



**GOOS Regional Alliance (GRA) Council Update
to the GOOS Steering Committee Executive Meeting
Sunday 21 February 2016, New Orleans
(held before the Ocean Sciences Meeting 2016)**

Prepared by Tim Moltmann (IMOS Director) as Chair of the GRA Council, on behalf of all GRAs

1. What is going well/not advancing in your work plan since the last Steering Committee meeting?

- Progress since the last GOOS SC meeting (in May 2015) is as follows.
- Intercessional teleconference held 8 July, to prepare for GRA Forum VII in September 2015), discuss visualisation of the GRA Modelling Inventory undertaken by EuroGOOS, and call for nominations for a new GRA Council Chair and Vice Chair.
- Intercessional teleconference held 12 August to finalise preparations for GRA Forum VII in September 2015.
- Review of GRAs undertaken by Linda Glover using the self-assessments done by the GRAs during 2012-13. Draft report prepared for consideration at GRA Forum VII.
- Successful GRA Forum VII conducted in Heraklion, Crete on 22-24 September 2015. Meeting Report is available on the GOOS website [here](#).
- Tim Moltmann (IMOS) elected Chair of the GRA Council, and Erik Buch (EuroGOOS) Vice-Chair. We would like the GOOS Steering Committee to formally acknowledge Zdenka Willis (IOOS) for her highly effective chairing of the Forum over the last four years, and to thank Laura Griesbauer (IOOS) for her excellent secretariat support.
- Report on Review of GRAs was finalised 3 November and can be found [here](#).
- GRA Update #1 sent 13 November.
- IOOS and IMOS assisted in providing ocean representatives for the JCOMM Task Team on integrating Marine Meteorological and Oceanographic Services within WIS (TT-MOWIS) - Eugene Burger (NOAA PMEL) and Eric Schulz (Bureau of Meteorology).
- GOOS is now represented on the GEO Programme Board and has obtained observer status on the GEO Executive Board.
- GOOS Webinars have been delivered by four GRAs:
 - IMOS - 19 August
 - IOGOOS - 25 September
 - PIGOOS - 8 February
 - EuroGOOS – 16 February
- EuroGOOS is working with the IOC GOOS office to promote the idea of a new GOOS regional alliance – Arctic GOOS.
- US-IOOS asked CARICOOS to invite GRASP and OCEANLANT to their annual meeting the end of April.
- Plans to hold the next intercessional teleconference before the end of 2015 did not come to fruition, in part due to the fact that the report from GRA Forum VII was not finalised until 9 December. Plans are now underway to hold the next teleconference in mid-March.

2. What needs/opportunities do you have to work across GOOS structures?

- A major topic of discussion at GRA VII was how the GRAs can engage with GOOS, as it has been reorganised under the Framework for Ocean Observing.
- GRAs want to be involved with GOOS Pilot Projects. The recent Review helped to highlight the fact that there is a great deal of heterogeneity across GRAs. Rather than view this as a constraint which holds us back, we will look to identify potential pilot projects involving sub-groups of GRAs with shared interests, and complementary capability and capacity.
- Some early stage, potential candidate projects were identified. It was agreed that we would start with MONGOOS, GOOS Africa and EuroGOOS developing a proposal to establish a project to increase observations in Northern Africa.
- One constraint is that there is no template for GOOS pilot projects i.e. we don't really know what the requirements and criteria are. It was agreed that the GRA Council would work together to develop a draft template (drawing on existing material, such as that for GEO projects) and use this as a starting point.
- Another major topic of discussion was how new networks will be accepted into GOOS. It is clear that reorganisation of GOOS under the Framework will require new networks to come on line, for Biology and Ecosystems, BGC, and even Physics as OOPC reaches into shelf and coastal oceans. However it is not clear how this is to happen, including what role JCOMM plays.
- GRA Forum VII was held concurrently with a meeting of the GEO High Frequency Radar Task Team, and a joint session was held. The Assessment of GRAs conducted during 2012-13 tells us that at least five GRAs are operating HF Radar networks. It was agreed that we would work together to develop a proposal for consideration of HF Radar as an element of GOOS.
- As with GOOS pilot projects, there is no template for this but we were advised to work with JCOMM who obviously have a lot of experience in the general area.
- In order to try and better connect with all the three GOOS panels, some early work has been commenced on developing an EOV view across the GRAs, or at least those that already have this perspective in their planning. This will be progressed during 2016.

3. What would you like to bring to the Steering Committee meeting in June?

- Will be discussed at the March intercessional teleconference.
- Depending on the rate of progress between now and then, potentially three items:
 1. Proposed pilot project to increase observations in Northern Africa.
 2. Proposal to consider HF Radar as an element of GOOS.
 3. Draft report on EOVs across GRAs.