOS
  - Move section on Observing Priorities to near the beginning of the document to that the reader can see how what follows supports those priorities. (Note that these priorities are not set by the OSC, but by the BOD).
  - Incorporate the document Priority Observing System Activities for the GCOOS-RA
  - Incorporate the GCOOS Build-Out Plan (which includes Gap Analysis)
  - Update Assessment of User Needs (we could update the synopsis of the various stakeholder workshops and observing system plans, or ask the Board for such a document and refer to it in the beginning of the OSP)
    - New HABIOOS Plan
    - New NOAA Hypoxia Monitoring Implementation Plan
    - ...
  - To Section 4 on Observing Strategy and Implementation add subsections on “Best Practices” and QA/QC for specific sensors. Use nationally developed guidelines were possible.
  - Add a section on metrics of success for observing system elements.
Action Plan (Continued)

• Review the GCOOS Business Plan and submit suggested changes to BOD (is the Business Plan still being used?)

• Review the Build-Out Plan
  – Are the requirements that the approach is based upon addressing complete (all committees and councils should do this)? If not suggest changes to BOD.
  – Does the approach best meet the requirements given the available resources? If not, suggest changes to BOD.

• Survey Observing System elements for:
  – QA/QC practices (DMAC elements should be known through Data Portal project)
  – Impediments to success and lessons learned (this could feed back into cost estimates and other planning)
  – Metrics of success
Proposed Changes to Terms of Reference

Present Wording

The Observing Systems Committee will be established to aid in the technical and scientific development of GCOOS observations. The Committee will be responsible for the development of standards, QA/QC procedures, consideration of and recommendations on technology improvements necessary to meet present and future user needs, and development of requirements for scientific research and pilot projects. The Committee will be composed of experts in the various fields of ocean observing systems such as biological, physical and chemical oceanography, fish and shellfish, seabirds, marine mammals, atmospheric science, remote sensing, fisheries technology, and aquaculture and mariculture. The Observing Systems Committee also is responsible for recommending to the Board annual updates to the business plan for observational issues associated with the GCOOS. Members will be appointed by the Board of Directors and the chair will be elected by the members of the Committee. The Committee can use targeted workshops and establish working groups to develop its scientific and technical advice.
Issues With Present Wording

• Development of standards requires being given specifications for observations. The latter should be developed in response to stakeholder needs and so should not originate with the committee.

• Where possible, QA/QC standards should develop nationally, via forums such as QARTOD.

• Although the OSC can offer recommendations for requirements for scientific research and pilot projects, the requirements should be set by the BOD.
Proposed Changes to Terms of Reference

Proposed Wording

The Observing Systems Committee will aid in the technical and scientific development of GCOOS observations. The Committee will be responsible for reviewing observing system requirements from the Board and recommending changes in the Observing System Plan (OSP) that best address how observations can meet the requirements. Where the recommended changes to the OSP are inconsistent with other GCOOS planning documents (e.g., the GCOOS Build-Out Plan and Priority Observing System Activities document), the Committee will also include associated recommended amendments to those documents. Unless compelling reasons are made otherwise, recommendations for the OSP should follow guidance developed at the national level. The Committee will be composed of experts in the various fields of ocean observing systems such as biological, physical and chemical oceanography, fish and shellfish, seabirds, marine mammals, atmospheric science, remote sensing, fisheries technology, and aquaculture and mariculture. Members will be appointed by the Board of Directors and the Chair will be elected by the members of the Committee. The Committee can use targeted workshops and establish working groups to develop its scientific and technical advice.