

Interagency Ocean Observation Committee (IOOC) Biological Integration and Observation Task Team

Scope of Work

March 5, 2013

Goals and activities of the task team

The primary goals of the IOOC Biological Integration and Observation Task Team (BIO-TT) are: A) to improve the availability of observations on the five currently identified IOOS core biological variables¹, and B) to identify, and prioritize additional cross-cutting federal agency biological and ecosystem observation needs. To meet these goals, the IOOC BIO-TT will collaborate with the IOOS Program Office, the Regional Associations and other federal interagency working groups as necessary.

A. To improve the availability of existing IOOS core biological variables the BIO-TT will:

- Inventory existing sources of core variables, associated data standards and bio-sensor technology², including their integration status under IOOS.
- Develop plans and identify partners to integrate remaining sources of core variables into IOOS including identification of mature bio-sensors and development of data standards, if appropriate.

B. To identify, and prioritize additional cross-cutting biological and ecosystem observation needs the BIO-TT will:

- Survey federal agency aquatic biological and ecosystem priority data needs.
- Identify and prioritize cross-cutting biological and ecosystem variables.
- Host an expert workshop to review the prioritized biological and ecosystem variables.
- Determine implementation strategies for proposed new IOOS core biological and ecosystem variables.

Timeline and responsibilities

- **Survey (8 months):** Survey federal agencies and Regional Associations for existing core variable datasets including whether they are fully integrated under IOOS. Survey federal agencies for their priority biological and ecosystem observation needs.
- **Prioritize (6 months):** Identify partners and develop plans, including development of data standards if appropriate, for remaining sources of existing core biological variables identified in the survey to be fully integrated into IOOS. Prioritize, by overlap and gap analyses, cross-cutting federal biological and ecosystem variables that should be considered for addition to the list of IOOS core biological variables.
- **Expert Workshop (3 months):** Work with the IOOS Program Office and federal partners to develop and host a workshop to analyze the survey findings, explore best available science of biological and ecosystem observing, and determine implementation strategies for biological and ecosystem observation needs identified from the survey.
- **Outcomes:** Inventory of existing sources of core variables including recognized data standards, and plans and partners identified to facilitate IOOS integration in the future. Survey of federal agencies'

¹ Currently identified IOOS core biological variables: phytoplankton species, zooplankton species, zooplankton abundance, fish species and fish abundance.

² bio-sensor = biological observing technology (e.g. animal tagging/tracking sensors, passive acoustic sensors)

priority biological and ecosystem observations, expertly reviewed and prioritized for consideration as additional IOOS core variables.

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 \$25,000 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 Biological Observing 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.

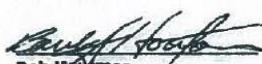
Frequency

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 February 25th 2015, 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. The first review is due in August 2013.



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