



Perspectives on the Future

IMOS Advisory Board

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IMOS



- Over the past 10 years IMOS has become an international leader in ocean observing building on the Oceans Policy Science Advisory Group (now the NMSC) 2005 vision for an Australian Integrated Ocean Observing System (AusIOOS).
- IMOS has become an essential component of Australian marine research and a highly valued partner in the international ocean observing effort.
- Challenge going forward – how do we ensure another decade of success?

Outline

- IMOS to-date
- Elements of success
- Strategy for the future
- Challenges/risks going forward

What is IMOS?

- IMOS is eleven partner organisations from the Australian marine science community providing an unprecedented level of open access research infrastructure.
- Producing data used by around 200 national and international partner or collaborative organisations, across academia, government and industry.

NCRIS
National Research
Infrastructure for Australia
An Australian Government Initiative



IMOS is a national collaborative research infrastructure, supported by Australian Government. It is led by University of Tasmania in partnership with the Australian marine & climate science community.

www.imos.org.au



The Operators of the IMOS infrastructure are:



Success of IMOS

- Raised awareness of the value of Australia's marine estate
- IMOS is responding to social, economic and environmental drivers of national and international consequence.
- Recognition by the marine community of the value of national marine science coordination, collaboration and cooperation.
- International developments and engagement.
- Opportunity - NCRIS and the Marine and Climate Super Science Initiative.
- Clear vision from the beginning (data centric research infrastructure) underpinned by clear strategy, program design and implementation, and an increasing awareness of the need to demonstrate impact.

Future - Responding to NCRIS 2016

- 2016 National Research Infrastructure Roadmap – new opportunity to secure decadal investment in IMOS.
- Effective engagement in the NCRIS process:
 - submissions highlighted:
 - the ongoing requirement for sustained ocean observing;
 - the need to grow and enhance IMOS to full coverage of Australia’s estuaries, coast, shelf and oceans; and,
 - planned incorporation of novel technologies to improve quality and efficiency.
- Underpinning our response to NCRIS 2016 - *“IMOS Strategy 2015-25 – Need, Capability and Impact”*

IMOS Strategy 2015-25

- **Clear vision:**
 - By 2025, Australia will have a continuously growing time series of essential ocean variables for marine and coastal environments.
 - This will enable cutting edge research on contemporary problems, and provide a scientific basis for informed decision-making.
- **Positioning** - Australia's grand challenges, distinctive scientific capability, positioned within the National Innovation System.
- **Application/Implementation** - Three strategic imperatives of Need, Capability, and Impact to ensure IMOS outputs have real influence on outcomes important to Australia.

IMOS Strategy 2015-25

Nine Strategic Priorities

Need

- Engage all stakeholders in the ongoing design and implementation of the system.
- Continued focus on turning observations and data into time series of essential marine and coastal variables addressing current and future needs.
- Collaborate as a strong partner in the global ocean observing enterprise.

Capability

- Sustain/evolve established IMOS capability to both realise full value from investments and respond scientific and technological developments, and performance and delivery.
- Position IMOS capability so as to maximise benefits from related investments in remote sensing, vessel operation, marine data management, and ocean and coastal modelling.
- Articulate major gaps, develop costed solutions, and work with partners and stakeholders to identify opportunities for addressing them.

Impact

- Continue to evolve the observing system in response to national priority setting.
- Sustain effort in areas where impact is high. Focus effort on increasing relevance and impact in sectors with unrealised potential.
- Build partnerships with State Governments and marine industries around the core investment by Australian Government.

Future - Challenges/Risks

- Resources
- Data issues
- Uptake and impact
- Governance

Challenge #1 – Resources

- Ensuring we have sufficient resources to deliver the IMOS Strategy 2015-25:



- Effective engagement in the NCRIS 2016 processes.



- Strategic and implementation plans in place - Strategic (*IMOS Strategy 2015-25 – Need, Capability and Impact* and *IMOS Five Year Plan (2017-22)*).



- Implementation plan that is scalable to the available resources.
- Ongoing partner organisations support.

Challenge #2 – Data



Maximising the “value” of our data

(data ➡ knowledge ➡ uptake ➡ impact)



- Discoverable and accessible.
- Collect once but use many times (Theme 1).
- Agreeing on what we mean by sustained observing (including the cost of observations) and the process to transition to operational observing (Theme 2).
- Essential Ocean Variables
 - What are they in the biological/ecological domains?
 - What to measure in the coastal space and where?

Challenge #3 – Uptake and impact

- Understanding and addressing the needs of users beyond academia, and the environment and industry government portfolios.
- Do we understand their needs?
 - FOO and ACOMO have been valuable - but do we need to do more?
 - How do we ensure uptake and impact of our data and products by industry sectors, State Governments and Federal Government portfolios beyond Industry and Environment?



Challenge #4 – Governance

Ensuring best practice governance



- Quality staff and effective systems of planning, management, reporting and review (scientific, performance, financial, continuous improvement) to ensure our strategic priorities can be addressed across the coming decade.



- Flexibility to respond to new opportunities and emerging needs.



- Moving to an unincorporated joint venture.



- Attention to succession planning.

Summary

- IMOS has demonstrated a decade of success and the Advisory Board is confident about our future.
- IMOS is a successful enterprise due to:
 - ongoing Government support;
 - the commitment and support of partner organisations;
 - the support of the marine community;
 - the quality of our staff; and,
 - effective planning and implementation.
- There are challenges going forward but we are well position to ensure continued success but this will depend on:
 - maintaining and enhancing the support of partner organisations and the marine community generally; and,
 - Ensuring broader impact and uptake of our data and products.

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